PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE

29 August 1952

2. LOCATION

Boron, California

3. TIME

1000 PST

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

[ ] Ground-Visual [ ] Ground-Radar

[X] Airborne [ ] Airborne-Radar

5. PHOTOS

[ ] Yes

[X] No

6. SOURCE

AF Pilots

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

1

9. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

10. CONCLUSIONS

[ ] Misidentification

[ ] Probably Balloon

[ ] Possibly Balloon

[ ] Misidentification

[ ] Probably Aircraft

[X] Possibly Aircraft

[ ] Insufficient Astronomical

[ ] Probably Astronomical

[ ] Possibly Astronomical

[ ] Insufficient Data for Evaluation

[ ] Other

11. COMMENTS

Strange A/C observed by pilots on maneuvers - - - -

[redacted] [redacted]

Downgraded to restricted AFL 205-5 28/aug C7C per Dmdn

[redacted]

750th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron
Boron, California

26 AUG 1952

25 August 1952

SUBJECT: Unusual Flying Object reported By Swanee Red

TO: Commanding Officer
750th AC&W Squadron
Boron, California

S T A T E M E N T

On the 19 August 1952, at approximately 2000 PDST, Algiers took control of Swanee Red from Conforn at georef position DD 1050, at which time he was given a vector of 290°.

Swanee Red Leader then called Algiers stating that he was steady on 290° and that he had a stranger at one o'clock. Algiers asked if he could tell what type of aircraft it was? Swanee Red Leader gave a negative reply, but Swanee Red 2 said it could possibly be a Big Photo because it appeared as a large type aircraft. Algiers then instructed Swanee Red to investigate the stranger, also that Algiers had no contact on the stranger as it was in our clutter area, in the vicinity of San Gorgonio Mountain.

Lt. Otis, Swanee Red Leader, then reported that upon turning into the stranger, it appeared to have no tail assembly and showed great acceleration in moving away from them in an easterly direction and disappearing into space.

Algiers did not make radar pick-up on the unusual sighting at anytime.

Lt. Otis called the controller, (Captain Borgeson), at Algiers after landing and discribed the object as oval at the base and tappered to a heavy center section; he also re-affirmed that it did not have a tail section.

Ralph P. Borgeson

RALPH P. BORGESON
CAPT USAF
Chief Director

S T A T E M E N T

[redacted]

[redacted]

S-90

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted]
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

8/

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
27TH Air Div (Def), Norton AFB, Cal		

1 Encl
Pers Ltr

Statement:

On the 19 August 1952, at approximately 2000 PDST, Algiers took control of Swanee Red from Conform at georef position DD 1050, at which time he was given a vector of 290°.

Swanee Red Leader then called Algiers stating that he was steady on 290° and that he had a stranger at one o'clock. Algiers asked if he could tell what type of aircraft it was? Swanee Red Leader gave a negative reply, but Swanee Red 2 said it could possibly be a Big Photo because it appeared as a large type aircraft. Algiers then instructed Swanee Red to investigate the stranger, also that Algiers had no contact on the stranger as it was in our clutter area, in the vicinity of San Gorgonio Mountain.

Lt. Otis, Swanee Red Leader, then reported that upon turning into the stranger, it appeared to have no tail assembly and showed great acceleration in moving away from them in an easterly direction and disappearing into space.

Algiers did not make radar pick-up on the unusual sighting at any time.

Lt. Otis called the controller, (Captain Borgeson), at Algiers after landing and described the object as oval at the base and tapered too heavy center section; he also re-affirmed that it did not have a tail section.

RALPH P. BORGESON
Captain USAF
Chief Director

7-3718-12

[redacted]
(CLASSIFICATION)

Dynaflow BUICK

ABELE MOTOR COMPANY
AUTHORIZED BUICK AND PONTIAC SALES AND SERVICE
333 MAIN STREET TELEPHONE 2-5437
WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

ELMER J. ABELE

36

Astro

16 Aug
Davis, Calif

September 2, 1952

Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

To whom it may concern:

My civil defense watch was from Midnight Aug 15th to 4:00 AM.

At the close of the watch when calling the center advising that we were leaving the post we were requested to check a light east of Winters and West of Woodland. We did see an object - two in fact - which we later determined to be two bright stars.

As we did not believe any importance would be attached to this incident we did not report back to the filter center our determination.

Nothing could be possibly gained by filing the attached questionnaire.

Very truly yours,

ABELE MOTOR COMPANY
BY J. D. Abele

1-616 E 7-

CALIF. JACK ABELE, WOODLAND, CALIF. MERLYN YOUNGER, WOODLAND, CALIF .

(6) CLEAR

(7) NONE

(8) NONE

(9) ONE F-94, STANLEY GREEN SCRAMBLED AT 0430 PDT. UNABLE TO LOCATE OBJECTS. GOC OBSERVED FIGHTER AND OBJECTS AT SAME TIME. FIGHTER SEEMED TO BE FLYING AMOUNG OBJECTS. FIGHTER ORBITED AT BOTH 10,000 AND 20,000 FEET AND SAW NOTHING.

(10) NONE REPORTED.

19/2122Z AUG JAPML

Cy 1

ACTION

20 Aug 52 09 [illegible]Z

1952 AUG 20 09

A.G.O. INFOR.

19 PM 8:53

RCS

WPA016

YDA005T

XYD005

XDA010

JWPML 003

RR JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN 333

DE JWPML 47F

R 192113Z ZNJ

FM CG 28TH ADD HAFB CALIF

TO JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH 25 D C

JEDWP/ AIR TECHNICAL INTILLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO ATIAA-2C

JEDEN/ CG ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

JWPML/ CG WADF HAMILTON AFB CALIF

[redacted]/ 28TH OID 9299 FLYOBRPT

(1) ONE ROUND OGMECT , COLOR OF THE RAINBOW, STATIONARY, NO SOUND. AT 0420 PDT GOC REPORTED 8 MORE OBJECTS IN SAME AREA, SEEMED TO BE GAINING ALTITUDE. AT 0429, TOTAL OF 20 OBJECTS SIGHTEED.?

(2) 0330 PDT OBJECTS HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILANCE FOR 10 MINUTES. 0530PDT GOC STILL OBSERVING TWO OBJECTS, ONE HEADING EAST, ONE HEADING WEST.

(3) VISUALLY FROM GROUND.

(4) OBSERVERS AT DAVIS , CALIF. WOODLAND, CALIF. OBJECT AT DAVIS, CALIF. PJ ALT . NOT REPORTED.

(5) EVERETT JOHNSON, WINTERS, CALIF. PAUL V. REISS, WINTERS

[redacted]
HEADQUARTERS
2596TH AIR FORCE RESERVE FLYING TRAINING CENTER
HENSLEY FIELD, GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS

Int 319.1 28 August 1952

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Report of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Director of Intelligence, DCS/O
Headquarters, USAF
ATTN: AFOIN-C/CC
Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with letter, Headquarters, USAF, AFOIN-C/CC-2, subject as above, 19 December 1951, the following information, as reported to this headquarters by E. R. Storey, A. R. Autrey, and C. H. Lewis, is forwarded. This report was not transmitted by electrical means due to the fact that no other activity or observations were reported from this area and report was not deemed of sufficient value to warrant electrical transmission.

a. Description: The objects were two very bright, star-like lights. They gave off a white-blue light like a mercury arc light. Both remained stationary for about five minutes. At this time the lower object moved vertically downward to about three degrees above the horizon, then moved up to approximately the same position. Both objects then began moving Northwestward, first slowly, then seemed to accelerate uniformly to a very fast speed until they were completely out of sight in a few seconds. The objects had no tail or exhaust according to the witnesses.

b. Time Sighted: 2020C, 19 August 1952. Objects were sighted for about ten minutes.

c. Manner of Observation: The objects were first sighted visibly from the surface from Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas, by C. H. Lewis, 4071163, USNR, who immediately drove to the Hensley Tower where he observed the objects with binoculars until they disappeared from sight.

d. Location of Observer: Naval Air Station (Hensley) Dallas, Texas, W Long 97°, N Lat 32°44', near Mountain Creek Lake. The objects were due North of the Hensley Tower; altitude and distance undeterminable; one object approximately ten degrees, the other approximately five degrees above the horizon.

[redacted]
HOME OF
The Lone Star Wing

Z-319-12

[redacted]

Hq, 2596th AFRFTC, Int 319.1, Subject: (Unclassified) Report of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects, 28 August 1952.

e. Identifying Information on Observer: All three witnesses, E. R. Storey, 3591128, USNR, A. R. Autrey, 4300776, USNR, and C. H. Lewis, 4071163, USNR, are men trained and experienced in the observing of aircraft, the first two, Storey and Autrey, being Control Tower Operators of considerable experience.

f. Weather: 015 117/92/64↑↖8.

g. Other Activity or Condition: None reported in this locality.

h. Existence of any Physical Evidence: None Reported.

i. Interception or Identification Action Taken: None.

j. Location of Air Traffic: Flight Service reported no aircraft flying between Dallas and Fort Worth at this time.

2. This report forwarded in letter form in lieu of AF Forms 112. Normal supply of AF Forms 112 was exhausted due to excessive number of reports being received from this area. Subject forms were requisitioned by Special Requisition on 10 August 1952 but have not been received to date.

WORTH M. SPEED
Major, USAF
Commanding

Info Copy to:
Chief, Air Technical Intel
Center, Wright Patterson AFB
CG, ConAC
CG, 14th AF
CO, 3d Air Res Dist

[redacted]

Information Only

Solution: Unknown

Source: Military

18 Aug 52

Duncansville, Texas

2. Duncansville, Texas - 18 August 1952

Visual sightings were made at 0245Z on 18 Aug 52 of a slow moving object and reported to Carswell AFB. Red and green lights changing to white were noted. Object moved up and down, hovered and then moved off at a rapid rate of speed.

At 0247Z two unidentified aerial objects were picked up by the 147th AC/W Squadron, Duncansville, Texas. Objects changed directions several times and had an estimated speed of 300 mph. This electronic sighting coincides with the visual sighting as far as area of sighting is concerned.

No local air traffic at the time.

Solution: Unknown

7-3719-12

PROJECT 10073 WORKSHEET

I. GENERAL

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	3. TIME
19 Aug 52	Dallas, Texas	Local: 2020 CST Zebra: 020020

4. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE GROUND? ☑ Yes ☐ No
- ☑ Naked Eye
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Telescope
- ☐ Theodolite

5. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED BY GROUND RADAR? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ☐ By One Set
- ☐ By Two Sets
- ☐ By Three Sets

6. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE AIR? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ___ A/C Observed Object
- ☐ Interception Attempted
- ☐ No Intercept Attempted

7. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ___ A/C Scrambled
- ☐ Visual Contact Made
- ☐ A/I Contact Made
- ☑ No Contact Made

8. DID OBJECT CHANGE DIRECTION AT ANY TIME? ☑ Yes ☐ No
- ☑ Normal
- ☐ Violent

9. IF OBJECT WAS A "LIGHT", WAS IT:
- ☐ Blinking
- ☑ Steady

10. LENGTH OF TIME IN SIGHT:
- ☐ 1-15 Seconds
- ☐ 1-5 Minutes
- ☑ Over 10 Minutes

11. REPORTING AGENCY (Unit Number and Mailing Address)

Hq, 2596th Air Force Range Flying Training Center
Hensley Field Grand Prairie, Texas

II. ASTRONOMICAL DATA

12. WHAT ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED?

None

13. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO ARCH DOWNWARD?	☐ Yes	☐ No
14. DID OBJECT HAVE A TAIL?	☐ Yes	☐ No
15. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO DISINTEGRATE?	☐ Yes	☐ No

16. TIME OF SIGHTING RELATIVE TO SUNRISE OR SUNSET (Data From Air Almanac)
- ☐ Night
- ☐ Day
- ☐ Sunrise
- ☑ Sunset

III. AIRCRAFT DATA

17. WERE AIRCRAFT NOTED IN AREA?	☐ Yes ☐ One Aircraft ☐ More Than One Aircraft	☑ No
18. WAS ANY SOUND HEARD?	☐ Yes	☐ No
19. WERE THERE INDICATIONS OF HIGH BACKGROUND NOISE?	☐ Yes	☐ No
20. WAS THE OBJECT VIEWED ABOVE 45° ELEVATION?	☐ Yes	☑ No

IV. BALLOON DATA

21. WERE BALLOONS RELEASED IN AREA? ☒ Yes ☐ No

22. TIME SINCE SCHEDULED BALLOON RELEASE: 300 Minutes

23. POSSIBLE BALLOON LAUNCH SITES DOWNWIND OF SIGHTING:

	Location	Type	Launching Agency	Lighted? Yes	Lighted? No	Describe Lighting
a.						
b.						
c.						
d.						

(attach overlay)

V. EVALUATION

21. EVALUATION OF SOURCE:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Unreliable
- ☐ Extremely Doubtful
- ☐ Hoax

22. DETAILS OF REPORT:

- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Insufficient to Evaluate

23. FINAL EVALUATION:

- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☒ Possibly Balloon

- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft

- ☐ Was Astronomical
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☐ Possibly Astronomical

- ☐ Other: _____

- ☐ Insufficient Data For Evaluation

- ☐ Unknown

24. COMMENTS:

moved with wind

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE

19 August 52

2. LOCATION

Dallas, Texas

3. DATE-TIME GROUP

Local 2020C

GMT

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar

☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. SOURCE

Naval Cont. Tower Opns

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

10 minutes

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

2

9. COURSE

12. CONCLUSIONS

☐ A. Was Balloon

☐ B. Probably Balloon

☒ C. Possibly Balloon

☐ D. Was Aircraft

☐ E. Probably Aircraft

☐ F. Possibly Aircraft

☐ G. Was Astronomical

☐ H. Probably Astronomical

☐ I. Possibly Astronomical

☐ J. Other

☐ K. Insufficient Data for Evaluation

☐ L. Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

11. COMMENTS

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

ACTION

20 Aug 52 09 412Z

1. Atia
2. Atia
3. C file

ACTION INFOR. A-2-1 INFOR.
13 AM 10:26

RE033
WPA131
PP JEDWP ZOV JED
-T-AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB O JLYDC116
BA092 C
YMB098
JEDKF 041
PP JEDEN JEPHQ JEPWP 333
DE JEDKF 04C
P 190930Z
FM CO 147TH AC&W SQ DUNCANVILLE TEXAS
TO JEPHQ/ DIR INTEL HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
JEDWP/ AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
JEDEN/ CG ENT AFB COLO
JEDKF CG CADF KSC MO
INFO ZEN/ CG 33RD ADIV TINKER AFB OKLA
RESTRICTED/ 0861 ATTN CLN DOI ATTN ATIAA-2C FLYOBRPT UNIDENTIFIE
FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED COMMENCING AT 0245Z AND CONT ON TO APRX 0730Z
AT 0245Z CARSWELL AFB CMA FTW CMA RPTD SLOW MOVING OBJECT WITH RED
AND GREEN LIGHTS CHANGING TO WHITE. OBJECT MOVED RAPIDLY FROM HENSLEY
FLD TO FTW CMA MOVING NW FROM FTW. OBJECT SEEMED TO BE MOVING UP AND
THEN DOWN CMA HOVER AWHILE CMA AND MOVE AGAIN AT A FAST RATE. LIGHTS
OF OBJECT VERY BRIGHT. AT 0247Z TWO /2/ UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE
PICKED UP BY THIS SQ ELECTRONICALLY APRX 265 DEGREES AT TWENTY EIGHT
/28/ MILES. SPEED ESTIMATED AT APRX THREE HUNDRED /300/ MPH. OBJECT
CHANGED DIRECTIONS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES FROM ABOUT THREE HUNDRED SIXTY

PP JEDEN JEPHQ JEPWP 333

DE JEDKF Ø4C

P 19Ø93ØZ

FM CO 147TH AC&W SQ DUNCANVILLE TEXAS

TO JEPHQ/ DIR INTEL HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC

JEDWP/ AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/ CG ENT AFB COLO

JEDKF CG CADF KSC MO

INFO ZEN/ CG 33RD ADIV TINKER AFB OKLA

RESTRICTED Ø861 ATTN CLN DOI ATTN ATIAA-2C FLYOBRPT UNIDENTIFIE FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED COMMENCING AT Ø245Z AND CONT ON TO APRX Ø73ØZ AT Ø245Z CARSWELL AFB CMA FTW CMA RPTD SLOW MOVING OBJECT WITH RED AND GREEN LIGHTS CHANGING TO WHITE. OBJECT MOVED RAPIDLY FROM HENSLEY FLD TO FTW CMA MOVING NW FROM FTW. OBJECT SEEMED TO BE MOVING UP AND THEN DOWN CMA HOVER AWHILE CMA AND MOVE AGAIN AT A FAST RATE. LIGHTS OF OBJECT VERY BRIGHT. AT Ø247Z TWO /2/ UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE PICKED UP BY THIS SQ ELECTRONICALLY APRX 265 DEGREES AT TWENTY EIGHT /28/ MILES. SPEED ESTIMATED AT APRX THREE HUNDRED /3ØØ/ MPH. OBJECT CHANGED DIRECTIONS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES FROM ABOUT THREE HUNDRED SIXTY /36Ø/ DEGREES TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY /18Ø/ DEGREES. CONTINUED ELECTRONIC CONTACT UNTIL Ø319Z. AT Ø31ØZ CARSWELL RPTD TWO /2/ OBJECTS NE AT EST ALT OF FOUR /4/ TO SIX YX THOUSAND FEET. MEECHUM FLD CMA FTW CMA ALSO RPTD SIGHTING SIMILAR OBJECTS.

PARTS TWO RZO Ø4C

AT Ø52ØZ AMN FROM THIS STA CALLED IN FROM DALLAS RPTNG UNUSUAL LIGHT TEN/1Ø/ MILES WEST OF DALLAS. CHECKED CARSWELL SMCLN THEY SIGHTED SIMILAR OBJECT TEN/1Ø/ MILES EAST THEIR STA. AT Ø646Z S/GT [redacted] CMA CREW CHIEF ON DUTY THIS STA CMA SPOTTED THREE /3/ OBJECTS NORTH OF DUNCANVILLE. OBJECTS THREW OFF REDISH AND BLUISH GLOWS. OBJECTS OBSERVED APRX FORTY /4Ø/ MINUTES THEN FADED. HEADING OF OBJECTS PRIOR TO FADE WAS DUE NORTH. AFTER CONTACT WITH CONTROLLER AT 33RD ADIV /D/ IT IS BELIEVED THAT LATTER SIGHTINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN STARS. NO EXPLAINATIONS OFFERED FOR OTHER SIGHTINGS AT PRESENT TIME. AS OF

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AT Ø52ØZ AMN FROM THIS STA CALLED IN FROM DALLAS RPTNG UNUSUAL LIGHT TEN/1Ø/ MILES WEST OF DALLAS. CHECKED CARSWELL SMCLN THEY SIGHTED SIMILAR OBJECT TEN/1Ø/ MILES EAST THEIR STA. AT Ø6463Z S/GT CASPER CMA CREW CHIEF ON DUTY THIS STA CMA SPOTTED THREE /3/ OBJECTS NORTH OF DUNCANVILLE. OBJECTS THREW OFF REDISH AND BLUISH GLOWS. OBJECTS OBSERVED APRX FORTY /4Ø/ MINUTES THEN FADED. HEADING OF OBJECTS PRIOR TO FADE WAS DUE NORTH. AFTER CONTACT WITH CONTROLLER AT 33RD ADIV /D/ IT IS BELIEVED THAT LATTER SIGHTINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN STARS. NO EXPLAINATIONS OFFERED FOR OTHER SIGHTINGS AT PRESENT TIME. AS OF Ø9ØØZ NO OTHER SIGHTINGS MADE. LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS BEING CONDUCTED AT PRESENT.

ACTION

20 Aug 52 09 42

1952 AUG 19 AM 10:26

ACTION | INFOR. | A.C.O.I. INFOR.

RE083

ACTION

20 Aug 52 09 37Z

1952 AUG 20 15 04

1. Action
2. Action
3. C. files

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION
1952 AUG 19 PM 12:20

EE091

WPA139

YDB102

WYA128

WDC093

WWB072

JWFNK B66

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEDKF 444

DE JWFNK 04CF

P 190930Z ZNJ

FM CO 147TH AC&W SQ DUNCANVILLE TEX

TO JEPHQ/DIR INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO

JEDKF/CG CADF KSC MO

INFO ZEN/CG 33D ADIV TINKER AFB OKLA

[redacted] 0861 ATTN CLN DOI ATTN ATIAA-2C FLYOBRPT UNIDENTIFIED

FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED COMMENCING AT 0245Z AND CONT ON TO APRX 0730Z

AT 0245Z CARSWELL AFB CMA FTW CMA RPTD SLOW MOVING OBJECT WITH RED

AND GREEN LIGHTS CHANGING TO WHITE. OBJECT MOVED RAPIDLY FROM HENSLEY

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OF OBJECT VERY BRIGHT. AT 0247Z TWO /2/ UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE

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/28/ MILES. SPEED ESTIMATED AT APRX THREE HUNDRED /300/ MPH. OBJECT

CHANGED DIRECTIONS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES FROM ABOUT THREE HUNDRED SIXTY

FM CO 147TH AC&W SQ DUNCANVILLE TEX

TO JEPHQ/DIR INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO

JEDKF/CG CADF KSC MO

INFO ZEN/CG 33D ADIV TINKER AFB OKLA

[redacted] Ø861 ATTN CLN DOI ATTN ATIAA-2C FLYOBRPT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED COMMENCING AT Ø245Z AND CONT ON TO APRX Ø73ØZ AT Ø245Z CARSWELL AFB CMA FTW CMA RPTD SLOW MOVING OBJECT WITH RED AND GREEN LIGHTS CHANGING TO WHITE. OBJECT MOVED RAPIDLY FROM HENSLEY FLD TO FTW CMA MOVING NW FROM FTW. OBJECT SEEMED TO BE MOVING UP AND THEN DOWN CMA HOVER AWHILE CMA AND MOVE AGAIN AT A FAST RATE. LIGHTS OF OBJECT VERY BRIGHT. AT Ø247Z TWO /2/ UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE PICKED UP BY THIS SQ ELECTRONICALLY APRX 265 DEGREES AT TWENTY EIGHT /28/ MILES. SPEED ESTIMATED AT APRX THREE HUNDRED /3ØØ/ MPH. OBJECT CHANGED DIRECTIONS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES FROM ABOUT THREE HUNDRED SIXTY

/36Ø/ DEGREES TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY /18Ø/ DEGREES. CONTINUED ELECTRONIC CONTACT UNTIL Ø319Z. AT Ø31ØZ CARWSELL RPTD TWO /2/ OBJECTS NE AT EST ALT OF FOUR /4/ TO SIX /6/ THOUSAND FEET. MEECHUM FLD CMA FTW CMA ALSO RPTD SIGHTING SIMILAR OBJECTS.

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19/13ØØZ AUG JWFNK

Cy 1

PROJECT 10073 WORKSHEET

I. GENERAL

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	3. TIME
13 Aug 52	Duncanville, Texas	Local: 1325 CDT Zebra: 0245

4. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE GROUND? ☑ Yes ☐ No
- ☑ Naked Eye
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Telescope
- ☐ Theodolite

5. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED BY GROUND RADAR? ☑ Yes ☐ No
- ☑ By One Set
- ☐ By Two Sets
- ☐ By Three Sets

6. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE AIR? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ___ A/C Observed Object
- ☐ Interception Attempted
- ☐ No Intercept Attempted

7. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ___ A/C Scrambled
- ☐ Visual Contact Made
- ☐ A/I Contact Made
- ☐ No Contact Made

8. DID OBJECT CHANGE DIRECTION AT ANY TIME? ☑ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Normal
- ☑ Violent

9. IF OBJECT WAS A "LIGHT", WAS IT:
- ☐ Blinking
- ☐ Steady

Changing color from Red to green to white

10. LENGTH OF TIME IN SIGHT: 7 5 min.
- ☐ 1-15 Seconds
- ☐ 1-5 Minutes
- ☐ Over 10 Minutes

11. REPORTING AGENCY (Unit Number and Mailing Address)

CO 147th AC/W Sq., Duncanville, Texas

II. ASTRONOMICAL DATA

12. WHAT ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED?

N/O

13. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO ARCH DOWNWARD?	☐ Yes	☑ No
14. DID OBJECT HAVE A TAIL?	☐ Yes	☑ No
15. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO DISINTEGRATE?	☐ Yes	☑ No

16. TIME OF SIGHTING RELATIVE TO SUNRISE OR SUNSET (Data From Air Almanac)
- ☑ Night
- ☐ Day
- ☐ Sunrise
- ☐ Sunset

III. AIRCRAFT DATA

17. WERE AIRCRAFT NOTED IN AREA? ☐ Yes ☑ No
- ☐ One Aircraft
- ☐ More Than One Aircraft

18. WAS ANY SOUND HEARD?	☐ Yes	☑ No
19. WERE THERE INDICATIONS OF HIGH BACKGROUND NOISE?	☐ Yes	☑ No
20. WAS THE OBJECT VIEWED ABOVE 45° ELEVATION?	☐ Yes	☑ No

IV. BALLOON DATA

21. WERE BALLOONS RELEASED IN AREA? ☑ Yes ☐ No

22. TIME SINCE SCHEDULED BALLOON RELEASE: 15 Minutes

23. POSSIBLE BALLOON LAUNCH SITES DOWNWIND OF SIGHTING:

	Location	Type	Launching Agency	Lighted? Yes	Lighted? No	Describe Lighting
a.	Ft Worth, Tex.	Rawinsonde	Air Weath. Serv.			
b.	Waco, Tex.	Pibal	USDA			
c.						
d.						

(attach overlay)

V. EVALUATION

21. EVALUATION OF SOURCE:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☑ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Unreliable
- ☐ Extremely Doubtful
- ☐ Hoax

22. DETAILS OF REPORT:

- ☐ Good
- ☑ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Insufficient to Evaluate

23. FINAL EVALUATION:

- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☐ Possibly Balloon
- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft
- ☐ Was Astronomical
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☐ Possibly Astronomical
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Insufficient Data For Evaluation
- ☑ Unknown

24. COMMENTS:

PROJECT 10073 WEATHER DATA S/ T

1. DATE OF OBSERVATION	2. TIME OF OBSERVATION	3. STATION OBSERVING

4. WINDS ALOFT:

ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)	ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)
0			25,000		
1,000			30,000		
2,000			35,000		
3,000			40,000		
4,000			45,000		
5,000			50,000		
6,000			55,000		
7,000			60,000		
8,000			65,000		
9,000			70,000		
10,000			75,000		
12,000			80,000		
14,000			85,000		
16,000			90,000		
18,000			95,000		
20,000			100,000		

5. WAS AN INVERSION LAYER NOTED? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(If yes, at what altitude? _____)

6. WERE ANY THUNDERSTORMS NOTED IN AREA? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(If yes, at what quadrant? _____)

7. CLOUD COVER:

_____ tenths at _____ feet. _____ tenths at _____ feet.
_____ tenths at _____ feet. _____ tenths at _____ feet.

8. VISIBILITY WAS _____ MILES.

9. COMMENTS:

ATIC Test Form 333 (13 Aug 52)

ORAN REPUBLIC

16 Aug 52

LUMINOUS OBJECTS SEEN OVER ALGERIA -- Oran, Oran Republic, 16 Aug 52

In Ain Sefra, on the night of 12 August 1952, a railroad agent observed a ball of fire suddenly appearing against a background of clouds, racing across the sky from E to W and leaving behind a luminous pink trail. Apparently increaing in volume, the object stopped suddenly, became bright red, and seemed to explode, but the observer did not hear any noise.

At 2115 hours on 14 August 1952, two persons in the city of Constantine saw a luminous object flying at high speed toward Guelma. According to the witness, the apparatus, which had no resemblance to flying saucer, emmited a very bright light. At the time this happeded, the local weather bureau had not launched any weather balloons.

The same day, at 1920 hours, many people at the docks of Philippville saw in the sky an enormous red disk going from N to W, leaving behind a greenish trail.

7-5711 9-1

Memoradum for Record 27 August 1952

Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Aerial Object Reported by Mr. [redacted]

1. On 21 Aug 52 Capt E. J. Ruppelt and 2/Lt R. M. Olsson of "Blue Book" and Capt Hoey and Capt Douglas Davis departed Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at approximately 1500 EST in a B-25 aircraft for West Palm Beach Municipal Airport, Florida. At approximately 1930 EST they arrived at West Palm Beach, Florida. Capt Hoey and Capt Davis originally planned to return to Wright-Patterson AFB, but due to mechanical trouble with the B-25 they stayed and participated in the investigation.

2. Upon landing the ATIC group spoke to the Airdrome Officer, Capt Zaha. He was aware of the purpose of the trip. He mentioned that people has seen flares in the vicinity of the sighting area at some unknown time and said that it was generally believed that the scoutmaster had been hit by a flare. At the time of the talk with Capt Zaha no details as to what he was referring to were obtained as it was assumed that they were well known by the Intelligence Officer. However, later Capt Zaha's story became more significant but he could not be located. (More details have been requested from him).

3. On the morning of 22 Aug 52 Capt Carney, Wing Intelligence Officer of the 1707th Air Base Wing, West Palm Beach Municipal Airport, Florida, was contacted. He showed the ATIC party copies of statements he had received from the scoutmaster, three boyscouts, and other possible witnesses to the incident. These statements are being forwarded through channels per Air Force Letter 200-5. The contents of the statements are the same as details obtained in interview. Details of these interviews will be given in this memo, consequently the contents of the signed statements will not be discussed.

4. Capt , a medical officer at the air base who had examined Mr. [redacted] on the evening of 21 Aug 52 was contacted. His complete report will be forwarded with the Form 112 through channels. He stated that Mr. [redacted] was normal physically. The hair on the back of his forearms was singed, but not badly. The skin on his forearms showed no signs of blisters, burns, or redness. He stated that if the skin had been burned it was very minor as there was absolutely no after-effects (Comment: this examination took place 46 hours after the incident). Mr. [redacted] stated that the hair in his nostrils had also been singed but that he had cut it out. There was no apparent evidence of this, however, the medical officer stated that he has some doubt as to several points in [redacted] story.

a. He stated that he had received an "Other Than Honorable" discharge from the Marines in 1944. He had been hitch-hiking and was picked up by an unknown person. The person got tired of driving and asked [redacted] to drive, which he did. They were picked up by law enforcement officers and it turned out that the car was stolen. He was arrested and charged with Auto Theft, in Civil Court, but the charges were later dropped. He said that because of this incident he was discharged from the Marines. (His Marine records have been requested).

b. He stated that in 1948 he had had an accident in which an automobile slipped of hoist and fell on his stomach. He was hospitalized 3½ months for Diathermy treatment. The medical officer thought this was highly unlikely due to the fact that Diathermy treatments do not require hospitalization.

c. When asked if he had ever had nightmares, he stated a flat "no", but said that once he did have a dream about a beautiful woman and was still looking for her. (Comment: The only reason this is mentioned in the report is that it is possible that it has some bearing on the psychological angle). The medical officer was convinced that the psychological aspects of the case should be pursued (Comment: It was evident that there had been a personality clash between the medic and Mr. [redacted]. For some reason the medic took an apparent "dim view" of [redacted]).

5. About noon on 22 Aug 52 Capts Ruppelt, Hoey, Davis and Lt Olsson of ATIC, Capt Carney and an airman from the 1707th Air Base Wing Intelligence, the medical officer, two sheriffs from the Palm Beach County, and an airman staff-car driver visited the scene of the incident. (See attached map and sketch).

6. The deputies gave their account of the incident. At about 2200 EST on the night of 19 Aug 52, they were called and told that the boyscouts were at a house asking for help. They proceeded in separate cars to the house (see map), picked up the scouts and returned to the car on the road. (Returned to [redacted]' car) At approximately 2230 EST they saw [redacted] coming through the palmettos with no light, waving his machete. They were a little dubious of the whole situation and refused to come and help [redacted] as he was requesting. He finally came out and explained the incident to the officers. They made one definite conclusion, in all their experience as peace officers they had never seen a person as frightened as [redacted] was at that time.

7. They took him back into the woods and at the approximate spot he described, they found his flashlight, a large light similar to the ones used by railroad men, face down still burning. They also found what they believe to be a place where a person had been lying near the light. The spot was marked with tree branches. They then took [redacted] to the sheriff's office in West Palm Beach. When they arrived he retold his story and they examined his burns. They said his arm was reddened and that the hair on his arms was singed. They did not notice, nor was it mentioned by [redacted], that the hair in his nostrils was singed.

8. The area, 50 yards around the spot where the flashlight was found, was searched. There was no above normal radiation, no burned foliage or grass, no broken or trampled foliage or trees, (other than that damaged by the sheriff and the search party) no sign of debris such as flares. Nothing unusual of any description was found. The grass and foliage in the area of the spot over which the object hovered was compared to the grass and foliage 50 yards away. There was no difference in the appearance.

9. One boyscout, a [redacted] aged 12 was contacted. In the presence of his mother he stated that he had been riding with DesVergers and two other boyscouts. As they were passing the spot where [redacted] later entered the woods, [redacted] saw a light. They did not see it. Seconds later they all

saw another light. One scout wanted to go on, but [redacted] turned around and went back to the spot and stopped. He instructed the scouts to wait 10 minutes and if he was not back to call for help. Ruffing stated that the boys observed [redacted] going through the palmettos because they could see his light. Then he said they could see a red light go toward him, saw him silhouetted in the red light and saw him fall. Then they ran up the road to a house that had a light to get help. They called the highway patrol from the house.

10. Approximately 1800 on 22 Aug 52 Capt Carney sent a staff car to pick up [redacted] in West Palm Beach and bring him out to the air base for an interview. He arrived at about 1830 having not taken time to eat and was met by Capts Ruppelt, Hoey, Davis, Carney, Lt Olsson, and a staff sergeant from Capt Carney's office. [redacted] was very cooperative, he appeared to be normal, but just a shade on the "~~coky~~" side (Comment: Possibly from being nervous???). The following account is taken from notes that were takenby Capt Ruppelt during the interview and are as near true statements as possible.

11. "I was going south (along Military Trail) about 40 MPH fooling around with the kids (boyscouts) when I caught a flash of light out of the corner of my eye. I looked around and saw a series of fuzzy lights like the cabin windows of an airliner. They were headed down at about a 45° angle into the woods, then the kids saw it. I stopped and talked it over with kids then went on. I stopped again because I thought that if it were an aircraft that had crashed, I had better try to help. I turned around and went back. There was a radio Program that had just come on, it was 9:45. I told the kids to estimate when the program was 2/3 over (10 minutes) and if I hadn't come out by that time to go for help as I would probably need it. I judged the lights were about two miles from the road. I picked my way through the palmettos, looking at the stars to keep on a 90° track from the road and shining my light over the tops of the palmettos to find the easy path. I looked at my watch and noticed four minutes (time now 2149). Then I noticed an open spot ahead of me and stopped, thinking it might be a lake. It turned out to be a clearing. I saw no lights on the way in".

12. "As I said I was surprised at reaching a clearing, thinking it might be a lake, and I carefully stepped forward with the light pointing toward the ground. I had a second two cell flashlight in my backpocket".

13. "When I first stepped into the clearing I noticed a peculiar smell. I went two or three spaces when I had the fœling somebody or something was watching me. I kept on going and began to feel heat, like walking close to an oven. It was hot and humid like and it seemed to be coming from above. I hadn't thought of looking up, when I did I couldn't see the sky. (Comment: On being requestioned on this part he meant that he couldn't see stars.) I knew I had run into something rough. I stood frozen in my tracks, I wanted to throw something or hit it with my machete. I felt for my flashlight in my backpocket and thought of throwing it, but was too scared. (Comment: This establishes that he didn't loose his flashlight going into the clearing). The bottom of the object was dull black with no seams, joints or rivet lines. It had dirty streaks running straight across as if oil or dust had blown back. (Comment: When asked if they were circular or concentric rings he said "no".) I tried to run but froze, I was so scared. The object was about 6" to 8" above the pine trees. I then got control of myself and backed away. I could feel the

heat lessen as I backed out from under the edge of the ship. I looked up and saw the edge of the ship silhouetted against the sky. It was round, with a dome shape top and with holes and fins running around the edge. The bottom edge seemed to glow with a sort of a phosphorescent glow, like phosphorus in the sea at night (see sketch). They seemed to be as scared of me as I was of them. (Comment: He repeated this frequently during the interview. When asked how he knew or what he meant, he said the object appeared to move back as he approached).

14. "I had my light on the object and couldn't get my eyes off it, but as soon as I backed off I could see the object silhouetted against the sky. I could see the dome. Then I heard metal against metal, like a hatch opening and thought someone was going to watch me (Comment: ??-This could be an error in note taking). I said a million prayers. I saw something momentarily but couldn't see what it was. Next I saw a red flare which appeared slowly to move toward me. It came out of the side, I couldn't move or yell I was so scared. I could see the ship in the glow of the red light (Comment: He kept referring to the object as a "ship" all the time). I put my hands over my face (Comment: Fists closed, hand over each eye, palms toward face and elbows in stomach). I could see a red mist around me, then I passed out."

15. "When I woke up I was standing next to a tree, I think. I seem to remember stumbling through palmettos. I couldn't see and my eyes burned. I slowly began to come back. I saw lights through the trees and started running toward them, I didn't even know whether or not my feet were hitting the ground. I thought I might be dead. Next I met the deputies and we went back to get my light. The two cell fashlight is still missing".

16. Next [redacted]s mentioned a dream that he had had the night before. He said that he was unable to sleep nights from thinking of his experience and had attempted to get a sedative from the druggist. The druggist would not sell him a sedative, however, and he finally got to sleep by taking several aspirns. He stated that he had a dream in which he had jumped across the ditch into the clearing and was fighting with the "ship" in the air. He thinks from the dream he might be able to go back and find where he lost the flashlight, as the whole evenings performance seemed to have come back to him in his dream.

17. Upon being reinterrogated as to times, he stated that he went into the woods nearly exactly 9:45 P.M. He said for the boys to leave for help after 10 minutes. He thinks it was 8 minutes from the time he left the car until this red light hit him in the face. He was 4 minutes getting to the edge of the palmetto clearing.

18. Upon being reinterrogated about the odor that he smelled, he stated that it was an "acute, sharp smell". He had never smelled anything like it before. He works with muratic acid and knows how that smells. It had a sickening nauseating smell. He thinks that the odor is what made him pass out. He had a woozy feeling while he was passing out, similar to being put under anesthetic.

19. Upon being reinterrogated he went back over the following points:

a. "It was hotter than standing next to an oven, more like walking

into an oven". The heat was concentrated down. The further he went under the "ship" the hotter it got. He stated he perspired and felt cool when he came out from under the object.

b. "A red mist engulfed him. He was not conscious of any change in temperature when the red mist hit him. Even if it burned he still could not have felt any burn he was so scared. His eyes were glued on the object. He put his hands up before it hit him".

c. When he came to he was in the palmettos before he finally realized where he was.

d. He felt no downwash of any kind. He did hear a babbling sound. It was possibly the boyscouts in the car, however, he was not sure of this.

e. He heard a hissing sound after he entered the clearing and noticed the object. He heard the hissing all the time he was conscious.

f. He was asked the smell of his hat to see if the odor might still be clinging to the fabric, however, it was not.

20. A discrete attempt was made to try to get Mr. [redacted] involved in a discussion of "flying saucers." He stated that he had seen a movie, "When the Worlds Collide", but that was all. He did not read "flying saucer" stories in the newspaper although he had noticed the headlines of a couple of them.

21. Mr. [redacted] stated that several people had contacted him regarding his story. They were: a) A scientist came to his store to see him. The scientist was from Schenectady, New York. He did not know his name and brushed him off. b) A person from the University of Alabama wanted him to make a recording. He told the person that he was not interested. c) Two people from the University of Florida contacted him. They said it was evident that he knew more than he was saying, but that he would not talk to them. d) A reporter from Time Magazine, who he wouldn't talk to, contacted him on the 21st. e) Some Miami radio station offered him cash for his story. f) A newspaper woman that he had known all through high school days called him but he wouldn't talk. (Comment: The above accounts are strictly [redacted] story. They were not checked by ATIC). He appeared to like to tell how important he was.

22. [redacted] stated that he had two comments to make. They were:

a. What made it suspend? We (probably meaning the United Stated) can't defy gravity. He doubted that it was manufactured "here". (Comment: He probably means the United States).

b. He thought that since we are reaching out into space, someone else may be and are possibly ahead of us. He said he believed that the object was probably from outer space.

23. Mr. [redacted] then asked what he should do about people coming to talk to him. He stated that he would be very glad to cooperate with the Air Force and not talk to anyone if he was not supposed to. He was advised

by Capt Ruppelt that it was the policy of this project not to ask any civilian to withhold any information, and the fact that we were trying to "shut him up" was not true. He then stated that he would go home and call the newspapers and give them the story to "get them off his neck." He was advised that he was free to do so. He seemed to be rather proud of the fact that he was brushed off so many newspaper people and others who are interested. He seemed to take great pride in throwing around such facts as people are offering money, professors had called, Time magazine had called, radio station had called, etc.

N

W E

S



Mr. [redacted] own sketch of "the object"

Light colored
color. Most

Sun beam

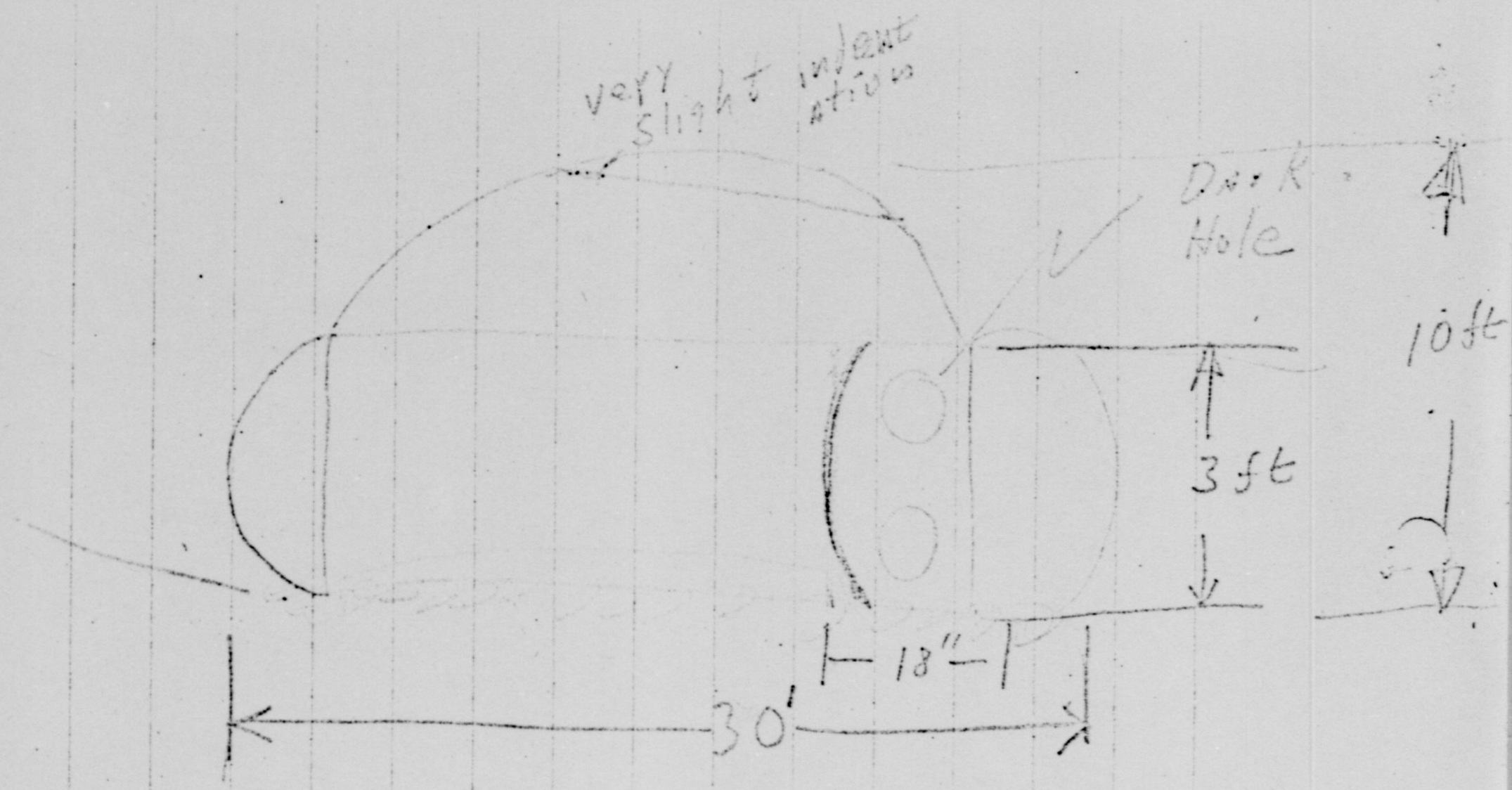
Durham

3'

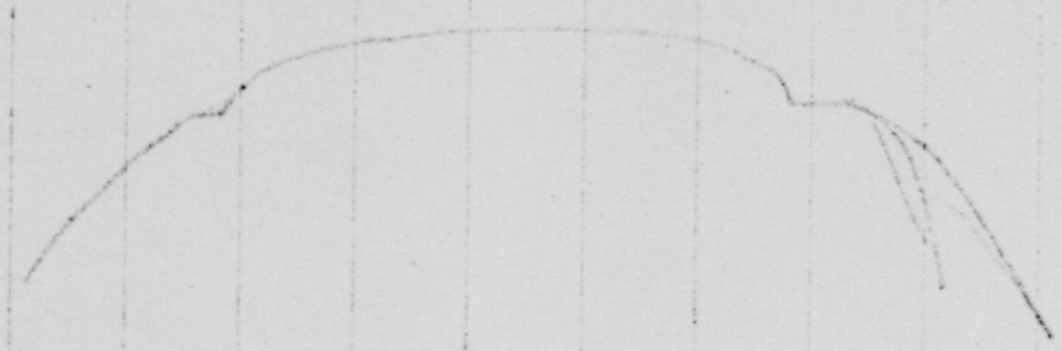
10'

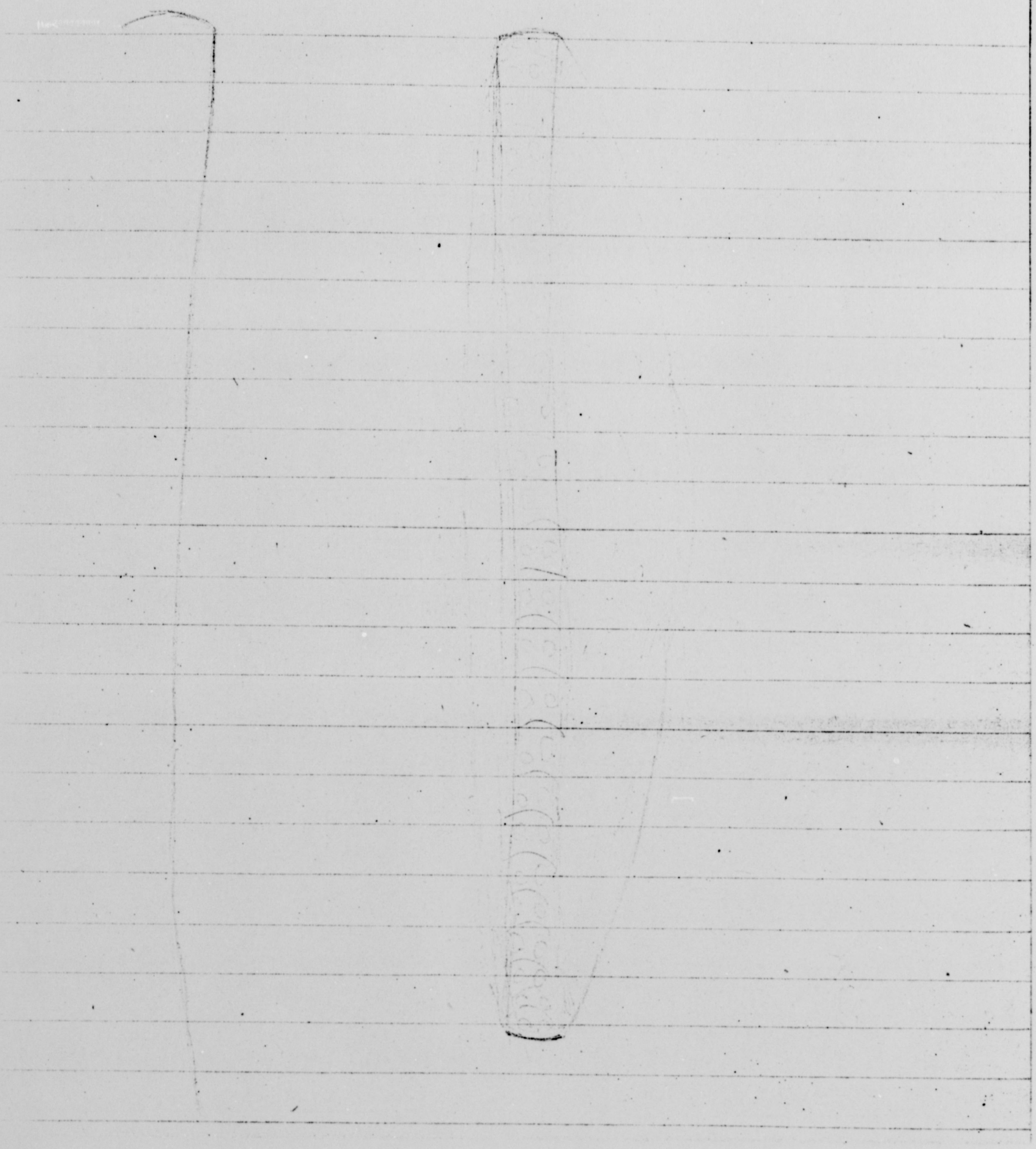
Glow

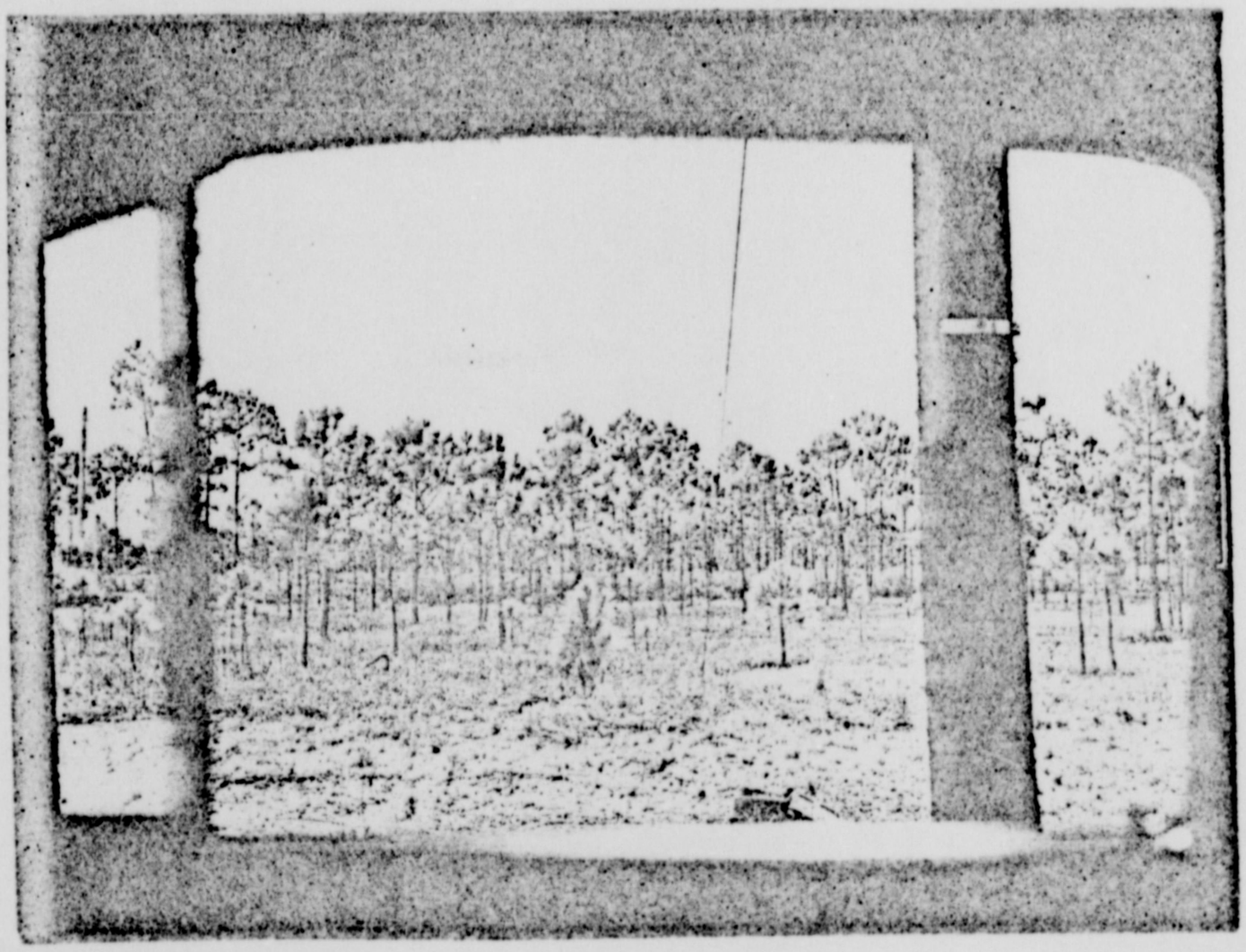
(30')



Direction of Observation







Photograph No. 1 - This is a photo looking almost straight east from the position of [redacted] automobile on the road toward the place where [redacted] claimed he got burned which is in the center of the photo past the palmetto thicket. This shot was taken through a car window to simulate what the boyscouts might have seen. In addition, you can see the edge of the palmetto thicket. While this shot was being taken, someone was standing in back of the thicket with his hand in the air. The hand is not visible in the picture, however, it was visible to the photographer. It is interesting to note, however, that only the up-stretched palm of the hand was visible, not the persons head.



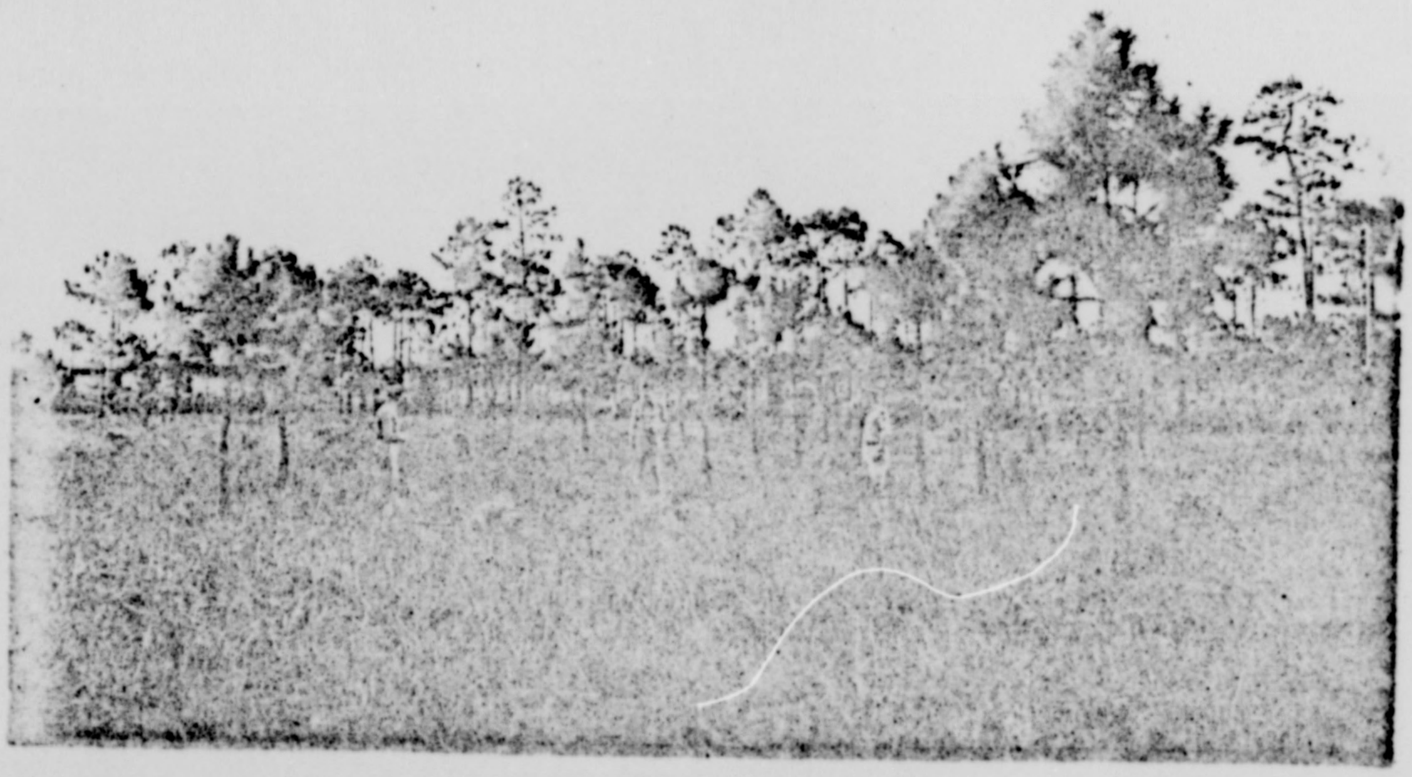
Photograph No. 2 - This is a photo of the first clearing and palmetto thicket that [redacted] went through on his way to the scene of the sighting. The direction is almost straight east. As far as could be determined, [redacted]s started in the lower foreground and his path went directly up the center of the photograph into the palmetto thicket.



Photograph No. 3 - This shows the palmetto thicket at the approximate point that [redacted] entered. It gives an idea as to the height and density of the palmetto growth. Local citizens stated that it was "crawling" with rattlesnakes.



Photograph No. 4 - This is a phototaken almost straight west toward the palmetto thicket. The point where [redacted] emerged from the thicket and first had the feeling that "somebody was watching him" is directly in the center of the picture. The photographer was standing on the spot where [redacted]'s flashlight was found.



Photograph No. 5 - This is a photo of the area where [redacted] claimed the object hovered above the trees. The subjects in the photograph are outlining a spot on the ground which is thought to be directly under the point the object hovered.



Photograph No. 6 - This photo shows the approximate position [redacted] was standing when he claims to have looked up at the edge of the object.



Photograph No. 7 - This is a photo of the general area where [redacted] claims to have been standing when he observed the object. The object supposedly hovered 8" - 12" over the trees.



Photograph No. 8 - This is a photo of the general area where [redacted] claims to have been standing when he observed the object.



Photograph No. 9 - This photo shows the spot where [redacted] was thought to have been lying on the ground. The brush next to the right hand of the subject are twigs that were placed there by the Deputy Sheriff the night of the sighting. The flashlight was found, still lighted, face down, at the point where the subject is pointing his finger.



Photograph No. 10 - This shows the spot on the ground where the flashlight was laying and where [redacted] supposedly had lain in the grass. It will be noted that the soil is sandy and that the growth of the grass is rather sparse. The twig in the foreground is the one placed there by the Deputy Sheriff to mark the point.

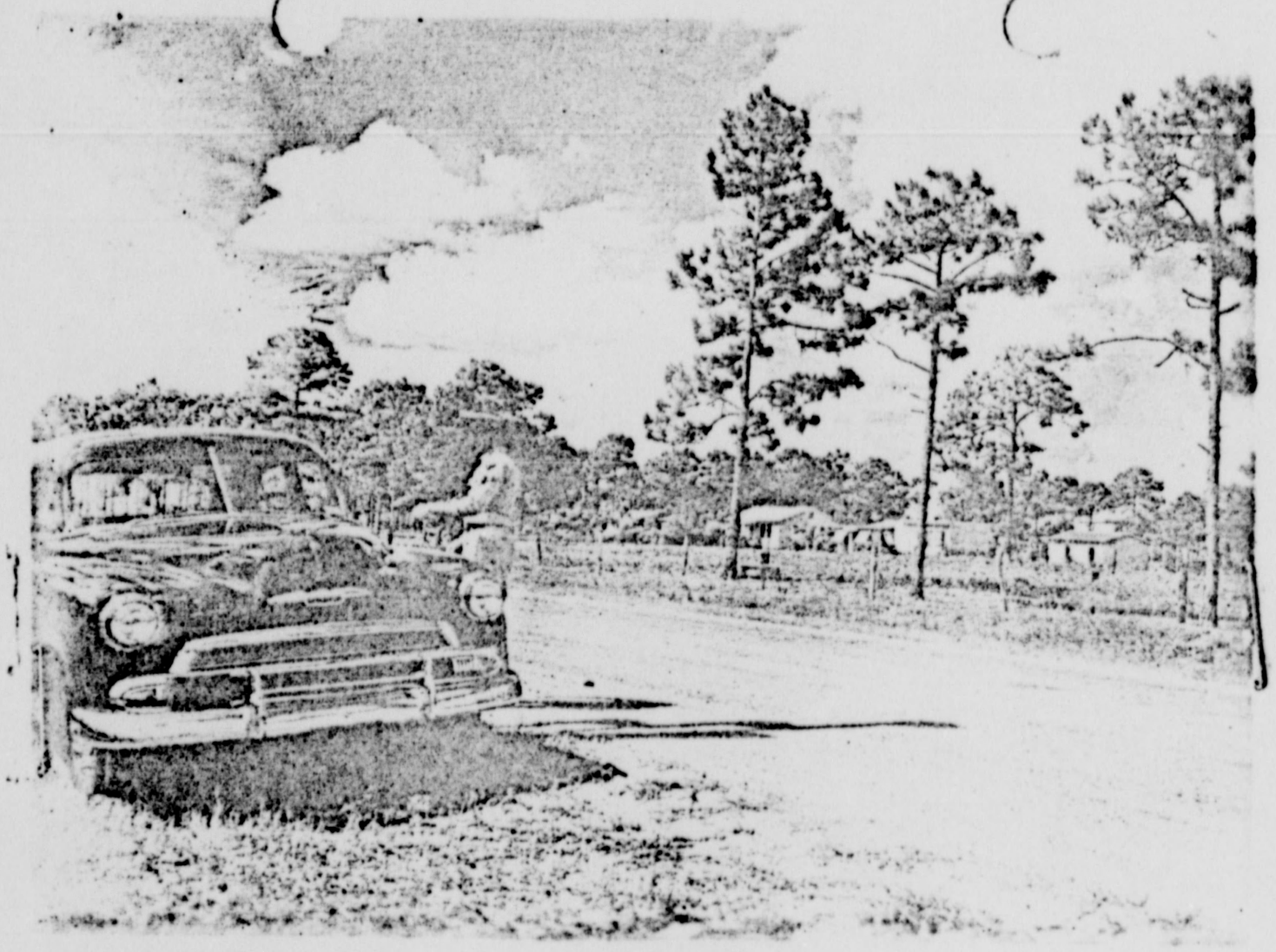


Photograph No. 11 - The photo is simulating the position taken by [redacted] when the ball of red light supposedly came toward him. The subject is standing in the approximate spot [redacted] was standing.



Photograph No. 12 - This photo shows the approximate position of the Sheriff's car on the highway when they were parked to meet [redacted] coming out of the palmetto growth. [redacted] car was parked to the left of the hightension line pole which is shown in the left part of the photo. The direction in this photo is approximately WNW.





Photograph No. 14 - This is a photo of the houses from which the flares reportedly originated.



Photograph No. 15 - This is a photo looking down the highway north toward West Palm Beach. The house in the center of the photograph is the house to which the boyscouts ran to report that [redacted] was possibly in trouble, and from where the Highway Patrol was called. It is approximately 3/4 mile from the point the photograph was taken to the house. The people in this house reported seeing flares originating from a house in a close proximity.





Photograph No. 16 - 17 - These are photographs of the hat [redacted] wore showing the burned spots in the hat.

Memorandum for Record 12 September 1952

SUBJECT: Report of a Trip to West Palm Beach, Florida, to Investigate Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Objects by a Mr. [redacted]

1. On 8 September 1952, Capt E. J. Ruppelt and Lt R. M. Olsson of ATIAA-5 traveled to West Palm Beach, Fla., to conduct a further interrogation and investigation of Mr. [redacted] The officers arrived at West Palm Beach at approximately 1900 EST on the 8th and contacted Capt Carney, Wing Intelligence Officer, 1707th Air Base Wing, on the morning of the 9th of September 1952.

2. A conference was held with Capt Carney to determine whether or not there had been any late developments in this case that the two ATIC officers were not familiar with. Capt Carney stated that to his knowledge there was nothing outstanding that had happened. He was asked about the facts of supposedly anonymous threatening telephone calls that Mr. [redacted] had received. He stated that [redacted] had called him approximately two weeks ago (1 Sept 52) and stated that he had been receiving anonymous threatening telephone calls while at work in the establishment in which he is employed. The calls were telling [redacted] to lay off of his story and that if he didn't he would be sorry, etc. He was advised that threatening phone calls were not an Air Force function and he should go to the F.B.I. He did this but was referred to the local police. Capt Carney also stated that a Mr. [redacted], a nearby rancher, had become interested in the case, had gone out and looked at the spot where the object was supposed to have hovered. Mr. [redacted] stated that he believed the grass had been burned and that he was going to take samples and send them to St. Louis, Mo., for analysis. (Comment: He did not state where in St. Louis he was planning to send the samples.) Mr. [redacted] was contacted by telephone and stated that due to the fact that it had rained before he was able to pick up the samples he had not done so and consequently there would be no report from the laboratory in St. Louis.

3. Capt Carney also stated that he had talked to a Mr. [redacted] who has been retained as [redacted]s press agent. [redacted] had called on Capt Carney and had talked to him in the presence of the Base Legal Officer from the West Palm Beach International Airport. [redacted] was interested in knowing whether or not the Air Force would make a background investigation of Mr [redacted]. Capt Carney stated that as far as he was concerned he would not make an investigation but undoubtedly some Air Force Agency would. Capt Carney was also asked whether or not he believes [redacted]rs' story, naturally Capt Carney did not commit himself.

4. On the morning of 9 September 1952, Capt Ruppelt, Capt Carney, and Lt Olsson took a staff car into West Palm Beach to attempt to find out more about Mr. [redacted]. Capt Carney and Capt Ruppelt called on the local F.B.I. Agent to determine whether or not they had possibly heard any rumors or could give any leads on the case. They stated that naturally they were not officially interested in the case and that they had received no directions from their higher authority to pursue the case. The F.B.I. agent did state, however, that

he had picked up several rumors and passed these rumors on to Capt Carney and Capt Ruppelt. He stated that the best place to confirm some of these rumors would be at the West Palm Beach or the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office. The one rumor that was of most interest was that a doctor in West Palm Beach had stated that he knew [redacted] and that he was very probably a mental case.

5. Capt Ruppelt and Capt Carney then went to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office and contacted a Mr. Lawerance, the Chief Deputy. Mr. Lawerance was unable to give too many details on the case. He stated that he had heard some rumors about [redacted] but actually had never run them down himself. He was also questioned as to the character of Mr. [redacted] who was [redacted] press agent. He stated that Mr. [redacted] was possibly not too reliable in the fact that he was a press agent with a doubtful reputation.

6. The officers next talked to a Mr. C. B. Bowen another deputy at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Bowen was very much interested in the case and had contacted some agency in Washington, possibly the F.B.I., and had received Mr. [redacted] background record and was aware of the fact that he had served time in the reformatory. He said that he did not personally know [redacted] but understood that his record in Palm Beach was not exactly "clean", but that he had no actual police record. He stated that a Dr. Byrd, a physician who was called upon by the sheriff's office as a consultant, knew more about [redacted] and that we should contact him. He also stated that he knew this Mr. [redacted] and that he trusted him and would believe anything he said. (Comment: This is 180 degrees out of phase with what the other deputy said.) He was also questioned as to the general location and general aspects of the sighting. He stated the contrary to other reports that we have had. There is absolutely no danger in going through a palmetto grove at night. He stated that many times he has crawled through these palmetto groves at night and that the danger of being bitten by a rattlesnake is almost nil. (Comment: It had been previously stated that [redacted] would have had to have some powerful motivating force to have gone into the palmetto at night, however, according to the deputy this is not necessarily true especially since [redacted] is familiar with the area.) He also stated that there was a very small possibility that there had been marsh gas (methane) in the area since it was a dry area. In addition, he stated that one of the police officers who had met [redacted] that night was a Mr. Louis Carroll, a constantinople from West Palm Beach area, was not too reliable. He stated that since the incident he had been on a case with Louie Carroll and that Carroll had stated that he would like to make a "big deal" out of this sighting. He stated something to the fact that he would take some pictures of the burned trees and the burned ground and would have half of the Air Force from Washington down there investigating. He then "poked" Mr. [redacted] jokingly and said, "what do you think of the deal?" (Comment: He would have to fake this because nothing appeared to be burned.) [redacted] took a very dim view of the whole thing. [redacted] also gave the officers some leads as to where [redacted] had worked and what contacts to make.

7. The next person to be contacted was a Mr. [redacted], a part-owner of [redacted] Hardware Store, where [redacted] is presently employed. Lt Olsson, Capt Ruppelt, Capt Carney and a S/Sgt Ralph Saeger of Capt Carney's office contacted Mr. [redacted].

Mr. [redacted] had nothing but praise for [redacted]. He stated that he is a very good employee and he would hate to lose him. He also stated that in many ways [redacted] would go out of his way to help him. The one example he used was that sometime ago he (Mr. [redacted]) was constructing a greenhouse in his backyard. The construction was not completed and he had put a large tarpaulin over the roof of the greenhouse. One night when Mr. [redacted] and his family were away, a windstorm came up. It was a very violent windstorm and did quite a bit of damage in the West Palm Beach area. He stated that he wasn't aware of the severity of the storm although when he returned he found his greenhouse had been damaged and that the tarpaulin was missing. The next morning [redacted] came over to his house with the tarpaulin and stated that he had crawled upon the roof that night and removed the tarp. Mr. [redacted] was very much impressed because he stated that there had been a high wind, a lot of rain and lightning and the fact that the tarp had been brushing up against a 220 volt high tension line. The fact that [redacted] was very brave to have gotten up on the roof in the storm and removed the tarp. At this time [redacted] was not employed by Mr. [redacted] and was even unknown to him. (Comment: This tends to point up some of the aspects that will come up later about [redacted] attempt to make himself known and gain fame. Although [redacted] was not questioned about the whole thing, there is a possibility that the tarp had blown on the ground and that [redacted] was not as brave as he appeared to be.) All in all, Mr. [redacted] had nothing but praise for [redacted]

8. Mr. [redacted] of a City Service Gase Station in West Palm Beach was contacted next. He was interviewed by Capt Carney and Lt Olsson. He stated that his only contact with [redacted] was the fact that [redacted] had also operated a City Service Gas Station in the city of West Palm Beach. This was approximately two years ago. He stated that [redacted] had done some rather odd things. One of the instances was when they were having a meeting of many dealers in the southern Florida area and [redacted] had gotten up and made some rather foolish statements. He did not elaborate on these statements and since it was obvious that Mr. [redacted] did not especially care for [redacted], the interview was cut off since it appeared that personal opinions instead of facts were entering into the discussion.

9. Dr. [redacted] a physician in West Palm Beach, was contacted by Capt Carney and Capt Ruppelt. Dr. [redacted] is retained by the Police Department as a consultant. He has been used many times on mental cases and although he is not a psychiatrist he is somewhat familiar with this aspect of medicine. He stated that he had had several contacts with [redacted] and that he was the doctor who treated [redacted] when he was supposedly injured when an automobile fell on him. He stated that sometime back, he was not sure of the date, [redacted] had been working at a garage that sells Crosley automobiles in West Palm Beach and that an automobile had supposedly fallen off a hoist and landed on DesVergers. He stated that [redacted] was taken to the hospital and complained first of being completely paralyzed. The doctor said that he and three other doctors examined [redacted] very closely and took many x-rays. After this thorough examination, the concluded that there was absolutely nothing wrong with [redacted] He continued to complain however, that he was paralyzed, in great pain, etc. After several days, he was allowed to get up in a wheel chair. The doctor stated that during the time he was in the wheel chair that he traveled all over the hospital, visited all of the offices and all

the patients, telling them how bad off he really was. This was creating a lot of confusion in the hospital so the wheel chair was taken away from him and he was given a pair of crutches. This didn't help matters very much as far as the confusion was concerned as he continued to go around telling people that he was in bad condition. During this time he would telephone his mother who is believed to have been living in Lakeland, Fla., and would tell his mother how he was suffering and what a bad condition he was in. This continued until Dr. [redacted] receive a telephone call from [redacted] grandfather. The grandfather said that [redacted] mother was in a near state of collapse because of these telephone calls and that knowing his grandson, that he doubted if things were exactly the way he was telling them. He requested that they refrain from letting [redacted] call his mother. The doctor also stated that after [redacted] was released from the hospital, he went away on a two week vacation. When he came back, he stated that during this two weeks or possibly a month, the doctor was not sure of which, or over how long a period of time, [redacted] stated that he had broken his leg. The doctor said that from all appearances he could not have broken his leg and recovered so fast. Dr. [redacted] was under the impression that [redacted] claimed paralysis, etc., strictly as a deal to obtain insurance money. Dr. [redacted] was very emphatic in his views on [redacted] He said that he would hesitate to say the man was insane, however, he is definitely mentally unbalanced. He kept using the word "exhibitionist" all of the time in describing [redacted]. Dr. [redacted] stated that a Mr. [redacted] an insurance man in West Palm, had handled the insurance and could probably give us more information on [redacted]

10. Mr. [redacted] was contacted next. He stated that his only connection with [redacted] had been during his insurance claim that [redacted] had made. He stated however, that he didn't remember the case very well and that the insurance company had not paid [redacted] He said that he had received several letters from [redacted] requesting the status of the claim, etc., but that the insurance company had closed it out and did not intend to pay. The question was asked as to [redacted] background, however, he was not too familiar with the general aspects of [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] suggested that a Mr. [redacted] who worked in the Beavers Motor Company, who had previously employed [redacted] be contacted.

11. Mr. [redacted] was contacted by Capt Carney and Lt Olsson. He stated that [redacted] had worked for their garage as a mechanic starting in July of 1950. Mr. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was "a boy who never quite grew up". He owned a Crosley automobile which had every known accessory attached to it and stated that [redacted] couldn't go ten feet in the automobile without madly spinning the wheels and that he was prone to exaggerate a great deal. He said that [redacted] was very prone to exaggerate on all stories and that several times had done several things that were rather "shady". One time [redacted] was left in charge of the office and the two other people left. There was a brand new engine for a Crosley automobile in the shop when they left. When they came back they noticed that the engine didn't appear to be the same one. When they got to checking serial numbers, they found that during their absence, [redacted] had switched the brand new motor for the motor in his Crosley. He was never prosecuted for this, however. Another time he had passed bad checks. He was employed by these people when the automobile fell on him off the hoist.

12. After the interview with Mr. [redacted], the officers returned to West Palm Beach International Airport to Capt Carney's office. This was about 5 o'clock in the afternoon and it was decided that Mr. [redacted], the press agent for [redacted], be contacted. It was understood that [redacted] was on vacation and that a cover for calling [redacted] would be to try to locate him. Capt Carney called [redacted] at his office and asked where he could get in touch with [redacted] stated that [redacted] had just left his office after conferring for two or three hours on the incident, and that he would be very glad to contact him. Capt Carney hesitated a little bit because he had not expected this answer but did think of an excuse as to why he didn't urgently need to see [redacted]. After this, we got Kiel into a discussion of the general subject of the incident and [redacted] stated that just that afternoon he had broken his contract with [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] had told him about his background and [redacted] had advised him that with such a background, no reputable editor in the United States would ever touch the story. He had also advised [redacted] that any reputable editor would check his background before he bought the story and the best thing to do would be to drop the whole business. [redacted] stated that if [redacted] wanted to back out, that was all right, that he was going to stick to it and attempt to sell the story. He stated that when it came time to release the story, the Air Force would back him up 100 percent. (Comment: Where [redacted] got this idea is strictly unknown to the Air Force.)

13. At approximately 1930 on 9 September 1952, Capt Ruppelt and Capt Carney attended a boy scout meeting in a church in West Palm Beach, Fla., in order to contact the three boy scouts who had observed this incident along with Mr. [redacted] and to talk to a Dr. [redacted] who was the boy scout troop chairman. Dr. [redacted] sat in with Capt Ruppelt and Capt Carney. In general, the boy scouts were rather difficult to talk to. They were rather excited and nervous about the whole thing and in many cases their answers did not make a lot of sense. It is not believed that this was because they weren't telling the truth, but they were just youngsters and were a little bit nervous. Capt Ruppelt wore civilian clothes, however, Capt Carney was in uniform and the boys were rather impressed with the whole thing. All three boys collaborated the first part of the incident so it will be given as a general statement not repeating each of the three boys' stories. It seems that after the scout meeting, Mr. [redacted] took four boy scouts in his car with the idea of taking them home. They did not go straight home, however, they first went out to a place called the "Wagon Wheel" which is a drive-in soda fountain. They had a cold drink and proceeded in the direction of a drive-in theatre west of West Palm Beach. The boys were under the impression that [redacted] was taking them to the drive-in, however, they stated that something happened and they decided not to go to the drive-in theatre but to go out to a speedway. (Comment: The boys were pinned down to try to find out what had happened to make them change their minds, however, they were very vague about this point. This was the only time in the interview that they seemed to be attempting to cover up something. It was not determined exactly what they were trying to cover up, if anything. They arrived at this speedway which is used for stock car racing and stated that they were going to see how much water was on the track from the recent rain. There was no one else at the track and there were no races in progress at the time. They stayed at the track for several minutes and then started back down military trail toward the

boys' homes. (Comment: It seemed rather odd to the interrogating officers that they would go to an abandoned race track just to see how much water there was on the track. One possible explanation is that one of the boy's fathers has something to do with the stock car races and it might have been that they were just interested in the track. Secondly, the officers were informed that it is the policy to take the boy scouts on trips around the city of West Palm Beach to show them different factories, plants, etc. However, this does not satisfactorily account for the fact that they would go out to a deserted race track.) One of the four boy scouts was taken home before the incident. His name was not obtained and since he was not involved no effort was made to find out who he was.

14. As [redacted] and the three boy scouts were driving south on military trail, they approached a point where [redacted] supposedly observed the object. The first thing that happened was that [redacted] saw a light to his left. None of the boy scouts saw this light. At that time [redacted] stopped his automobile, got out, and removed two machetes, or two knifes, and two flashlights from the trunk of his car. The boys asked him what he was going to do and he said that he thought he had seen either an aircraft crack up or a flying saucer. The boys however, were afraid and convinced [redacted] that he shouldn't go back into the woods and that they should go on. [redacted] got in the car, started down the road when one of the boy scouts by the name of [redacted] claimed that he saw white lights back toward the spot where they had originally seen the lights. At this time they stopped and went back. [redacted] got out of the car and supposedly all he was carrying was one machete and two flashlights. He gave the boys instructions to go get help if he wasn't back in ten minutes and started into the woods. The boys claimed that they could see his flashlight going back into the woods. From this point on, the boys' stories varied to a certain degree so that each one will be given separately.

15. The first boy that was interrogated was [redacted]. [redacted] is approximately 12 yrs. old, a rather large boy for his age, and appeared to be belligerant to a certain extent. He seemed to be the leader of the group and anything he said was law. He didn't seem to be too cooperative on the whole thing and whenever he was pressed for an answer he would "clam up". He kept stating, "Well that's what [redacted] said, so it must be the truth." He states that he did not see the first light that [redacted] saw, however, shortly afterwards, after [redacted] had got out, made the statement about seeing flying saucers, and got back into the automobile that he, [redacted] looked out of the window and saw a semi-circle of white lights about three inches in diameter going down at an angle of 45 degrees into the trees. None of the other boy scouts saw this. They turned the car around, went back to the spot and stopped. He then said that he saw [redacted] go back into the woods and that the next thing that he saw was a series of red lights in the clearing. It is interesting to note that he definitely said he saw the lights on a clearing and as will be shown further along in this memorandum, this point is highly doubtful. As soon as he saw the red lights he claims that he saw [redacted] "stiffen up" and fall. [redacted] was then dismissed and the officer, in the presence of Dr. [redacted] the troop chairman, talked to a [redacted] and [redacted] together. [redacted] who was 11 yrs. old tended

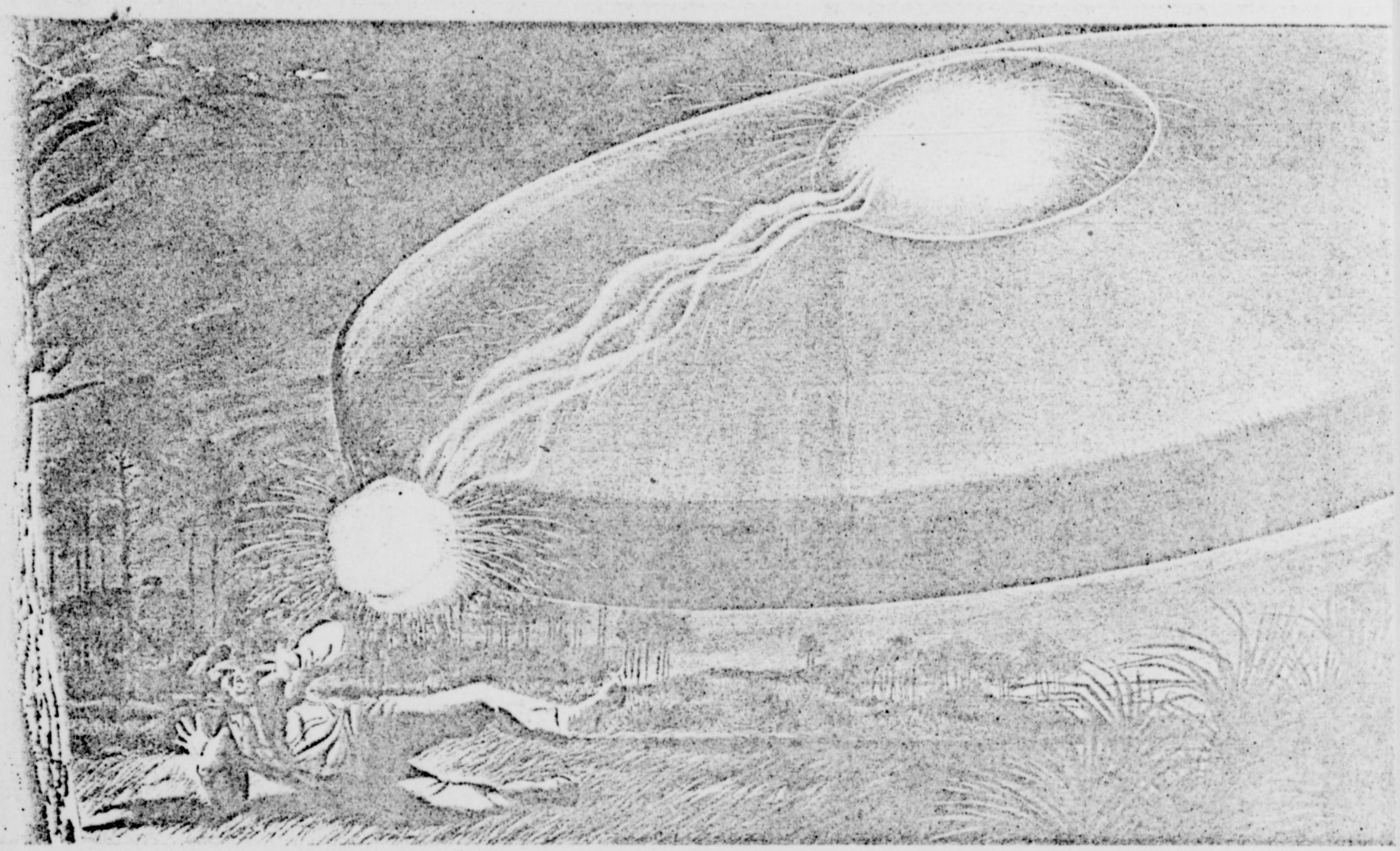
to be rather silly about the whole thing. He couldn't seem to consentrate on his answers and was not considered a good source. [redacted], on the other hand, although he was the youngest of the three, seemed to be the most logical thinker and gave the straightest answers. Both of these boys seemed to have about the same story. They were driving down the road when [redacted] saw the first light. [redacted] stopped the car and got out, but [redacted] admitted that he was afraid of the whole thing and wanted to go on, consequently, they went on. Then [redacted] also saw a white light, however, he states it looked to him like it was a common, ordinary meteor. After this, [redacted] turned the car around, went back down the road and stopped. [redacted] never did see any white lights that he could remember. They both saw [redacted] going through the woods, could see flashlights flashing on the trees and then he disappeared for a few seconds, at least the light disappeared. The next thing they saw was a series of red lights. They said they looked a lot like flares or sky rockets. The lights were not making any definite pattern, some of them were going up, some of them were going down, or going around and around in all directions. It just seemed to be a type of six or eight red lights going in all directions. They got out of the car and ran down the road to get help. The boys stated that upon arrival at the farm house, they told the people that their scout master was in trouble and to make a phone call, which the people did. Soon afterwards the people asked what the boys had seen and they told their story of the light to the people before either the sheriff or [redacted] showed up.

16. All in all the boys' stories were rather conflicting and it was very difficult to obtain any facts. The only one fact that seemed to stand out in all of their minds was the fact that they did see red lights out in the palmetto grove after [redacted] had gone in.

17. After the boy scouts were interrogated, a long discussion was held with Dr. [redacted] scout troop chairman. He stated that his first contact with [redacted] was when he contacted him to see if he would be scout master. Dr [redacted] stated that he is a member of the local Optimist Club and that the Optimist Club had decided to sponsor a scout troop and appointed him as chairman. He was looking around for a scout master and heard that [redacted] would be interested in such a job. He contacted [redacted] and [redacted] said that he would take it. At this time, [redacted] knew nothing about [redacted] character or background and the only thing that he had ever heard about him was that he had been in an automobile accident (i.e., The automobile had slipped off a hoist and hit him) and that he had been very ill for a while. He stated that he first notices [redacted] was not exactly normal acting one night when [redacted] came over to Dr. [redacted] house to help him paint a cabinet they were making for the boy scout's meeting headquarters. He stated that at that time [redacted] repeated the rather tall tale about a son who was at that time about four months old. He said that the child, although he is only four months old, could walk and talk and had a number of teeth. The doctor knew that this was rather absurd and couldn't figure out why [redacted] would tell such a story. He was even interested enough to make a special effort to see the child, not that he believed [redacted], but he seemed to want to double check the story. He stated that after he saw the child, he was under the impression

that the baby was strictly normal for a four month old child. Dr. [redacted] also noted that several nights after the incident, [redacted]s attended a scout meeting which was also attended by many of the scouts' parents. With no invitation, he got up and said that since they were all interested in his experience that he would answer questions. When someone did ask a question he stated that he couldn't answer it because of his "secrecy agreement". He also stated that what he knew might create a panic. He told several other incidents that he had heard from hearway and suggested that we contact a Mr. [redacted] of the [redacted] Plumbing Company.

18. On the morning of 10 September 1952, Capt Carney and Capt Ruppelt along with Lt Olsson proceded to the [redacted] Hardware Store to talk to Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] also called in his brother, [redacted], who knew [redacted]s. He said that they first met [redacted]s at Riverside Military Academy in September 1941. They stated that they got to know [redacted] because it was a common thing for all students from one state to get to know each other and since [redacted]s was from Lake City, Fla., they naturally got acquainted with him. They said that he was "kind of wild", "fun-loving", and "a prankster". They said that they were familiar enough with him that they used to invite him up to their home in West Palm Beach on weekends. They stated that he pulled several pranks while he was at the military academy, one of the most outstanding ones was dying his hair. They stated that at one time the boys were all complaining about the type of food that they were getting at the academy so in protest many of them dyed their hair red. [redacted] went one better by dying his hair green. After he had done this, he changed colors several times and dyed his hair so many times his hair began to fall out. He stated that they do not know exactly what happened to him but the last they heard of him at the military academy was that he had gone AWOL and as far as they knew never finished high school. They stated that he does claim, however, to have gone to the University of Florida. If this is true, he would have had to have graduated from some high school. They are not aware, however, whether or not he really graduated. They stated that the next time they saw him was about a year ago. He had just finished working in the garage and had had his accident. He told them that he had had an accident and that a car had fallen on him and that he lay under the car for several hours screaming for help but nobody could hear him and he had suffered a great deal of pain. (Comment: This was checked on and found that he was not lying under the car for several hours, that there had been help right there when he had fallen.) He talked to the [redacted] and related some of the things he had been doing. He said that since he had seen them that he had been driving automobiles in stock car races. He said that he had won all of the races in southern Florida circuit by driving a Crosley in a modified stock car races. Soon after this, [redacted] opened a City Service Gas Station close to the [redacted]s establishment. He came down and offered to service their trucks for them and since they knew him, they switched all their business to him. He made big statements as to how much service he would give them, how he would polish their trucks, and everything else. He did do this for about two weeks. However, after two weeks he didn't do it anymore. He operated the gas station for several months until he began to get into financial trouble. They stated that they believed he had overstocked his station and was unable to meet his bills. The bulk gas truck refused to deliver gas to him except



"An opening suddenly appeared in the dome. A ball of fire drifted toward me. . . a kind of misty fire that gave off sparks. I threw my arms

Burned by a Flying Sa

The amazing story of a man who chased mysterious lights and came face to face with the terro

by Marta Robinet

I'd heard about Sonny DesVergers' encounter with the flying saucer. The whole country had. The news had flashed out from West Palm Beach, Florida, the night of August 19, 1952—a 30-year-old scoutmaster had entered a palmetto forest to investigate strange lights and, after 40 terrifying minutes, had come staggering back, his arms burned, mumbling dazedly of a weird, dome-shaped craft hovering above the ground and a creature that spewed fire at him from an open hatch.

It was another saucer story, stored away by the Air Technical Intelligence Center, forgotten within 24 hours after it found its spot in the news.

Hoax? Psychological aberration? Hallucination? Publicity stunt? Or none of these? Was it one of those unaccountable saucer experiences reported by honest, reputable persons which even the Air Force, checking relentlessly, cannot puncture?

I was in West Palm Beach to find out. Six months had passed since DesVergers' brush with the unknown. How much could he remember of it now? Had it had any effect on him? What did it feel like to be so close to a flying saucer that you could reach up and actually touch it?

I saw Deputy Sheriff Mott Partin, who'd been there when Sonny DesVergers staggered from the woods. He was a small, alert, practical man, leather-faced and friendly. Did he think DesVergers had been acting?

"If he was, it was the best darned acting I ever saw," Partin answered, shaking his head. "In 19 years of law enforcement, I've never seen anyone as upset as he was."

He said he would drive me down the Dixie Highway that afternoon to talk to DesVergers. Then we'd go on to Boynton to see Bobby Rutting, one of the three Boy Scouts DesVergers had been driving home when *it* had h
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"Was the grass in t
I asked.

"Lady, I only know
"It was burned in patch

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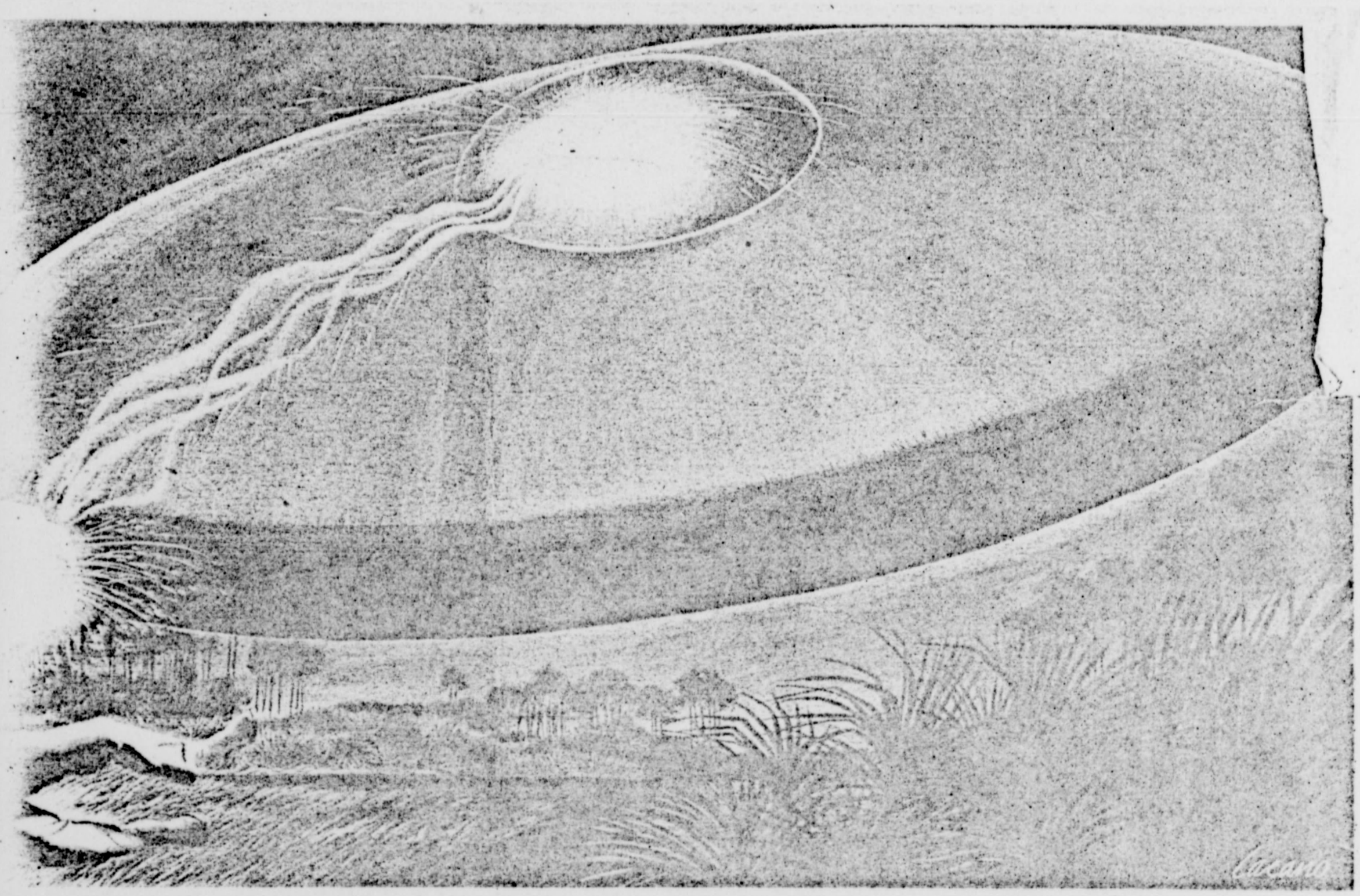
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Sonny DesVergers points to where his arm was blistered by the fireball. The sparks also burned his cap.



...d in the dome. A ball of fire drifted toward me. . .a kind of misty fire that gave off sparks. I threw my arms over my face and fell back."

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Sonny DesVergers points to where his arm was blistered by the fireball. The sparks also burned his cap.

way that afternoon to talk to DesVergers. Then we'd go on to Boynton to see Bobby Ruffing, one of the three Boy Scouts DesVergers had been driving home when *it* had happened. After that, Parti promised, he'd drive me over and let me have look at the spot off Military Trail where DesVe gers had stumbled on the saucer.

"Was the grass in the woods really scorched I asked.

"Lady, I only know what I saw," Partin sa "It was burned in patchy areas."

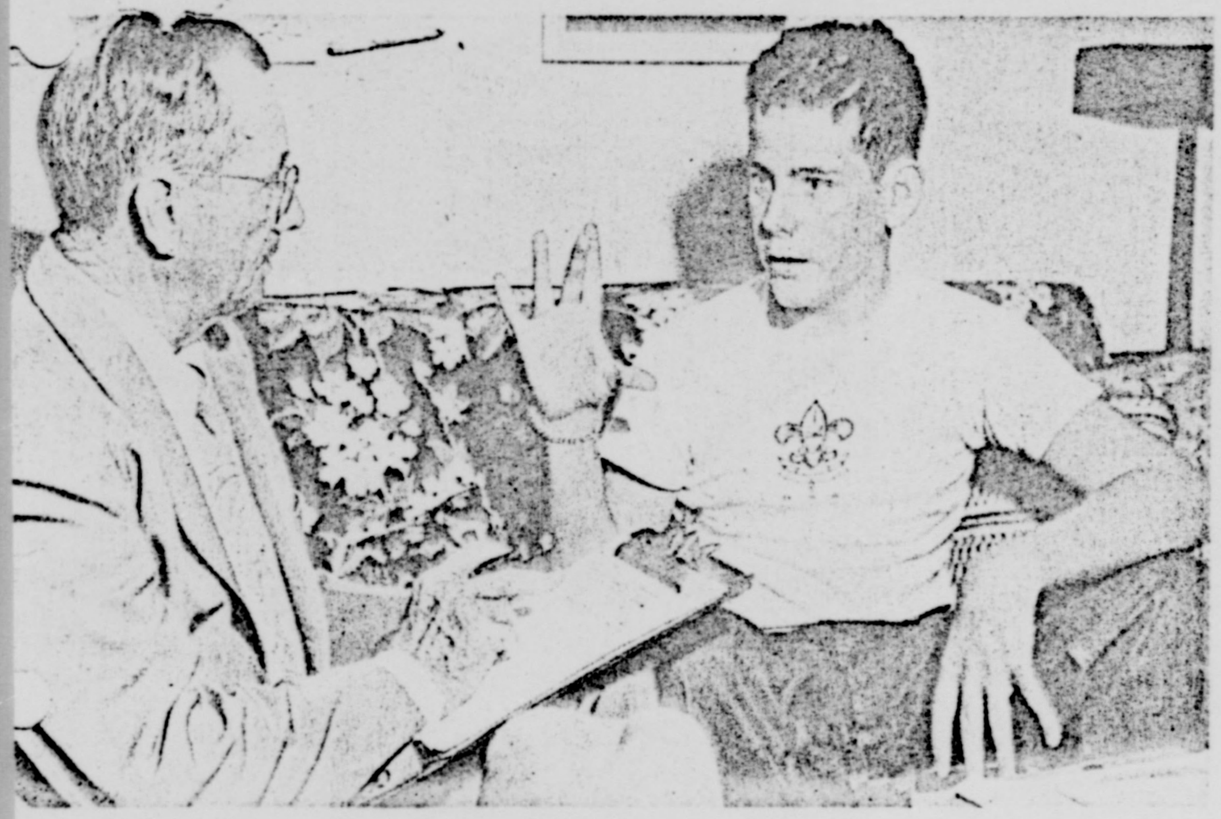
And the burns on DesVergers' arms? The h had been singed off and the skin was red. Tl much he could vouch for, Partin said.

We drove to the shower door factory wh DesVergers was sales manager. He came forw to meet us, a tall, slim man with a boyishly earn face and a clean, scrubbed look. He and Pa pumped hands.

I was introduced. DesVergers hardly looked enough to have served as a Marine in the war. He wore a wedding band on his left hand heard there was a year-old son.

I told him I wouldn't detain him then, would like to interview him at his home that ning. He complied cordially, but suddenly the ish look was gone. A grim, unhappy expressi took its place, as if my request had resurre memories forcibly buried. Haltingly, still try to be pleasant, he explained that he didn't wa to bring his family into this again. He said there been "...well, social changes," and I realized wit a pang of pity that a certain amount of ridicule and perhaps ostracism would be bound to follow in the wake of such an experience.

"I wish it had never *(Continued on page 6)*



Bobby Ruffing and two other Boy Scouts saw the same lights as DesVergers. Bobby, who says, "I wish it had never happened," reluctantly shows Deputy Sheriff Mott Partin the size of the lights. There were about six, strung out.

happened," he said solemnly. "I like my job. I have six mouths to feed." Six? That surprised me. I asked him, "How come so many?"

His eyes crinkled. He ticked off the list on his fingers. "Me, my wife, boy, dog, bird, goldfish."

BURNED BY A FLYING SAUCER

(Continued from page 4)

We laughed. Then Partin asked, "Did you ever get your cap back from Washington?"

Sonny appeared startled to have this mentioned in front of me.

Partin said, "This will interest you. His cap was burned. They sent it away for analysis."

Sonny said no, he hadn't gotten it back yet. We set the time for the interview and left.

"Those people who scoff should have seen the cap," Partin said, when we were under way again. "It was a yachting cap. The hole in the bill hadn't burned through, but two in the cloth had. He said that when the thing shot at him there were sparks."

We came into the town of Boynton, turned into a homey residential street and stopped again. We spoke to Mrs. Ruffing first, explaining why I was there. A quiet-spoken, attractive woman with a sincere, level glance, she was frankly hesitant as she peered out at us from behind her screen door.

"Bobby has been in bed with the flu," she explained, then added: "I'll see if he wants to talk."

She reappeared and led us into a room charming with bright chintzes. Bobby was on a davenport, under covers.

"He's an intelligent lad," Partin had told me before we arrived. "He's older than the other two Scouts. I was particularly impressed with the way he gave me his story that night."

Bobby's reticence to discuss the affair was marked. He kept looking toward his mother.

"Sonny had been in the habit of bringing Bobby home after Scout meeting," she began for him. "When Bobby didn't get home that night, we were terribly worried. It didn't help much when we got the call that they were at the sheriff's office."

"Why don't you want to talk about it?" I asked.

He looked straight at me. "I've been teased at school," he said simply. He studied his hands. "I wish it had never happened," he said, word for word Sonny's statement.

They'd been driving down Military Trail toward Boynton, he said, when Sonny first saw the lights. There were six or so of them, strung in a level row, like the windows of an airliner, and they

BURNED BY A FLYING SAUCER *(Continued from page 7)*

in advance that there were some details he would withhold. "I'm not here to challenge," I said. "Just tell me your story."

He had run into the woods with his lantern and machete, he said, leaving the boys by the car. He looked up at the stars for his bearings.

"I went about 200 yards," he said. "In Florida there are apt to be swampy areas and quicksand. When thick palmetto growth stops abruptly you can step into anything. When I realized I was in a clearing, I kept my eyes on the ground. I walked about 20 feet into the clearing and stopped."

He stopped talking and looked at me. "It was a funny thing. I had the feeling I wasn't alone. Nothing to account for it. Just a feeling. And suddenly the atmosphere was insufferably hot.

"I looked up at the stars. Darned funny... it was black up there. There were no stars. I shone my lantern upward. About four feet above my head there was a dirtyish gray metal surface. It couldn't have been more than a few seconds I stood looking, but it was all so clear. I remember noticing that the metal's grain ran north to south and there were no seams."

"You'd walked in under it?" I asked.

"I could have touched it with the machete. My whole body tightened up with fear. I remember thinking, 'Get out of here!' I must have been very close to the outer rim of the thing because, when I hurriedly backed off, I was in the open and the thing seemed to be backing off from me at the same time. Like it was taken by surprise. I could see the silhouette against the sky . . . dome-shaped with a flat bottom, about 30 feet across. There were no lights. The rim began to tilt up."

He stopped again, groping for some way to go on.

I remembered the original story. "Did you see someone?" I asked.

He thought about that. "Yes," he said, at last.

A living creature? He nodded slowly.

Would he describe what it looked like? No, he said emphatically, that was one of the things he wouldn't tell me. People would think . . . well, he'd just rather not.

"I saw it when an opening suddenly appeared in the dome," he said. "It was like a hatch that flew open. And at the same time that I saw it, a ball of fire drifted toward me from the opening. It's hard to describe . . . it was a kind of misty fire that gave off sparks. It seemed to float toward me and envelop me and a stench filled my nostrils and throat. I threw



***DesVergers*—"I thought I was dead. I couldn't even feel the ground. My whole body was numb."**

my arms up over my face. Then I staggered and fell and everything went black."

When he came to, the thing was gone. Just black stillness. He was dazed and his arms hurt and his throat was raw.

"I was afraid I was dead," he told me. "Really," he emphasized, as if fearful I would not believe him, "I thought I was dead. I didn't seem to be walking on ground. I couldn't even feel the ground. My whole body was numb. All I could think of was the kids, waiting for me out by the car. I ran into the woods, feeling my way in the darkness. I made it to the car. I don't remember what I said. Afterwards they told me I still had my machete. Everything was kind of hazy."

He sat there, his story ended. I made some small talk about the bird and the goldfish. I wanted to leave, so Sonny's wife (who had left us alone during our interview) could come home and they could turn out the lights and go to bed and forget once more. And though he said nothing, I could feel his yearning to be believed, his desperate, unspoken plea for my faith.

I shook his hand and thanked him and went out. The stars were bright and symbolic of all the mystery of the future. I thought of Sonny DesVergers' story, and what Bobby Ruffing had said, and the supporting testimony of Mott Partin. I thanked God that I was not a judge and jury charged with ruling on whether the scoutmaster did or did not actually come face to face with a flying saucer. I had only to set the facts down, as I have done here.

But I will tell you this: I have complete faith in the integrity of all three—DesVergers, Bobby and Partin.

plunged right into the woods. Sonny thought it was a plane crashing. Excited, they talked of investigating the strange sight.

A quarter of a mile further on, Bobby saw the lights again. Now they seemed to be right in the tree tops, back about where they'd first been spotted. Sonny turned around and went back a quarter of a mile.

He got out his lantern, pocket flash and machete —for hacking through the underbrush.

"If you don't hear from me in 10 minutes, go back up the road to that house and call the sheriff's office," he told the three Scouts. Then he plunged down the road embankment and off into the woods, his lantern bobbing between the trees.

When he failed to return, Bobby and the other two boys ran to the house and called the sheriff's office. Partin, who was cruising nearby, was contacted by radio and reached the scene about half an hour after Sonny's departure. While he was trying to get a story from the boys, Sonny suddenly appeared at the bottom of the embankment.

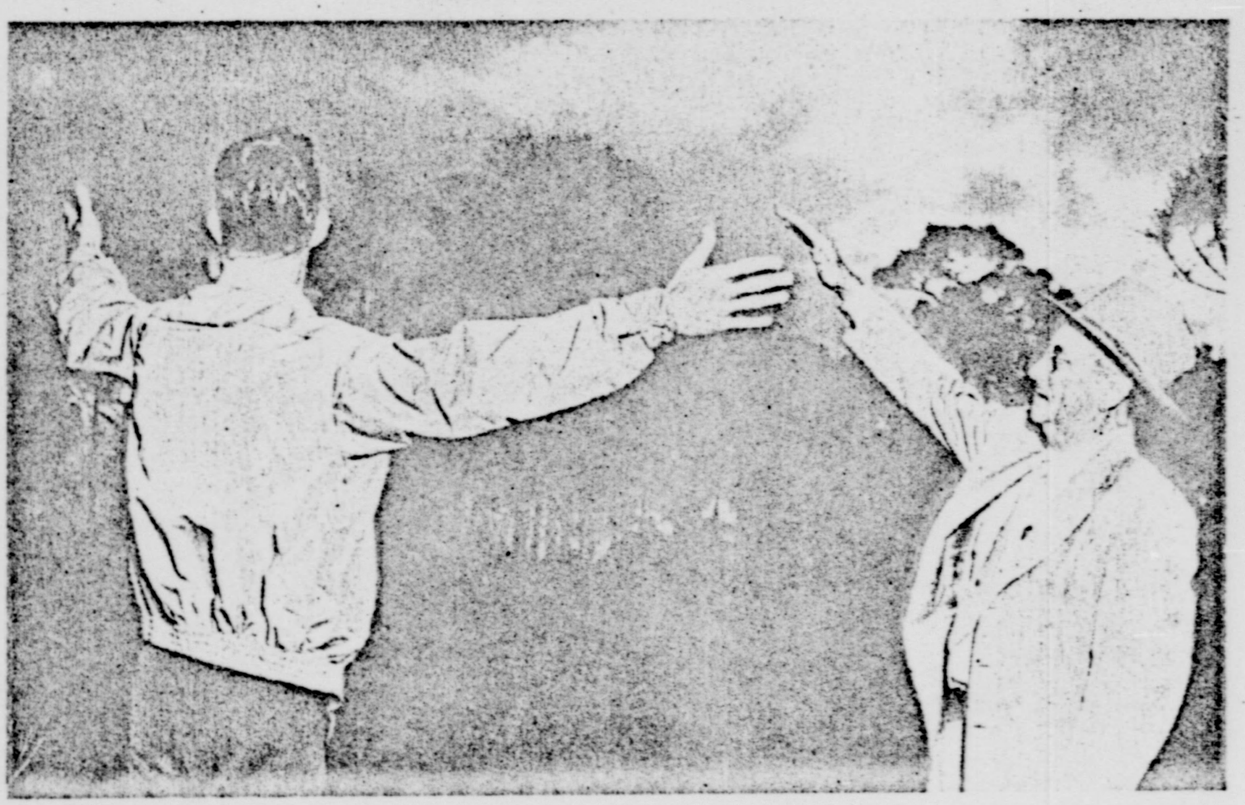
He was white-faced and shaking and kept repeating: "I'm coming, here I am!" His lantern was gone, but he still had his machete.

"He was a sorry sight," Partin put in. "He was talking a blue streak but he didn't make any sense. I backed away from him. That machete . . ."

Mrs. Ruffing said she'd seen Sonny's singed arms. He'd come down the next evening to apologize for making Bobby late. She'd seen a seeping blister near his watchband and he had mentioned a tingling feeling in his arms.

We said good-by to the Ruffings and drove back down Military Trail. We stopped, just before sunset, where Sonny had stopped that night. We went through the woods —those lonely, dismal palmetto thickets—to the clearing where Sonny had known terror. I saw where his lantern had been found, where his elbows had made an imprint when he fell to the ground and where the burned patches had been.

It was good to leave that grim place. Three hours later, I sat with Sonny DesVergers in his neat living room. His little son was in bed. His wife and dog were absent. I studied his honest face. Here was a man reluctant to relive an unpleasant experience, yet determined not to run from it. He warned me *(Continued on page 20)*



Photographs by Angela Calomiris

DesVergers, in the clearing where he encountered the gray disc, tries to reconstruct for Deputy Partin the size of the strange object. He also showed Partin patches of burned grass in the area to substantiate part of his amazing story.

A civilian court, which can—and does—reverse courts-martial verdicts, is a feature of the new....

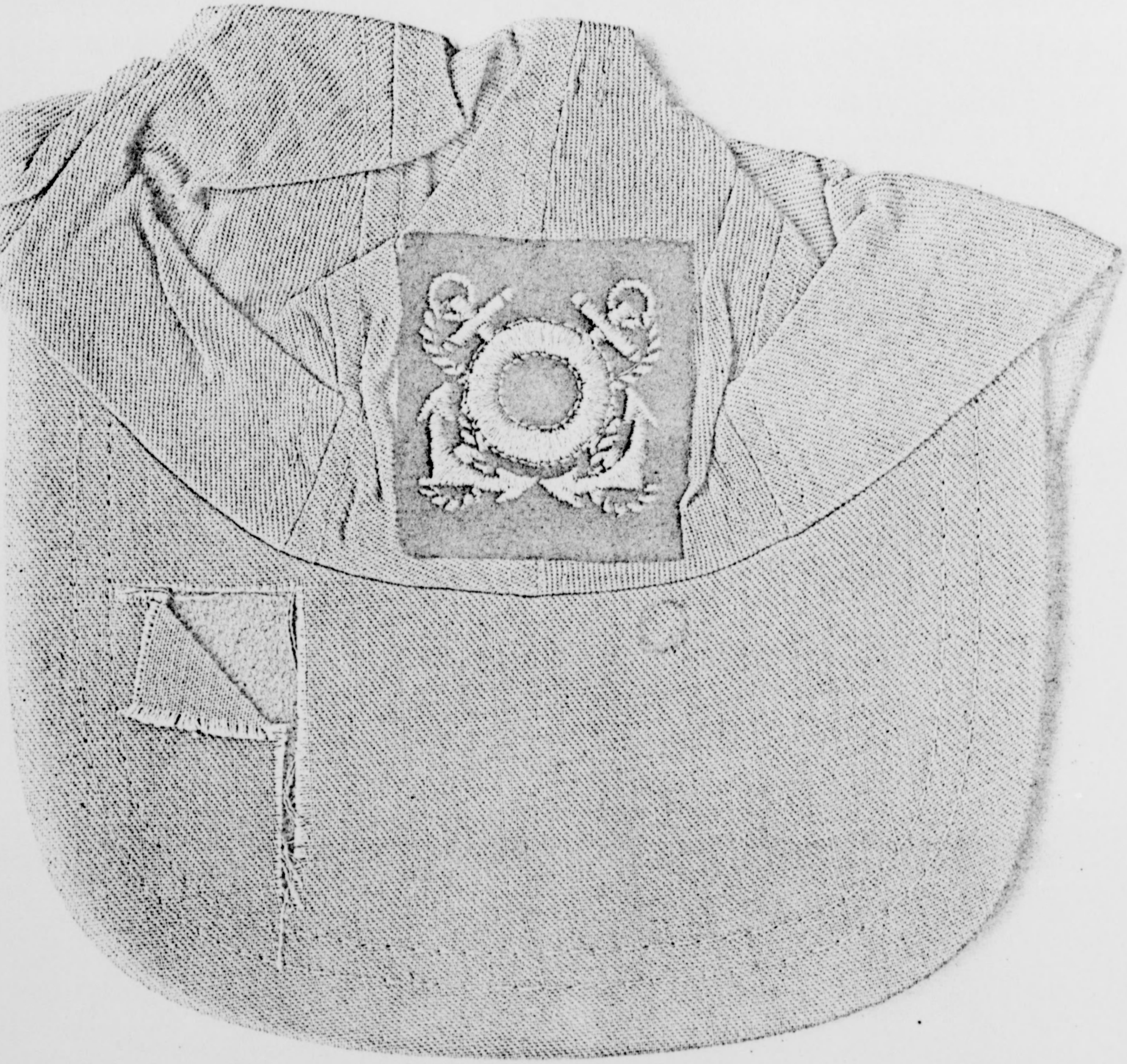
Justice for our Service Men

by Robert L. Dunne





Pfc. Warren McConnell was freed of a 10-year jail sentence by the civilian court. At lef family prays for his quick release from



Flying Bowl? Air Force Probes Ex-Marine's Encounter With One

By The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 23.—A deputy sheriff and two Boy Scouts added details here today to an ex-Marine's story of his encounter with a strange object in a rural wooded area Tuesday night, and in Washington an Air Force spokesman said an officer had been sent to check on the incident; but no conclusion had been reached.

The deputy sheriff and Boy Scouts told of scorched grass, strange lights and showers of sparks in the area where D. S. Desvergers said he was "blasted by a ball of fire" from the object when he investigated flashes of light near a country road.

Mr. Desvergers, thirty, hardware salesman, Scoutmaster and former Marine, said he was questioned last night at the West Palm Beach International Airport by officers from Washington whom he refused to identify.

The Scoutmaster has described the object he encountered as shaped "like half a rubber ball," about three feet thick at the edges and high enough at the center for men to stand erect inside.

He was quoted as telling a Palm Beach reporter today that he knows what the object was, but added, "it's better for me not to go any further for the public good because it might cause . . . panic."

Mr. Desvergers reported he was taking three Scouts home Tuesday night when he stopped to investigate the lights in nearby woods. He said when he flashed his light on the object, he was blasted by the ball of fire and overcome.

Deputy Sheriff Mott N. Partin, summoned by the Scouts, said the hair was singed off Mr. Desverger's arms and three tiny holes were burned in his cap. He also said he found evidence of scorched grass where the Scoutmaster said he encountered the object.

One of the Scouts, Charles Stevens, said the group saw a "big

(Continued on page 28, column 4)

1952

STORY APPEARS IN AMERICAN WEEKLY - MAGAZINE ON MAY 4, 1953

Flying Bowl?

(Continued from page one)

glowing white light come down out of the sky" and "there were about six reddish lights around it when it neared the ground."

David Rowan, another Scout, said, that soon after Mr. Desvergers entered the woods, something "went off and showered sparks all over the area like a roman candle."

In Washington, the Air Force spokesman said an officer had flown to the scene from Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The center has the responsibility of analyzing the reports of unusual aerial objects.

The Air Force spokesman said "we cannot tell yet just what it was there." He added: "We spoke to the man, but we had nothing upto now upon which to base a conclusion. "We are going to continue to check up and to get all the facts together."

on a C.O.D. basis. During one of these gas deliveries, [redacted] had brought a check to [redacted] to be cashed so that he could pay the gas man. They cashed the check, but it bounced. Shortly thereafter, the gasoline company clamped down on him, the city cut the water supply off, etc., and he closed the station. After this, his automobile was repossessed and for all practical purposes he went bankrupt.

19. He had told the [redacted] about his discharge from the Marines and his story was that after he got back from overseas he landed in California. He saw an ad in the paper that someone wanted a person to share the driving from California to Florida. He stated that when he got to North Florida with this person that the person disappeared and it turned out that the car was a stolen car and [redacted] was picked up. (Comment: One of the other sources stated that [redacted] story was that he was out in California and that he and a friend had picked up a couple girls and were driving along when the police stopped them. He stated that he had not known this friend very well and it turned out that the friend and two girls had stolen the car but they got out of the charge.) The [redacted] brothers said that they had seen [redacted] several times after he closed his gas station and that he had invited them over to his house on two or more occasions. They stated that the first inkling they began to have was that something was a little odd was the stories that [redacted]s told. They repeated their stories and they will be noted here for possible value and psychological study. They stated that they understood the Miami Daily Herald had also picked up a story that [redacted] supposedly saw some person jump off the roof of a building in New York City sometime ago but upon looking for the body the police could not find it. He then had some long story which they did not remember that accounted for the disappearance of the body. In this instance he also supposedly hired a press agent.

20. Once during a birthday party, [redacted] stated that during the war he was a Marine and had been on sea duty on a battleship. He stated that one day he was contacted by an Officer of Naval Intelligence who asked him to go on a secret mission. He was taken to Washington and given a briefing by a group of Colonels then taken to California to go to school with some more Colonels from Washington. He was flown to the Pacific to map Jap held islands that were unchartered. He stated that he was taken to the island under cover of darkness in a PBY aircraft along with his surveying cryptography equipment and that as they approached the island a life raft was inflated and thrown out of the waist window of the PBY. The PBY landed in the dark in unchartered waters next to the raft and put [redacted] and his equipment into the raft. With the cover of darkness he paddled up to the beach and buried all of his equipment. [redacted] stated that at the beginning of the story the island was 7 x 3 mi. long and at the end, it was 25 x 50. After about two weeks of hiding from the Japs all day and digging up his equipment and surveying at night, he had mapped the island. In many cases he had brushes with Japanese Officers and once during his two weeks he was lying in some bushes hiding during the day when the Japs walked by so close to him they could touch him. When the job was finished he had set up a rendezvous with the PBY and it landed at night. However, the Japs saw the airplane land and knew that he was on the island. He inflated his rubber raft and started paddling toward the aircraft but the Japanese started to fire at him and sunk his life raft, however,

in the raft he had a Gibson Girl radio with a balloon for an antenna. He quickly inflated the balloon, crawled on it and flowed out to the PBY. As he was being picked up by the aircraft, people were reaching down out of the hatch helping him. During the time the Japs were shooting at them and several of the sailors who were helping him were badly wounded. Another one of his stories was that shortly afterwards he was discharged from the Marines he was running a filling station in northern Florida. One night when he was alone, a hold-up man came in with a 45 and attempted to rob him. However, [redacted]s talked to the hold-up man and talked him out of the robbery, took his gun away from him and gave him enough money to take the bus out of town.

21. Another story was that he had been a PFC test pilot in the Marines and had flown about every type of naval and marine fighter aircraft. It so happened that the [redacted] brothers are civilian pilots and started to question him about flying. They said it was very, very obvious to them that he had never been in an airplane before.

22. They stated that in general [redacted] seemed to always have a story that would top one told by anybody else. They said that he was very clever and that he always had a very convincing answer for everything. They said it was next to impossible to be able to pin him down on anything and asked him a question that he could not answer. They stated that they believed his mother had money because he had passed several bad checks and they were always made good shortly afterwards. They said that as far as they know he had several new automobiles while in West Palm Beach and one of them was repossessed and that he had purchased two homes. There was a question in their minds as to where he could get enough money to make down payments on a new car and a home. They stated that the general impression around the city of West Palm Beach was about 60 percent of the people were mad at [redacted] for coming in with such a story; about five percent of the people believed it; and the rest just laughed it all off. They said that personally they were very much interested in flying saucers and followed it very closely, however, they did not believe this story. If anybody except [redacted] had seen it, they said they probably would have believed it, however, they put absolutely no faith in anything that he said.

23. They stated that in several cases they have either been in the presence of [redacted] or have heard that [redacted] was at a meeting and would voluntarily bring up his experience. When asked details he would immediately bring up his "secrecy agreement" with the Air Force and not give any details.

24. On the evening of 9 September 1952, Capt Ruppelt, Capt Carney, Lt Olsson, and S/Sgt Saeger went out to the spot where [redacted] supposedly observed the object. The night was much the same as the night of the incident, no moon and same time. The staff car was parked in approximately the same spot as [redacted] car was parked. Lt Olsson and S/Sgt Saeger took a flashlight and went out into the clearing where [redacted] was "attacked". The light was visible while the two men were going into the woods, however, <u>when they got into the clearing they could not be seen</u>. The only time the light could be seen was when Lt Olsson held the light about 7 feet above the ground and shined it directly toward the road. It

was definitely concluded that a person in the clearing, holding a light at a normal level, could not be seen from the road. It is doubted that the palmettos grew that much taller in a three week period. (Comment: This trip was made about three weeks after the incident.)

While at the scene of the incident, it was noted that aircraft in the traffic pattern at the West Palm Beach Airport with landing lights on appeared to be white lights going through the woods. Aircraft in the Palm Beach area keep their landing lights on at all times they are in the pattern.

Memorandum for Record 26 August 1952

Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Aerial Object Reported by Mr. [redacted]

1. On 26 Aug 52, Capt Ruppelt of ATIAA-5 telephoned Capt Carney, Intelligence Officer of the 1707th Air Base Wing, West Palm Beach International Air Port (telephone number 36401, extension 234). Capt Ruppelt asked that the answers to the following questions be obtained and airmailed to ATIC as soon as possible.

a. Is Palm Beach County Airport used for night operation? Does the log show any landings on the night of 19 Aug 52 between 2100 and 2300? What were the exact time of the landings?

b. What was the detailed weather at Palm Beach on the 19th between 1800 and 2400? Pay special attention to thunder storms in the area and cloud cover. Were there any scud clouds or ground fog? Get temperature and humidity.

c. A Capt Zaha, Air Drome Officer on the 22 Aug, mentioned airmen on the line seeing flares. Get complete story.

d. Did or has the tower at West Palm Beach seen any flares in the area of the sighting? Get details.

e. Did the boyscouts tell the police their story before they met [redacted]? What did they say?

f. Did the boyscouts tell their story to the people in the house? What did they say?

g. At what locations in Florida are there Navy blimps stationed?

h. Did the deputies smell any odor when they went in to find [redacted] flashlight?

i. Was there any indication that [redacted] hat could have been burned before he went into the woods?

2. In addition to this, Capt Carney was questioned as to the late press

releases that Mr. [redacted]s has acquired the services of a press agent. He stated that he had talked to [redacted] about 11:00 on the 25th of Aug and that [redacted]rs did not intend to hold any information or any further questioning from the Air Force. [redacted] stated that the entire setup was that of his press agent to build the story up so that he could sell it.

3. Capt Carney also mentioned that a farmer ~~who owned the land where the sighting took place~~ did believe that the grass was singed and that he had supposedly taken samples of the grass and sent them to some research organization in St. Louis to be analyzed. He also stated that ~~this farmer~~ had received several threatening telephone calls and had noticed a large black automobile cruising around near his house. Capt Carney stated that he had no idea what this all meant and that there is a possibility that it was part of the publicity stunt that [redacted] seemed to be about to pull.

Memorandum for Record 19 September 1952

Subject: Telephone Call to Capt Carney, 1707th Air Base Wing, West Palm Beach Municipal Airport, Florida

1. On 18 Sept 52, Capt E. J. Ruppelt called Capt Carney, Wing Intelligence Officer of the 1707th Air Base Wing, West Palm Beach Municipal Airport, Florida, to obtain additional information on a sighting reported by Mr. [redacted]. The following questions and answers were obtained:

Q: Which deputy met [redacted] coming out of the palmetto thicket on the night of the incident?

A: Deputy Mott Parkins.

Q: Were the samples of grass that were taken 50 yds from the location of the sighting taken from a definitely shady spot or a spot that was in the same relative amount of sunshine as the point where [redacted] claimed to have been "attacked"?

A: The grass samples had been taken from a point where there was approximately the same amount of shade.

Q: Was [redacted]' hat ever washed or ironed before it was supposedly burned during the incident?

A: Capt Carney did not know the answer to this but said that he would obtain it. He was requested to be rather discreet about this inquiry so that [redacted] would have no idea we thought there was a possibility that the hat might have been scorched while it was being ironed. Carney stated that he would obtain the info and wire it directly to ATIC.

2. Capt Carney was also requested to pass on any information that he might obtain in regard to the [redacted] sighting.

This case contains
17 5"x4" photos, 1 8"x10" photo,
1 8"x10" negative and 1 cloth hat.


GRASS
75 YARDS
OUT
GRASS
IMMEDIATE
AREA

[redacted] GARAGE

[redacted] ROAD PHONE [redacted]

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

We were heading south on Military Trail about one quarter mile south of Lantana Road when we saw a big glare of white light and then it went out. [redacted] stopped the car and got out. [redacted] persuaded him to come back to the car and we started south again.

When we were a half mile further south we looked back and saw six red lights where we had seen the white light. We turned around and headed north. Then [redacted] stopped the car and armed with a machete and two lights started into the woods. He was gone about seven minutes when we saw something like a flame thrower shooting flame or something that looked like Roman Candles. In a few seconds everything went dim including [redacted] light. We waited a few minutes and then we turned the car lights on bright and ran to the nearest house and called the Highway Patrol.

[redacted]

EXCERPTS FROM FRANK EDWARDS BROADCAST -- AUGUST 25, 1952
MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM

WASHINGTON -- A BRINKS ARMORED CAR WAS APPARENTLY LOOTED OF $65,000 TODAY WHILE THE FOUR GUARDS WERE AT LUNCH. THE CAR, PARKED BEHIND THE WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, CONTAINED AN ADDITIONAL $200,000 WHICH THE THIEVES DID NOT TOUCH. A TOUCH OF MYSTERY WAS ADDED TO THE CRIME BY THE FACT THAT THE TRUCK WAS PARKED IN PLAIN SIGHT OF SEVERAL WORKMEN...BUT NO ONE SAW THE CRIME PERPETRATED. BRINKS OFFICIALS REPORT THAT THE TRUCK WAS LOCKED WHEN THE GUARDS RETURNED TO IT...AND THAT A MAN WEARING A UNIFORM SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE GUARDS WAS SEEN LOITERING IN THE VICINITY.

IF THIS TURNS OUT TO HAVE BEEN A ROBBERY, IT BEARS MANY OF THE EARMARKS OF THE MILLION DOLLAR BRINKS ROBBERY IN BOSTON...WHICH IS STILL UNSOLVED. IN THE BOSTON CASE THE THIEVES WORE UNIFORMS AND HANDLED THE LOCKED DOORS WITH EASE.

-- 0 --

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. -- SPECIAL -- OVER THE WEEKEND, NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE NATION CARRIED A REPORT THAT A YOUNG SCOUTMASTER IN WEST PALM BEACH HAD ENCOUNTERED SOME SORT OF STRANGE FLYING OBJECT IN THE WOODS NEAR THAT CITY. HE REPORTED THAT THE THING HOVERED JUST OFF THE EARTH AND THAT WHEN HE TURNED HIS FLASHLIGHT ON IT...HE WAS GREETED WITH A SORT OF ROMAN CANDLE EFFECT WHICH BURNED A SMALL HOLE IN HIS HAT. FURTHERMORE, HE NOW TELLS NEWSMEN THAT HE CAN'T GIVE THEM ANY MORE DETAILS...BECAUSE, HE SAYS, PENTAGON OFFICIALS WON'T LET HIM.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE YOUNG SCOUTMASTER WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD THIS REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE NOW HAS A PUBLICITY AGENT...AND IS TRYING TO SELL HIS STORY TO SOME MAGAZINE. THE AIR FORCE OFFICER WHO FLEW TO WEST PALM BEACH TO INTERVIEW HIM SAYS THERE IS NO RESTRICTION OF ANY KIND...IN FACT, SAID THIS AIR FORCE OFFICER: "THAT YOUNG MAN IS FREE TO TELL THAT STORY TO ANYONE WHO CARES TO HEAR IT...AT ANY TIME."

-- 0 --

NO NEWS PROGRAM THESE DAYS WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A GENEROUS PORTION OF POLITICS...SO HERE IS TODAY'S MEASURE:

IN NEW YORK CITY, GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER ADDRESSED THE 34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. IN AN ADDRESS WHICH HAD BEEN ADVERTISED AS NON-POLITICAL, THE GENERAL DELIVERED HIS SHARPEST BARBS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION. HE ACCUSED THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OF "FALSE STARTS, FRACTIONAL MEASURES, LOUD POLICIES AND FAINT DEEDS." HE DENOUNCED CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS... WARNED RUSSIA AGAINST AGGRESSION AND DECLARED THAT HE WOULD NEVER REST UNTIL THE ENSLAVED MILLIONS UNDER COMMUNIST DOMINATION HAVE BEEN FREED.

FOLLOWING THE GENERAL'S SPEECH, THERE WAS A PROLONGED DEMONSTRATION SIMILAR TO THOSE SEEN AT POLITICAL CONVENTIONS. DELEGATES WAVED THEIR BANNERS, STAMPED THEIR FEET, WHISTLED AND SCREAMED. IT REQUIRED ABOUT 20 MINUTES FOR THE COMMOTION TO SUBSIDE.

BUT THE GENERAL'S SPEECH TODAY WAS DELIVERED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF CRITICISM FROM HIS OWN CAMP. THE SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO ENDORSE THE GENERAL FOR THE PRESIDENCY. TODAY THEY CARRIED LEAD EDITORIALS ENTITLED: "IKE, WHEN DO WE START?" THE EDITORIAL SAYS IN PART: "WE TRUST THAT DWIGHT EISENHOWER DOES NOT THINK THAT WHAT HE HAS BEEN DOING AND SAYING THIS PAST MONTH CAN CLASSIFY AS CAMPAIGNING FOR OFFICE...FOR THOSE LITTLE MILK AND WATER REMARKS HE HAS BEEN MAKING AT PRESS CONFERENCES HAVE MADE HIM NO VOTES." THE SCRIPPS-HOWARD EDITORIAL SAYS THAT THE 19 PAPERS IN ITS CHAIN ACROSS THE NATION CONTINUE IN THEIR FAITH IN THE GENERAL'S QUALIFICATIONS...BUT THEY FEEL THAT HE HAS DONE LITTLE TO FORTIFY THEIR BELIEF THAT HE CAN WIN. SAYS THE EDITORIAL: "IKE IS RUNNING LIKE A DRY CREEK."

(MORE)

[redacted]

COMMENTATOR—Mutual Broadcasting System
Coast-to-Coast—10 p. m.—E. S. T.

901 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

SEPT. 5, 1952

AL CHOP:

FRIENDS OF MINE IN WEST PALM BEACH LOOKED INTO THIS. THEY TELL ME THEY KNOW THIS GUY AND DO NOT REGARD HIM AS A CREDIBLE WITNESS.

SINCERELY,

[redacted]

ATTACH.

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (*Originator*)

CO ATIC

TO: CO 1707TH AIR BASE WING WEST PALM BEACH
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT WEST PALM BEACH FLORIDA

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
0508202 Sept 52	Unclassified

PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
	Routine	

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION

ATIAA-5 File

FROM: ~~AFOIN-ATIAA-9-5-E~~ FOR WING INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Capt E. J. Ruppelt and Lt R. M. Olsson of ATIC will arrive your station and contact wing intelligence officer on 9 September 1952. Desire to reinterrogate boy scouts. In reply cite Project Blue Book.

COORDINATION:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
Unclassified	

DRAFTER'S NAME (*and signature, when required*)	RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE
Capt E. J. Ruppelt/jos	

SYMBOL	TELEPHONE	OFFICIAL TITLE
ATIAA-5	65365	ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48. WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—58923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

28 Aug 52

[redacted] Case

On 28 Aug 52, Thursday, P.M., I went to the Flare and Signal Branch in Building 156 and talked to Lt Berger and several others concerning the possibility of [redacted]'s hat and arms being burned by a flare.

From the pictures of the scorched hat they gave the opinion that a flare could have done the job. Small molten particles drop off from flares as they pass through the air and could have caused the 3 pinhole burns in the cap. The scorch on the brim was harder to explain, but Lt Berger said that one passing just over his head might have given the iron-scorch effect.

There are 2 types of flares generally used, all shot from a Very Pistol; 1-parachute type 2-non-parachute type. The hand flare without the pistol is also used. Red, white and blue are the colors, with red used the most. The flares burn at an intense heat 1000° F and upwards and can burn skin badly. We discharged two outside and each one started a small grass fire. It seems likely that if a flare was used in the incident at West Palm, a fire would have started in the dry grass. No evidence of a fire was present down there as far as we could see.

I told Berger and the other flare experts the whole [redacted]s story and they were interested particularly in the slow-moving red ball of fire shot at him. They said a parachute flare floating down could cause this illusion. Arching from the near by high tension wires was mentioned as a possibility also. (A flare usually burns all the way to the ground.)

A significant fact lies in the fact that the parachute flare cannister smelled of rotten eggs immediately after it was shot off and this smell lingered in the cannister for 2 hours afterward. There was too much wind to establish if the smell was in the area of the firing.

Flare people offered to help Project Blue Book at any time in the future.

Lt R. M. Olsson

On 21 August 1952 at approximately 8:40 A.M. Major Fournet of the D/I called Captain Ruppelt and asked whether or not we had received a wire from West Palm Beach, Florida. ATIC had not received the report and Major Fournet was so advised and stated that he could not read the report over the phone. However, he did ask that someone go to Florida and find out the answers to the following questions:-

1. What was the chemical analysis of the cap and remains of the clothes ash?

2. Examine the forearm.

3. Examine the ground with a gigercounter.

4. Reinterrogate the three boyscouts and determine the altitude at which they first saw the blob.

5. What vegetation is in the area?

6. Was the flashlight on the ground near his hand when he regained consciousness?

7. Is the scout master subject to fainting spells?

8. All circumstances surrounding the sighting, such as:

   a. How far away were the three boyscouts?

   b. What caused them to look up?

   c. What was the purpose of the trip?

   d. How far were they away from the scout master?

28 August 1952

Captain Ruppelt,

These remarks should clear up the questions which you asked in our recent telephone conversation.

Lantana Airport is used for night landings but none are on record for the night in question.

Weather Palm Beach 1600 to 2400 hours, 19 August 1952:
1600 - 1930 2,500 to 3,00 ft. Broken, thunderstorms west, occasional rain at station, Temp. 80 falling to 76, Relative Humidity 87 to 98.
1930 - 2130 3,000 ft scattered, lightning visible mostly South-east, Temp. 76, Rel Humidity 98.
1230 - 2400 3,000 ftl scattered, no lightning visible, Temp. 75, Rel Humidity 98 - 100.
No low clouds or ground fog at station.

Capt ZAHA, re: red flares on 21 Aug 52, Could not locate.

No red flares or unusual occurances sighted by tower personnel during past two weeks.

People living where boys used phone and Deputy Sheriff Mott PARTIN say boys told them about lights and red flares before coming into contact with Sonny.

Persons living directly across the road from place where sighting occurred were contacted and stated they did not arrive home until after the incident occurred.

Deputy Partin states that there was no unusual odor when he arrived on the scene.

Key West Naval Station has blimps. It is possible the the Station at Jacksonville may have one but we could not get a positive answer on them.

We received the machette in this afternoons mail. We will see that it is returned to him. If we can find out the answers to any more questions for you, don't hesitate to call on us.

s/ R. E. Gorman
for Captain Carney

P.S. The Specimens you Asked for are on the way under a separate cover.

CORRECTED COPY

3. AT1A
3.C. files

ACTION INFOR. A3D1 INFOR.

AT1C

21 JUL 11:38

ACTION

F JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPFF JUFMB 555

DE JESQN 45

F 220250Z ZNJ

FM 17 7TH ASW PBIA W PALM BEACH FLA

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPFF/COMATS USAF ANDREWS AFB MD

JUFMB/CMDR CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

[redacted]/PBIA-PLINT-8-4 PD ATTN: AT1AA-2C PD ATTN: INTELLIGENCE DIVISION PD ATTN: INTELLIGENCE OFFICER PD FLYOBRPT. ONE OBJECT SITED CIRCULAR SHAPE APPROX 30 FT DIAMETER, 3 FT THICK AT EDGE, 9 FT THICK IN CENTER, COLOR SLATE BLACK AND SMOOTH ON BOTTOM, NO VISIBLE RIVITS OR SEAMS ON BOTTOM. VISUAL SITING 2152Z 15 AUG 52 FOR APPROX 5 MIN. SITED 3/4 MIL SOUTH OF JUNCTION LANTANA RD AND MILITARY TRAIL, WEST PALM BEACH FLA. OBSERVDR [redacted], WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. SCOUTMASTER OF GOOD REPUTATION. EST OF RELIABILITY AND EXPERIENCE, EXCELLENT. STATES HE OBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 10 FT REPEAT 10 FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN. HE SHINED LIGHT UP TO IT, LOWER SURFACE FLAT AND SLATE BLACK.

PAGE TWO JESQM 45

HE FELT GREAT HEAT FROM IT AND HEARD HISSING SOUND. HE BACKED OFF FROM IT. DESCRIBES LOWER EDGE AS COMPLETELY CIRCLED BY PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW. HEARD NOISE LIKE SHIPS HATCH OPENING, OBJECT SHOT BLOB REDDISH GLOWING MATERIAL AT HIS FACE. HE THREW UP ARMS TO PROTECT FACE, HAIR ON FOREARM SINGED OFF, BURNED HOLES IN CAP, GLOW ACCOMPANIED BY TERRIBLE SMELL. OBSERVER PASSED OUT FOR 25-30 MIN. 3 BOY SCOUTS IN OBSERVERS CAR SAW RED GLOW HIT [redacted] AND SAW HIM FALL FORWARD. THEY RAN FOR HELP WHEN OBSERVER AWOKE OBJECT WAS GONE. WX AT 2322 E 3000 FT SCT, 15 MI VIS, TEMP 75 DEW POINT 75 WIND SW 4 MI. NO LOGICAL ACTIVITY OR METRO CONDITION TO EXPLAIN SIGHTING. NO PHOTOS OR FRAGMENTS OR OBJECT AVAILABLE.

ONE SA-16 ON LOCAL FLT LANDED 2220Z. WRITTEN RPT FOLLOWS.

20/2157Z AUG JESQM

1. ATIAA
2. ATIA
3. C. files

ACTION

21 Aug 52 13 37Z

1

ACTION	INFOR.	A.C.O.I. INFOR.

A.I.C

12 AM 8:53

RA112U

WPE056

VYD120

JESQM ØS

FP JEDWP

DE JESQM 23S

P 211225Z

ZUI JEDUP 16S REF JESQM 55/20 X NW ZDK CLN

JESQM 55

PP JEPHQ JEDUP JEDEN JEPFF JWFMB 555

DE JESQM 45

P 2020520Z ZNJ

FM 17Ø7TH ABW PALM BEACH INTL APRT FLA

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLEGENCE CENTER WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

KEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPFF /COMATS USAF ANDREWS AFB MD

JWFMB/COMDR CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

/[redacted]/PBIA-PLINT-S-4 PD ATTN:AT1AA-2C PD ATTN:

INTELLIGENCE DIV PD ATTN:INTELLEGENCE OFF PD FLYORPT PD ONE

OBJECT SITED CIRCULAR SHAPE APPROX 30 FT DIAMETER CMA 3 FT THICK

AT EDGE CMA 9 FT THICK IN CENTER CMA COLOR SLATE BLACK AND

SMOOTH ON BOTTOM CMA NO VISIBLE RIVITS OR SEAMS ON BOTTOM PD

VISUAL SITING 2153E 19 AUG 52 FOR APPROX 5 MIN PD SITED 3/4 MI

SOUTH OF JUNCTION LANTANA RD AND MILITARY TRAIL CMA WEST PALM

BEACH FLA PD OBSERVER D PD S PD [redacted] CMA [redacted] RD

CMA WEST PALM BEACH CMA FLA PD SCOUTMASTER OF GOOD REPUTATION PD

EST OF RELIABLITY AND EXPERIENCE CMA EXCELLENT PD STSTES HE

OBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 12 FT REPEAT 12 FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN PD HE SHINE

12

REPEATING ABOVE LINE

KLDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPFF /COMATS USAF ANDREWS AFB MD

JWFMB/COMDR CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

/[redacted]/PBIA-PLINT-8-4 PD ATTN:AT1AA-2C PD ATTN:
INTELLIGENCE DIV PD ATTN:INTELLEGENCE OFF PD FLYORPT PD ONE
OBJECT SITED CIRCULAR SHAPE APPROX 30 FT DIAMETER CMA 3 FT THICK
AT EDGE CMA 9 FT THICK IN CENTER CMA COLOR SLATE BLACK AND
SMOOTH ON BOTTOM CMA NO VISIBLE RIVITS OR SEAMS ON BOTTOM PD
VISUAL SITING 2150E 15 AUG 52 FOR APPROX 5 MIN PD SITED 3/4 MI
SOUTH OF JUNCTION LANTANA RD AND MILITARY TRAIL CMA WEST PALM
BEACH FLA PD OBSERVER D PD S PD [redacted] CMA [redacted] RD
CMA WEST PALM BEACH CMA FLA PD SCOUTMASTER OF GOOD REPUTATION PD
EST OF RELIABLITY AND EXPERIENCE CMA EXCELLENT PD STSTES HE
OBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 10 FT REPEAT 10 FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN PD HE SHIN

4

REPEATING ABOVE LINE

OBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 10 FT REPEAT 10 FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN
PD HE SHINED LIGHT UP TO IT CMA LOWER SURFACE FLAT AND SLATE BLACK
PD HE FELT GREAT HEAT FROM IT AND HEARD HISSING
SOUND PD HE BACKED OFF FROM IT PD DESCRIBES LOWER EDGE AS COMOLETELY
CIRCLED BY PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW PD HEARD NOISE LIKE SHIPS HATCH
OPENING CMA OBJECT SHOT BLOB REDDISH GLOWING METERIAL AT HIS FACE
PD HE THREW UP ARMS TO PROTECT FACE CMA HAIR ON FOREARM DINGED
OFF CMA BURNED HOLES IN CAP CMA GLOW ACCOMPANIED BY TERRIBLE
SMELL PD OBSERVER PASSED OUT FOR 25-30 MIN PD 3 BOY SCOUTS IN
OBSERVERS CMA SAW RED GLOW HIT [redacted] AND SAW HIM FALL
FORWARD PD THEY RAN FOR HELP WHEN OBSERVER AWOKED OBJECT WAS
GONE WX AT 2300E 3000 FT SCT CMA 15 MI VIS CMA TEMP 75 DEW POINT
75 WIND SW 4 MI PD NO LOGICAL ACTIVITY OR METRO CONDITION TO
EXPLAIN SIGHTING PD NO PHOTOS OR FRAGMENTS OF OBJECT AVAILABLE PD
ONE SA-16 ON LOCAL FLT LANDED 2220E PD WRITTEN RPT FOLLOWS PD
20/2157Z AUG JESOM

Cy 1

EA

WPE250

YDB183

VYD254

VMK169

JESQM 55

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPFF JWFMB 555

DE JESQM 45

P 2026ØZ ZNJ

FM 1747TH ABW PALM BEACH INTL APRT FLA

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLEGENCE CENTER WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

KEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPFF /COMATS USAF ANDREWS AFB MD

JWFMB/COMDR CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

[redacted]/PBIA-PLINT-8-4 PD ATTN:AT1AA-2C PD ATTN:

INTELLIGENCE DIV PD ATTN:INTELLEGENCE OFF PD FLYORPT PD ONE

OBJECT SITED CIRCULAR SHAPE APPROX 3Ø FT DIAMETER CMA 3 FT THICK

AT EDGE CMA 9 FT THICK IN CENTER CMA COLOR SLATE BLACK AND

SMOOTH ON BOTTOM CMA NO VISIBLE RIVITS OR SEAMS ON BOTTOM PD

VISUAL SITING 2150E 19 AUG 52 FOR APPROX 5 MIN PD SITED 3/4 MI

SOUTH OF JUNCTION LANTANA RD AND MILITARY TRAIL CMA WEST PALM

BEACH FLA PD OBSERVER D PD S PD [redacted]

CMA WEST PALM BEACH CMA FLA PD SCOUTMASTER OF GOOD REPUTATITN PD

EST OF RELIABLITY AND EXPERIENCE CMA EXCELLENT PD STSTES HER

ACTION AFIC

INFOR. INFOR.

1. ATIAA
2. ATIA
3. C. File

OBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 1Ø FT REPEAT 1Ø FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN

PD HE SHINED LIGHT UP TO IT CMA LOWER SURFACE FLAT AND SLATE

BLACK PD HE FELT GREAT HEAT FROM IT AND HEARD HISSING

SOUND PD HE BACKED OFF FROM IT PD DESCRIBES LOWER EDGE AS COMOLETELY

CIRCLED BY PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW PD HEARD NOISE LIKE SHIPS HATCH

VISUAL SITING 2150E 19 AUG 52 FOR APPROX 5 MIN PD SITED 3/4 MI SOUTH OF JUNCTION LANTANA RD AND MILITARY TRAIL CMA WEST PALM BEACH FLA PD OBSERVER D PD S [redacted] C[redacted] RD CMA WEST PALM BEACH CMA FLA PD SCOUTMASTER OF GOOD REPUTATITN PD EST OF RELIABLITY AND EXPERIENCE CMA EXCELLENT PD STSTES HER

BBSERVED OBJECT HOVERED 10 FT REPEAT 10 FT ABOVE HIM FOR 5 MIN PD HE SHINED LIGHT UP TO IT CMA LOWER SURFACE FLAT AND SLATE BLACK PD HE FELT GREAT HEAT FROM IT AND HEARD HISSING SOUND PD HE BACKED OFF FROM IT PD DESCRIBES LOWER EDGE AS COMOLETELY CIRCLED BY PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW PD HEARD NOISE LIKE SHIPS HATCH OPENING CMA OBJECT SHOT BLOB REDDISH GLOWING METERIAL AT HIS FACE PD HE THREW UP ARMS TO PROTECT FACE CMA HAIR ON FOREARM DINGED OFF CMA BURNED HOLES IN CAP CMA GLOW ACCOMPANIED BY TERRIBLE SMELL PD OBSERVER PASSED OUT FOR 25-30 MIN PD 3 BOY SCOUTS IN OBSERVERS CMA SAW RED GLOW HIT [redacted] AND SAW HIM FALL FORWARD PD THEY RAN FOR HELP WHEN OBSERVER AWOKED OBJECT WAS GONE WX AT 2300E 3000 FT SCT CMA 15 MI VIS CMA TEMP 75 DEW POINT 75 WIND SW 4 MI PD NO LOGICAL ACTIVITY OR METRO CONDITION TO EXPLAIN SIGHTING PD NO PHOTOS OR FRAGMENTS OF OBJECT AVAILABLE PD ONE SA-16 ON LOCAL FLT LANDED 2220E PD WRITTEN RPT FOLLOWS PD 23/2157Z AUG JESQM

1. Methane gas
2. Lightning
3.

holding Flash light before —

R.M.Olsson/jos

XXXXX

25 August 1952

Captain Carney
Wing Intelligence Officer
1707th Air Base Wing
West Palm Beach International Airport
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Captain Carney:

We have tested [redacted]s knife for radiation with negative results and are sending it to you under seperate cover. Please return it and thank him for its use.

The Aero-Medical Laboratory here at Wright Field examined the hat this morning and have established that it takes a temperature of between 300 and 500°F to scorch cotton. They state, however, that it is feasible that a man's skin will not suffer burns if the hent lasts for a few seconds only. We have sent it on to Washington for further analysis.

We will keep you informed of things as they develop and would appreciate your doing the same. Thanks very much again for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT M. OLSSON
2/Lt, USAF
Aerial Phenomena Section
Aircraft and Propulsion Branch
Technical Analysis Division

Memorandum for Record

25 August 1952

Subject: Examination of the Machete Carried by Mr. [redacted]s for the Possibility of it Being Radioactive.

1. On the morning of 25 Aug 52, Lt R. M. Olsson took the machete which Mr. [redacted]s carrying at the time he supposedly contacted an unidentified aerial object to Equipment Lab to have it checked for radiation. It was thoroughly checked by members of the Equipment Lab with a geiger counter and it was determined that it was in no way radioactive.

Memorandum for Record

25 August 1952

Subject: Analysis of [redacted]' Hat

On the morning of 25 Aug 52, Lt R. M. Olsson contacted Major R. Harlan in the Clothing Research Division of the Medical Unit of Aero Med Lab. Purpose of the visit was to show Maj Harlan the hat that had been worn by Mr. [redacted] and to determine some facts about the burned spots. Maj Harlan examined the hat and determined that the three spots that were believed to be burns were burns, and that the part of the hat that appeared to be scorched was actually scorched. He stated that it would be possible for the hat to be scorched, but not burn the skin of the wearer since cotton burns at between 300 and 500°F, at which time it starts to disintegrate and carbonize. From the scorching on the hat, it appeared that the heat was present for only a short time. Maj Harlan believed that due to that short period of time, the skin could escape without suffering burns.

Publicity Agent Will "Protect" Man After "Saucer" Iricident

By United Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 24—A scoutmaster who said he was shot at by a "flying saucer" turned up with a publicity agent today to "protect" him from inquisitive reporters and the Air Force.

J. D. (Sonny) Desvergers emerged from an overnight hideaway long enough to announce he has made a "gentlemen's agreement" with Publicity Agent Art Weil that any further details on his experience will be reserved for "certain magazines."

Presumably, the announcement means Desvergers will not submit to further questioning by the Air Force. The Air Force in Washington said it had only an "unofficial report" on Desvergers' experience and did not have enough information to "draw a conclusion." But the Air Force said it thought the incident is "explainable."

"The Air Force has no legal hold on Desvergers but they talk to him like a Dutch uncle," publicity man Weil declared. "This boy's interests need to be protected."

While he is being "protected," Desvergers vowed to "keep my head down."

"I'm not even looking up in the sky anymore," he said.

Desvergers, a former Marine, said the hair on his arm was singed off and three holes about one-eighth of an inch in diameter were burned in his scout cap last week while on an outing in the Everglades with three Boy Scouts.

Desvergers said he saw flashing lights of what he believed at first to be a crashing airliner. He dashed through the brush with a machete and flashlight, leaving the scouts in the car to call for help "If I'm not back in 10 minutes."

He said he found a mushroom-shaped object large enough for six or eight men to stand up in.

"It was about 10 feet high in the center, about 30 feet in diameter and shaped like a half rubber ball, tapering down to about a three-foot thickness on the side. There was a phosphorous effect around the side."

"I heard the hinges open and they shot at me," he said.

"Seemed Like 10 Years"

"I believe I was under and near it for about three minutes for what seemed like 10 years. It was only 10 feet from the ground and made a hissing sound like a tire going down."

He said those in the saucer shot a flare at him that seemed to "float slowly at my face" and he soon blacked out.

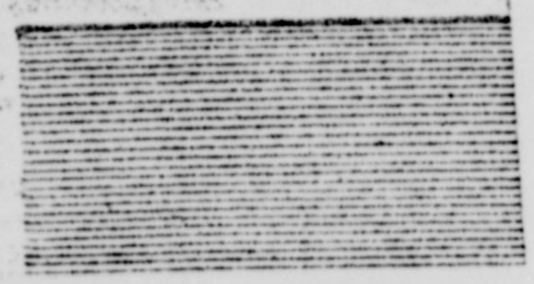
Deputy Sheriff Mott Partin arrived at the scene as Desvergers dashed out of the brush. The deputy said the scoutmaster "looked like a wild man."

Desvergers said the Army has examined and re-examined him both mentally and physically "and they gave me a top bill of health."

✣ ✣ ✣

(An officer from Air Technical Intelligence center at Wright-Patterson Air Force base was sent to Florida to check on the incident.

(Results of his investigation can be released only from Washington, however, a WPAFB spokesman stated last night.)



Ex-Marine Describes 'Saucer Attack'

WEST PALM BEACH (AP) — A scoutmaster who believes he is the first man ever attacked by a flying saucer won't tell all he knows or believes about it "because it might cause another Orson Welles panic."

But D. S. Desvergers, 30-year-old hardware salesman and former Marine, indicated he was convinced the strange object housed beings "who were as afraid of me as I was of them."

And that, he says, was why they projected a "ball of fire directly for my head" when he came upon the unearthly thing last Tuesday night.

Desvergers went further into his remarkable experience with a reporter from the Palm Beach Post, after he was questioned for several hours Friday night by "high-ranking officers from Washington."

He indicated he and the officers were substantially in agreement on what the object was.

"I know what it is, and it's of vital importance," he said. "But it's better for me not to go any further for the public good, because it might cause another Orson Welles panic."

He was referring to an "invasion from Mars" drama, presented by the actor in a broadcast several years ago, which caused widespread alarm among listeners in many American cities.

"It's not ours," he added. "It's not foolish to say it will determine the future of all of us some day."

Desvergers was taking three Boy Scouts to their homes along a country road Tuesday night when they saw "bright red flashes" over a nearby woods.

He left the boys in the car with instructions to go for help if he failed to return promptly, then he started into the woods.

As he pushed through the brush, he said, the air became warmer "and I became aware that all was not right."

"Then I heard the hissing sound. As I moved, it got louder. I flashed my light up and I was right under it."

And "it," he explained, was a flying saucer about 30 feet in diameter hovering about 10 feet above the earth. It was hemispheric in shape, "like half of a rubber ball" and "large enough for six or eight men to stand up in it. It had windows "like an airliner."

Desvergers said the object then projected the flash or ball of fire at him and he was overcome, assailed not only by light and heat but also by an overpowering stench.

"When I awakened out of the fog, I had no sense of feeling," he related, and since then he has suffered "a tingling sensation like when your foot loses circulation and goes to sleep."

"I walked around, but couldn't feel the ground. It was like walking on air.

"But the deputy sheriff who arrived there later couldn't find my footprints in the rain-fresh dirt between where I dropped my lamp when I fell unconscious, and where I came to. The distance was a matter of a number of yards."

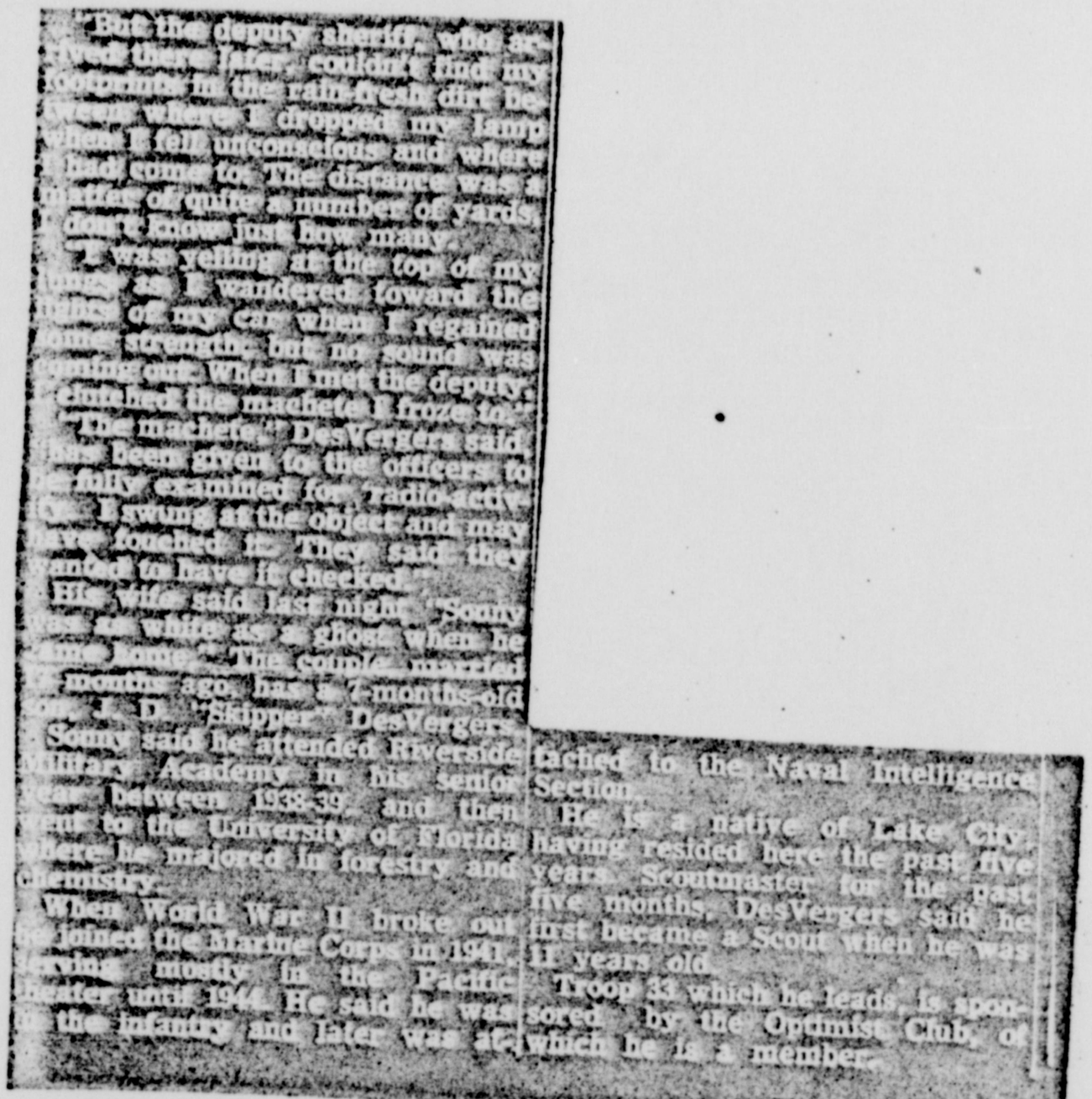
Sheriff's officers, summoned by the boys, met Desvergers as he staggered from the wood. They said the hair was singed off his arms and three tiny holes were burned in his cap.

Jacksonville, Fla. — 23 August 1952

High-Rank Officers Quiz 'Saucer' Victim

By C. W. CABANISS
Post-Times Staff

"We don't have it here. I was shown proof of it. This was the statement of D. S. "Sonny" Desvergers, SK3, Coulston Hi, after he left the flying saucer he had seen here late Tuesday night. Then, only six hours after, two hour grilling behind closed doors at Palm Beach International Airport before a board of high-ranking military officers from Washington.



But the deputy sheriff, who as
was there later, couldn't find my
footprints in the rain-fresh dirt be-
tween where I dropped my lamp
when I fell unconscious and where
I had come to. The distance was a
matter of quite a number of yards.
don't know just how many.
I was yelling at the top of my
lungs as I wandered toward the
noises of my car when I regained
some strength, but no sound was
coming out. When I met the deputy,
clutching the machete, I froze to
The machete, DesVergers said,
has been given to the officers to
family examined for radio-activ-
ity. Eyeing at the object and may
have touched it. They said they
wanted to have it checked.
His wife said last night Sonny
was as white as a ghost when he
came home. The couple married
months ago, has a 7-months-old
son. A D. Skipper DesVergers,
Sonny said he attended Riverside
Military Academy in his senior
year between 1938-39, and then
went to the University of Florida
where he majored in forestry and
chemistry.
When World War II broke out
he joined the Marine Corps in 1941,
saw mostly in the Pacific
theater until 1944. He said he was
in the infantry and later was at-

tached to the Naval Intelligence
Section.
He is a native of Lake City,
having resided here the past five
years. Scoutmaster for the past
five months, DesVergers said he
first became a Scout when he was
11 years old.
Troop 43 which he leads, is spon-
sored by the Optimist Club, of
which he is a member.

20 - 22 AUGUST 1952 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
20	Neffesville, Pennsylvania	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Dhahran Airfield Suruli Arubia (CARD MISSING)	Military	BALLOON
20	Sonama, California	Loop	INSUFFICIENT DATA
20	San Antonio, Texas	[redacted]	BALLOON
20	Fresno, California	[redacted]	OTHER(JET-HELICOPTER)
20	Kirtland AFB, New Mexico	Military	BALLOON
21	Dallas, Texas	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
21	Winnsboro, Texas	[redacted]	INSUFFICIENT DATA
22	Alameda, California (CARD MISSING)	[redacted]	
22	Ontario, California	[redacted]	AIRCRAFT
22	Elmendorf	Military	ASTRO (METEOR)
22	Baltimore, Maryland	[redacted]	AIRCRAFT

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
20	Los Angeles, California	Ltr, [redacted]	
20	Congaree Air Base, South Carolina	Military	
21	Kizil		
22	Spain		