

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 Oct 61	2. LOCATION Duluth, Minnesota		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft (REXEL OFR) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1940 GMT 120140Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-4 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 3	9. COURSE NE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Objts observed at terrific speed. Assumed orbital by observer except 3 to 5 times faster than Echo. Covered about 110° arc in 3 min. 1st objt 15 times size of 2 trailing objts. 1st objt yellowish; other 2 red tinit with apparent attachment to 1st objt.		11. COMMENTS Observation appears to be 1 of refueling mission. Quick time sector of lime soda (24,000-29,000). Speed, altitude, and duration of sighting conform to this analysis.	

NATIONAL  
AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION



NASA HEADQUARTERS  
1520 H STREET NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
TELEPHONE: EXECUTIVE 3-3260 TWX: WA 755

IN REPLY REFER TO AB

November 14, 1961

Commander of the Air Tactical  
Intelligence Center  
Department of the Air Force  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Ohio

Subject: Unidentified Flying Object reported by Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of Duluth, Minnesota

Enclosures: (1) Letter from Mrs. [REDACTED] dtd. October 17, 1961  
(2) Letter from NASA dtd. November 14, 1961

The enclosures are forwarded for your information and for  
whatever action may be deemed appropriate.

*James A. Hootman*  
James A. Hootman, Executive Secretary  
Inventions and Contributions Board

Enclosures (2)  
a/s

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RECEIVED

AB

November 14, 1961

~~Mr. [redacted]~~  
~~[redacted]~~  
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. ~~[redacted]~~

This is in response to your letter of October 17 in which you report observation of what appeared to be three companion satellites orbiting the earth at a high speed, which you estimate as from three to five times that of the Echo I balloon.

As you may know, a number of similar observations have been reported for which there is no particularly satisfying explanation. For example, the New York Herald Tribune reported on September 1, 1960 the photographing of a mysterious reddish object sited over Chicago and various East Coast areas by a tracking camera of the Grumman Aviation Engineering Corporation in Beth Page, Long Island. This occurrence is reported because Mr. Robert I. Johnson, Director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, and his assistant reported seeing that object and estimated that it was travelling about three times the speed of Echo I.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has neither the assignment nor the facilities to investigate such occurrences. We have therefore forwarded your letter to the Department of the Air Force which has the primary responsibility for investigating this type of phenomena. Your interest in reporting your observation is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Original signed by  
James A. Hootman

James A. Hootman, Executive Secretary  
Inventions and Contributions Board

~~Mrs. [redacted]~~

Duluth, Minnesota

October 17, 1961.

RECEIVED  
NAS

N.A.S.A.  
Washington, D.C.

61 OCT 27

Gentlemen:

On October 17, 1961 from 7:40-7:43 I observed what appeared to be three companion satellites orbiting the sky at a terrific speed in a southwesterly to northeasterly direction.

The objects raced across the horizon 3.5 times as fast as the Echo balloon. I observed it traverse about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  of the horizon.

The first object was huge and of a luminous orange yellow hue; the others were the color of stars. They appeared as spheres at first, and then they appeared like the diagram for 15-30 seconds. Later they appeared as spheres. B + C seemed to emit beams of light which was red at the periphery. The dark red ball at the end of neither B nor C seemed to reflect light. The distance from the sphere to the red ball was too great.

When these objects were almost directly overhead, they were all spheroid, the same orange yellow hue and were the same distance apart. A was 15 times as large as B + C, at least.

I was amazed to be able to see the paraphernalia attached to B + C so clearly, but they must have been in line with brilliant sphere A to account for this fact. There was no moon that night and the sky was a dark cobalt blue.

They were obscured by clouds for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. A was slightly larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size it was when I first saw it as it emerged from above the clouds. By the time the others had emerged, they all appeared to be the same size, and they seemed to be three times higher in the sky.

Two high school boys viewed this spectacle with me, and a child a block away reported seeing this to his parents.

We are at the top of a hill and I viewed this from above a lower elevation at first.

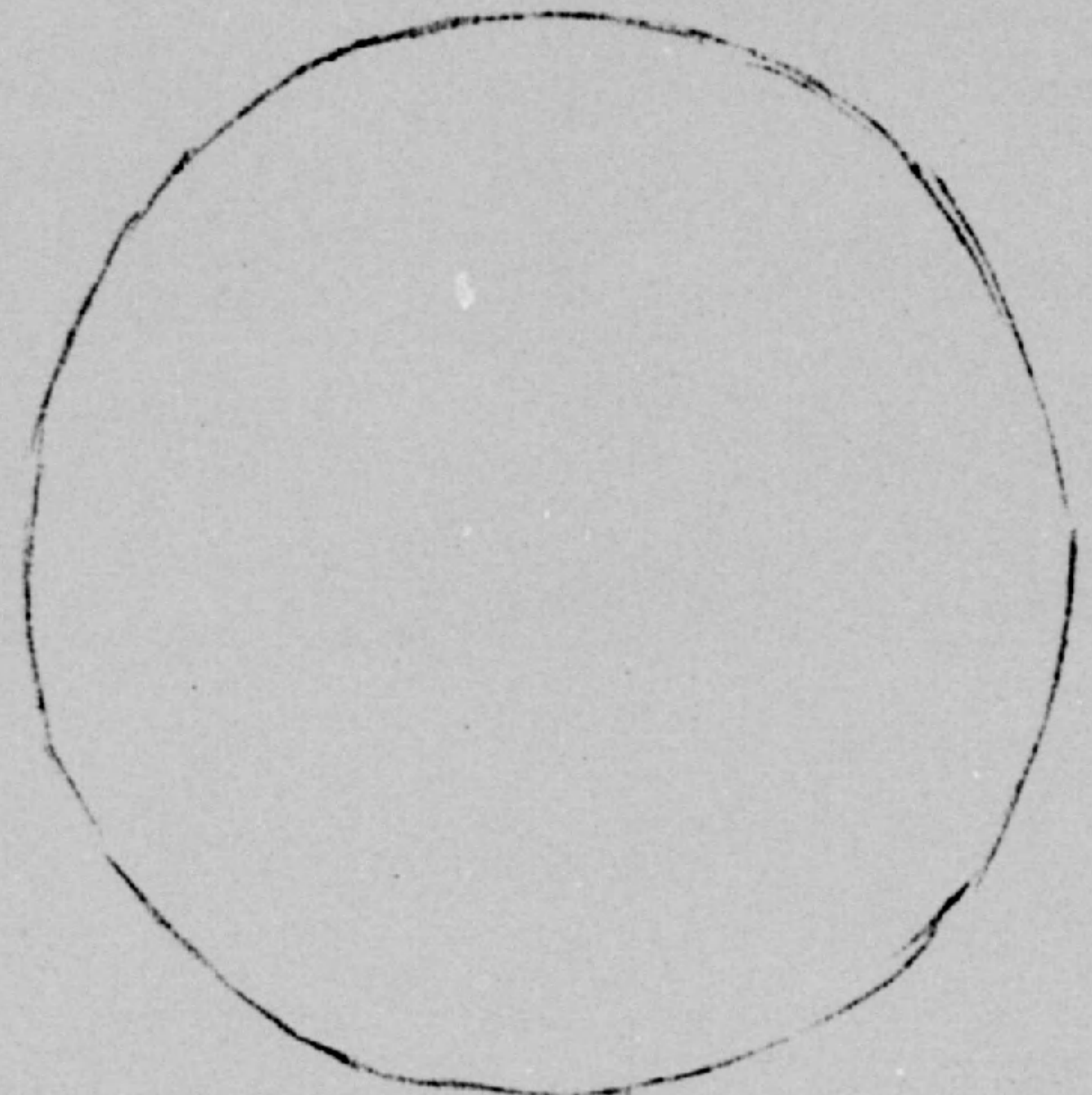
I am curious to know what this phenomenon was and should appreciate hearing from you.

1 inch. diagram

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. [redacted]

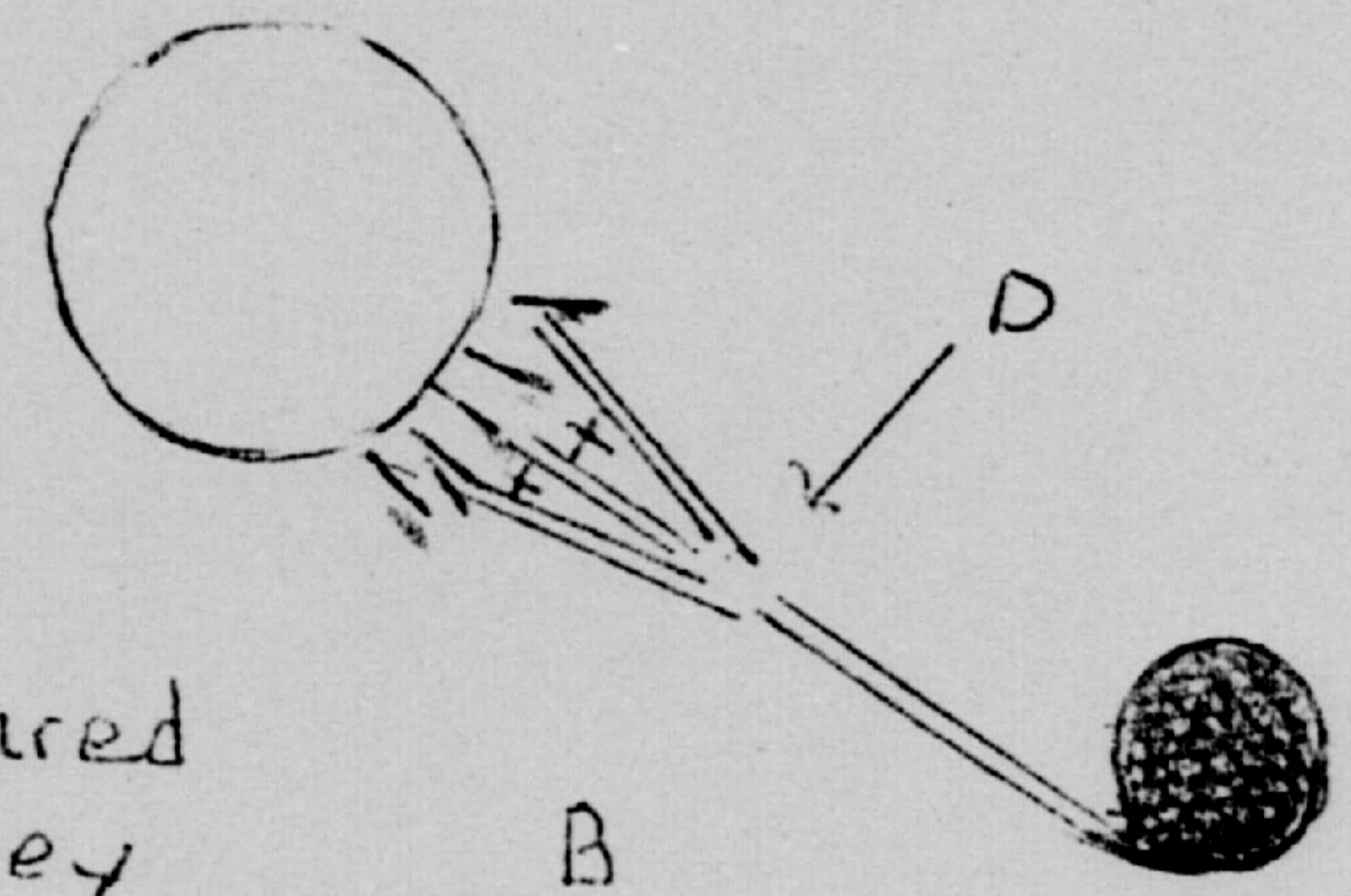
460-1



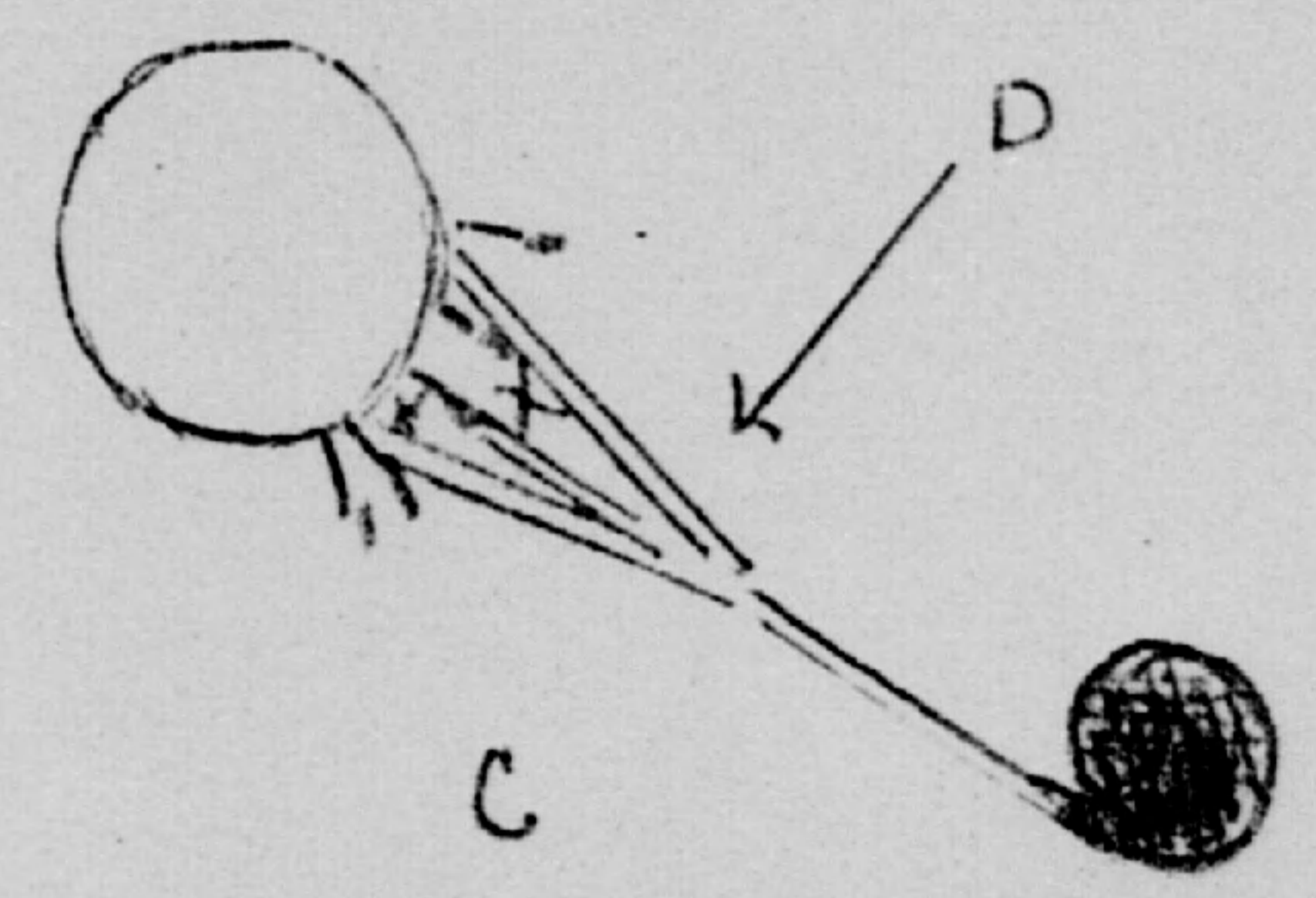
A

Objects viewed in horizon  
 on October 11, 1961 at 7:40-7:43 P.M. C.S.T.  
 in Duluth, Minnesota.

This has been drawn diagonally to get them on the page. They first appeared like spheres, and then they were like this for 15-30 seconds. After that they appeared like spheres again.



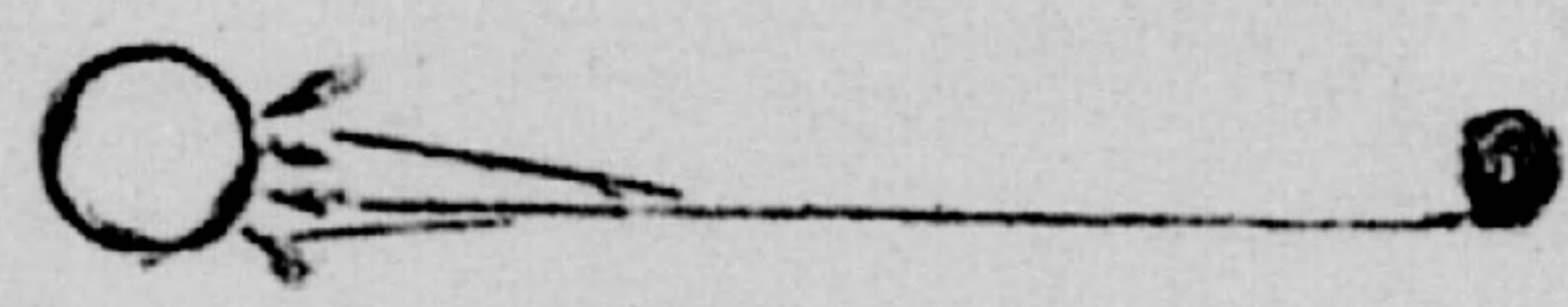
B



C

Sphere A was 15-20 times larger than B or C when they were almost directly overhead. B + C were the same size then.

D seemed to be ducts. sky was visible at points marked x.



This approximates the proportion of the B + C projectiles

Mrs. [REDACTED]