

**PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD**

<b>1. DATE</b> 12 Mar 54	<b>2. LOCATION</b> Scranton, Pennsylvania		<b>12. CONCLUSIONS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Meteor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<b>3. DATE-TIME GROUP</b> Local <u>1940</u> GMT <u>13/0040Z</u>	<b>4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		
<b>5. PHOTOS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>6. SOURCE</b> civilian		
<b>7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION</b> 20-30 seconds	<b>8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS</b> one	<b>9. COURSE</b>	
<b>10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING</b> Luminous, shape of vapor trail or tail of meteor - no detail		<b>11. COMMENTS</b> Possibly a luminous green fireball meteor.	

12 MAR

13/00002

Scranton, Pa.

2

Witness

EQ, 3d DISTRICT OSI (IG)  
1612 S. Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, Pa.

UNCLASSIFIED

No reason why this  
couldn't be a  
luminescent football team  
GRB  
PPS-161

300 1-10-36

19 March 1954

SLOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

**SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects**

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DQR DIR 5200.10**

**TO: Director, Special Investigations  
Headquarters United States Air Force  
Washington 25, D. C.**

1. **SYNOPSIS:** [redacted], a resident of Scranton, Pa., reported by letter, postmarked at Scranton, Pa., 16 March 1954 and addressed to the Scranton, Pa. Detachment of the 3d District OSI (IG) USAF, the sighting of an unidentified flying object on 12 March 1954 at about 1940 hours in the vicinity of the 1500 block of Way Ang Avenue, Scranton, Pa. [redacted] was interviewed on 16 March 1954 and furnished substantially the same information as contained in his letter, copy of which is attached as an inclosure to this report.

2. **DETAILS:** On 16 March 1954, the Scranton, Pa. Detachment of the 3d District OSI (IG) USAF, received an unsigned letter, postmarked Scranton, Pa., 16 March 1954, reflecting the writer's telephone number in Scranton, Pa., and reporting the sighting of an unidentified flying object at approximately 1940 hours 12 March 1954 at Scranton, Pa. A copy of this letter is attached as an inclosure to this report. Subsequent to the receipt of this letter the writer was identified as [redacted] residing at 1417 Way Ang Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

On 16 March 1954, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent ALDEN F. WARNER, Jr. of the Scranton, Pa. Detachment, 3d District OSI (IG) USAF. In accordance with paragraph 6, AFR 200-2, dated 26 August 1953, Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting, and in accordance with AFOSI Letter 85, dated 7 January 1953, Subject: Reporting Information on Unidentified Flying Objects, the following information was obtained from [redacted]

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[redacted]

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(1) Description of the object(s):

- (a) Shape - Observer stated that the object was in the shape of a vapor trail similar to those made by high-flying aircraft; that it appeared to him to be about two (2) feet in width and that it was equally luminous from beginning to end.
- (b) Size compared to a known object. - Observer stated that he could not compare the object he saw to any known object.
- (c) Color. - Luminous - no particular color.
- (d) Number. - One (1).
- (e) Formation, if more than one. - Not applicable.
- (f) Any discernible features or details. - None.
- (g) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s). - Observer stated that the whole object resembled a vapor trail and stated that he first thought it was the exhaust of a jet or the tail of a meteor.
- (h) Sound. If heard, describe sound. - None heard. Observer stated that truck traffic on a nearby highway may have obscured any sound that the object made.
- (i) Other pertinent or unusual features. - None.

(2) Description of course of object(s):

- (a) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)? - [REDACTED] stated that he was looking into the sky while walking home and that he noticed the object while doing so.
- (b) Angle of elevation and azimuth of the object(s) when first observed. - [REDACTED] estimated that he first saw the object at an angle of elevation of about 30°.
- (c) Angle of elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance. - Unknown.

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(2) Description of course of object(s): Cont'd

(d) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s). - [redacted] stated the object was proceeding due north at an altitude he could not estimate, and that the object made no maneuvers while he had it in sight.

(e) Manner of disappearance of object(s). - [redacted] stated that the luminescence of the object grew dim as he turned around due to the glare of lights on the ground.

(f) Length of time in sight. - About 20 - 30 seconds.

(3) Manner of observation:

(a) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, air-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type or radar.) - Ground-visual.

(b) Statement as to optical aids (telescopes, binoculars, and so forth) used and description thereof. - None.

(c) If the sighting is made while airborne, give type aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station. - Not applicable.

(4) Time and date of sighting:

(a) Zulu time-date group of sighting. - Approximately 1940 hours EST, 12 March 1954.

(b) Light, conditions (use one of the following terms): Night, day, dawn, dusk. - Night.

(5) Locations of observer(s). Exact latitude and longitude of each observer, or Georef position, or position with reference to a known landmark. - Observer was walking south in the 1500 block of May Ave Avenue in Scranton, Pa.

(6) Identifying information of all observer(s):

(a) Civilian-Name, age, mailing address, occupation, and estimate of reliability. - [redacted], age 31 (DOB: 20 Feb 23 at Scranton, Pa.), [redacted], Scranton, Pa. Employed as a laborer in the Finishing

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- (6) (a) Department of the U. S. Hoffman Machinery Co., South Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa. [REDACTED] is a high school graduate and has never attended college. He was in the infantry until March 1946 and has not been in the service since. He has never been in the Air Force, and has only a mild interest in and knowledge of aviation. He appears to be slow and deliberate in his thoughts and actions, and during the interview did not seem to be lying or trying to draw attention to himself. He was unexcited during the interview and answered all questions freely. [REDACTED] stated that he had not been indulging in intoxicants prior to his observation. Although [REDACTED] is not a trained observer, it is thought that he reported something he actually observed. The interviewer rates the source and the information as about C-3.
- (7) Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sighting:
- (a) Observer(s) account of weather conditions. - Observer stated that the night was very clear and that there were no clouds. Observer added that there was little or no wind on the ground.
- (b) Report from nearest AEB or U. S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000', 10,000', 16,000', 20,000', 30,000', 50,000', and 80,000', if available. - Not available.
- (c) Ceiling. - Unlimited.
- (d) Visibility. - Clear night.
- (e) Amount of cloud cover. - None.
- (f) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located. - None.
- (8) Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting. - None known.
- (9) Existence of any physical evidence of the sighting, such as materials and photographs. - None.

[REDACTED]

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- (10) Interception or identification action taken (such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives). - None known or observed.
- (11) Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting. - None observed.
- (12) Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting. - ALDEN Y. WARNER, Jr., Special Agent, OSI, Detachment Commander, Scranton, Pa. Detachment, 3d District OSI (IG) USAF.

On 16 March 1954, 1st Lt CLARENCE J. COLE, Adjutant, 648th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Benton, Pa., was interviewed by Special Agent WARNER at the 648th AC&W Squadron. COLE stated that a log is maintained on all flying objects sighted and tracked and advised that a review of this log indicated that no flying objects were sighted or tracked at approximately 1940 hours 12 March 1954.

3. ACTION: Director of Special Investigations, Washington 25, D. C., Commander, AIF Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, ATTN: ATIAA-2C, and Commander, 648th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Benton, Pa., notified of this sighting of an unidentified flying object by Spot Intelligence Report.

*Ronald T. Hart*  
Capt., USAF

FOR AND IN THE ABSENCE OF  
OWEN L. COLAN  
Major, USAF  
District Commander

1 Incl:  
Cy of unsigned and undtd ltr rec'd  
by Scranton, Pa. Det, 3d Dist OSI  
(IG) USAF, in envelope postmarked  
Scranton, Pa., 16 Mar 54, trip

cc: Comdr, ATIC, W/P AFB, Ohio, ATTN: ATIAA-2C, in dup w/Incl in dup  
Comdr, 648th AC&W Sq, Benton, Pa. w/Incl (1 cy ea)

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3DC 1-10-36

The following is a copy of a letter, undated and unsigned, received by the 3d District OSI (IG) Detachment, Scranton, Pa., in an envelope addressed to Dept of the Air Force, Special Investigation Dept., Select Building, Scranton, Pa., postmarked Scranton, Pa., 16 March 1954:

"Sirs:

I do not know whether or not I'm writing to the proper party or whether this is of any importance; but I figure there is no harm done.

Friday, March 12 about 20 minutes to 8 in the evening I was walking home and I looked up into the sky and I saw what I thought was a comet or what I expected a comet to look like. I took a few steps and stopped to watch the comet because it was certainly unusual to see one so clearly, but when I stopped I saw that this comet was moving. It was moving parallel to the Street I was walking on but to the side. When I saw that it was moving I figured that it was a meteor but there was no bright front to it. It was about the same luminosity from front to rear. So then I figured it was a high flying jet that left a sort of vapor trail that was made luminous because of heat generated by its gases. The trail seemed to stay about the same length and I did not hear any noise. I turned around and watched it go by. It's rather difficult to judge time but I watched for about 20 or 30 seconds. If it was a high flying jet it must have really been going.

My phone no. is ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. It may be something natural, but I do not want to be pointed out as someone who sees flying saucers.

Thank you"

Hand #1

754-4265