PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

4602d AISS

1. DATE 14-13 August 56	2. LOCATION Bentwaters-Lakenheath, England	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 21200-2220 (13 Aug) ZONE: 0010-0330 (14 Aug) GMT	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Radar observers - Ground observers, AF pilots	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Total: Approx 5 hrs	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Varied 9. COURSE Varied	☐ Other Anam. Propagation ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

1. On 14 August, between 2120-2220 ZI Bentwaters radar reported 3 separate UFO tracks suddenly appearing and disappearing on their screens, with a 2 hr period.
2. Bentwaters station alerted RAF radar unit at Lakenheath. On 14 Aug, the RAF unit reported objs were observed intermittantly from 0010Z to 0330Z, going from W to SW, stopping for 5 minutes, thence NW, disappearing from scope at 0330Z.

11. COMMENTS (ATIC)

At first glance, the 2 messages (TT Msgs 301-485, 16 Aug 56 and IDO-7335, 21 Aug 56) reporting this sighting may give the impression that observations, radar, ground and air, were simultaneous. A review of detailed report IR-1-56, dtd 31 Aug 56, indicates that, although the observations took place within the periods given, they cannot be considered as concurrent.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

10. (Continued)

3. An amber-colored object was observed visually with 7 X 50 binoculars near the horizon towards E. SE. This object, the apparent size of a pinhead, remained in sight for approximately 1 hour.

4. Two pilots of a local AF interceptor squadron who were vectored to the area returned after a 45 minute search. Nothing found. Both stated, however, that there was a bright star in the horizon East of Pentwaters, that could have been mistaken for a UFO by visual observers.

5. Ground observers reported an unusual amount of "shooting stars" in the sky during this period.

11. Continued

This is confirmed by the original report BOI-485, which states that the radar sightings occurred at a later time than the ground sightings. Comments, on the basis of specific aspects of each sighting:

Radar: The widely divergent tracks and speeds observed on the scopes (SW to NE, E to W, SE to NW, and 60 to 4000 MPH), the sudden appearing, disappearing intermittent stopping, starting and remaining motionless; and other erratic behavior of blips is characteristic of weather returns and changing atmospheric conditions. This can often be confusing to trained operators, and does not imply lack of capability of reporting personnel.

Visual Ground: It should be noted that the visual sighting by the control-tower chief, using 7 X 50 binoculars, was of an amber-colored object between 10 to 40 degrees above the horizon towards the SE. The observer further stated that this object remained in sight for approximately

(CONTINUED)

11. (Continued)

1 hour, and moved in a SE. South direction. This coincided with the general location, elevation and movement of Mars for the one hour period in question. (NOTE: Mars, bright and red, was making the closest approach to the Earth in 32 years.)

Visual Airborne: The two AF pilots who were vectored to search the area, remained aloft for 45 minutes. Both stated that a very bright star was observed near the horizon to the East, which, quoting these pilots "could be mistaken for a UFO by visual observers."

Astronomical: Of considerable significance is the fact that an annual meteoric shower, the Perseids, was in prominence at that time (11-13 August). The first report (TT-485) states conclusively that ground observers reported that there was an unusual amount of shooting stars in the sky at that time. This undoubtedly accounts for some of the statements of ground observers that (quote) .. objects traveled at terrific speeds, stopping, and then changing course immediately....."

Astro-Electronic: The part that meteoric showers may have contributed to the sightings reported for these periods cannot be determined conclusively. However, meteors can produce radar returns because of the ionization of their gaseous trail, which "trace" on radarscopes.

CONCLUSION: On the basis of the above, and the limited data provided, there is no compelling reason to conclude that the radar UFO sightings were other than the result of anomalous propagation, which coincided with visual observations during this period. The inadvertant attempt to relate all the observations is not considered valid.

REPORT NR.: IR-1-56 EXTRACT "A" UNCLASSIFIED BEB

ORIGINATING AGENCY: 81st Fighter Bomber Wing, England

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 8/31/56

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (UFOB)

ATIC NR. 293634
AF NR. 102624
REFERENCES

RETRIEVAL INFO: 4E4I/1 - England/--------/UFOB/----------

Most significant are the reports of three courses of UFOBS tracked on the Bentwaters GCA Radar. These UFOBS flew courses as follows: 1 group of 12 to 15 UFOBS FROM a point 8 miles SW of Bentwaters to approximately 40-45 miles NE of Bentwaters at an estimated speed of 80 to 125 miles per hour; a single UFOB was tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 25 miles SE of Bentwaters to approximately 15 miles NW of Bentwaters at a speed estimated at more than 4,000 miles per hour; a third UFOB was reported as tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 30 miles E. of Bentwaters flying a westerly course to about 30 miles west of Bentwaters at an exceptionally high speed.

The GCA Operators making these radar sightings were of the opinion that malfunctions of the GCA Equipment did not cause these radar sightings.

The following information was obtained from USAF personnel assigned to RAF Station, Bentwaters, England concerning visual and radar sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the vicinity of their assigned station during the period 2120Z to 2220Z, 13 August 1956. The reliability of all the following sources of information is estimated to be usually reliable.

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC NR. 293634
AF NR. 1025624
REFERENCES

S/Sgt [redacted]

On 27 August 1956 the following information concerning subject Unidentified Flying Objects was received from S/Sgt [redacted], Control Tower Shift Chief, 1264th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

Sgt [redacted] indicated that his attention was first called to the object by its position, size and unusual color. He was also aware that the Bentwaters GCA was tracking Unidentified Flying Objects by radar at this time. Sgt [redacted] described the UFOB as spherical and the size of a pin-head held at arms length. He sighted only one object which was described as amber color when first observed later changing to bluish-white. No discernable details or features were observed and no sound from the object was noted. Sgt Wright sighted the object from the Bentwaters Control Tower visually with the aid of 7 X 50 power binoculars. Time of his sighting was between 2120Z and 2220Z, 13 August 1956. He indicated that the object was first observed at about 10° elevation toward the south east. The object was in sight for approximately one hour during which time it intermittently disappeared and reappeared. At the time of the object's disappearance, it was located approximately 40° above the horizon in south south-easterly direction. Light conditions during sighting: dusk to night. Sgt [redacted] indicated that the sky was clear with unlimited visibility during the time of this observation.

T/Sgt [redacted]

T/Sgt [redacted] GCA Operator, 1264th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England reported the following information relative to subject Unidentified Flying Objects.

ATIC NR. 293634
AF NR. 1025624
REFERENCES

Sgt [redacted] stated that 12 to 15 unidentified objects were tracked by the Bentwaters GCA (AN-MPN-11A) between 2130Z and 2155Z, 13 August 1956. This group was picked up approximately 8 miles southwest of RAF Station Bentwaters and were tracked on the radar scope clearly until the objects were approximately 14 miles northeast of Bentwaters. At the latter point on the course of these objects, they faded considerably on the radar scope. However, the 12 to 15 objects were tracked to a point about 40 miles N.E. of Bentwaters. At the approximate 40 mile range individual objects in this group appeared to converge into one very large object which appeared to be several times larger than a B-36 aircraft due to the size of the Blip on the radar scope. At the time that the individual objects seemed to converge into one large object, the large object appeared to remain stationary for 10 to 15 minutes. The large object then moved N.E. approximately 5 or 6 miles then stopped its movement for 3 to 5 minutes then moved north disappearing off the radar scope.

Sgt [redacted] stated that the 12 to 15 unidentified objects were preceded by 3 objects which were in a triangular formation with an estimated 1000 feet separating each object in this formation. The other objects were scattered behind the lead formation of 3 at irregular intervals with the whole group simultaneously covering a 6 to 7 mile area. Prior to consolidation into one object 40 miles N.E. of Bentwaters. Course flown by this group of objects had slight deviations from S.W. to N.E.

Sgt [redacted] added that these objects appeared as normal targets on the GCA scope and that normal checks made to determine possible malfunction of the GCA radar failed to indicate anything was technically wrong. Sgt [redacted] estimated that the unidentified objects in this

ATIC NR. 293634
AF NR. 1025624
REFERENCES

group moved at the rate of between 80 and 125 miles per hour. He computed this speed by using the range margins on the GCA scope.

Sgt [redacted] added that another UFOB was sighted on the GCA radar at about 2200Z, 13 August 1956. This object was tracked on the radar screen for approximately 16 seconds. Course of the object being tracked was from about 30 miles east of Bentwaters to approximately 25 miles west of this station. Speed of this object was estimated to be in excess of 4000 miles per hour. All radar returns appeared normal on the scope for this object except for the last return which seemed slightly weaker than the rest. Sgt [redacted] explained that object suddenly disappeared off the radar screen by rapidly moving out of the GCA radiation pattern. Light conditions were night. Weather was clear with good visibility and light winds.

A/2C Vaccare. (219-Z)

The following information pertaining to an Unidentified Flying Object sighted electronically on the Bentwaters GCA at 2130Z, 13 August 1956 was submitted by A/2C [redacted], GCA Operator, 1264th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

Airman [redacted] indicated that he tracked one Unidentified Flying Object on the Bentwaters GCA screen for approximately 30 seconds at 2130Z, 13 August 1956. The size of the blip when picked up was that of a normal aircraft target. The Blip diminished in size and intensity to the vanishing point before crossing the entire radar screen.

The unidentified flying object was picked up at an estimated 25 to 30 miles east south-east of Bentwaters and flew a constant course of 295° to the vanishing point on the scope which was 15 to 20 miles west north-west of Bentwaters at an undetermined altitude. Airman Vaccare estimated the speed of this object to be in the vicinity of 4000 miles per hour. This speed was calculated by comparing the speed of the object on the GCA scope with speeds that the operator is familiar with on the electronic simulator. A/2C Vaccare added that some idea of the speed of the object could be computed from the fact that each time the GCA antenna completed a revolution the Blip from this object moved 4 to 5 miles on the radar screen. The GCA antenna completes a revolution once every two seconds. The weather was reported as clear with unlimited visibility.

Lts Metz and Howe.

On 30 August 1956 the following information was received from 1st Lt [redacted] and 1st Lt [redacted] concerning their aerial search for subject unidentified flying objects. Lts [redacted] and [redacted] are pilots assigned to the 512th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Bentwaters, England. The above named officers indicated that they were returning to Bentwaters from a [illegible] flight about 2130Z, 13 August 1956. At this time they were vectored to the north - east of Bentwaters to search for unidentified flying objects which were being tracked by the Bentwaters GCA. Lts. [redacted] and [redacted] stated that they searched the areas to the north-east, east, and south-east of Bentwaters for approximately 45 minutes. Altitude of flight was between 2000 and 5000 feet. Results of this aerial search were negative. Both officers reported that they observed a bright star on the horizon to the east of Bentwaters which might have been mistaken for an Unidentified Flying Object by the visual observer.

ATIC NR. 293634
AF NR. 1025624
REFERENCES

Lt Rowe also stated that a flashing beacon was flashing through a low haze along the east coast of England from the vicinity of the village of Orford.

Weather Report from the Bentwaters weather detachment for the period 2100Z to 2200Z, 13 August 1956 for the Bentwaters area follows:

Winds:

Surface - Direction 230°, velocity 5 to 10 knots.
6000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 30 knots.
10,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 40 knots.
16,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 55 knots.
20,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 70 knots.
30,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 90 knots.
50,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 10 knots.
ceiling: 25,000 ft
Visibility: 9 miles

No thunderstorms were located in the area of the sightings.

Several aircraft were in the Bentwaters area at the time of these sightings but these could not have been mistaken for the Unidentified Flying Objects.

No physical evidence of the sightings is available.

RECEIPT FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL RELEASED TO CONTRACTORS AND BIDDERS

DATE: 19 Oct 56

TO (Name and Address of Individual, Firm or Corporation)

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
60 Garden Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

FROM (Name, Address and Orgnl Code of Releasing Activity)

Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Ohio
AFOIN-4E4

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. RELEASING ACTIVITY - Prepare form in quadruplicate and retain one copy for followup purposes. Clearly indicate if material is RESTRICTED DATA. Forward one copy of receipt to the AMA Inspector General and two copies with the material being released.
2. AMA INSPECTOR GENERAL - Forward form to the proper authority having security cognizance of the facility.
3. CONTRACTOR OR BIDDER - Sign the original and return to the Releasing Activity, using complete address as indicated in (FROM) block above.

IDENTIFICATION NR	NR COPIES	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION, DATE AND SUBJECT
T56-24219	original	Confidential	Memorandum for Record, 17 October 1956, subj: (C) E O L R
T56-24219-1	carbon copy	Confidential	Memorandum for Record, 17 October 1956, subj: (C) E O L R
T56-24219-A	original	Confidential	Letter transmitting Memorandum, ltr 22 oct 56

RECEIPT IS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE MATERIAL LISTED ABOVE. It is recognized that this material is CLASSIFIED and comes within the purview of this COMPANY'S SECURITY AGREEMENT.

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR MATERIAL	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL	DATE SIGNED

R. C.

SIGHTING LETTER

[redacted]
USAF-RETIRED

Dear Sir:

Reference your UFO Study: you probably already have this item in your file, but, in case you don't, I will briefly outline it and you can contact me for full details if you want them.

I retired (20 years service) 1 April 1967 from the USAF. I have placed my name, rank, and serial number at the top of the page if you want to check on my authenticity. I was an Air Traffic Controller throughout my service career and utilized radar the last 16 years in the control of Air Traffic. I won't bother listing the types and locations, although I could supply all this is needed.

I have never mentioned this incident, as I was pretty sure it is considered (or was) classified, and the only reason I feel free to give you details is because you are an official government agency.

In 1956, sometime between January and September (I can't remember the exact date or month), I was on duty as Watch Supervisor at Lakenheath RAF Station, England (a USAF base) in the Radar Air Traffic Control Center. It was the 5:00 p.m. to midnight shift. I had either four or five other controllers on my shift. I was sitting at the Supervisor's Coordinating desk and received a call on the direct line (actually, I'm not sure which line it was). Anyway, it was Sculthorpe GCA Unit calling and the radar operator asked me if we had any targets on our scopes travelling at 4,000 mph. They said they had watched a target on their scopes proceed from a point 30 or 40 miles east of Sculthorpe to a point 40 miles west of Sculthorpe. The target passed directly over Sculthorpe, England RAF Station (also an USAF Station). He said the tower reported seeing it go by and just appeared to be a blurry light. A C47 flying over the base at 5,000 feet altitude also reported seeing it as a blurred light that passed under his aircraft. No report as to actual distance below the aircraft. I immediately had all controllers start scanning the radar scopes. I had each scope set on a different range - from 10 miles to 200 miles radius of Lakenheath. At this time I did not contact anyone by telephone as I was rather skeptical of this report. We were using full MTI on our radar, which eliminated entirely all ground returns and stationary targets. There was very little or not traffic or targets on the scopes, as I recall. However, one controller noticed a stationary target on the scopes about 20 to 25 miles southwest. This was unusual as a stationary target should have been eliminated unless it was moving at a speed of at least 40 to 45 knots. And yet we could detect no movement at all. We watched this target on all the different scopes for several minutes and I called the GCA Unit at Lakenheath to see if they had this target on their scopes also. They confirmed the target was on their scope in the same geographical location. As we watched, the stationary target started moving at a speed of 400 to 600 mph in a north, northeast direction until it reached a point about 20 miles north northwest of Lakenheath. There was no slow start or build-up to this speed - it was constant from the second it started to move until it stopped.

I called and reported all the facts to this point, including Sculthorpe GCA's initial report, to the 7th Air Division Command Post at London. They in turn notified 3rd Air Force Command Post and had them hooked into the

line. I also hooked in my local AFB Commanding Officer and my Unit (AFCS Communications Squadron) Commander on my switchboard. And there could have been others hooked in also that I was not aware of. I repeated all the facts known to this point and continued to give a detailed report on the target's movements and location. The target made several changes in location, always in a straight line, always at about 600 mph and always from a standing or stationary point to his next stop at constant speed - no build-up in speed at all - these changes in location varied from 8 miles to 20 miles in length - no set pattern at any time. Time spent stationary between movements also varied from 30 or 4 minutes to 5 or 6 minutes (possibly even longer as I was busy answering questions - listening to theories, guesses, etc. that the conference line people were saying. This continued for some time. After I imagine about 30 to 45 minutes, it was decided to scramble two RAF interceptors to investigate. This was done I believe by 3rd Air Force calling the RAF and, after hearing what the score was, they scrambled one aircraft. [The second got off after as I will mention later.]

The interceptor aircraft took off from an RAF Station near London and approached Lakenheath from the southwest. Radio and radar contact was established with the RAF intercept aircraft at a point about 30 to 35 miles southwest of Lakenheath inbound to Lakenheath. On initial contact we gave the interceptor pilot all the background information on the UFO, his (the interceptor) present distance and bearing from Lakenheath, the UFO's (which was stationary at the time) distance and bearing from Lakenheath. We explained we did not know the altitude of the UFO but we could assume his altitude was above 1,500 feet and below 20,000 feet, due to the operational characteristics of the radar (CPS-5 type radar, I believe). Also we mentioned the report from the C47 over Sculthorpe that relayed the story about the light which passed below him. His altitude was 5,000 feet.

We immediately issued headings to the interceptor to guide him to the UFO. The UFO remained stationary throughout. This vectoring of the intercept aircraft continued. We continually gave the intercept aircraft his heading to the UFO and his distance from the UFO at approximately 1 to 2 mile intervals. Shortly after we told the intercept aircraft he was one-half mile from the UFO and it was twelve-o'clock from his position, he said. "Roger, Lakenheath, I've got my guns locked on him." Then he paused and said, "Where did he go? Do you still have him?" We replied, "Roger, it appeared he got behid you and he's still there. [There were now two targets; one behind the other, same speed, very close, but two separate distinct targets.

The first movement by the UFO was so swift (circling behind the interceptor). I missed it entirely, but it was seen by the other controllers. However, the fact that this had occurred was confirmed by the pilot of the interceptor. The pilot of the interceptor told us he would try to shake the UFO and would try it again. He tried everything - he climbed, dived, circled, etc., but the UFO acted like it was glued right behind him, always the same distance, very close, but we always had two distinct targets. [Note: Target resolution on our radar at the range they were from the antenna (about 10 to 30 miles, all in the southerly sectors from Lakenheath) would be between 200 and 600 feet probably. Closer than that we would have got one target from both aircraft and UFO. Most specifications say 500 feet is the minimum, but I

believe it varies and 200 to 600 feet is closer to the truth and, in addition, the tuning of the equipment, atmospheric conditions, etc., also help determine this figure.

The interceptor pilot continued to try and shake the UFO for about ten minutes (approximate - it seemed longer both to him and us). He continued to comment occasionally and we could tell from the tonal quality he was getting worried, excited and also pretty scared.

He finally said, "I'm returning to Station, Lakenheath. Let me know if he follows me. I'm getting low on petrol." The target (UFO) followed him only a short distance, as he headed south southwest, and the UFO stopped and remained stationary. We advised the interceptor that the UFO target had stopped following and was now stationary about 10 miles south of Lakenheath. He rogered this message and almost immediately the second interceptor called us on the same frequency. We replied and told him we would advise him when we had a radar target, so we could establish radar contact with his aircraft. [He was not on radar at this time, probably had just taken off and was too low for us to pick him up, or too far away - we had most of the scopes on short range, so we could watch the UFO closely on the smaller range.] The number two interceptor called the number one interceptor by name (Tom, Frank - whatever his name was) and asked him, "Did you see anything?" Number one replied, "I saw something, but I'll be dammed if I know what it was." Number two said, "What happened?" Number one said, "He (or it) got behind me and I did everything I could to get behind him and I couldn't. It's the dammdest thing I've ever seen." Number one also made a remark at this time to Number two, that he had his radar locked on whatever it was for just a few seconds so there was something there that was solid. Number one then switched frequencies to his home base frequency. We gave Number 2 the location of the UFO and advised him that we still didn't have him on radar, but probably would have shortly. He delayed answering for some seconds and then finally said, "Lakenheath _____ (identification, aircraft call sign) - can't remember what call sign these aircraft were using. Returning home, my engine is maifunctioning." He then left our frequency.

Throughout this we kept all the agencies, 7th Air Division, 3rd Air Force, etc., advised on every aspect, every word that was said, everything.

We then inquired what action they wanted to take. They had no more suggestions and finally they told us to just keep watching the target and let them know if anything else happened. The target made a couple more short moves, then left our radar coverage in a northerly direction - speed still about 600 mph. We lost target outbound to the north at about 50 to 60 miles, which is normal if aircraft or target is at an altitude below 5,000 feet (because of the radiation lobe of that type radar). We notified 7th Air Division Command Post and they said they'd tell everybody for us.

I made out a written report on all this, in detail for the offices in charge of my facility, and was told that unless I was contacted later for any further information, he would take care of it. I don't know if a CERVIS report was submitted on this or not - I heard no more about it.

All speeds in this report were calculated speeds based on time and distance covered on radar. This speed was calculated many times that evening and although this happened quite awhile ago, the basic elements are correct.

Hope this helps in some small way to assist in your UFO investigation.

[redacted]
Carpinteria, California 93013
Ph. #: [redacted]

• first sighting on radar

→ - - - - - - • first movement and stopping place seen on radar

⊙ intercept point by RAF interceptor - point also at which RAF pilot reported radar gunsight locked on UFO.

TO Major Cornell

FROM R. T. Fee

SUBJECT

DATE 3-6-67

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Interdepartmental Memorandum

[illegible] as a [illegible] year

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for you

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

EXTRANEOUS INFO.

March 15, 1968

Mr. [redacted]
Dept. of Physics and Astrophysics
202 Woodbury Hall
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80301

Dear Bob;

I have your unidentified report sent in by Forrest [illegible] Perkins. Not much that one can do about it, since he doesn't even remember the month, let alone the exact date. However, the report is similar to many others that I have seen. Without specific information of times and directions, it is difficult to analyze or confirm what seems to me to be a reasonable explanation.

First of all, I have to point out again the impossibility of making a definite identification between radar and visual sightings, especially, under conditions such as those mentioned. Radar tells you the direction in which you send off the signal and it measures the distance to whatever is reflecting the radar pulse. That sometimes it doesn't [illegible] at that, in view of the possibility of getting reflections at very long ranges. You thus have three positions, altitude, bearing, and a distance. In a visual sighting, you have at best only two, altitude and bearing. You have no estimate of distance and hence, if you happen to see some [illegible] which -- even if it only a bright star near the horizon, -- in the same direction, an incompetent radar operator will often claim the [illegible] visual sighting, whether the correlation is justified or not.

Well, [illegible] approach. Strangely enough, the mapping was involved, that method of changing the phase for successive scans, to give the appearance of motion, even though none actually

cancel. In brief, MTI will not discriminate between a return from a moving target or a ground return from a stationary target, if the radar beam is reflected from a moving layer. This could account also, for the existence of the stationary target. As for the blurred light viewed from the tower, we have no assurance whatever that this was not an after image effect, a visual impression resulting from the operator's having inadvertently seen a bright light at close range.

This is about all I can do without further information.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, I am,

Cordially yours,

DHM/jpl

Donald H. Menzel

UNCLASSIFIED

Box 9703
1125th FAG (ATIC)
Wright-Patterson A FB,
Ohio
26 November 1956

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
60 Garden Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Reference is made to my letter of 20 November 1956 in which I stated that I would send you the finalized material on the Lakenheath case. Inclosed you will find AF 112 on the final investigations regarding this sighting.

I am relieved to find that they carry it under an unclassified category. This, of course, helps us in both the discussion and transmittal aspects.

I have included a rough plot of the three radar and one visual observations of the sightings. This should be of some help for your review and comment. These sightings, in my opinion, cannot be considered as concurrent with respect to time. The separate report of each observer indicates three widely divergent tracks. An attempted intercept by American airplanes, which lasted for 45 minutes, produced no physical evidence of any UFO in the area. The visual observation leads me to believe that the observer was seeing Mars. Also, there appears to have been some contact (I do not wish to use the word "collusion") between the operator of two radar stations since they both state speed of exactly 4000 m.p.h.

I feel, therefore, that our original analyses of anomalous propagation and astronomical is more or less correct. I will consider this case closed upon receipt of your final comment, at which time I will make a compiled, final conclusion for the Air Force.

A word concerning our proposed visit. As things are now it seems improbable that any plans can be made before the middle of January.

Sincerely,

Capt. Gregory

2 Incls

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted] Inclosure removed

SUBJECT: Report for Analysis - UFO Reports from CINCUSAFE, Wiesbaden and Lakenheath, England

TO: AFOIN-4E1
Attn: Col Hoffman

FROM: AFOIN-4E4 DATE 7 Nov 56 COMMENT NR. 3
4E4/Capt G.T.Gregory/Ate
69216

1. Attached herewith is AIIR-1-56, England (Inclosure #1), containing pertinent information on the Lakenheath-Bentwaters sighting which was reported to this Center on 13 August 1956 with a request for immediate evaluation by Headquarters USAF. It is believed this report is in response to this Center's request for additional information (See Inclosure #2).

2. On the basis of the information available at that time, it was our conclusion that the sighting was the result of anomalous propagation with the possibility of certain meteoric showers, which were prominent during that sighting date, a contributing factor.

3. Inasmuch as Headquarters USAF has expressed a desire for an expeditious evaluation regarding this UFO sighting (Inclosure #3), it is requested that this report be reviewed, together with the original data, for the purpose of arriving at a more firm conclusion.

4. A rough plot of the three radar and one visual observation indicate that the sightings cannot be considered as concurrent with respect to time. (Inclosure #4). A forty-five minute search of the area by a local intercept squadron produced no physical evidence of any unidentified object in the sky. *

5. Attached for your information is an evaluation by Dr. Hynek and Dr. Whipple which represents an approach to the sighting, primarily from an astronomical and astrophysical viewpoint from the data available at that time. It may be of some assistance in your over-all study of the incident.

HENRY A. MILBY
AFOIN-4E4

6 Incls
1. AIIR-1-56, England (U)
2. [redacted]
3. TT T56-23446-1, 10 Oct 56 (U)
4. Rough Sketch, UFO Plots (U)
5. Memo for Record, 17 Oct 56, T56-24219 (U)
6. Memo for Record, 21 Sep 56 (U)

* Of significance is the fact that the direction of the UFOs travel on the radar scope was not the same in any of the three plots. In fact, there was a wide divergence in the three bearings indicated.

UNCLASSIFIED

Inclosures removed [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD 21 Sept 56

SUBJECT: (U) Lakenheath-Bentwaters UFO Sighting - - Review and Comment by Dr. J. A. Hynek.

1. On 13 September 1956, at the Harvard Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Hynek and the undersigned held discussions regarding this case. All teletype messages and the various factors and aspects were treated in some detail.

2. Dr. Hynek was in agreement with the undersigned's comment to the SAC Commander in England and Headquarters USAFE, considering the many variables and other seemingly conflicting data involved in the UFO report.

3. Upon receipt of this sighting, Dr. Hynek was unavailable to review this report as one of the applicable USAF consultants normally required in cases of this kind. Dr. Hynek was en route to Harvard University from the U. S. Astronomical Society Conference held in Berkley, Calif.

4. The following action was taken in attempt to resolve this matter to a better conclusion:

a. Copies of all teletype messages from England were left in the custody of Dr. Hynek (deposited in safe for classified material assigned Dr. F. E. Whipple, Director of Astrophysical Observatory). A hand receipt signed by Dr. Hynek was obtained for the UFO case file.

b. Dr. Hynek will discuss the matter with Dr. Whipple who is now in Spain on IGY matters, and with Dr. Gerald Hawkins, British astrophysicist, now with the observatory in Cambridge. Dr. Whipple is considered the foremost authority on radio echoes and other radio-radar aspects of astronomical bodies in the world. With Dr. Hawkins participating as an interested party (the unusual UFO sighting being observed over England), the conference should produce something of note. This conference arranged by Dr. Hynek will be at no expense to USAF.

George T. Gregory
GEORGE T. GREGORY
Captain, USAF

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORTING: England	REPORT NO: IR-1-56

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS: England	DATE OF INFORMATION: 13 August 1956
ORGANIZATION OR AREA REPORT: 81st Fighter Bomber Wing	DATE OF COLLECTION: 27 August 1956
PREPARED BY (OR OFFICIAL): Captain Edward L Holt	DATE OF REPORT: 31 August 1956
NAME OF ORIGINATOR OR SOURCE: USAF Personnel, Bentwaters, England	EVALUATION: B-3

SRI STATUS (if applicable)
SRI NO
CANCELLED/INCOMPLETE
SRI NO
CANCELLED/INCOMPLETE
SRI NO
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (DATE) ACTION

REFERENCES (Give subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)

SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (UFOB)

SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient features of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)

Between 2120Z and 2220Z, 13 August 1956, Unidentified Flying Objects were reported observed visually and by ground electronic means by USAF personnel stationed at RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

Most significant are the reports of three courses of UFOBS tracked on the Bentwaters GCA Radar. These UFOBS flew courses as follows: 1 group of 12 to 15 UFOBS flew a point 8 miles SW of Bentwaters to approximately 40-45 miles NE of Bentwaters at an estimated speed of 80 to 125 miles per hour; a single UFOB was tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 25 miles SE of Bentwaters to approximately 15 miles NW of Bentwaters at a speed estimated at more than 4,000 miles per hour; a third UFOB was reported as tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 30 miles E. of Bentwaters flying a westerly course to about 30 miles west of Bentwaters at an exceptionally high speed.

The GCA Operators making these radar sightings were of the opinion that malfunctions of the GCA equipment did not cause these radar sightings.

(?)

5-01
653

8/56
DFM

APPROVED:
Orville E. Bixel
ORVILLE E BIXEL
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

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UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

APR 29 1958

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: [illegible] | 12[illegible] | 2 | 4

The following information was obtained from USAF personnel assigned to RAF Station Bentwaters, England concerning visual and radar sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the vicinity of their assigned station during the period 21[illegible] to 22[illegible], 13 August 1956. The reliability of all the following sources of information is estimated to be usually reliable.

[redacted]

On 27 August 1956 the following information concerning subject Unidentified Flying Objects was received from S/Sgt [redacted] Control Tower Shift Chief, 126th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

[redacted] indicated that his attention was first called to the object by its [illegible] and unusual color. He was also aware that the Bentwaters GCA was [illegible] identified Flying Objects by radar at this time. Sgt [redacted] described [illegible] spherical and the size of a pin-head held at arms length. He sighted [illegible] ject which was described as amber color when first observed later [illegible], bluish-white. No discernable details or features were observed and no [illegible] was the object was noted. Sgt Wright sighted the object from the Bentwaters [illegible] Tower visually with the aid of 7 X 50 power binoculars. Time of his sighting was between 2120Z and 2220Z, 13 August 1956. He indicated that the object was first observed at about 10° elevation toward the south east. The object was in sight for approximately one hour during which time it intermittently disappeared and reappeared. At the time of the object's disappearance, it was located approximately 40° above the horizon in south south-easterly direction. Light conditions during sighting dusk to night. Sgt Wright indicated that the sky was clear with unlimited visibility during the time of this observation.

[redacted]

[redacted] Operator, 126th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England reported the following information relative to subject Unidentified Flying Objects.

[redacted] stated that 12 to 15 unidentified objects were tracked by the Bentwaters GCA (AN/MPN-14A) between 21[illegible] and 2155Z, 13 August 1956. This group was picked up approximately 8 miles southwest of RAF Station Bentwaters and were tracked on the radar scope clearly until the objects were approximately 14 miles northeast of Bentwaters. At the latter point on the course of these objects, they faded considerably on the radar scope. However, the 12 to 15 objects were tracked to a point approx[illegible] miles N.E. of Bentwaters. At the approximate 40 mile range individual objects in this group appeared to converge into one very large object which appeared to be several times larger than a B-36 aircraft due to the size of the blip on the radar scope. At the time that the individual objects seemed to converge into one large object, the large object appeared to remain stationary for 10 to 15 minutes. The large object then moved N.E. approximately [illegible] miles then stopped its movement for 3 to 5 minutes then moved north disappearing off the radar scope.

Sgt [redacted] stated that the 12 to 15 unidentified objects were preceded by 3 objects which were in a triangular formation with an estimated 1000 feet separating each object in this formation. The other objects were scattered behind the lead formation of 3 at irregular intervals with the whole group simultaneously covering a 6 to 7 mile area. Prior to consolidation into one object 40 miles N.E. of Bentwaters. Course flown by this group of objects had slight deviations from S.W. to N.E.

[redacted] added that these objects appeared as normal targets on the GCA scope and that normal checks made to determine possible malfunction of the GCA radar failed to indicate anything was technically wrong. Sgt [redacted] estimated that the unidentified objects in this group moved at the rate of between 80 and 125 miles per hour. He computed this speed by using the range markings on the GCA scope.

Sgt [redacted] added that another UFOB was sighted on the GCA radar at about 22002, 13 August 1956. This object was tracked on the radar screen for approximately 16 seconds. Course of the object being tracked was from about 30 miles east of Bentwaters to approximately 25 miles west of this station. Speed of this object was estimated to be in excess of 4000 miles per hour. All radar returns appeared normal on the scope for this object except for the last return which seemed slightly weaker than the rest. Sgt [redacted] explained that object suddenly disappeared off the radar screen by rapidly moving out of the GCA radiation patterns. Light conditions were night. Weather was clear with good visibility and light winds.

A/2C Vaccaro.

The following information pertaining to an Unidentified Flying Object sighted electronically on the Bentwaters GCA at 21302, 13 August 1956 was submitted by A/2C [redacted], GCA Operator, 126th AACS Squadron, USAF Station Bentwaters, England.

Airman [redacted] indicated that he tracked one Unidentified Flying Object on the Bentwaters GCA screen for approximately 30 seconds at 21302, 13 August 1956. The size of the blip when picked up was that of a normal aircraft target. The blip diminished in size and intensity to the vanishing point before crossing the entire radar screen.

The unidentified flying object was picked up at an estimated 25 to 30 miles east south-east of Bentwaters and flew a constant course of 295° to the vanishing point on the scope which was 25 to 30 miles west north-west of Bentwaters at an undetermined altitude. Airman [redacted] estimated the speed of this object to be in the vicinity of 4000 miles per hour. This speed was calculated by comparing the speed of the object on the GCA scope with speeds that the operator is familiar with on the electronic simulator. A/2C Vaccaro added that some idea of the speed of the object could be computed from the fact that each time the GCA antenna completed a revolution the blip from this object moved 5 to 3 miles on the radar screen. The GCA antenna completes a revolution once every two seconds. The weather was reported as clear with unlimited visibility.

Lts Nutz and Rose.

On 30 Aug at 1[illegible] the following information was received from 1st Lt Charles V. Nutz and 1st Lt Andrew C. Rose concerning their aerial search for subject unidentified flying objects. Lts Nutz and Rose are pilots assigned to the 512th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Bentwaters, England. The above named officers indicated that they were returning to Bentwaters from a T-33 flight about 21302, 13 August 1956. At this time they were vectored to the north - west of Bentwaters to search for unidentified flying objects which were being tracked by the Bentwaters GCA. Lts. Nutz and Rose stated that they searched the areas to the north-east, east, and south-east of Bentwaters for approximately 45 minutes. Altitude of flight was between 2000 and 5000 feet. Results of this aerial

[illegible] INFORMATION REPORT

[illegible]

[illegible] observation. [illegible] officers reported that they observed a bright [illegible] the horizon to the east of Centreport which might have been mistaken for an Unidentified Flying Object by the visual observer. [illegible] also stated that a flashing beacon was flashing through a low haze along the west coast of England from the vicinity of the village of Orford.

Weather Report from the Centreport weather detachment for the period 2100Z to 2300Z, 13 August 1956 for the Centreport area follows:

Winds:

Surface - Direction 260° velocity 5 to 10 knots.
6000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 30 knots.
10,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 40 knots.
16,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 55 knots.
[illegible] ft - Direction 260°, velocity 70 knots.
[illegible] ft - Direction 260°, velocity 82 knots.
[illegible] ft - Direction 260°, velocity [illegible] knots.
Ceiling: 25,000 ft.
Visibility: [illegible] miles.

[illegible] the [illegible] of the sightings.

[illegible] the [illegible] of these sightings [illegible] Unidentified Flying Objects.

[illegible]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports (Cont)

UFO societies and other "publicity artists" would make of such an incident. It is, therefore, of great importance that further information on the technical aspects of the original observations be obtained, without loss of time from the original observers.

J. Allen Hynek

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
USAF UFO Scientist-Consultant
17 October 1956

[redacted]

[redacted]

SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports (Cont)

6. Meteors, however, as pointed out by Capt Gregory, can lead to radar returns because of the ionization of the gases in their trail. Accordingly, it would be extremely important to know whether the Bentwaters and Lakenheath radars have ever in the past observed meteors on their scopes and, if so, how such returns differ from the blips reported here.

7. Dr. Whipple and the writer discussed the Lakenheath incident at length and Dr. Whipple pointed out immediately the statement that "radars reported these facts to occur at later hours than the ground observers". This statement needs clarification inasmuch as it contradicts other portions of the report which indicate that at least at certain times visual and radar sightings were simultaneously.

8. Dr. Whipple stated that as far as the report at hand is concerned, no obvious physical solution is suggested. He deplored the inadequacy of the typical UFO report as a scientific document. He further stated that the nature of such reports is not likely to change and urged that if the Air Force was as serious in its attempts to resolve this problem, both scientifically and in the public mind, that the Air Force do more than continue its passive investigational attitudes. He suggested that, as in any scientific procedure, facts are the raw material from which one must work and that in general the investigator in any particular case must assume an active roll in the obtaining of scientific data. In short, Dr. Whipple asked the writer whether the Air Force had ever considered or was now considering the possibility of initiating, for a limited time, an actual sky patrol by photographic and visual means or precisely those areas from which the maximum UFO reports originate. The writer responded that this had indeed been suggested in the past but that because of considerations of expenses and of possible public misinterpretation, it was abandoned.

9. Dr. Whipple urged that a more modest proposal of the same general type be considered at this time. For instance, an area from which numerous reports have come in might be patrolled by a dozen or so "fish eye" cameras, operating automatically, which would give a total record of all bright moving objects at night within a given area or sector. A simple timing device would suffice to yield the angular rate of objects motion so that fire balls (bright meteors) could be distinguished from airplanes and from other astronomical objects.

10. The present writer submits that it might be of considerable, potential use to the Air Force to be able to state, at some future time, that a careful patrol of an area "rich in UFO reports" had been patrolled and nothing of a mysterious character photographed. This would be especially true if, during the time of patrol, UFO reports from untrained observers continued to come in from that area.

11. The Lakenheath report could constitute a source of embarrassment to the Air Force, and should the facts, as so far reported, get into the public domain, it is not necessary to point out what excellent use the several dozen

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports

1. The original Lakenheath reports and the preliminary evaluations made by ATIC were submitted to the undersigned for examination, evaluation and comment. Writer requested permission to discuss these with Dr. F. L. Whipple, Harvard University, and director of Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory, in view of the fact that sightings occurred at the time of Perseid meteors and Dr. Whipple is a world-recognized authority on meteors. Following comments will accordingly be invited to cover the three points separately.

2. It is to be regretted that so unusual a sighting report did not contain more factual material on which to base an evaluation. The Lakenheath report is one of the more unusual UFO reports involving electronic and visual observations and subsequent pursuit by fighter plane. Yet, report does not state whether it was definitely established that visual and electronic sightings referred to same object or even if they occurred precisely simultaneously. Further, report does not give exact weather information which might enable one to charge weather conditions, with any precision relative to "anomalous propagation" such as frequently occurs with radars.

3. It would be of extreme value to have independent statements from the various observers both at Bentwaters and Lakenheath. Report states that observers were traffic controllers and intelligence specialists. An analyst would be greatly aided by having independent statements from such highly trained observers as the original report indicates the observers were.

4. The implication of the original report is that the objects were sighted simultaneously by ground-visual, air-electronic and ground-electronic means. Yet, report nowhere states stellar magnitude of visual sightings or nature of radar blips. Angular rate of motion of objects is likewise not included.

5. With the above in mind, the preliminary reports submitted by Capt. Gregory covers the case as well as it possibly could, under the circumstances. The present writer, upon more detailed examination of the report, and accepting the implications of the original report in the absence of specific statements, is led to differ somewhat from preliminary report. It seems highly unlikely, for instance, that the Perseid meteors could have been the cause of the sightings, especially in view of the statement of observers that shooting stars were exceptionally numerous that evening, thus implying that they were able to distinguish the two phenomena. Further, if new credence can be given to the maneuver of the objects as sighted visually and by radar, the meteor hypothesis must be ruled out.

[redacted]

[redacted]

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

[redacted]

FROM: (Originator)

COMT-R ATIC

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION | INFORMATION

PRIORITY

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS ☐ CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: BOI 485 & IDO 7-3351

CLASSIFICATION: [redacted]

TO:

DI HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO:

COMDR AFCRC AFSS, ENT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO

COMCUSEUR
WIESBADEN, GERMANY

/[redacted]// FROM: ASOLI-14

[illegible] TO 3910TH [illegible], LAKENHEATH, ENGLAND. REF TT ASCO BOI 485 FM 3910TH [illegible] AND IDO 7-3351 FM CINCUSAFE RE UFO SIGHTINGS IN LAKENHEATH AND BENTWATER AREA, ENGLAND, ON 13 AUG 1956. MSG IN FOUR PARTS.

PART I: [illegible] EVALUATION OR PO[illegible] AT SOME [illegible] OF ORIGIN OR NATURE OF UFO SIGHTINGS AS INFORMATION SUBMITTED IS [illegible] LIMITED AND INCOMPLETE. OBJECTS OBSERVED ON RADAR, AND VISUALLY BY GROUND OBSERVERS, MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN SAME PHENOMENA. ALSO, SIGHTINGS MAY HAVE BEEN RESULT OF A NUMBER OF COMBINING OR CORRELATION OF FACTORS, SUCH AS WEATHER AND ASTRONOMICAL CONDITIONS. MORE PROBLEM ARISES WHEN NO INCONSISTENT INFORMATION AS RADAR, FILM, PHOTOS, WEATHER DATA, [illegible] VIEW OF THE NATURE DIVISION, MILITARY BASES DATA AND ACCURATE TRANSLATION OF CORRELATION BETWEEN TIME, BEARING, ELEVATION, [illegible] ANGULAR VELOCITY

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)
COMDR ATIC

PRECEDENCE FOR: | ACTION PRIORITY | INFORMATION

TO: DI H, USAF WASH DC

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: BOI 485 & IDO 7-3351 | CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

INFO:
COMDR 4602d AISS, ENT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO

CINCUSAFE
ATIC ENG, GERMANY

of respective SIGHTINGS, BOTH ELECTRONIC AND VISUAL. ON BASIS OF INFORMATION GIVEN, I'LL SUBMIT SOME DATA AND COMMENTS AS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OR GUIDANCE TO IDENTITY OF SIGHTINGS.

PART II: TYPE OF INFORMATION OUTLINED IN PART I ABOVE IF AVAILABLE COULD INDICATE WITH REASONABLE DEGREE OF ACCURACY WHETHER OBJECTS OBSERVED ON RADAR SOLID OR DUE TO UNUSUAL WEATHER CONDITIONS i.e. ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION. HOWEVER, INFORMATION AND DATA PRESENTED TEND TO INDICATE THAT TARGETS ARE DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS. EXAMPLES: A NUMBER OF BLIPS APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING INTERMITTENTLY IS CHARACTERISTIC OF WEATHER RETURNS ON RADAR. STRONG EVIDENCE OF WEATHER AND UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS CAUSING UNUSUAL PHENOMENA IS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL TARGETS, AS REPORTED ON ALL DATES CITED ABOVE. THESE CONDITIONS MAY ALSO EXPLAIN OBSERVED ERRATIC MOVEMENTS AND TREMENDOUS SPEEDS OF UNPROVED SOLID TARGETS OR "FLASH BOTS", AND HOVERING AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON RADAR. THEREFORE, IN-

[redacted]

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

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SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION — PRIORITY | INFORMATION

[redacted]

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS ☐ CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: [redacted]

TO: DI HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO:

COMDR 4602d AISS, FNT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO

CINCUSAFE
WIESBADEN, GERMANY

VERTICAL MAY CAUSE RADAR BEAMS PROJECTED UPWARD TO BEND EARTHWARD AND PICK UP OBJECTS IN THE GROUND WITH AS FAR AS AIRBORNE OBJECTS IN RADAR SCOPES. OTHER CONDITIONS, INVERSIONS MAY CAUSE INTERFERENCE BETWEEN TWO RADAR STATIONS SAY 1000 MILES APART. THIS CAN BE CHECKED BY CHANGING FREQUENCY APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 40 MEGACYCLES, IF SETTINGS CAN BE VARIED. THESE RAPID ATMOSPHERIC CHANGES FROM FAVORABLE TO "ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION" BACK TO NORMAL MAY OFTEN BE CONFUSING TO TRAINEES, ADMINISTRATORS AND OBSERVERS, IF SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE NOT EXPERIENCED BEFORE. THIS NOT INTENDED TO INFER INTERFERENCE OR LACK OF PROPAGATION AS PART OF MASKING, OR MISINTERPRETING OR OVERLOOKING NATURAL OCCURRENCE SUCH PHENOMENA.

PART III: STRONG CONSIDERATION MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO ASTRONOMICAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER AS POSSIBLE DUE LAUNCHING TO ALL OR PART OF VIGILANCE SCHEDULE. THE PASSING, ASTEROIDS, WHICH TO PEAK 11 AND 13 MAY AGAIN PEAK YEAR. IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT SPECTACULAR VIGILANCE [illegible] THROUGH 1 [illegible] 23

[redacted]

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

[redacted]

3 4X 5

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

[redacted]

PRECEDENCE FOR: | ACTION PRIORITY | INFORMATION

TO: DI HQ USAF ASH DC

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS ☐ CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: DI 485 & IDO 7-3351 | CLA[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

INFO:

COMDR 6602d AISS, ENT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO

CINCUSAFE
WIESBADEN, GERMANY

TO HAVE BEEN AT THEIR PEAK ON THE NIGHT OF 13TH AUGUST, SAME DATE OF UFO SIGHTING. FOLLOWING MUST BE CONSIDERED RELATIVE TO PERSEIDS: a. THESE METEORS, IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL FLIGHTS AND FADE OUTS, COULD APPEAR TO CROSS OVER AT LARGE ANGLES TO PATHS OF OTHER METEORS (NOT PERSEIDS). b. METEORS CREATE TRAILS OF IONIZED GASES IN THEIR WAKE WHICH MAY BE TRACKED ON RADAR SCOPES. c. RESEARCH HAS INDICATED THAT METEORS PRODUCE VARIATIONS IN THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD WHICH MAY BE RECORDED ON MAGNETIC INSTRUMENTS, SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH RADAR OBSERVATIONS. d. A STUDY MADE IN 1950 DISCLOSED THAT THE MAXIMUM INTENSITY OF MAGNETIC PULSES WERE ON THE 13TH AND 14TH OF AUGUST.

PART IV: IF ABOVE GUIDANCE DATA, AND FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ON YOUR PART, PROVE UNSATISFACTORY AS TO PROBABLE NATURE OF SIGHTINGS, DETAILED INFORMATION OUTLINED IN PART I ABOVE WILL THEN BE REQUIRED TO PURSUE A MORE THOROUGH COURSE OF EVALUATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

SEN[redacted]

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEXT USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
Dr. Riley			
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
AFOIN-4E4		3/24	
2 Col Hoffman			FILE
AFOIN-4E1			INFORMATION
3 Col Gilbert		5	NECESSARY ACTION
~~AFOIN~~-4F			NOTE AND RETURN
4 ~~Mr.~~ Archer			SEE ME
AFOIN-4A1			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

5. AFOIN-4A2

1. Coordination.

2. Time required to formulate a reply is considered warranted under the circumstances, particularly when "on-the-spot" investigation and field analysis cannot be made from this side of the Atlantic.

3. The apparent concern shown by the SAC Base in England and CINCUSAFE dictated that every possible approach be explored.

FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE
Capt G.T.Gregory	Sept 5,56
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE
AFOIN-4A1	69216

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

16—43437-4 GPO ☆

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Report for Analysis - UFO Reports from CINCUSAFE, Wiesbaden and Lakenheath, England

TO: AFOIN-4E4
Attn: Capt. Gregory

FROM: AFOIN-4E1

DATE 31 Aug 56 COMMENT NO. 2
AFOIN-4E1a/Mr.Bryant/pm/72131

1. From the incomplete information submitted, it is impossible to make a definite determination of the sources of these sightings. Certain facts which are available, however, do tend to indicate that the targets were due to weather conditions. For example, the fact that a number of blips appeared and disappeared intermittently are characteristic of weather returns on radar; this characteristic frequently leads to a mistaken observation that one target has moved at tremendous speed, where in reality one has faded out or disappeared and another appeared at a different location on the scope. This also explains the erratic movement of the supposed target. Another characteristic of weather returns is the disappearance of all the targets in question at about the same time. This is due to rapid atmospheric changes wherein conditions change from favorable for anomalous propagation to normal conditions.

2. The fact that the visual and radar sightings were not simultaneous tends to preclude the possibility of the targets being material targets.

3. A more thorough analysis of these UFO sightings would have been possible if more complete information were available. Pertinent data which is necessary for such analysis includes scope photographs, weather information indicating presence or lack of temperature inversion, moisture lapse data, and an accurate tabulation of related times and places of sightings (as between visual and electronic sightings). This is not intended to infer negligence or lack of capability of reporting personnel; such oversights or omissions are natural during such times, and data of this type may not be available even if considered.

Incls
5 Incls w/d-1 - 5

GORDON C. HOFFMAN
Colonel, USAF
AFOIN-4E1

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO UNCLASSIFIED, EFFECTIVE 15 MARCH 1968, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AFR 205-1, PARA 2-176(ii), BY Maj Hector Quintanilla, Jr. H. Quintanilla Jr.

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: (U) Perseids over England - Period 11-20 August 1956

1. The following information was derived after discussion with Captain Gregory on 14 August 1956 concerning the possibility of meteoric showers over England being mistaken for probable unidentified flying objects:

a. The Perseids are prominent and apparently could be quite spectacular over England.

b. The Perseids are at their visual peak between the 11th and 20th of August.

c. These meteors, in their individual flights, could appear to cross over at large angles to other meteors.

d. It is possible that individual meteor trails (ionized gases) may trace on radar scopes.

e. Although only limited information is given me, these meteors could be an explanation to <u>some</u> of the sightings observed over Lakenheath and Bentwaters.

L. V. Robinson
Dr. L. V. Robinson
Air Science Division
27 August 1956

Sgt Hiel:
1. File
2. Results of my approach to Dr. Robinson and Dr. Byers on the possibility of meteors indicating their trail (directly or indirectly) on radar scopes.

Capt Gregory

27

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM TO: THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR 22 Aug 56

SUBJECT: (U) UFO Sightings Reported From SAC Base England, and CINCUSAFE, Wiesbaden, Germany

1. Subject reports are considered somewhat out of the ordinary and are, therefore, considered to warrant the attention of higher levels.

2. Reference attached teletype message from England. It appears that the SAC Commander made an effort to investigate the phenomena through all possible sources; ground observers, radar and aircraft intercept.

3. Substantially the same sighting is reported by CINCUSAFE.

4. The many variables and somewhat conflicting data make it a little difficult to form an immediate conclusion from this side of the Atlantic.

5. Although maneuvers not characteristic of single meteors are described, it is of interest to inform your office that the Perseid (a yearly meteoric shower that appears from 11-19 August) is now in prominence in that latitude.

6. It is the opinion of this office that the USAF Commander in question will undoubtedly take further investigative action to resolve the matter or arrive at some firm conclusion.

7. Copy of subject reports are being submitted to Electronics Division for comment regarding the radar aspect of these sightings.

8. Your comments are invited.

Enclosures Nos 1,2,3,&4 are withdrawn for [illegible] in accordance with AFR 205-1

George T. Hagen
GEORGE T. HAGEN
Captain, USAF

1. Msg SAC [illegible]
2. Msg SAC [illegible]
3. Msg dtd [illegible] 56 (U), [illegible]
4. Msg [illegible]

Capt G T Hagen:
This sighting should be immediately referred to DCI Higher & request placed on SAC (Eng) & CINCUSAFE (Ger) for additional information after your discussion with AFCIN. [illegible]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED ACTION

[redacted]

21 Aug 56 1321

[redacted] CRYPTOPROCAUTION APPLIES./ [redacted] 7-55A. ACTIV
[illegible] 2 AS. SECTION OF TWO. [illegible] ACTIV
[illegible] OF AFR 205-2, 12 [illegible] 54. [illegible] OF [illegible]

PAGE TWO [illegible] SAC
[illegible] 21 AUG 56 [illegible] STATES CONSIDERED CORRECT
[illegible] LAST OF STATIONARY [illegible] AT 2000-2010
[illegible] ISOPHOTES [illegible] SCORE [illegible] ILS LAST OF STATIC
[illegible] APPROACH [illegible] SCORE [illegible] ILS LAST OF STATIC
[illegible] ILS LAST OF STATIC ON SCORE.
[illegible] STATES [illegible] POTTS [illegible] CONSIDERED LIGHT PASSED OVER
[illegible] TO [illegible] AT ABOUT [illegible]
[illegible]

LASSIFICATION CHANGED TO UNCLASSIFIED, EFFECTIVE 15 MARCH 1968, UNDER THE
UTHORITY OF AFR 205-1, PARA 2-176 (11), BY MAJ HECTOR [redacted]
UINTANILLA, J , [signature].

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[illegible] STATIONARY [illegible] CONSIDERED LIGHTS AT [illegible]
[illegible] CONSIDERED LAST STATIONARY SCORE [illegible] LIGHTS
[illegible] AT THE [illegible] APPROACH. (U)
[illegible] 22-0122 [illegible] AFR 205-1 [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] S

[redacted]

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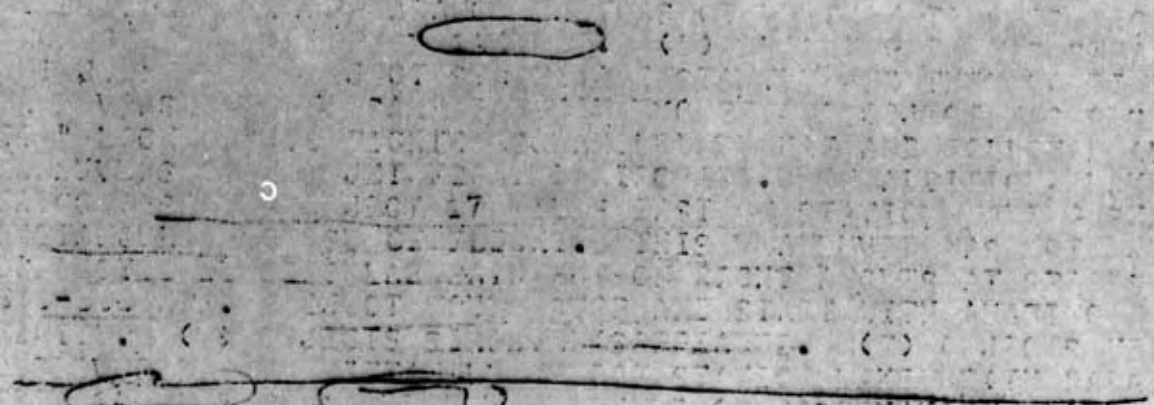

Lakehurst Radar observations

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

IDO-7335
21 Aug 56

[redacted]

NOTE

[redacted]

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[redacted] ACTION

17 AUG 56 09 02

1/2/3/4 4E1 - 4X

[redacted] / [illegible] SECTION [illegible] OF [illegible].
PILOT REPORTED HE HAD A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT ON SIGHTING TARGET
INVESTIGATE. AT THIS TIME ILS, VOR [illegible] REPORTED LOSS OF TARGET
THE WHITE LIGHT. LATER THE RATCC VECTORED HIM TO A TARGET AT
MILES [illegible] OF LAKEHEATH. THE PILOT ATTACKED TARGET [illegible] AND
[illegible] WAS "[illegible] C". PILOT REPORTED HE HAD LOST TARGET ON HIS
RADAR. LATER THE RATCC REPORTS THAT AS THE [illegible] PASSED THE TARGET
[illegible] TARGET BEGAN A FAIL CHASE OF THE [illegible] FIGHTER.
RATCC [illegible] PILOT ACQUIRED THIS CHASE. PILOT ACQUIRED TARGET AND
[illegible] TRY TO [illegible] AND DID ATTACK THE TARGET. PILOT

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H. Quintanilla Jr.

A [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

31

TARGET DISAPPEARED AND SECOND AIRCRAFT DID NOT ESTABLISH CONTACT.
FIRST AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO HOME STATION BUT TO BEING LOST ON RETU
[illegible] WAS VECTORED TO OTHER RADAR TARGETS BUT WAS UNABLE TO
[illegible] CONTACT. SHORTLY BEFORE FIGHTER RETURNED TO HOME STATION THE
[illegible] 8. NO FURTHER INTERCEPTION ACTIVITIES WERE UNDERTAKEN.
[illegible] TARGETS DISAPPEARED FROM SCOPES AT APPROXIMATELY 2330 Z.
[illegible] OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WERE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED BY RADAR
[illegible] FLIGHT PLANS AS BEING FRIENDLY. 11. PAUL G. STINSON
[illegible] CAPTAIN, [illegible] SERVICE, 51-TH FIGHTER (SPCA), 8TH
[illegible] SUFFOLK, ENGLAND. ALL PERSONNEL INVOLVED
[illegible] NO LEGAL REALITY TO THE WITNESSES OF SCOPE WITNESSING
[illegible] A NEAR MID AIR FIGHT [illegible] THE ACCIDENT. WE ARE [illegible]
[illegible] CONTROLLED [illegible] WITH [illegible] TECHNICAL FIELDS
[illegible] THAT THE CENTERS
[illegible] SCOPE. THE ATT WAS [illegible]
[illegible] THE SCOPE. [illegible]

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[illegible] AND ALTITUDE STEPS OF [illegible] LEVEL [illegible] SIMILARITY TO THE [illegible]. IT IS [illegible] THESE [illegible] WERE [illegible] METEOROLOGICAL OR ASTRONOMICAL ORIGINS. (12) [illegible] DATING.

[illegible] AUG PUJOLS

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ACTION

21 AUG 56 13 21

32

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ACTION

[redacted]

17 AUG 5[illegible]

[redacted]

1/2/3 4E4

4-4X2 ~ge

[redacted] / [illegible] EOI [illegible]. SECTION OUT OF TWO.

THIS IS "[illegible]" REPORT IN COMPLIANCE WITH 2[illegible]-2, 16 AUGUST 1954.

MILITARY OR BACKGROUND INFO: AT 2255 , 15 [illegible] OF AUGUST

SGA SIGNAL SEN OF THIRTY MILES EAST OF THE STATION TRAVELLING

[illegible] AT 2[illegible]-4[illegible] MPH. OBJECT DISAPPEARED [illegible] SCOPE TWO MILES

EAST OF STATION AND IMMEDIATELY APPEARED ON SCOPE TWENTY MILES

WEST OF STATION WHERE IT DISAPPEARED TWENTY MILES WEST OF STATION

ON SCOPE. E [illegible] REPORTED TO SGA A

[illegible] PASSED OVER THE FIELD [illegible] TO WEST OF STATION

[illegible] ABOUT 45[illegible] [illegible] AT 2[illegible] [illegible] OF IN

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D

NOTE

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[illegible] JULBA 44.
[illegible] STATION LAKENHEATH GCA WAS ALERTED BY RT THATTER GCA TO BE ON
LOOKOUT FOR UNUSUAL TARGETS. (B) GROUND OBSERVERS ESTIMATE OBJECTS
[illegible] 20-25[illegible] FEET ALTITUDE AND WERE ON A SE HEADING. OBJECT STOPPED
AND IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED A EASTERLY HEADING. BOTH STATION LAKENHEATH
GCA AND LAKENHEATH TACTIC CONTROL CENTER REPORTS RADAR TRACKING FROM 5
[illegible] MILES WEST TO ABOUT TWENTY MILES SE WHERE TARGET STOPPED AND
ASSUMED A STATIONARY POSITION FOR FIVE MINUTES. TARGET THEN ASSUMED
A HEADING NORTH WESTERLY INTO THE STATION AND STOPPED TWO MILES
[illegible] OF STATION. LAKENHEATH GCA REPORTS THREE TO FOUR ADDITIONAL
TARGETS [illegible] FOLLOWING THE SAME MANEUVERS IN THE VICINITY OF THIS
STATION. [illegible] TWO RADAR SETS AND THREE GROUND OBSERVERS REPORT
[illegible] SAME. RADARS REPORTED THESE FACTS TO OCCUR AT LATER
HOURS THAN THE GROUND OBSERVERS. (C) GROUND OBSERVERS REPORT
NO CHANGE IN ALTITUDE AND OBJECTS DISAPPEARED ON EASTERLY
HEADING. [illegible] SETS STATION [illegible] DISAPPEARANCE OF TARGETS. OTHER
[illegible] DISAPPEARED WHEN SCOPES AT APPROXIMATELY [illegible]
(D) [illegible] WAY SEPARATE BUT [illegible] WITH OBJECT STOPPING
[illegible] AND THEN COMING [illegible] SAME PATTERN
[illegible] WAS CONFINED TO "[illegible] CONTROLLER
[illegible] RADAR AND TOWER [illegible] OF THE 3RD FIGHTER

NOTE

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[illegible] ATLANTIC, [illegible] CONTACT 17 MILES
[illegible] ANGLE SHOWS BEGINNING OF COURSE OF FLIGHT. THIS
[illegible] CONDUCTED ON SIMPLE PATTERN [illegible] ANGLES
[illegible] OF [illegible] WILL STOP AND START WITH HEADING
[illegible]. (C) [illegible] (D) OBJECTS WERE OBSERVED
[illegible] RADAR FROM LAKENHEATH TO
[illegible] : (1) GROUND-VISUAL, AIRCRAFT REPORTS
[illegible] EQUIPMENT WAS TS-10,
[illegible] ALTIMETER WAS A-1 EQUIPMENT IN BRITISH
[illegible] FORMALLY VISUAL (2) [illegible].
(3) BRITISH AIRCRAFT [illegible] OPERATING OUT OF RAF STATIONS
[illegible] AND THEY WERE SIGHTING. (4) PILOT
[illegible] (5) [illegible] (NO SIGHTS AND TIMING OF SIGHTS-
[illegible]) [illegible] STATION LAKENHEATH
[illegible] (6) [illegible] CHART OF ALL OBSERVERS:

[redacted]

PAGE TWO RUWLGA 43

[redacted]

7. WEATHER AND WINDS-ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTINGS: (A) CLEAR SKY UNTIL 2300Z SHORTLY THEREAFTER SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 2500 FT. (B) FROM MIDNIGHT UNTIL 0500Z SURFACE WIND WAS AT 290 DEG AT 13 KNOTS; 6000 FT 290 DEG AT 24 KNOTS; 10000 FT 290 DEG AT 35 KNOTS; 15000 FT 290 DEG AT 45 KNOTS; 20000 FT 290 DEG AT 55 KNOTS; 30,000 FT 290 DEG AT 62 KNOTS; 50,000 FT 290 DEG AT 75 KNOTS. (C) CEILING UNLIMITED. (D) VISABILITY FROM 0001Z TO 0400Z WAS 10 NAUTICAL MILES. (E) 1/10 OF SKY COVERED AT 2500FT (K) NEGATIVE.

8. GROUND OBSERVERS REPORT UNUSUAL AMOUNT SHOOTING STARS IN SKY. FURTHER STATE THE OBJECTS SEEN WERE DEFINETLY NOT SHOOTING STARS AS THERE WERE NO TRAILS BEHIND ASSAME USUAL WITH SUCH A SIGHTING.

9. INTERCEPTION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY ONE BRITISH JET FIGHTER ON ALERT BY S.TH.AAA SECTOR CONTROL. AIRCRAFT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE SEEN A VEHICLE. THE AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER RAF STATION LAKENHEATH AND WAS VECTORED BOUND A TARGET ON BEARING 5 MILES EAST OF THE FIELD.

10.

17/1630Z RUWLGA

[redacted]

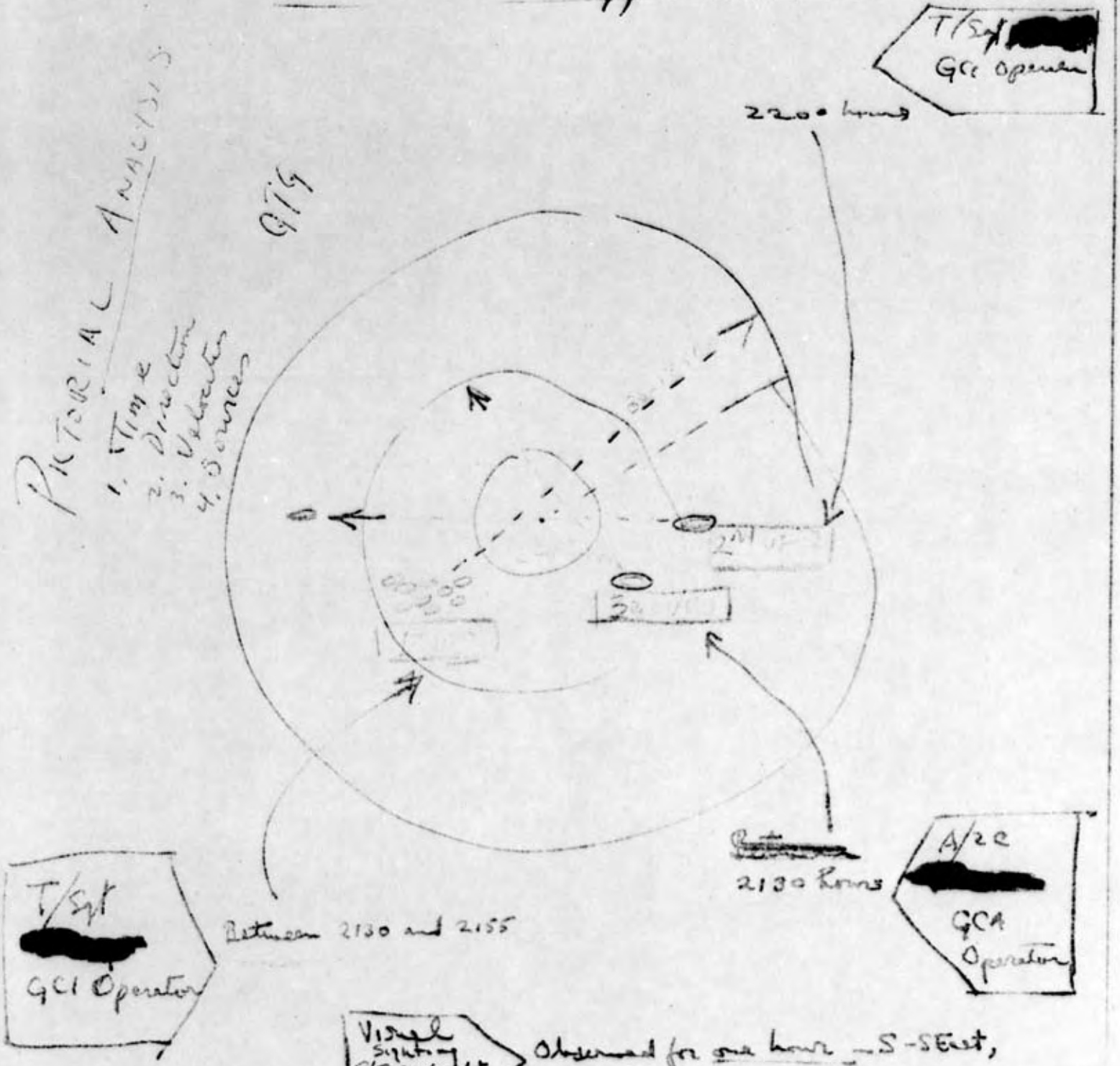
BOI-485
16 Aug 56

[redacted]

LAKENHEATH - BENTWATERS SIGHTINGS

PICTORIAL ANALYSIS
1. Time
2. Direction
3. Velocity
4. Sources

GTG



Visual Sighting S/Sgt Wright 2120-2220

Observed for one hour - S-SEast, 1st - 10° above horizon, One hr later: 80° appearance - size of pinpoint. ?

Note: Mars, bright and red, and near to the horizon at this time.

Scope Presentations

G.T.G.