PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
15-24 September 1962

2. LOCATION
Oradell, New Jersey

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local _____
GMT 15/2345Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☐ No

6. SOURCE
Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
not reported

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
south

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Round obj w/fin on top & bottom. Body 4 times as large as fins. Size of piper cub at 3/4 miles. No color. Bright lights around body. Moving N to S along Oradell Reservoir. First observed over tree, obj hovered, then moved South, hovered & dropped into water. It rose about 500 ft as it passed obsrvrs. Disappeared heading S. Obsrvd fm bridge. Obsvation at night-calm water, clear moon. (See Case File)

11. COMMENTS

This sighting triggered a flurry of rptd sightings fm the N.J. area fm 15-24 Sep. Carried in most UFO publications. Analysis of this particular sighting is based on limited data presented. Case evaluated as birds until further data submitted indicating other evaluation. No attempt at analysis of many other rptd sightings.

12. CONCLUSIONS

☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon

☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft

☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical

☒ Other Birds
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

TDE-1/Lt Col Friend/69216

15 February 1963

UFO Sighting (Oradell, N.J., 15 Sep 62)

Hq USAF SAFOI-3b (Major Hart)
Wash 25 DC

1. Reference the attached copy of the report of an unidentified flying object sighting which occurred in Oradell, New Jersey on 15 September 1962. The information contained in this report is limited, both in scope and detail, precluding a positive finding as to what caused the sighting. However, the available information points toward the misidentification of a bird as the most logical cause.

2. The witnesses reported the object to be approximately the size of a Piper Cub at a distance of three-quarters of a mile. If this is true the angle subtended by the object, assuming the longest dimensions of the Cub, would be approximately 0.5 degrees, the same angle subtended by the moon. However, if the object passed overhead at 500 feet as reported, it would now subtend an angle of approximately 4.5 degrees or would appear nine times larger. The witnesses reported limited details of the object when first observed but were unable to observe any additional detail when the object was larger by a factor of nine.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

3. If we assume that the object was a bird, approximately 150 feet away from the witnesses when it was first observed and closer than 100 feet when passing over them, the bird would then approximate the angular sizes derived from the information provided by the witnesses.

4. This sighting took place during the middle twilight hours and the shadowy effects common to this time of day were probably a contributing factor.

5. If the witnesses can provide further information regarding the sighting, we will re-evaluate the case in the light of this new evidence.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Lt Col J. Friend 14 Feb 63

ERIC T. de JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

1 Atch
Questionnaire UFO Sighting, Oradell, New Jersey, 15 Sep 1962; 2 pages.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

February 28, 1963

Dear Colonel Friend:

FTD Forms 164 have been forwarded to the three witnesses of the Oradell, N.J., sighting of Sept. 15, 1962, with the attached letter addressed to each individual.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Legs' Land

MEMO ROUTING SLIP	NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	ACTION
1 TO	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	DATE	COORDINATION
2		FILE
		INFORMATION
3		NOTE AND RETURN
		PER CONVERSATION
4		SEE ME
		SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Suspense —

Submitted 16 Feb to Lock witness, 28 Feb 63, to be mailed to Col. Friend upon completion.

[redacted]

FROM	DATE
	PHONE

DD FORM 1 OCT 60 95 Replaces DD Form 94, 1 Feb 50 and DD Form 95, 1 Feb 50 which will be used until exhausted.

☆ GPO: 1960—0—558294

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDE-1

15 February 1963

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting (Oradell, N.J., 15 Sep 62)

TO: Hq USAF SAFOI-3b (Major Hart)
Wash 25 DC

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2. The witnesses reported the object to be approximately the size of a Piper Cub at a distance of three-quarters of a mile. If this is true the angle subtended by the object, assuming the longest dimensions of the Cub, would be approximately 0.5 degrees, the same angle subtended by the moon. However, if the object passed overhead at 500 feet as reported, it would now subtend an angle of approximately 4.5 degrees or would appear nine times larger. The witnesses reported limited details of the object when first observed but were unable to observe any additional detail when the object was larger by a factor of nine.

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FOR THE COMMANDER

Robert D. Friend Lt Col

for ERIC T. de JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

1 Atch
Questionnaire UFO Sighting, Oradell, New Jersey, 15 Sep 1962; 2 pages.

Sgt. Moody: We did not hear back from these witnesses. The attached is for your file.

Kitty

UFOB QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Description of object.

Shape. Round with a fin on the [illegible] and on the bottom. [illegible] the
and four times larger than the fin.

Size. About the size of a Piper Cub. When asked to describe in relation
to know object couldn't get an answer. Insisted on Piper Cub [illegible] object was
3/4 mile from observation point.

Color. No color given. Extremely bright lights in a row around the center of
object. Light seemed to emanate from windows around the center of object.

Number. One

Discernible features. The windows described above and the fins.

No tail, trail or exhaust.

No sound, only splash when object fell into reservoir.

2. Description of the course of the object.

Object was moving north to south along the Crodell Reservoir.

When first observed it was at tree top level. The object hovered over a tree,
moved south hovered again and then dropped into the reservoir. It [illegible] then
took off again proceeding south. It had about 500 feet altitude when it passed
over the persons observing the object. Take off from the water was gradual and
not vertical.

When first observed the object was due north.

When the object disappeared (last observed) it was heading due south.

Time period of observation was unknown.

3. Manner of observation.

The persons observing the object were on a bridge, oriented east to west, over the
reservoir. The bridge is estimated 30 feet off of the water. The reservoir
is estimated to be 125-150 feet across at the bridge. The persons were standing
in the middle of the bridge on the north side.

The object was observed with the naked eye.

Time and dates 2345Z/15 Sept 62 Reported to Wills 0103Z/16 Sept 62

Night time, clear, moon out, water on like oil.

6. Identifying information of observers.

The object was observed by three teen age boys and one older person name unknown.
The older person, as reported by the boys, was so served he ran away.
The names of the boys are as follows.

[redacted] Age 15
Emerson, N.J. Phone [redacted]

[redacted]
Oradell, N.J. Phone [redacted]

[redacted]
Oradell, N.J. Phone [redacted]

Contact with NYADS was through Patrolman Walter F Wells, Oradell Police.
Oradell Police made investigation of sitting. Patrolman Wells' address etc

Walter F Wells
473 Grove, St
Oradell, N.J. Phone 692-3940 Duty Phone 201-262-0100

Addel information. The Oradell police called in the Haworth police to help in the investigation. The Haworth police reported that workmin doing some work on the reservoir also reported hearing a splash about the time the boys reported the sitting.

Three drawings of the object did by the boys at the direction of the Oradell police are in the hands of the Oradell police department.

last night 3 other boys
report obj. going North
two bolders 2 fourteen.
1 fourteen.

checked letters had no phones
number in 2 of first pages in air

ORADELL, N. J. POLICE DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Case # 425

Location Reservoir Area — Nature of report Unidentified flying object.

Complainant's name as below. — Address

Time reported 7:55 Date 9/15/62 — How received Person

Received by Pfc. Walla, S.O. Brennan — Investigated by Pfc. Walla, S.O. Brennan

Details: At 7:55 PM, 9/15/62, three boys, (listed below), came into HQ. They were out of breath and appeared to be very frightened. They reported seeing a flying object over the reservoir in the area of the dam. This object seemed to hover in the air, then either the object or something dropped from the object came down and struck the water. It seems it landed in the water south of the dam, in the river. Then the flying object left the area at a high rate of speed.

Car #30, S.O. Brennan responded. He checked the area of the Oradell Ave. bridge, where the boys were standing when they sighted the object, then proceeded to the East side of the reservoir and checked area. Nothing was found.

Emerson P.D., Emerson P.D., Hackensack Water Co., notified, they responded and checked their areas, nothing found.

Called Teterboro Airport, they report no missing aircraft, however they will call us later. They still have some aircraft in the air.

Hohokus Air Force Base called, spoke to Operations Officer, he took report of unidentified flying object. A Major Vance, Operations Officer New York Air Defense Command, called from Hohokus A.F.B., took a full report from Pfl. Walla, on object. The Air Force appears to be very much interested in these type reports.

S.O. Brennan spoke to [redacted] Bergen; and [redacted] West N.Y. These boys reported seeing no flying object. They were fishing on the South side of the bridge. This put the bridge between them and the area in which the object was reported.

This "object" is reported by the boys to be round with a fin protruding, possibly from the back or bottom. It made no sound. The only noise reported was a loud splash when object hit the water. Emerson P.D. reports they spoke to men working on their side of the reservoir and at about the same time they also heard a loud splash.

A full check of the water around the edge of reservoir revealed no disturbance.

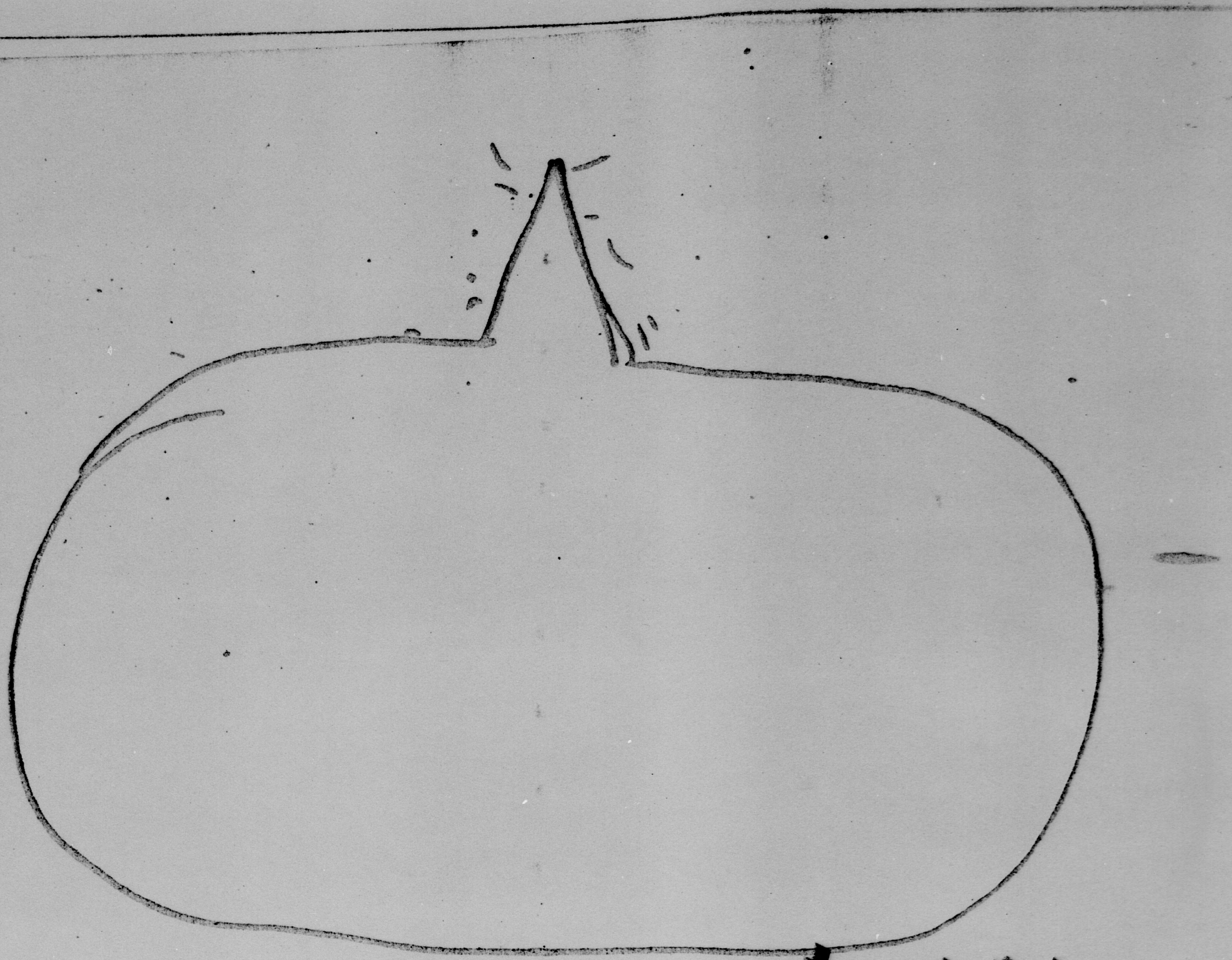
Pfl. Walla has three sketches made by boys of object.

The point is stressed that when the boys entered Hqs., they appeared to be very much frightened. One boy became very frightened even later when talking about incident.

The boys said there was a man in the area and they pointed out object to him. He saw it and ran, very fast, in opposite direction. A search revealed no man in area, though this was a bit later.

Pfl Walter F Walla #3 — S.O.B.N. Brennan #49

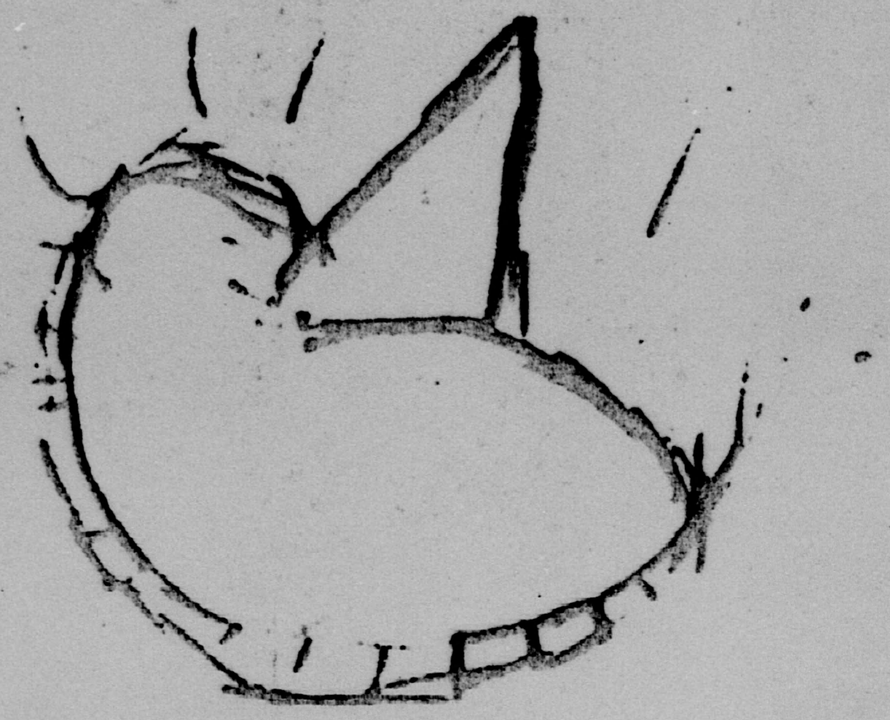
Pfl. W. Walla #3 — S.O.B.N. Brennan #49



FRONT
VIEW

[redacted]
Enderlin N. D.
September 15, 1962

TOP



BOTTOM

ORADELL, N. J. POLICE DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Case # [redacted]

Location _____ Nature of report _____

Complainant's name _____ Address _____

Time reported _____ Date _____ How received _____

Received by _____ Investigated by _____

Details:

[redacted], Oradell, N.J.

[redacted], Oradell, N.J.

[redacted], N.J.

11/Sept/52; 8:05 P.M.

Below three boys stated they saw the same object in the sky and it headed straight south over the reservoir towards Hillsdale. All boys were requested to come to Upsara and draw the object they saw in the sky.

[redacted]

[redacted] N.J.

[redacted]

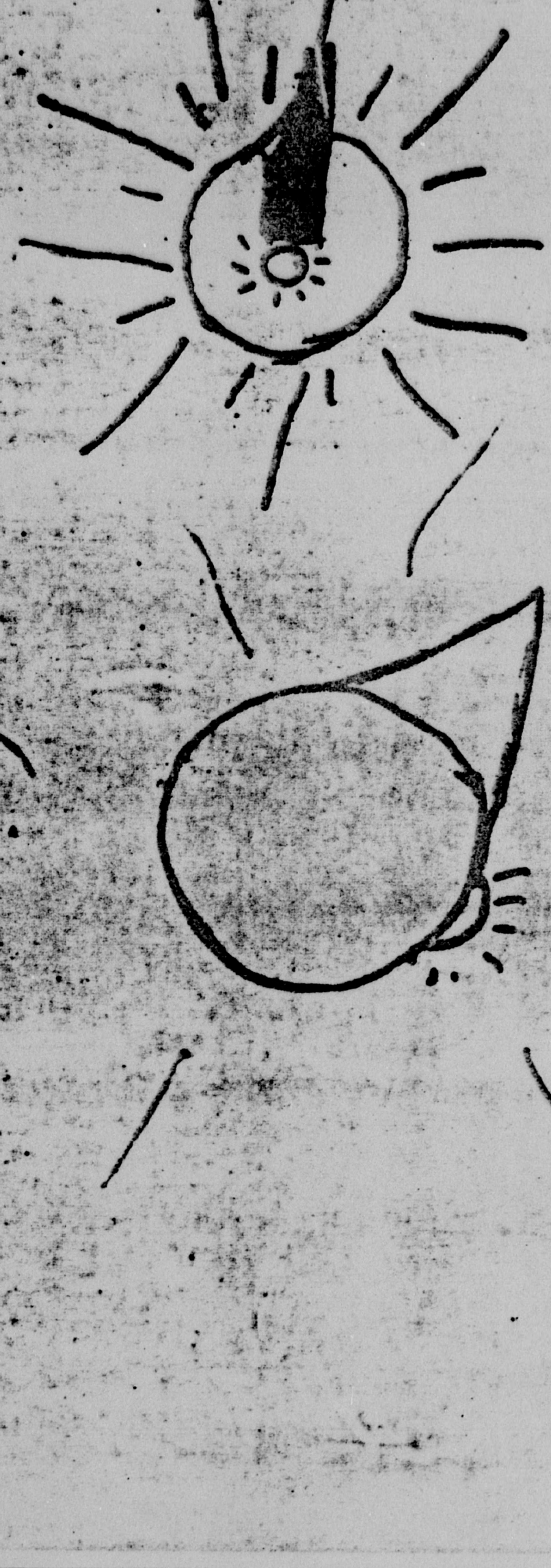
[redacted] Oradell N.J.

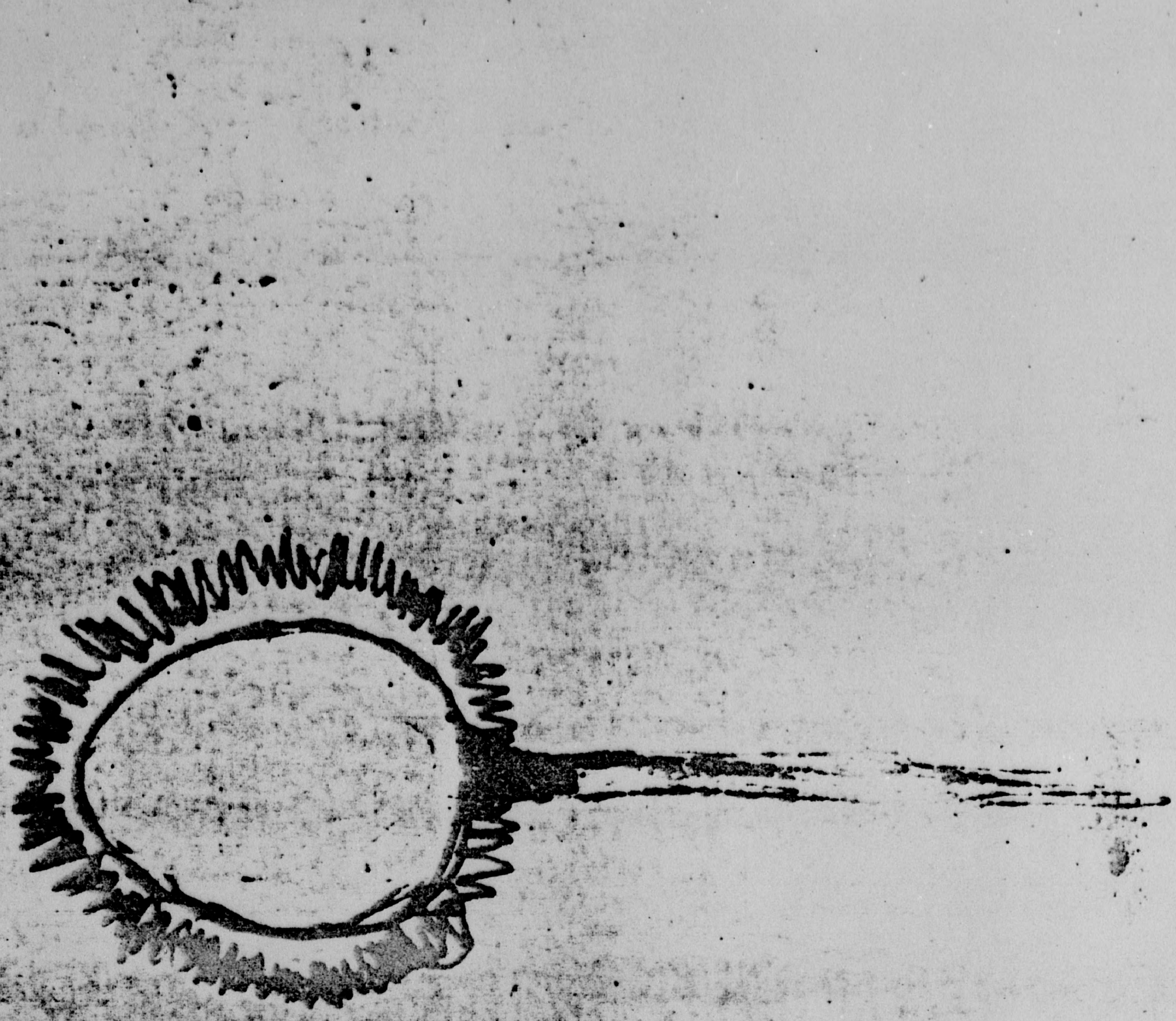
[redacted]

[redacted] N.J. Drawing filed with other reports.

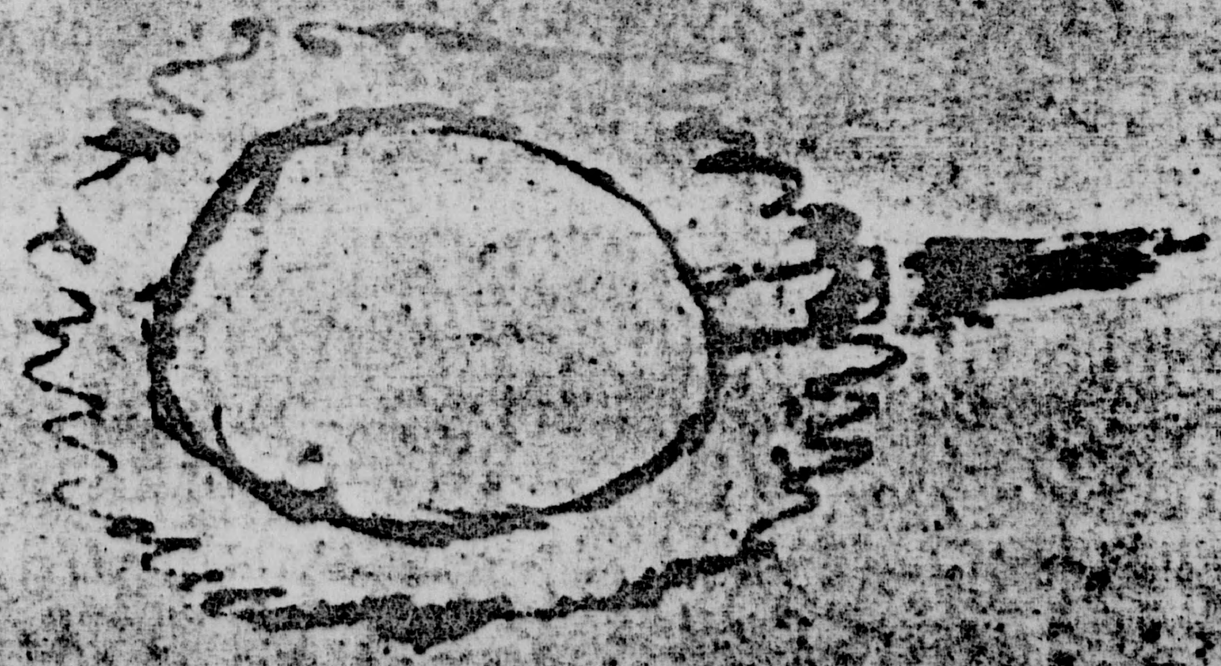
J.P.F.

7/16/67 8:00 P.m





Glow



UFOB QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Description of object.

Shape. Torpedo with a fin on the top and on the bottom. The fin on top was four times larger than the fin on the bottom.

Size. About the size of a [illegible] to describe a relation to know object couldn't get the answer. Indicated [illegible] 3/4 mile from observation point.

Color. No color given. Light only bright [illegible] object. Light seemed to radiate from within the center of object.

Number. One

Discernible features. The windows described above and the fins.

No tail, trail or exhaust.

No sound, only splash when object fell into reservoir.

2. Description of the course of the object.

Object was moving north to south along the Cribell Reservoir.

When first observed it was at tree top level. The object hovered over [illegible] moved south hovered again and then dropped into the reservoir. It [illegible] took off again proceeding south. It had about 50 [illegible] altitude when it passed over the persons observing the object. Take off from the water was gradual and not vertical.

When first observed the object was due north.

When the object disappeared (last observed) it was hovering due south.

Time period of observation was unknown.

3. Manner of observation.

The persons observing the object were on a bridge, oriented east to west, over the reservoir. The bridge is estimated 30 feet off of the water. The reservoir is estimated to be 125-150 feet across at the bridge. The persons were standing in the middle of the bridge on the north side.

The object was observed with the naked eye.

Time and date: 2345Z/15 Sept 62 Reported to NICAP 0102Z/16 Sept 62

Night time, clear, moon out, water on lake calm.

5. Identifying information of observers.

The object was observed by three boys and one older person [illegible]
The three boys, as reported by the boys, are as follows.
The [illegible] the boys are as follows.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Oradell, N.J. Phone 261-4193

[redacted]
Oradell, N.J. Phone 261-7423

[redacted]
Oradell, N.J. Phone 261-0529

Contact with UFOs was through Patrolman Walter F Wills, Oradell Police.
Oradell Police made investigation of sitting. Patrolman Walls's address etc
Walter F Wills
473 Grove St
Oradell, N.J. Phone 262-9440 Duty Phone 261-0200

Added information. The Oradell police called in the Haworth police to help in the investigation. The Haworth police reported that workmen doing some work on the reservoir also reported hearing a splash about the time the boys reported the sitting.

Three drawings of the object did by the boys at the direction of the Oradell police are in the hands of the Oradell police department.

last night 3 other boys
report obj. going North
two brothers - fourteen
+ fourteen.

Check if letters had no phones
number had object pages in air

[redacted] Avenue
Brooklyn 30, New York
January 20, 1963

Office of Public Information
Department of the Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note that a number of recent letters to this office have gone unanswered. I would appreciate if you would reply to this letter.

Are the Air Force compilations of UFO statistics for 1962 ready for release yet? If so, would you kindly send me the latest Fact Sheet.

On September 15, 1962, several persons saw a UFO at the Oradell Reservoir. At one point the object struck the water then rose up out of sight. As this was probably the most outstanding case to take place during the flurry of sightings in northern New Jersey at that time, would you please inform me of the Air Force conclusion for this report.

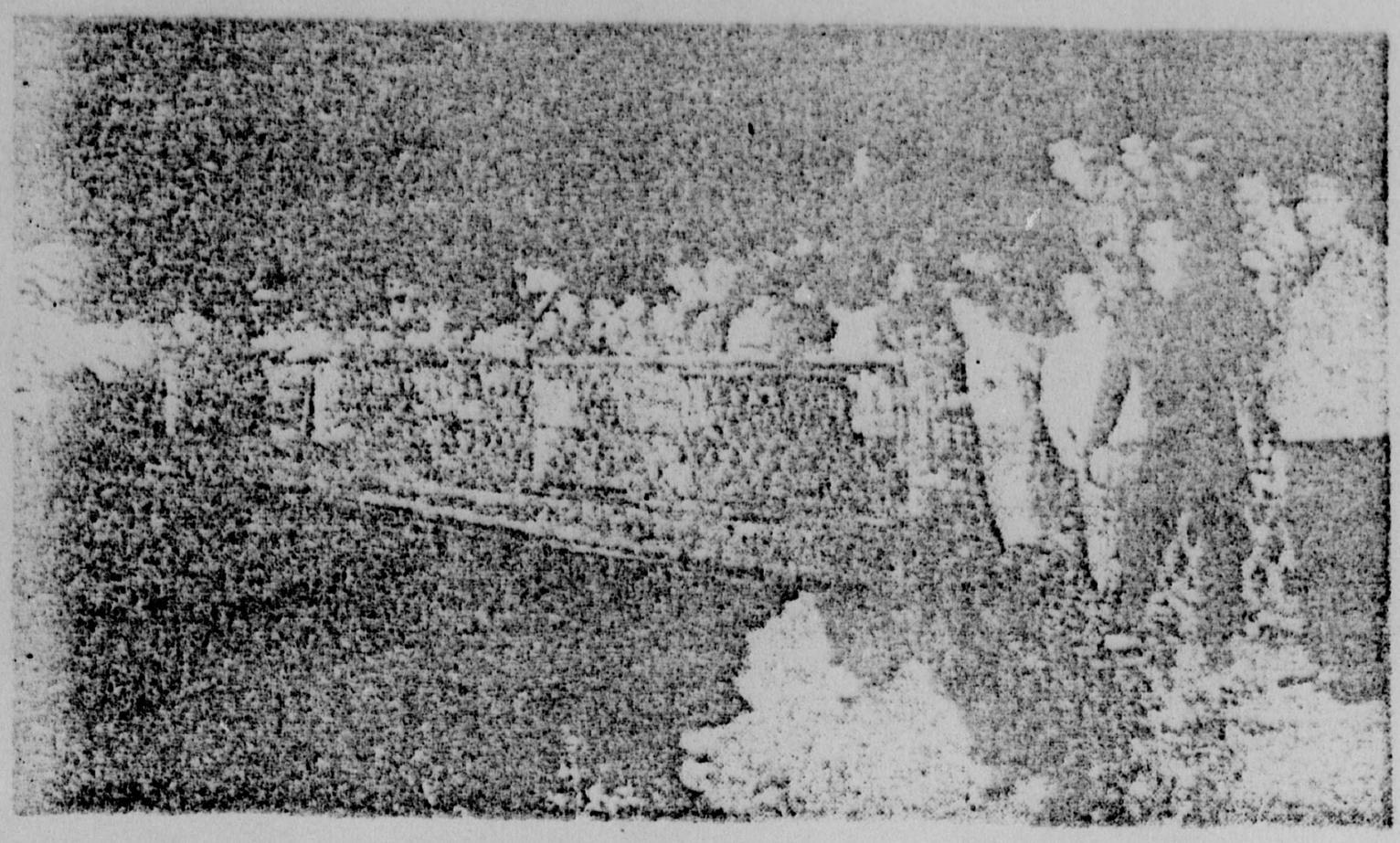
Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

SAUCER "FLAP" IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: An important "flap" occurred in mid-September, in towns just a few miles from your Editor's Fort Lee Headquarters. We ourselves saw nothing, but we are fortunate enough to have an excellent summary of the entire affair. For this summary our thanks go to Edward J. Babcock, Jr., who is director of the New Jersey Association on Aerial Phenomena, 15 Lyndall Road, Kendall Park, N. J.

On Saturday Sept. 15th, at 7:55 p.m., three boys told police that they had seen a strange oval-shaped craft set down in the Cradell Reservoir, just south of the Cradell Avenue Dam. The three said that the object hovered over the water, submerged for a few seconds, and then rose vertically and disappeared. As further proof, a fisherman on the opposite side of the reservoir reported hearing a loud splash at just about the time the boys said the object hit the water. To complicate matters still further, large banana-shaped tracks were reported in Emerson (a nearby town), where several witnesses claimed the UFO had landed first. The Air Force sent a representative to the area and the police then barricaded the land from the public.

The next day, Sunday Sept. 16th, two Emerson youths reported see-



ing a similar object dip behind some pine trees bordering the reservoir. A few seconds later, they heard a noise like a car door slaming, only louder. Upon talking to one of the boys, it was learned that the object appeared to be domed, and had two portholes along its perimeter. At this point, the parents of the witnesses were phoned by local police and told that their sons should refrain from speaking about the matter, since the government had requested a secrecy policy.

Two days later, on Tuesday, Sept. 18th, over one hundred people flocked to the Oradell Reservoir in hopes of seeing the UFO return. (See photo above.) They saw nothing, but on the same night, two policemen from nearby Westwood, N. J. reported seeing a fast-moving object shaped like an inverted cone. Other people reported strange beams of light and fast-flying red discs.

The following night, heavy rain dampened the spirits of many; yet, twenty people still turned out at the reservoir hoping to catch a glimpse of a UFO. Nothing was seen, but the rumor was heard that Oradell police had shot a 14-foot-tall man with shotguns. In neighboring communities that night, nine witnesses, including patrolmen, sighted strange aerial objects, including one which was seen to land.

On Thursday, Sept. 20th, the series of incidents was prolonged by four Emerson boys who spotted a UFO near the reservoir. A formation of three jet fighters approached the UFO and went under it. As the jets attempted to make another pass, the saucer silently rose and disappeared. This saucer, like many others, had the appearance of burning magnesium, known for its bright white color.

The next day, as a fitting close to an exciting week, two formations of six large bright white objects were seen. The first was observed at Pulaski Park in Hackensack by some youngsters and their parents, while two hundred people atop Garret Mountain in East Patterson played host to a similar awesome display.

On Monday, Sept. 24th, the Record (a Hackensack newspaper) received a letter from a group of Bergenfield boys who claim that they constructed and flew a craft made up of a helium balloon with a balsa wood frame, controlled by radio waves received by a small one-horsepower motor. This seemed to be a good enough explanation for the general public, but in the minds of the witnesses, there was considerable doubt. It seems impossible that this explanation could account for all the sightings described above.

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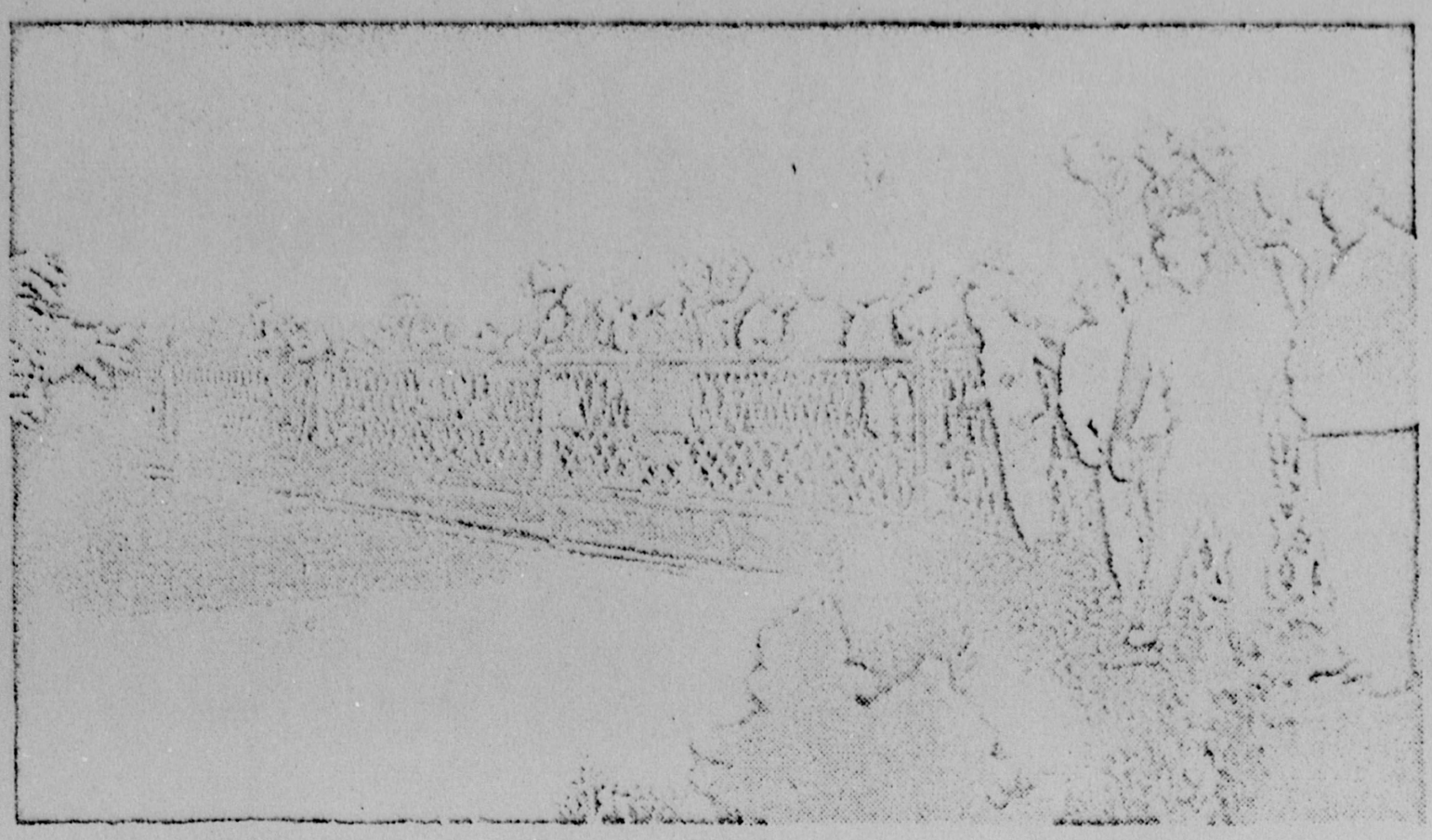
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US SIGHTINGS-NICAP-Sept (14-18) 1962:
For five days, the East experienced many sightings. Again, as on Sept 18 here, many state patrolmen and policemen were witnesses. Ground-level observations of U F Os were reported. One UFO struck the surface of a water reservoir with a splash and then hovered above the surface. Eighteen feet of colored movie film was taken of a UFO or UFOs. We are awaiting word of results. NICAP has requested copies of our tape recordings pertaining to the Sept 18 sightings in this area. (This information given to Co-chairman Larry Moyers by Richard Hall of NICAP.

CRADELL, N.J.....Sept. 15, 1962..5:00 pm.. Two shiny discs seen. 6:00 p.m. Two shiny round UFO's were sighted by former Navy flying officer J.J. McVickers. At 7:50 pm a NICAP member saw a glowing object descend toward Cradell, and other witnesses saw it dart back and forth near the reservoir. At 7:55 p.m. three teenaged boys saw a bright oval-shaped object land in the reservoir, with a loud splash. After a moment the strange device took off, climbed silently at high speed. This series of sightings has many more particulars which can't be repeated here. This series of sightings preceeded the sightings in N.E. Ohio at 5:00 a.m., Sept.18, 1962. (Oct. FSIC Bul.)

These sightings taken from the UFO Investigator published by NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington 6, D.C. - Major Donald E. Keyhoe, M.C.Ret. - Richard H. Hall. Membership - $5.00 per year.



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BUSY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES BY SAUCER NEWS STAFF: The following is a list of meetings and personal appearances undertaken by your Editor and/or