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COUNTRY U.S.A.	REPORT NO. IR-1-53	(LEAVE BLANK) AF 548080
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Celestial Phenomenon		
AREA REPORTED ON Ellington Air Force Base, Texas	FROM (Agency) Intelligence, 3605th Observer Training Wing, Ellington AFB, Texas	
DATE OF REPORT 23 May 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 19 May 1953	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) S/Sgt Gerald D. Gravitt Intelligence Operations Technician	SOURCE A/3C Wendell C. Smith and five witnesses	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Air Force Letter 200-5, 29 April 1952 (uncl) Unidentified Flying Object Report		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

Report of unidentified light, thought to be a celestial phenomenon or strange flying object, as seen by the following personnel: A/3C Wendell C. Smith and Kenneth W. Maddry, both of whom work at Base Operations; A/1C Thomas R. Moore, A/3C Wanda W. Lyday, A/3C Joan L. Stevenson, and A/3C Marlene R. Jones, all of whom work in Base Weather. The report was received from A/3C Smith and was corroborated by the other five persons.

COMMENTS OF S/SGT GRAVITT:

1. A/3C W. C. Smith has 19 months service, is a high school graduate, and completed 21 weeks electronic fundamentals, and has had 10 weeks pilot training. Reason for failure to complete pilot training was poor depth perception. Airman was given on-the-job training for aircraft dispatcher. During interview airman was calm and his answers were straight forward with no hesitation.

2. This written report is made out in the form of a statement due to there being no USAF Technical Information Sheet available on this base at this time. A requisition for these forms has been sent to Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

3. The metrological department at the University of Houston was contacted as to the possibility of planets and meteors. It was their opinion that the object was not a planet as the planets could not be seen with the naked eye at this time of year, and the description of the object did not appear to be that of a meteor.

4. In summary, it is this airman's opinion that the airmen did observe some unidentified object. What it was would be a matter of conjecture.

APPROVED:

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

USAF MEMO 7/31/78
By WB. Lewis JR., Date 7/19/79PAT H. LADNER
Major USAF
Wg T&O Officer

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INCLS.

Statement, A/3C W. C. Smith

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Intelligence, 3605th Obsr
Tng Wg, Ellington AFB, Texas

IR-1-53

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Statement of facts received from A/3C Wendell C. Smith, AF 51464063. This airman is assigned to Hq Sq Sec Air Base Group, Ellington AFB, Houston, Texas where he is employed as an aircraft dispatcher.

On the evening of the 19th of May 1953, the airmen were at their respective duties at Base Operations when a telephone call was received from an unidentified person off base asking what type aircraft was in the vicinity of Houston and Ellington AFB. The airmen went out to observe the object which was a bright yellowish orange although not as bright as the stars. When first sighted, between 2230 and 2245, the object was directly overhead. The object remained visible from one to two minutes. During this time, it followed a straight course from 90° to 270°. The shape appeared to be round. No exhaust trail was seen. There was no sound heard. Maneuvers were in a straight line. Sighting continued above the horizon until it was no longer visible, due to distance. The observation was from the surface and was visual although an attempt was made to obtain a fix with theodolite which was unsuccessful. Speed was very fast but unable to be estimated accurately as size of object and altitude were unknown. The skies were clear with wind at the surface light. The surface air was warm. There was no known meteorological activity to account for the sighting. There is no physical evidence such as photographs to work up sighting. There was no interception taken. 149th AC&W Sq this base was contacted but did not receive a radar return.

Wendell C. Smith

A/3C Wendell C. Smith
Hq Sq Sec 3605th Air Bse Gp.

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AF548080

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HEADQUARTERS
3605th OBSERVER TRAINING WING
ELLINGTON AIR FORCE BASE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

113
AF548080

GD

25 May 1953

SUBJECT: FLYOBRPT

TO: Director of Intelligence
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Submitted herewith Intelligence Report, IR-1-53, subject as
above, in accordance with Air Force Letter 200-5, dated 29 April 1952.

✓ 1 Incl
Form 112 w/atchmt

Pat H. Ladner

PAT H. LADNER
Major USAF
Wg T&O Officer

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TO: JCS
FROM: JCS

RE: JCS
SUB: JCS

Re JCS message to JCS dated 200-2, dated 20 JUN 1953, subject as indicated.

TO: JCS
FROM: JCS
SUB: JCS

SUBJECT: JCS

CD

20 JUN 1953

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60/19/2