

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		File No. 24-424	Date 8 December 1954
Title (Unclassified) UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS Over Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, and particularly Sylacauga, Alabama, 30 November 1954 24-185-8-30		Report Made By DONALD T. SCAFF, S/A adt	
		Report Made At DO #8, Maxwell AFB, Alabama	
		Period 30 Nov; 1 Dec 54	
		Office of Origin DO #8, Maxwell AFB, Alabama	
		Status CLOSED	

Character
SPECIAL INQUIRY

UNCLASSIFIED

Reference
TWX, DO#8 to Dir. OSI, CIID 112, dtd 2 Dec 54

Synopsis

Investigation requested by Commander, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, as a result of unconfirmed reports of aerial explosions, alleged aircraft crashes and unidentified flying objects. One unidentified flying object fell through roof of house injuring occupant. Object obtained by Air Rescue aircraft, returned to station and examined by Geiger Counters with negative results. Flight Service Center received numerous reports of aircraft crashes, aerial explosions and flying objects in area where UFOB found. Air Defense Command informed of situation under provisions of AFR 200-2 and directed AISS Team to question persons with knowledge of reports of explosions and to obtain UFOB for transmission to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for purpose of determining its origin. Considerable publicity resulted in object having been obtained by USAF. Guided Missile Expert advised UFOB not of similar substance used in his field of experiments. Geologist with Research Studies Institute advises that without complete examinations of object, he could identify it only as "either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite". UFOB released to AISS Team. Husband of victim alleged to have retained attorney to regain UFOB from USAF.

A T T E N T I O N

Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of such investigative information to persons mentioned in the report or to other persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, Headquarters USAF, or higher authority. Unauthorized disclosure of the information will be considered to be a violation of AFR 205-1.

Distribution Cmdr. 3800th AB Wg. 2 (Info)(w/incls) Dir. OSI (w/incls) 2 DO#14 (Info)(w/incls) 2 (Cmdr ADC, Info - 1, w/incls) DO#5 (Info)(w/incls) 2 (Cmdr W-P AFB, Attn: ATIC, Info - 1, w/incls) File 2		Action Copy Forwarded to CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BY KURT K. KUNZE Capt USAF Historian DATE 4 DEC 1975	File Stamp 24-185-8-30 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL DEC 11 30 1954 OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS O'Donnell
Approved: <i>[Signature]</i> R. L. ATCHLEY Colonel, USAF District Commander			

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was requested by Commander, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, predicated upon unconfirmed reports of aerial explosions, alleged aircraft crashes and unidentified flying objects, one of which is alleged to have fallen through the roof of house, injuring civilian female occupant, on 30 November 1954.

2. This is a joint investigation by Special Agent KENNETH L. ATCHLEY and the writer.

AT MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

3. At 1540 hours, 30 November 1954, [redacted], Captain, Adjutant, 3800th Air Base Wing, telephonically advised Special Agent ATCHLEY that GILBERT P. COHEN, 2d Lt., Officer of the Day, had at 1530 hours, received a telephone call from [redacted], Sylacauga, Alabama, to the effect that a large object of either rock or metallic substance had fallen through the roof of a house in Sylacauga a few hours previously, and said object had struck and injured a woman occupant of the house. [redacted] stated further that an explosion of some type had occurred in the air over Sylacauga at approximately the same time as the object had struck the house. [redacted] further advised that aircraft had been seen in the area just prior to the explosion. [redacted] stated according to his information, the object had been hot when it was found on the floor of the house. [redacted] further informed [redacted] that a 48th Air Rescue Squadron helicopter had been dispatched to Sylacauga to obtain the object and return it to Maxwell AFB, and Colonel JAMES G. FRATT, Commander, 3800th Air Base Wing, had requested that Special Agent ATCHLEY meet the helicopter upon its return from Sylacauga and examine the object in an attempt to identify its origin.

4. At 1600 hours, 30 November 1954, WILLIAM R. AUSTIN, WOJG, Adjutant, 3860th Air Base Group, Gunter AFB, Alabama, telephonically notified the writer that at approximately 1315 hours he had received a telephone call from Mrs. [redacted], Montgomery, Alabama, to the effect that at approximately 1245 hours, she had seen a large explosion in the air followed by a large puff of black smoke. Mrs. [redacted] stated that the explosion appeared to be in a northern direction from Montgomery, and she saw only a large explosion of flame followed by the black smoke, but did not hear the explosion. [redacted] stated that Mrs. [redacted] could furnish no further pertinent information.

5. At 1610 hours, 30 November 1954, [redacted], [redacted] Light Service Center, was telephonically contacted regarding any reported aircraft crashes. [redacted] advised they had received numerous reports of alleged aircraft crashes and/or explosions during the afternoon from numerous places in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, including a report of an explosion in the area of Sylacauga, Alabama. [redacted] advised that all received reports had been or were being checked, all with negative results. [redacted] further verified that the 48th

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Air Rescue Squadron presently had a helicopter in Sylacauga to obtain the object reported to have fallen in that area, and it was expected to return to Maxwell AFB at approximately 1715 hours.

6. At 1700 hours, 30 November 1954, the late edition of the Alabama Journal, a local newspaper, was screened for publicity concerning the cited reports. The following item was listed on the front page of said newspaper and is quoted verbatim below:

"PILOT REPORTS BLAST 60,000 FEET ABOVE MONTGOMERY"

"A pilot flying over Montgomery early this afternoon reported sighting of an explosion of an unidentified object over Montgomery, about 60,000 feet up.

"The object exploded about 1:30. The pilot was not identified.

"Meanwhile, a resident of the Cloverland area reported she saw an object, which she described as larger than a fireworks display, disintegrated before it hit the ground.

"Police said they did not have any report of the alleged explosion and the Highway Patrol reported that a search was on in the Sylacauga area for reported unidentified object which fell with a flash in an area north of Montgomery and southeast of Birmingham.

"Reports received here at 2 p.m. said what appeared to be an explosion was heard high over Sylacauga. An unidentified object fell through the roof of a home and injured a woman."

7. At 1730 hours, 30 November 1954, [redacted] Air Rescue Squadron, pilot of helicopter referred to previously, returned from Sylacauga, Alabama, and released to Special Agent ATCHLEY the object which allegedly fell through the roof of a house in Sylacauga. The object was estimated to weigh approximately nine (9) pounds, and appeared to be of rock or metallic substance, and was of black or charcoal color. [redacted] advised that he had obtained this object from Mayor EDWARD J. HOWARD and Chief of Police W. D. ASHCRAFT at Sylacauga, Alabama. [redacted] informed him to the effect that Mrs. [redacted], three (3) miles east of Sylacauga, had reported to him that between 1245 and 1300 hours, 30 November 1954, the object fell through the roof of her house while she was lying on the couch, and struck her on the body. [redacted] stated to the best of his knowledge, the object was not hot when it struck Mrs. [redacted], nor was it hot when he obtained it from Mrs. HODGES.

8. At 1800 hours, 30 November 1954, 1st Lt. GEORGE R. BUMFORD, Flight Service Center, furnished the log book of 48th Air Rescue Squadron Operations for

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30 November 1954, and indicated the following notations pertaining to reports received concerning aircraft crashes and/or mid-air explosions:

a. 1238 hours: Mrs. [redacted], Homerville, Georgia, reported seeing an explosion in the air, estimated to be approximately five (5) miles north of Homerville, Georgia.

b. 1248 hours: Maxwell AFB Tower reported seeing a ball of smoke which appeared to be falling; estimated position five (5) miles north of runway #36. Search by B-25 reported negative.

c. 1301 hours: Assorted reports of crashes and explosions as follows:

- (1) Mr. [redacted], Marietta, Georgia, reported to Dobbins AFB, Georgia, Fire Department that he saw explosion in the air, estimated one-quarter mile south of Smyrna, Georgia. Object resembled falling jet aircraft.
- (2) Mr. [redacted], Atlanta, Georgia, reported seeing explosion in the air resembling a falling jet.
- (3) Birmingham, Alabama Airport Tower reported silver object falling at bearing 135 degrees, forty miles southeast of Birmingham. Small plane pilots reported smoke in same area at same time.

d. 1310 hours: Aircraft crash reported from Phenix City, Alabama. Search negative.

e. 1315 hours: Unidentified civilian, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, reported seeing orange flash in sky, then falling objects.

f. 1320 hours: Dobbins AFB, Georgia, Tower reported crash in vicinity of Newnan, Georgia, southwest of Atlanta, Georgia.

g. 1325 hours: Airline pilot reported crash or explosion below his altitude of 8,000 feet.

h. 1330 hours: Mr. [redacted], Mississippi, reported jet aircraft on fire in air approximately 25 miles east of Greenwood, Mississippi.

[redacted] advised that he could furnish no further pertinent information.

9. At 1845 hours, 30 November 1954, Mr. [redacted], Montgomery, Alabama, telephonically advised the writer that at 1400 hours, this date, he had observed a large explosion followed by a mass of white flame and black smoke, due north of Montgomery, Alabama. [redacted] advised that after the explosion, which he did not hear, he saw an object zig-zagging downward from the flame puff.

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10. At 1915 hours, 30 November 1954, JOHN BABCOCK, Colonel, Chief, Special Weapons Branch, Command and Staff College, examined the object with Geiger Counters which revealed no indication of radio activity.

11. At 2120 hours, 30 November 1954, RODMAN REDARD, Captain, Duty Officer, Directorate, Special Investigations, Washington, D. C., was telephonically advised of the above related events which had transpired as of this time, in compliance with AFR 200-2, by Special Agent ATCHLEY.

12. On 1 December 1954, three (3) views of the object were photographed by the Maxwell AFB Alert Photographer. These photographs are attached as Inclosure #1.

13. At 1025 hours, 1 December 1954, JOSEPH CYBULSKI, Major, Headquarters, Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado, telephonically contacted Special Agent ATCHLEY requesting information concerning the unidentified flying object which landed at Sylacauga, Alabama, 30 November 1954. CYBULSKI was furnished all pertinent information available in compliance with AFR 200-2 dated 12 August 1954. CYBULSKI advised that an Intelligence Team from Flight 2C, 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, 35th Air Division, Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Georgia, consisting of M/Sgts. LANZ and TENNILLE, had departed Dobbins AFB this date to conduct interviews at Lawson AFB, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, then would report to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, to Special Agent ATCHLEY for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the object and, if possible, to obtain the object itself. CYBULSKI suggested that the 8th District OSI could either release the object to the AISS Team or could forward it to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. CYBULSKI advised that the above action was required in order to effect compliance with applicable provisions of AFR 200-2.

14. On 1 December 1954, Mr. FOSTER HALEY, Public Information Officer, and Dr. ERNST STUHLINGER, Guided Missile Expert, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, examined the object and discussed the events with Special Agent ATCHLEY. Dr. STUHLINGER advised Special Agent ATCHLEY the object was not part of any equipment or materiel in use at their station.

15. On 1 December 1954, Special Agent ATCHLEY telephonically contacted Mr. GILBERT R. LEVY, Chief, Counter Intelligence Investigations Division, Directorate, Special Investigations, Washington, D. C., and briefed him on all pertinent information available at this time regarding the incident.

16. On 1 December 1954, GEBHARD LANZ, M/Sgt., AF 33131779, and CARL G. TENNILLE, M/Sgt., AF 6973086, Flight 2C, 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, Dobbins AFB, Georgia, contacted Special Agent ATCHLEY and were briefed on all pertinent information available, by Special Agent ATCHLEY and the writer. LANZ advised that they had already obtained all information contained in Log Book of Flight Service Center, concerning the unidentified flying object and desired to obtain the object itself for return to Dobbins AFB and further transmission to Wright-Patterson AFB. The object was at this time released to LANZ and TENNILLE by Special Agent ATCHLEY.

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17. On 1 December 1954, LANZ and TENNILLE, accompanied by Special Agent ATCHLEY and the writer, interviewed Professor FREDERICK K. MORRIS, Geologist, Arctic-Desert-Tropic Information Center, Research Studies Institute, concerning the object. After considerable deliberation and examination of the object, Dr. MORRIS advised that due to present circumstances of urgency to forward object to Wright-Patterson AFB, which would permit him only a very limited examination of the object, he could identify it only as "either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite".

18. On 1 December 1954, JAMES G. PRATT, Colonel, Commander, Maxwell AFB, was briefed on all available pertinent information concerning the object by Special Agent ATCHLEY, M/Sgt. LANZ, M/Sgt. TENNILLE and the writer. At this time Colonel PRATT telephonically contacted the Operations Officer, 4602nd AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado, and requested that Headquarters to telephonically contact the Mayor of Sylacauga, Alabama, in an effort to satisfactorily explain the necessity for USAF examination of the object and thus avoid any publicity adverse to USAF concerning the method by which it was obtained from the Mayor of Sylacauga. This step was taken in view of increasing publicity resulting from numerous and frequent protests made by Mr. [REDACTED] concerning the USAF obtaining and withholding the object. It was determined from local newspapers that HODGES had this date obtained an attorney for the purpose of recovering the alleged meteorite from the USAF.

19. The following information from the Montgomery Advertiser, a newspaper of Montgomery, Alabama, and from the Birmingham Post-Herald, a Birmingham, Alabama newspaper, both of 1 December 1954, is quoted verbatim below:

"FRAGMENT OF METEORITE CRASHES SYLACAUGA HOME"

"SYLACAUGA, Ala., Nov. 30 (AP)—A meteorite crashed through the roof of a house here today and slightly injured Mrs. [REDACTED]."

"George Swindle, field representative of the U.S. Geological Survey, tested the nine-pound object and identified it as a sulphide meteorite."

"A mysterious explosion in the Sylacauga area, about 55 miles southeast of Birmingham, set off a three-state search today in which 35 or 40 planes took part. But there were no planes reported missing."

"The explosion was seen as far south as Phenix City, on the Alabama-Georgia border."

"Dr. Walter B. Jones, Alabama state geologist, said evidently a meteor exploded in southeast Alabama, and Mrs. [REDACTED] was hurt by a particle of it."

"[REDACTED], who is conducting a water survey in Sylacauga, said after he identified the meteorite, it was taken to Maxwell Air Force Base at Montgomery, 'where the Air Force is required to examine such strange objects'."

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"Swindle said Mayor Ed J. Howard has assured Dr. Jones the meteorite will be placed in the state museum at the University of Alabama when it is returned by the Air Force.

"Sylacauga police rushed to the [redacted] home when the object crashed through the roof about 1 p. m.

"Mrs. [redacted] said she was lying on a couch in the living room of the frame house when the meteorite smashed a three-foot wide hole in the room and came tumbling through the ceiling.

"It hit our radio at one end of the couch and bounced off on me. It hit me on the arm and hip", she said.

"Police summoned a doctor when they arrived and Mrs. [redacted] was treated for bruises. She was reported in good condition tonight.

"We had a little excitement around here today", she told her husband when he came home from work.

"A meteorite fell through the roof."

[redacted] is a tree surgeon and knew nothing of the incident until he came home from work tonight. He had been trimming trees for the telephone company.

"I don't believe I want to talk to anybody else for a while", said Mrs. [redacted] "I'm kind of tired".

[redacted] said his wife told him the house had been full of people all afternoon.

"She said there must have been several hundred", he added.

[redacted] said he had no insurance on the house, and hadn't estimated the damage. He said the radio apparently was damaged extensively.

"Swindle said the meteorite was about six inches in diameter. He said the inside was a metallic, grey granular substance, which responded to tests given for sulphide. The outside coating was a black satin appearing substance.

"Dr. Jones said tonight he would welcome the meteorite, since the University museum does not have such an object from Alabama."

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"Plunges Through Roof of House—

"METEORITE HITS SYLACAUGA WIFE

3 States View Air Explosions

"Woman is First Person in History Known to be Struck by Sky Object

"A large meteor exploded high in the heavens above Alabama yesterday afternoon and a piece of it fell through the roof of a Sylacauga house and bruised a 31-year-old housewife.

"Mrs. [REDACTED], a plump, cheerful woman, was lying asleep on a sofa in her living room when she became the first person in history known to have been struck by a meteorite.

"The fragment, torn loose from the meteor by one of three terrific explosions of fire and smoke, smashed a three-foot wide hole in the roof of the Hodges' home.

"The meteorite, identified by experts as being of the sulphide variety, landed on Mrs. [REDACTED] hip and 'made a big bruised place'.

"It also hit me on the hand and it swelled up', she said.

"Her hand still was swollen last night, and was turning blue-black and green.

"She said the bruises of her hip were even more colored.

"The object which struck Mrs. [REDACTED] was identified as a meteorite (a meteor which strikes the ground) by George Swindle, field representative of the U. S. Geological Survey.

"The explosion which tore the meteor to bits happened at 12:45 p.m. and caused wild excitement not only in Sylacauga where everyone seemed to have been viewing the heavens, but also in other parts of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

"The explosion probably occurred some 40 miles up, but was heard over a wide distance and seen even further.

"A Birmingham man who saw the explosion but did not hear it, said a mushroom-shaped cloud formed in the direction of Sylacauga from Birmingham and lasted for about 15 minutes before dissipating.

"Observers in Sylacauga could see the smoke but could not tell its shape since it was directly overhead.

"The piece which hit Mrs. [REDACTED] was examined by Swindle on the scene. He happened to be in Sylacauga conducting a water survey.

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"After he viewed it, an Air Force captain in a helicopter landed in the small city 50 miles southeast of Birmingham and whisked the meteorite away to Maxwell Field at Montgomery.

"Swindle said Sylacauga Mayor Ed J. Howard gave assurances that the object will be placed in the State Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama when it is returned by the Air Force.

"But Mrs. [redacted]' husband, who didn't know about the incident until he got home from work early last night, was furious about the loss of the meteorite.

"I am going to demand that the Air Force return the stone to me', he said. 'They had no business taking it away in the first place.'

[redacted] did not get to see the meteorite before it was flown away.

[redacted] an employe of Bell Telephone Co., said he thought he could 'get enough evidence that the thing fell in my house.'

"The meteorite which hit Mrs. [redacted] weighed almost 10 pounds.

"Police Chief W. D. Ashcraft and other officers who handled it before it was turned over to the Air Force, said it was a metallic object, black and scorched-looking.

"Swindle, the geologist, said the meteorite was six inches in diameter. He said the inside was a metallic, gray granular substance which responded to tests given for sulphides.

"The outside coating was a black satin appearing substance.

"Besides striking Mrs. [redacted], the meteorite caused quite a stir in Sylacauga.

"Almost everyone in town saw the smoke which followed the explosion and a goodly number saw the explosion itself.

[redacted], a country store operator and farmer, was outside his home when he heard the explosions.

"First there was a loud boom', he said. 'Then in a few seconds there was another one and then a third'.

[redacted] said after the first and second explosions, he located the direction of the noise and looked aloft and saw the third. There was a little fire and a lot of black smoke.

"He was about two miles from the [redacted] house.

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"A woman who lived directly across the street from the [redacted] home, Mrs. [redacted], was in her front yard planting shrubbery when the fragment fell.

"But I didn't hear anything", she said. "I didn't even know anything had happened until somebody came out and told me about it".

"Mrs. [redacted] said she didn't hear anything either.

"She was asleep on a sofa in the living room, sleeping with her face toward the back of the sofa, her left hip up.

"When the meteorite hit her roof, it slanted across the room and struck her on the hip and injured her hand and arm which were lying on the hip.

"I woke up and thought the house was falling down", Mrs. [redacted] said. "Mama (Mrs. [redacted]) was in the next room sewing. She came running in and asked me if the house was falling down.

"I said I didn't know. I thought it was the chimney. I got up and started out of the house. Then my hip started hurting.

"I hadn't even seen the rock."

"Then she and her mother found the hole in the roof and saw the 'rock' on the floor. They called the police.

"There wasn't any smell or anything to the rock," said Mrs. [redacted].

"Police Lt. W. T. Van Sandt, when he arrived, realized what must have happened and took the object to the police station where it was identified by the U. S. geologist.

"Van Sandt said that the object was cold to the touch when he arrived.

"Mrs. [redacted] and her mother had not disturbed the meteorite.

"But her clothing was not scorched and she was not burned on the arm where it hit her.

"It's a good thing it didn't hit me in the head," said Mrs. [redacted]. "It might have killed me."

"Mrs. [redacted] thought at first the object had fallen atop a radio set in the corner and then bounced and hit her. The radio was damaged.

"But now I don't believe it did," she said. "The radio might have been hit by a piece of the ceiling or roof."

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"Police summoned a doctor who took Mrs. [redacted] to his office and X-rayed her. He did not find any broken bones and sent her home.

"Her husband did not know of any of this until he arrived home from work.

"We had a little excitement around here today', she told Hodges, in a wifely fashion. 'A meteor fell through the roof.'

"The [redacted] home is one of the oldest houses in the Sylacauga area. It is a rambling wooden house set among groves of old trees.

"One witness to the explosion said that before it exploded, the meteor appeared to be a plane on fire.

"It was a blaze of fire with a lot of smoke', said Miss [redacted] a waitress at the [redacted] near Sylacauga.

"She was standing outside waiting for a bus with two other women.

"One of them said to look at the plane on fire', Miss [redacted] said. 'We looked and there it was.'

"Just at that moment, she said, it blew up in a blinding flash and a lot of noise.

"It appeared to come out of the southeast.

"Several other persons in Sylacauga thought it was a burning plane also, and a search with some 30 or 40 airplanes got under way shortly to look for the crash.

"There were variances in the descriptions of the smoke from the explosions.

"In Sylacauga, it appeared black.

"In Birmingham and in other places at a distance, it appeared white.

"There was immediate re-action to the meteorite story from over the nation.

"Experts agreed unanimously that Mrs. Hodges was the first person known to have been struck by a meteorite.

[redacted] amateur astronomer and registrar [redacted] College, said he never had heard of it before.

[redacted] head of the astronomy department at [redacted] at Atlanta, said that the injury of Mrs. [redacted] was the first that he knew of that could be attributed to a meteor.

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"Numerous astronomers state in books on the subject that no one ever has been struck.

"But the fragment which fell from the sky over Alabama yesterday is only one of billions which strike the earth's atmosphere each day.

"Most of them are tiny particles of sand-like material, remnants of lost worlds that exploded eons ago and swarm around the sun like knats.

"Some are in regular orbits and when the earth passes through these meteor orbits, more are seen than normally.

"Only rarely does one last more than an instant of a second before being burned to a crisp by earth's atmosphere.

"The burning of the meteors is caused by their tremendous speed as they come into contact with the earth's atmosphere.

"Meteors generally start burning at about 100 miles up and burn out before they descend very far. If one is large enough to burn until it reaches an altitude of about 40 miles, it explodes in a manner similar to one which blew up over Sylacauga.

"The pieces then drift down over wide areas, hitting the ground at only moderate speeds because the air resistance slows them down.

"The fact that the Sylacauga meteor exploded at a tremendous height is substantiated by the fact that the explosion was seen from three states.

"It was seen at Phenix City and a wild report started there that the meteor was a flying saucer and that a woman saw a man get out of it.

"Guardsmen went out in planes, jeeps, ambulances and helicopter trying to find the object.

"But Guardsmen were unable to find anything, even though they scoured the area.

"The bright flash across the sky was reported simultaneously at Atlanta, Newnan and Columbus, Ga., several parts of Alabama, and as far west as Greenville, Miss.

"In Atlanta, the Air Force and State Patrol received several reports of a probable plane crash near Newnan, 40 miles southwest of Atlanta. Two patrol cars searched the area for two hours before calling off the search.

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"Radio Station WOCH in Newnan reported numerous calls from persons who said they saw a mysterious, flaming object in the sky.

"A Civil Aeronautics Admin., employee in Montgomery saw the falling meteor. He described it as 'a bright light like a falling star with a trail of smoke behind it' which fell across the horizon from a great height.

"A Maxwell Air Force pilot who was flying at high altitude also sighted it and gave a similar description.

"National Guard Sgt. Joe Clark of Elba was with the Guard in Phenix City. He said it appeared smaller than a plane.

"In Sylacauga, the descriptions of the explosions were as varied as the persons who heard it.

"To some, it was just loud 'boom, boom, booms'.

"Others heard small crackling noises and popping sounds between the big explosions.

"A Sylacauga city councilman, B. J. Phillips said it sounded like thunder to him. He was at home resting after lunch when the explosion occurred.

"Being the first person to be hit by a falling meteorite was of almost no moment to Mrs. [REDACTED]. When asked how she felt about the dubious honor, she said: 'I feel bruised.'

"And what kind of a day was it?

"It was a day when the stars fell on Alabama at last."

20. On 6 December 1954, copy of report of incident as written by LANZ and TENNILLE was received from Flight 2C, 4602nd AISS, Dobbins AFB, Georgia, and is quoted verbatim: (Details only)

"FLIGHT 2-C, 4602D AISS
35TH AIR DIV (D), DOBBINS AFB, UFOB
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS RELATING TO UFOB SEEN AT SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA (GEOREF: GJDD 4510)

1. Received telephone call from Hq 4602d AISS, Colorado Springs, Colorado at 1/0100Z. Major Cybulski informed Sgt Lanz to proceed to the foll places and contact the foll persons and/or agencies relative to investigation of report:

a. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center (GEOREF: GJFD 3646).

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- b. Lawson Air Force Base, ~~██~~
 - c. Phenix City, Alabama, Mr. ~~██~~ (GEOREF: GJEC 5928).
 - d. Maxwell Air Force Base, Flight Service, 48 ARS, Major Kelso (GEOREF: GJDC 3928).
 - e. Sylacauga, Alabama, Mrs. ~~██~~

2. At 1/0120Z another call was received from Hq 4602d; Major De Bruler and Major Cybulski informed Sgt Lanz that a TT msg rept had been received at 35th Air Div (Def), DAFB, Marietta, Georgia (GEOREF: GJFD 2954) relative to UFOB re: TT msg M 30/2243Z from Comdr Flight Service, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

3. A check was made with 35th Division D/I and a copy of above cited msg was picked up prior to departure for investigation by M/Sgt's Lanz and Tennille at 1/0210Z. Team utilized mil vehicle.

4. At 1/0330Z team arrived at Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center, and the following information was obtained from H. W. Duke, Senior Controller ARTCC, Atlanta, Georgia (Note: Extracted verbatim from ARTCC log):

- a. At 30/1854Z Montgomery (MGM) and Maxwell (MXF) Tower reported explosion at high altitude and ball of fire trailing smoke falling north of Montgomery, Alabama (MGM).
- b. At 30/1855Z Atlanta, Georgia (ATL) Tower reported bright flash west of airport. Dobbins AFB (MGE) Tower reported this to ATL also. AF 2275 B-47 witnessed the same thing and advised object above 34,000 feet. Mr. Campbell at (TCL) Tuscaloosa, Alabama reported to TCL the same thing.
- c. At 30/1900Z Maxwell (MXF) Flight Service advised they were sending out a SA-16 from Rescue Squadron to investigate.
- d. At 30/1905 Dobbins AFB has no B-47's out. All IFR in (MGM) area accounted for.
- e. At 30/1909Z Tuscaloosa, Alabama (TCL) advised Mr. ~~██████████~~ of TCL University observed bright orange flame and pieces falling east of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama (BHM) advised it appeared to be bearing 135 degrees from (BHM). Montgomery (MGM) advised due north of Montgomery. AF 2275 (B-47) advised altitude looked to be 60,000 feet. Flight Service advised 30/1910Z.
- f. At 30/1928Z Alabama State Patrol sending unit to Smith's station (6 miles NE of Phenix City on U.S. 280) to investigate falling object reported hitting ground.

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- g. At 30/2030Z Birmingham, Alabama(BHM) Tower advised Weather Bureau had received a report that a meteorite had fallen at Sylacauga, Alabama,
 - h. Maxwell Flight Service(MXFFS) advised 30/2032Z.
 - i. At 30/2108Z Alabama State Patrol advised Birmingham(BHM) Tower a woman was injured (broken hip) by a falling object near Sylacauga, Alabama. Woman in hospital at Sylacauga, Alabama.
 - j. At 30/2115Z Eastern Airline Aircraft Trip # 181 advised Birmingham (BHM) Tower of the following: sighted a helicopter in a field 140 degrees bearing from Birmingham, Alabama and 210 degrees bearing from Anniston, Alabama(ANB). Appeared to be a fire in the field and helicopter appeared to be investigating.
5. Team departed Atlanta Municipal Airport at 1/0430Z for Lawson Air Force Base, Fort Benning, Georgia and arrived 1/0900Z.
6. At 1/1300Z Mr. J. V. Warren (Civilian), Chief Dispatcher at Lawson AFB and SFC Harold S. Murray of the Dispatchers Office LAFB were interviewed. They related the following information:
- a. At 30/1850Z telephone call was received from Mr. Marion Jones, Phenix City, Alabama, reporting the sighting of a falling object. Since Jones inferred that this was obviously an aircraft crash, emergency procedures were instituted by Lawson Operations Officer. Refer to incl # 1, UFOB rept (Completed ATIC form 164).
 - b. At 30/1915Z two helicopters were dispatched to alleged crash site with Capt Charles D. Lang in charge. Simultaneously, a ground rescue party departed to search the area. Both parties were recalled at 30/2130Z. Results of search were negative.
 - c. At 30/1945Z telephone call was received from [REDACTED], Smith Station, Alabama reporting falling object.
 - d. At 30/1950Z Capt D. W. Read, 464 Trg Carr Wg, Pope AFB, Fort Bragg, North Carolina phoned Dispatcher (Warren) that a moving object was observed from downtown Columbus, Georgia (GEOREF: GJFC 0329), bearing 270 to 280 degrees. The object with a long brilliant trail of fire exploded at approximately 40 degrees azimuth from surface.
7. An unsuccessful attempt was made to locate Capt Read. An ATIC form 164 (USAF Technical Information Sheet) was left with Mr. Warren for completion and forwarding to Flight 2-C, 4602d AISS, DAFB, Marietta, Georgia by Capt Read. Team departed for Maxwell AFB, Alabama at 1/1500Z.

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8. At 1/1900Z Intell Team arrived Operations Office, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

a. The names and locations of the following personnel were obtained:

Col K. L. Atchley
District Commander
8th District OSI (16)
Maxwell AFB

Capt Marsten
Operations Officer
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

T/Sgt Jack L. Potter
Control Tower Operator
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

b. T/Sgt Potter met Sgt Lanz at operations for completion of ATIC Form # 164(Ref incl # 2).

c. Sgt Tennille contacted Capt Marsten, 48th Air Rescue Squadron, and was informed that five helicopters were dispatched to different locations given at time of flash and/or explosion. One of the helicopters piloted by Capt Rogers landed at Sylacauga, Alabama. He acquired the object and returned with same to Maxwell AFB. (Itinerary of flights being forwarded to Flt 2-C via air mail). 48th Air Rescue Squadron transferred object to Col Atchley of OSI.

d. Sgt Tennille phoned Col Atchley from 48th ARS and was informed that Hq 4602d AISS had contacted Col Atchley regarding object. It was decided that Flt 2-C, 4602d AISS would assume custody of object. Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to the District OSI Office and were met there by Col Atchley who informed them that according to AFR 200-2 dtd 12 Aug 54, he would relinquish the object to Flt 2-C's investigating team.

e. Because of unfavorable publicity incurred by the acquisition of the object, Col Atchley suggested that the matter should be coordinated with the Base Comdr, Col James E. Pratt, 3800 Air Base Group, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Col Atchley and Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to Col Pratt's office where he was briefed on the situation; He suggested a call to Comdr 4602d AISS, outlining action for pacifying the local people involved in Sylacauga, Alabama - specifically the ~~the individual struck by~~ the individual struck by

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the object. Since AFR 200-2 outlines the disposition of UFOB matter found, Col Pratt suggested we pick up object and proceed to Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Georgia.

- f. Col Atchley suggested that the object be examined by Dr. Frederick K. Morris of the Directory of Research Studies Institute, Arctic, Desert and Tropic Information Center at Maxwell AFB. Dr. Morris stated that he was equipped for complete analysis of object, if so requested. He believed that its composition was 'either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite.' Furthermore, he suggested that the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. (GEOREF: GJNJ 5856) would be interested in its study.

9. At 1/2330Z team departed MAFB and arrived at Flight Headquarters at 2/0500Z

10. Investigators' Comments:

Because of events related in par 8e, it was decided by the team not to visit Mrs. [REDACTED] immediately but to return to DAFB, Marietta, Georgia for quick transfer of object to ATIC. If, however, it is deemed necessary, Mrs. [REDACTED] can be interviewed by Flight 2-C.

Regarding object and source of origin, the following opinions were reached. From opinions given by sources considered reliable, it is believed that an object of similar size, weight and shape, travelling at the high speed normally attributed to a meteorite, would have smashed through the floor and buried itself deep into the earth. Instead, it merely penetrated the roof and ceiling, hit Mrs. [REDACTED] and dropped on floor according to Mrs. [REDACTED] story to newspapers (Ref incl # 3). Object was forwarded to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio for further analysis.

RICHARD C. VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

21. This report is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with paragraph 7, AFR 124-1.

INCLOSURES:

COMMANDER, 3800TH AIR BASE WING, MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, HQS. USAF, WASHINGTON D. C.
COMMANDER, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AFB, COLORADO
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 14, LOWRY AFB, COLORADO

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Inclosures: (Cont'd)

COMMANDER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO, ATTN: ATIC
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

Photographs, three (3) views of UFOB.

C L O S E D

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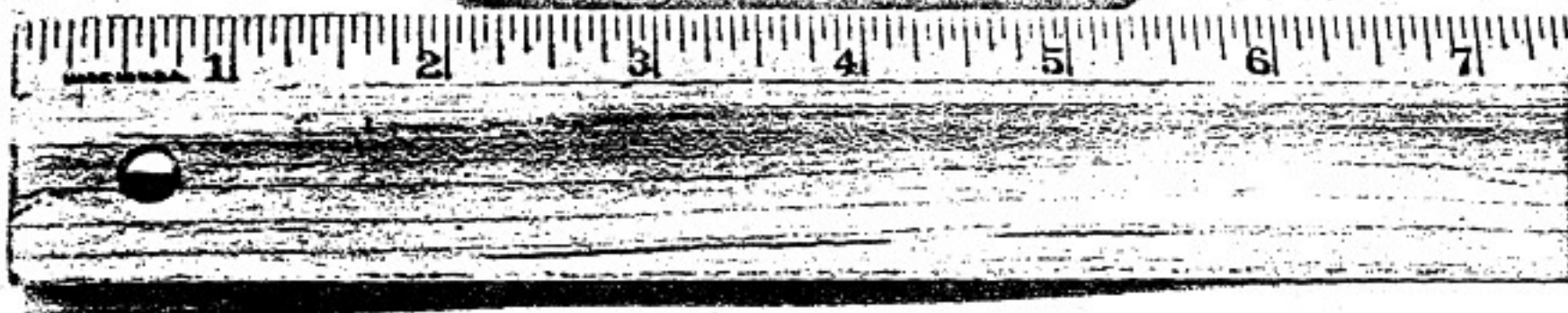
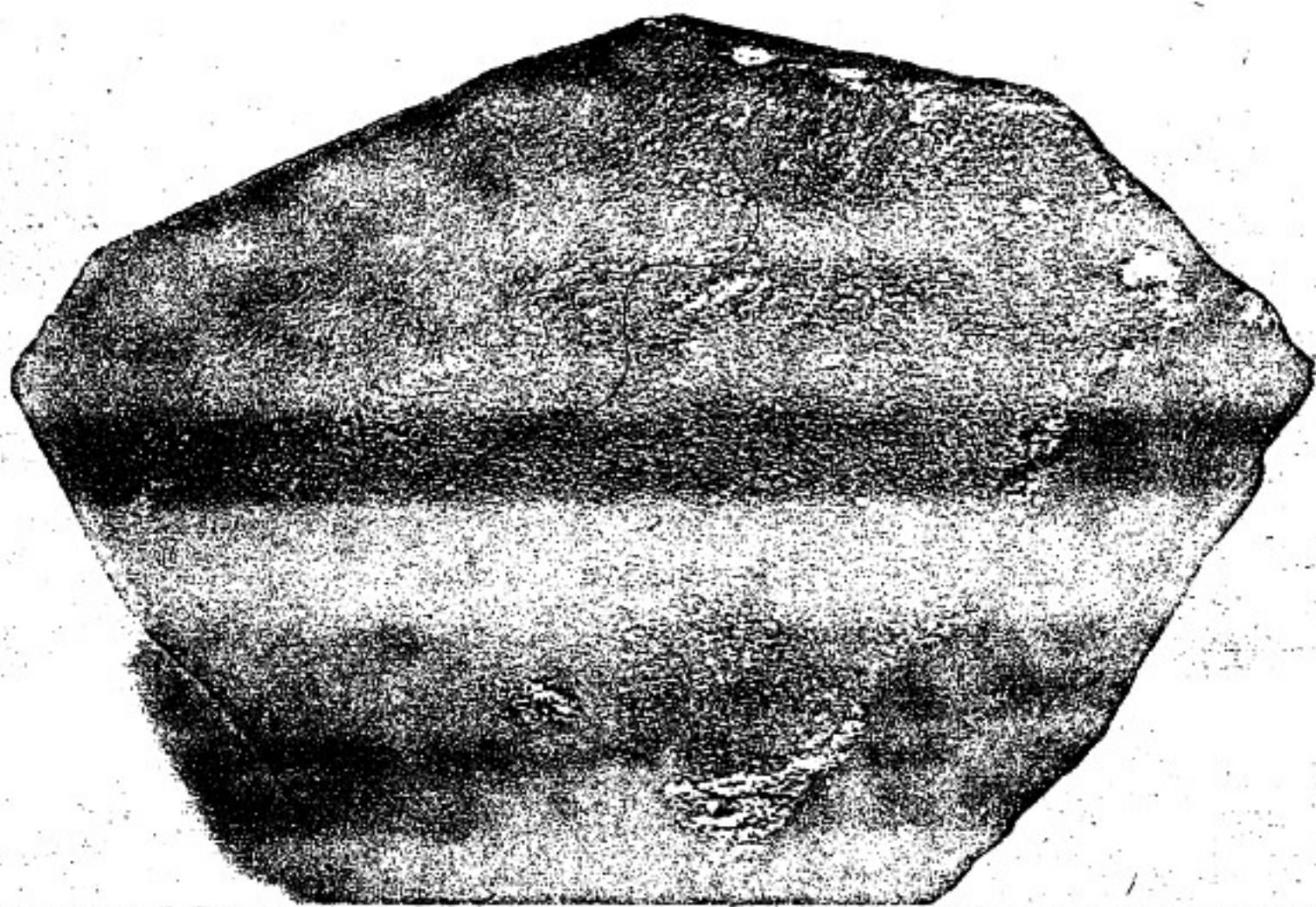


Exhibit #1

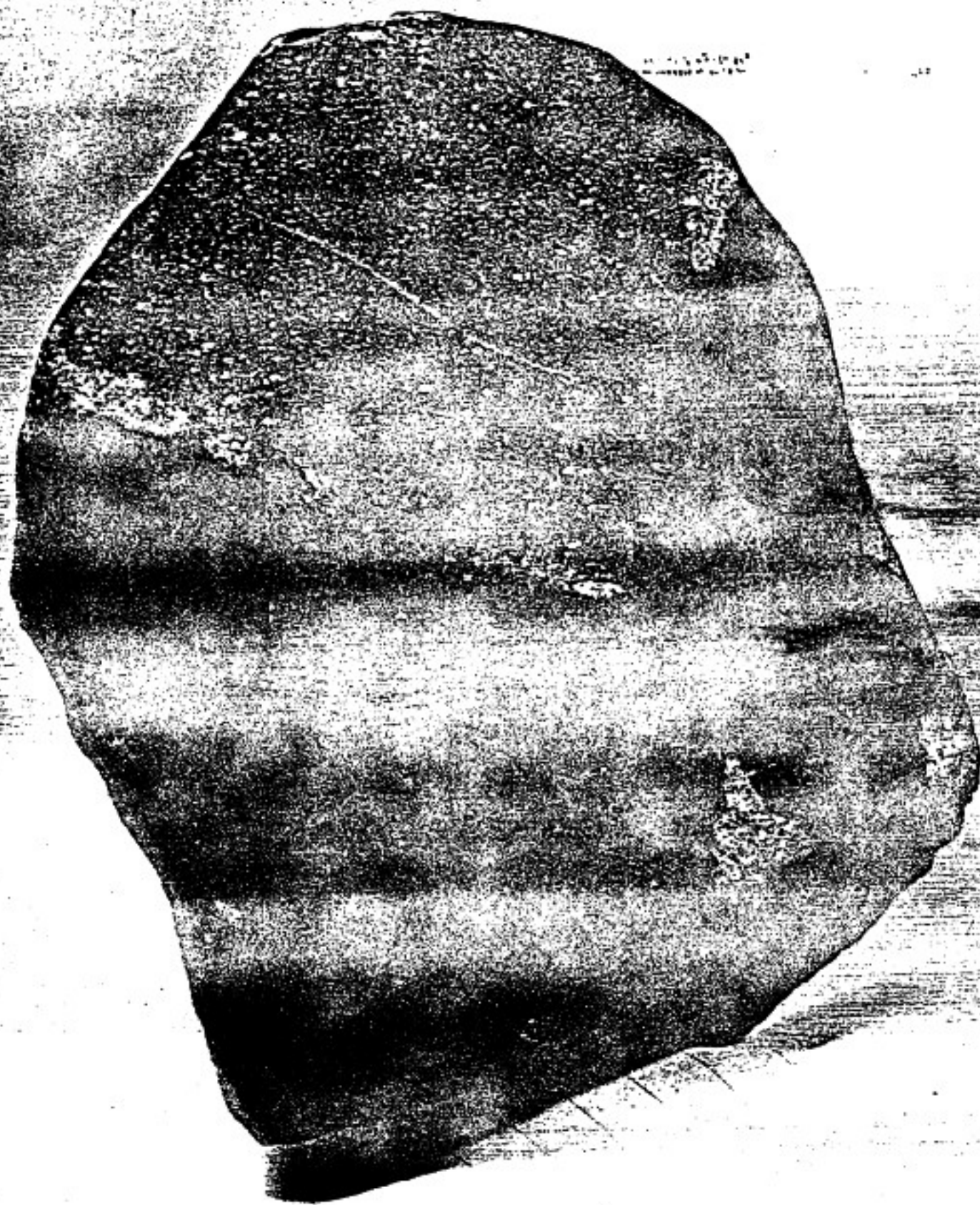


Exhibit #2

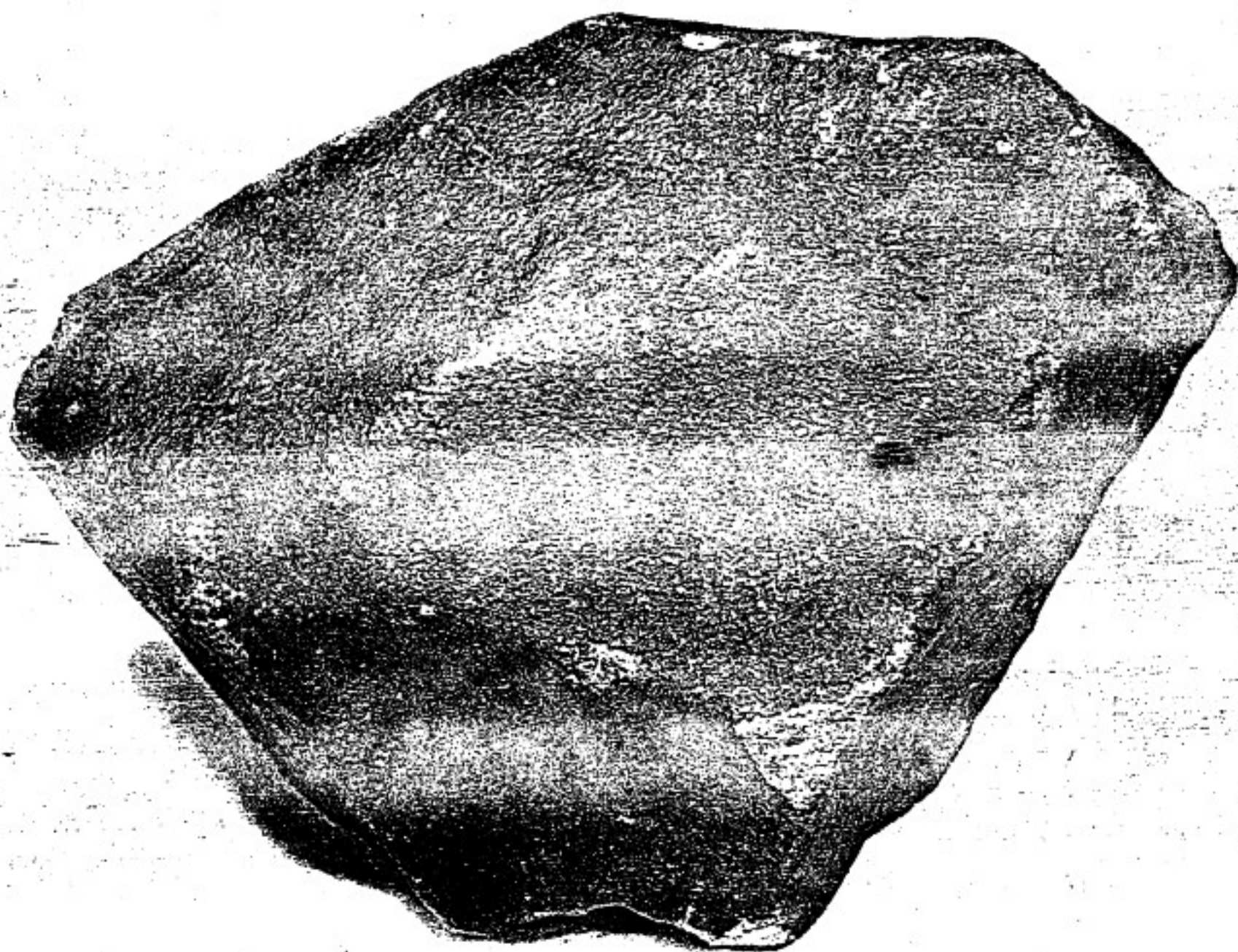


Exhibit #3

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF adt
8TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

15 DEC 1954

8D 24-424

SUBJECT: (Unclassified)
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
Over Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi
and particularly Sylacauga, Alabama,
30 November 1954
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Reference your letter dated 7 December 1954, file AFCSI-6D 24-185-8-30, concerning Subject.

2. The report of the 4602d AISS regarding Subject was set forth in paragraph 20 of Report of Investigation of Special Agent Donald T. Scaff, this District, file 24-424, dated 8 December 1954.

3. Your attention is invited to the fact that no information concerning the results of the analysis of the object by ATIG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, was contained in the report of the 4602d AISS. In the event the results of the laboratory analysis are desired, it is suggested that such information be obtained through 5th District OSI.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR
KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
BY Historian
4 DEC 1975
cc: DO#5
DATE

J. L. Atchley
A. L. ATCHLEY
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED