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CS-1-6

INFO, WICHITA FALLS, TEX., 9/28/60.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX. (AP)—A POLICE OFFICER SAID THIS MORNING HE SPOTTED A "HUGE BALL OF FIRE FALLING ALMOST DIRECTLY STRAIGHT DOWN WEST OF THE CITY" THIS MORNING.

ABOUT FIVE WICHITA FALLS OFFICERS SEARCHED THE COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT FINDING ANY TRACE OF THE OBJECT EARLY TODAY.

POLICE DISPATCHER WAYNE COBB SAID UNITS FROM SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE WERE WOULD TAKE PART IN THE SEARCH.

COBB QUOTED OFFICER WAYNE HATCHER AS SAYING HE SAW THE BALL OF FIRE AND HEARD IT HIT THE GROUND AT 4:22 A. M.

HATCHER SAID HE WAS IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY WHEN HE SAW THE FLAMING BALL ABOUT 1,000 FEET IN THE AIR. HE FOLLOWED ITS PATH DOWN AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT HIT EARTH ABOUT 5 OR 10 MILES FROM THE CENTER OF THIS NORTH TEXAS CITY.

COBB SAID FOUR OTHER OFFICERS MENTIONED SEEING THE FLAMING BALL. THEY SAID IT APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 20 FEET IN DIAMETER.

OFFICERS AT THE AIR FORCE BASE SAID THEY HAD NO PLANES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME.

WE1012AED 9/28

Handwritten signature: Mr. Floyd [unclear]

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24-189-11716
USAF IG
OFFICE OF
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Handwritten signature: M. Cochran

7 OCT 1960

Reported Unidentified Flying Object
Sighted at Tulsa, Oklahoma, on approximately
15 September 1960

2354th Air Base Wing (AWC)
Attn: CCBB
Walter Air Force Base, Oklahoma

1. On 28 September 1960, Special Agent ROBERT M. ATKISSON, OSI
Detachment 1105, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was contacted by Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mrs. [REDACTED]
advised that she and her husband had sighted a strange object in
the sky on approximately 15 September 1960. She explained her delay
in calling this office as being 'afraid she would appear foolish'.
S/A ATKISSON advised Mrs. [REDACTED] that he would contact her in
person on 29 September 1960.

2. On 29 September 1960, Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed in her home by
S/A ATKISSON. She related substantially the following information:

Approximately two weeks ago (exact date unknown), at 1900, she
and her husband were driving West in the [REDACTED]
in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At this time the sun had just gone beyond the
horizon and made the sky extremely red. Both she and her husband
noted an oblong object in the sky. During the 5 to 6 minutes it was
in view, it made two turns and then disappeared. When the object
was traveling parallel with the horizon it had a distinct oblong
appearance; however, when it went into turns it appeared to be
U-shaped. When the object was first noted it was traveling in a
northerly direction. After traveling North for a short time it made
a complete turn and headed straight South. It traveled South for
approximately 4 minutes, turned North again and shortly thereafter
it disappeared. The object appeared to be silver in color, but did
not glare or reflect the sunlight. The best description of the
appearance would be to say that it was "soft or glowing". There were
no aircraft in the air during the time the object was in view, and the
object in no way resembled an aircraft. It had no wings and left no
contrails. It appeared to be quite high and traveling about the same
speed as Echo I. During the time it was in view, it was approximately
20 degrees above the horizon.

3. When S/A ATKISSON attempted to determine the specific date the
object was sighted, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that it was the same day that
a new satellite was launched. She advised that she was referring to

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the next major satellite launching following Echo I. She recalled an article in a Tulsa newspaper and believed the satellite was called "Cochie". Mrs. ██████████ stated that she had called a newspaper, weather bureau and a Government office, the day after the sighting but no one appeared to be interested.

4. Mrs. ██████████ is a heavy set woman, approximately 50 years old. Her husband is a barber in Tulsa. Both she and her husband wear glasses for close work but she advised that they both have excellent vision at a distance. She appears to be in good health. Her conversation with S/A ATKISSON was rational; however she took offense to questions, if she could interpret them as doubting her story. Neither she nor her husband flies an aircraft. She advised that she has resided near the Tulsa Municipal Airport all her life. Her home at present is approximately two miles from the Tulsa airport.

5. Indices of this district office contain no prior reference identifiable with Mrs. DeLOZIER.

Albert C. Haum
ALBERT C. HAUM
Lt Colonel, USAF
Commander

Copy to: ✓ Dir OSI

28 September 1960 - 1720

SUBJECT: Spot Report from District Office 11 on Unidentified Flying Object
28 Sep 60

At 1545, 28 September 60, the Directorate of Special Investigations received a telephonic spot report from Special Agent Henry L. Gaylord, District Office 11, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, which is quoted below:

"Crash reported to Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas, 0425 hours, 28 September 1960, at a point five to eight miles west of Wichita Falls and witnessed by several civilian police. Sheppard AFB air police investigation at scene resulted in recovery of charred debris, including shreds of parachute. Command notification has been made to ATIC for a team to come to the scene based upon personal evaluation of the Assistant Provost Marshal, Sheppard AFB, who has had experience with 'Moon Dust'. Local news media giving coverage. No request for OSI service. Sheppard AFB Provost Marshal has custody of debris and air police are continuing search of scene. Letter report follows with further details as developed."

The office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Hq USAF, was telephonically advised of the above information upon receipt. Colonel Glen Clark, SAFOI, was also given the above information.

Addendum: "Moon Dust" is unclassified nickname for recovery of reported material from space.

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OCT 21 1960

21 OCT 1960
C. J. [unclear]

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1782

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
11TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
TINNEN AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA

Reply to
Attn of: 11D IHV 24-0

SUBJECT: (U) Moon Dust Report,
Wichita Falls, Texas
28 September 1960

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED 1 OCT 1960
BY AUTHORITY OF ~~THIS~~ ~~OFFICE~~
KURT N. RUNZE, Capt, USAF
BY Historian
DATE 4 DEC 1975

TO: Director, Special Investigations
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference is made to telephonic spot report from this district office of 28 September 1960, referred to AFCSI-6D, concerning a Moon Dust Report in the vicinity of Wichita Falls, Texas, on 28 September 1960.

2. On 4 October 1960, the Assistant Provost Marshal at Sheppard AFB, Texas, Major CARTER O. COOPER, advised that an AFIC Team from the 1127th USAF Field Activities Group, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, headed by a Capt ALEXANDER (not further identified), had investigated the incident. According to Major COOPER, the evaluations of the AFIC team could not be released at this local level; however, he said he had been informed unofficially that examination of recovered fragments indicated the incident did not come within the Moon Dust category.

3. In substance, the following information was reported to your directorate on 28 September 1960:

a. Major E. J. GALAINI, 4245th Strategic Wing (SAC), Sheppard AFB, Texas, received a report at 0425 hours on 28 September 1960 from an unknown source to the effect that an unidentified flying object (UFO) had crashed some five (5) or eight (8) miles west of Wichita Falls, Texas.

b. Sheppard AFB Air Police conducted investigation at the scene and also learned that the reported incident had been observed by several civilian police officers of the Wichita Falls Police Department.

c. At the scene, miscellaneous charred debris, including shreds of a parachute, reportedly was recovered and maintained in custody of the Sheppard AFB Provost Marshal.

d. Major COOPER (supra), who came to Sheppard AFB from an assignment involving work related to Moon Dust, made a personal evaluation

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that the crash involved Moon Dust. Accordingly, command notification was made to AFIC, with a request that AFIC send a team to conduct further investigation.

4. Investigative service by this office was not requested in this incident. There was reported coverage by local news media.

5. On the basis of Major COOPER's evaluation, local press coverage, and national press accounts indicating that the arrival in the U. S. by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV, might be accentuated by a USSR capsule recovery, a telephonic spot report was made.

6. On 3 October 1960, WILLIAM E. FEIN, Capt, AC 1847615, Information Officer, 819th Combat Support Group, Dyess AFB, Texas, reported that a person representing himself as [redacted] of the Smithsonian Institute, but having no Institute identification, requested information about this incident and asked Capt FEIN to contact Sheppard AFB, Texas, to assist in getting desired information. Capt FEIN said regulations require that information concerning possible UFO's be obtained directly from Hq USAF; thus, he was not honoring Mr. [redacted]'s request and was directing him to Hq USAF.

7. The 4 October 1960 morning edition of the Abilene Reporter-News, a reputable newspaper published at Abilene, Texas, carried an article captioned: "AF Regulations Impede Fireball Meteorite Hunt", a reproduction of which is attached. The article reports that [redacted], age 62, Associate Curator of Mineralogy, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., had received information before leaving Washington that a USAF search team, dispatched from Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, was to have searched in the local area on 30 September 1960, and that he had contacted Dyess AFB to determine where the team had checked and if anyone at Dyess AFB had seen the fall. The news item noted that Mr. [redacted] had been in Russia this year, during the midst of the U-2 incident.

8. A reproduction of an account from the 29 September 1960 edition of the Wichita Falls Record-News, a reputable newspaper published at Wichita Falls, Texas, citing USAF participation in the initial search, is attached. It was also noted that a UPI release, datelined Wichita Falls, was published in the 28 September 1960 edition of the Oklahoma City Times, a reputable newspaper published at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

9. This letter is classified ~~SECRET~~ by authority of AFR 205-1 to protect counterintelligence investigative information, the unauthorized disclosure of which could be prejudicial to the defense interests of the nation.

ALBERT C. MAUM
Lt Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 Atchs
1. News article, 29 Sep 60
2. News article, 4 Oct 60

SAYS SCIENTIST

AF Regulations Impede Fireball Meteorite Hunt

By H. V. O'BRIEN

Reporter-News Military Editor

Natural science investigation stumped its toe on Air Force regulations in Abilene Monday.

E. P. Henderson, associate curator of mineralogy for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., is in the Abilene area seeking information concerning the "fiery objects" and "strange lights" seen in this area early last Wednesday morning.

Based on reports of sightings reported in the Reporter-News and elsewhere, Henderson and his party have narrowed the area of search down to a point in northwest Haskell County where it is believed that a meteorite fell.

In order to narrow the area further, Henderson said he needed to check to see if an Air Force search team which was to have searched in the area Friday, had success.

According to information he received before leaving Washington the crew had been transferred from Fort Belvoir, Va., near the nation's capital to Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls.

An intensive search was conducted Saturday by Henderson and associates and he is continuing the hunt this week.

To determine where the team checked, and to see if anyone at Dyess AFB had seen the fall, Henderson contacted Dyess AFB Monday afternoon.

He was informed by the Dyess information office and by Lt. Col. Wilson A. Miles, 89th Air Division executive office, that any such information would have to come from the level of Air Force

headquarters at the Pentagon.

Speed in finding the object is important because certain critical measurements can only be made in a few days after the fall, Henderson said.

When asked by the Reporter-News why the Smithsonian was so interested in finding the mete-

orites and studying them, Henderson explained:

"It's very simple, these items hurl to earth at a terrific speed.

"Their entry into our atmosphere, their path of flight, the chemical and physical properties of their material that falls, gives information about the chemistry of space.

"The Smithsonian, because of its important collection of these rare objects, is the prime source for study material of such objects.

"If a large meteorite were to fall and make a crater no larger than some now known, it might trigger the nuclear War War III we all dread, because someone failed to recognize the nature of the falling object."

Although immediate success at finding this object seemed remote, Henderson expressed happiness in that this initial regulation road-block might help cut down some boundaries of research in the future.

Assisting in the investigation was an Abilenean, R. B. Edmondson of 1049 N. 6th St., West Utilities engineer, an amateur photographer and astronomer, and Oscar Moring of 1010 Morningside Drive, Fort Worth, also an amateur astronomer.

Henderson, 62, has been with the Smithsonian some 30 years and has been in some seven countries since the first of the year on different investigations for the institute.

He has been to England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, India, the Philippines, and Russia this year on investigations. He was in Russia during the midst of the U2 incident.

Abilene Reporter-News

Abilene, Texas

4 October 1955

Great Ball O' Fire! Where Did It Go?

The Air Force at SAFB refused to either confirm or deny that an object or evidence had been found Wednesday during the day's investigation of a mysterious ball be made until the investigation was completed, adding that the Air Force would continue its investigation of the fireball.

Sgt. Feeney explained that the Air Force checks on all reports of sky sightings such as the one seen Wednesday, but no statement is made regarding objects or information found until it is proven to be connected with the sighting.

However, he refused to confirm a report that an object of some kind had been found during the investigation; he also refused to confirm that nothing had been found.

The big search got started when two policemen and two photographers reported seeing a great ball of fire in the sky at 4 a.m. Wednesday.

Later, dozens of other local and area cars came in from persons reporting seeing the same big ball of fire which appeared to land and explode with a great flash of light and noise somewhere west of Wichita Falls.

After daylight, Texas Department of Public Safety patrol cars

searched areas along county roads west of town in an effort to find remains of the fireball, which searchers said could have been anything from a meteor to a spaceship from Mars.

Later they were joined by a ground search crew from SAFB and a helicopter from Fort Sill, Okla., which were used in the search until about noon.

First persons to report seeing the light in the sky were Dale Terry and Jim Cochran, Record News photographers who were riding in a police car when the 4 a.m. flash occurred. Two policemen, Doyle Miles and H. W. Hatcher, also saw the flash from different sections of town.

Terry said the flash made it "bright enough in the car to read a newspaper," although he said he didn't have a newspaper with him at the time. Cochran said the fireball seemed to "fish tail" as it hit, then exploded and lit up the entire sky.

Other reported sightings of the fireball came from the weather bureau at Abilene and Odessa, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Robertson, Times Publishing Company agents at Archer City; persons at Altus, Okla., different sections around Wichita Falls, Midland and Electra.

But, by late Wednesday no trace of a fireball, meteor or spaceship had been found.

The above article was taken from the Morning Edition of the Wichita Falls Record News, Wichita Falls, Texas, dated 23 September 1950.