

5 FEB 1955

Captain Delwyn F. Ritzdorf  
AO742781  
3500th Pilot Training Wing  
Reese AFB  
Lubbock, Texas

Dear Captain Ritzdorf:

This organization appreciates your cooperation in reporting the Unidentified Flying Object; however additional information is needed for analysis of this sighting.

The inclosed AFIC Form No. 164 is inclosed for your convenience in supplying this squadron with the needed information. Again our thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

2 Incl  
1. Form 164  
2. Self-addressed  
Envelope

RAY L JONES  
Major, USAF  
Adjutant

FEB 2 00 13 22

1199

Send Capt. Ritzdorf a "Form A" for accomplishment

Capt. Delwyn F. Ritzdorf

AO 742781

3500<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Wing

Reese AFB

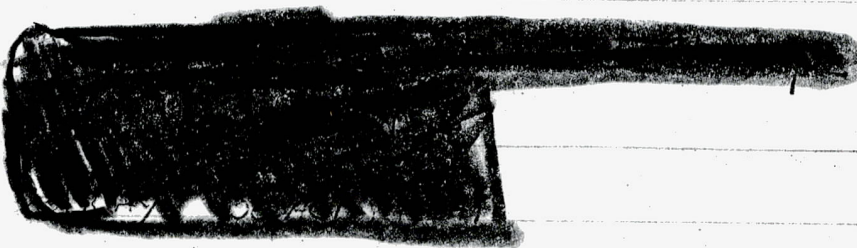
~~WACO~~, TEXAS

Lubbock, Texas

Sent

Accomplish

Fill enclosed form and return as soon as possible.





3TP 001P  
 ENA058  
 XYA103  
 XMA042RHB033  
 EMERGENCY JEDEN BWPI JEPHQ  
 DE JWPRH 1F  
 Y 020401Z  
 FM COMDR MARCH FLT SV CEN MARCH AFB CALIF  
 TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO  
 BWP/COMDR COMWESTSEAFRON TRASURE ISLAND CALIF  
 JEPHQ/CS USAF WAHS25DC  
 BT

1. CIRVIS
2. AF86894 B25 PILOT RITZDORF
3. AND 4.

UCFT IALLED COLUMBUS RADIO N.M. AND ADVISED THAT AT 1955M  
 AT 15,000 FT MSL 20 MILES EAST COCHISE, ARIZONA SAW BALL OF  
 FIRE THAT RAN PARRALLEL TO ACFT FOR 5 MINUTES AND TOOK OFF  
 EAST AND WENT OUT OF SIGHT IN 5 MINUTES. REPORT RECEIVED AT  
 EL PASO 2005M FROM COLUMBUS RADIO

BT  
 02/0402Z FEB JWPRH

02:10425Z

| TO | SECT   | INIT | ACT. | TO | COPY |
|----|--------|------|------|----|------|
|    | AISCR  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISDC  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISAJ  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISAD  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AICPR  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISDD  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISOP  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISOC  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISFC  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISR   |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISCA  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISCM  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISAS  |      |      |    |      |
|    | AISUP  |      |      |    |      |
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|    | O CLK  |      |      |    |      |
|    | DETS   |      |      |    |      |
|    | FLYS   |      |      |    |      |
|    | FILE   |      |      |    |      |
|    |        |      |      |    |      |
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|    |        |      |      |    |      |

*Recomm: Cards to be made out (ATC 46020)  
 indicating misaffirm data for  
 evaluation.*

*OK AB*

PLS ACK

REC OKN



VRGR OLL 011

3TP 012P

ENB121S YMB067 WYD138 WMA139LBA047

PP JEDEN JEDST JEDWP JEPHQ JWFGO JWFRD

DE JWFLB 11A

P 021800Z

FM COMDR REESE AFB TEX

TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JWFRD/COMDR 34 ADIV /DEF/ KIRTLAND AFB NM

JEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/D/I HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDST/COMDR ATC SCOTT AFB ILL

JWFGO/COMDR FTAF WACO TEX

BT

G046B. UFOB. JAW AFR 200-2 FOLG INFO SUB CLN

1. /A/ SPHERICAL CMM /B/ BASEBALL OR GRAPEFRUIT CMM /C/ RED AND WHITE /VERY BRIGHT/ FIREBALL CMM /D/ ONE CMM /E/ N/A CMM /F/ NO CMM /G/ NONE CMM /H/ UNK CMM /I/ NONE PD

2. /A/ BRIGHTNESS AND SIZE CMM /B/ FIVE DEG ABOVE REPORTING ACFT ABOUT FIVE MI NORTH OF REPORTING ACFT CMM /C/ CLIMBED OUT OF SIGHT AT FIVE DEG ANGLE PARALLEL TO COURSE OF ACFT CMM /D/ HOVERED OFF LEFT WING APPROX FIVE MIN THEN BEGAN STEADY CLIMB PARALLEL TO COURSE OF ACFT AT EXTREMELY HIGH SPEED PD APPEARED TO DIM MOMENTARILY AS IT PULLED AWAY PD /E/ PAR C ABOVE CMM /F/

PAGE TWO JWFLB 11A

DISSAPPEARED IN THREE MINS PD

3. /A/ AIR TO AIR VISUAL CMM /B/ NONE CMM /C/ TB-25 44-86894 CMM

13,000 CMA 080 DEG CMM 238 MPH GROUND SPEED CMA REESE AFB CMM TEXAS PD

4. /A/ 0255Z CMM 2 FEB 55 CMM /B/ NIGHT PD

5. /A/ 20 MI DUE EAST COCHISE CMM NM CMM ON AIRWAY GREEN 5 PD OBJ OVER MOUNTAINS TO LEFT OF COURSE PD

6. /A/ N/A CMM /B/ CAPT DELWYN F. RITZDORF CMM A0742781 CMM 3500

PTW CMM INSTRUCTOR PILOT CMM GOOD RELIABILITY PD A/C RICHARD B.

SHORT CMM AD11271268 CMM 3500 PTW CMM STU PLT CMM RELIABILITY UNK

PD A/C FREDERICK W. MILLER JR CMM AD12424321 CMM 3500 PTW CMM STU PLT CMM RELIABILITY UNK PD

7. /A/ CLEAR CMM BRIGHT MOONLIGHT CMM WINDS 290 DEG SLANT 20K CMM

/B/ AWS TUSCON CMM ARIZ RPT CLEAR CMM 40 MI VIS AT 0300Z PD AWS

DOUGLAS CMM ARIZ CMM RPT 30,000 THIN CMM SCATTERED AT 0300Z CMM

/C/ N/A CMM /D/ 50 MI CMM /E/ N/A CMM /F/ N/A PD

8. NONE 9. NONE 10. NONE 11. NONE 12. CAPT DOUGLAS R. WOOD CMM

A0711819 CMM WG ADG CMM NO COMMENTS PD

BT

02/1825Z FEB JWFLB

RGR 012

*Cochise New Mex*  
*2 Feb 55*

*02/1938Z*

*77*



## U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

1 Day 2 Month 55 Year

2. Time of day: 08 Hour 55 Minutes(Circle One): A.M. or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern

b. Central

c. Mountain

d. Pacific

e. Other

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving

b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

I BELIEVE THE NEAREST TOWN IS

Nearest Postal Address

WILCOX

City or Town

ARIZONA

State or Country

Additional remarks: 30 MILES EAST OF COCHISE RADIO ON GREEN  
5 AIRWAY AT 13,000 FT. IN ARIZONA

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours

5 to 7

Minutes

Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

a. Certain

b. Fairly certain

c. Not very sure

d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight

b. Dull daylight

c. Bright twilight

d. Just a trace of daylight

e. No trace of daylight

f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(NIGHT)

(Circle One): a. In front of you

b. In back of you

c. To your right

d. To your left

e. Overhead

f. Don't remember



8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight — pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

*1/2 MOON - ALMOST  
OVER HEAD*

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One):

a. Yes

b. No

c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

(Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?

b. Several blocks away?

c. A block away?

d. Several yards away?

e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

11. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- |                                                 |            |           |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time?           | <u>Yes</u> | No        | Don't Know        |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | <u>Yes</u> | No        | Don't Know        |
| c. Break up into parts or explode?              | Yes        | <u>No</u> | Don't Know        |
| d. Give off smoke?                              | Yes        | No        | <u>Don't Know</u> |
| e. Change brightness?                           | <u>Yes</u> | No        | Don't Know        |
| f. Change shape?                                | Yes        | <u>No</u> | Don't Know        |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate?                  | Yes        | <u>No</u> | Don't Know        |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

No

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved behind: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

No

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved in front of: \_\_\_\_\_

*One star that was about at  
2:00 O'clock above it. we were using this star for comparison*

14. Did the object appear: (Circle One):

a. Solid?

b. Transparent?

c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- |                 |            |           |                |     |           |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----|-----------|
| a. Eyeglasses   | Yes        | <u>No</u> | e. Binoculars  | Yes | <u>No</u> |
| b. Sun glasses  | Yes        | <u>No</u> | f. Telescope   | Yes | <u>No</u> |
| c. Windshield   | Yes        | <u>No</u> | g. Theodolite  | Yes | <u>No</u> |
| d. Window glass | <u>Yes</u> | No        | h. Other _____ |     |           |

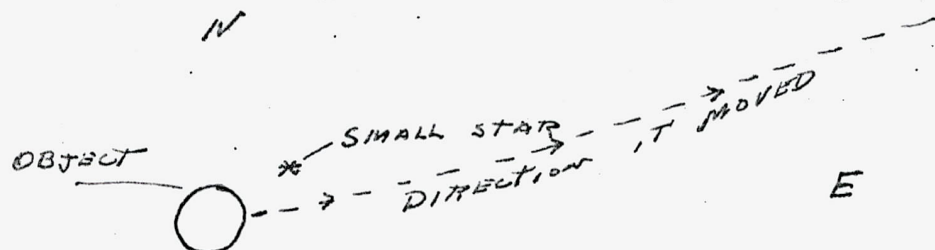


16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound NONE

b. Color BLUE, RED & WHITE

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



MOVED IN FRONT OF STAR WHEN IT  
FINALLY TOOK OFF.



18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
  - b. Like a bright star
  - c. Sharply outlined
  - d. Don't remember

e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? JUST ONE  
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.



20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.  
100 TO 125 feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- a. Head of a pin
- b. Pea
- c. Dime
- d. Nickel
- e. Quarter
- f. Half dollar

- g. Silver dollar
- h. Baseball
- i. Grapefruit
- j. Basketball
- k. Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 22.1 (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.)

a. Certain

b. Fairly certain

- c. Not very sure
- d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? STEADY CLIMB IN THE  
SAME DIRECTION WE WERE FLYING

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

MATERIAL — PHOSPHORUS METAL BASIC MAYBE ALUMINUM.  
SIZE — 120 TO 130 FT ACROSS

SHAPE — DISK SHAPE — SOMETHING THAT WOULD LOOK  
ROUND WHEN COMING TOWARD  
YOU GIVING OFF A BRIGHT SURFACE  
AND WOULD DIM DOWN A LITTLE  
WHEN TRAVELING PARALLEL TO YOU  
BECAUSE OF SMALLER SURFACE  
POINTED TOWARD YOU.

(OBJECT TO LOOK LIKE THIS)

CLIMBING PARALLEL  
TO ME

FLAT

HOVERING

HOVERING  
FACING  
ME  
(ROUND)

OBJECT WOULD LOOK LIKE TWO PIE TINS PLACED TOGETHER  
AT THE RIMS. IT WOULD BE ROUND AND FLAT.



25. Where were you located when you saw the object?  
(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- b. In a car
- c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane
- e. At sea
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- b. In the residential section of a city?
- c. In open countryside?
- d. Flying near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

*I was flying right seat as instructor Pilot in B-25. I just turned my head to left to talk to student Pilot and noticed object (bright light) just ahead of student's head at same altitude, or slightly higher.*

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:  
(IN AIRCRAFT)

28.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | c. East      | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

28.2 How fast were you moving? \_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One)      Yes      No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? (Circle One)

- |                 |              |              |              |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>a. North</u> | c. East      | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast    | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? (Circle One)

- |              |                |              |              |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | <u>c. East</u> | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast   | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

31.1 When it first appeared:

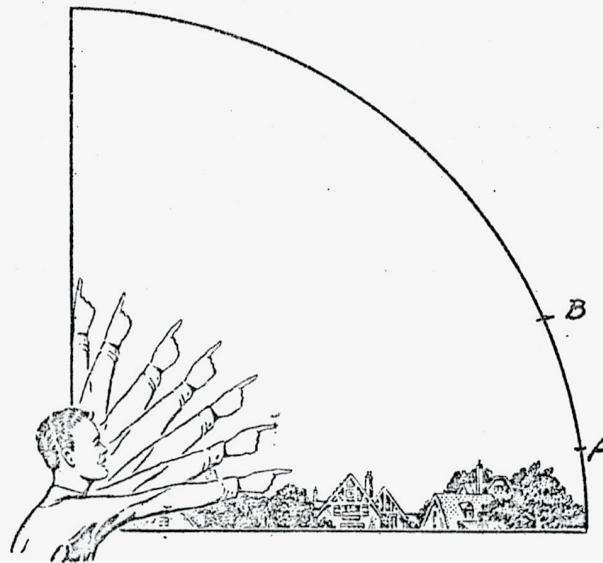
- a. From true North 0 degrees.
- b. From horizon 5 degrees.

31.2 When it disappeared:

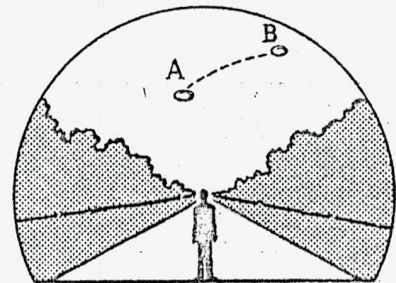
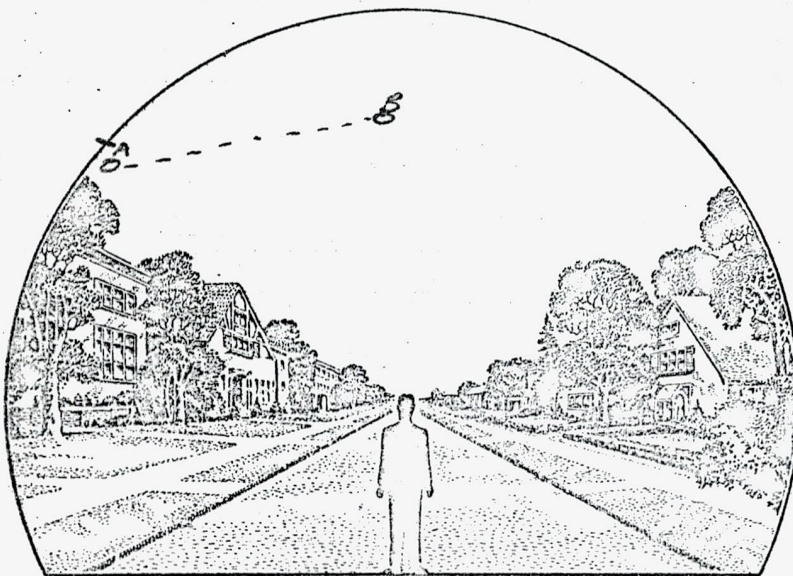
- a. From true North 80 to 85 degrees.
- b. From horizon 25 degrees.



32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the *same* curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.





34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

- a. Clear sky
- b. Hazy
- c. Scattered clouds
- d. Thick or heavy clouds
- e. Don't remember

34.2 WIND (Circle One)

- a. No wind
- b. Slight breeze
- c. Strong wind
- d. Don't remember
- e. 20 KTS. 290°

34.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

- a. Dry
- b. Fog, mist, or light rain
- c. Moderate or heavy rain
- d. Snow
- e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

- a. Cold 0°C AT 13000 ft.
- b. Cool
- c. Warm
- d. Hot
- e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

1 FEB 55  
Day Month Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

SHORT, RICHARD B A/C AD11271268 } 3501st Student Sqd.  
MILLER, FREDERICK W. JR. A/C AD12444321 } Reese Air Force Base  
ILAS

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) Yes No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

---

---

---

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38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

DO NOT KNOW

39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One)

☒ Yes

No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate?

600 m.p.h.

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One)

☒ Yes

No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was?

5 MILES feet

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

RITZDORF

Last Name

DEWYN

First Name

FRANKLIN

Middle Name

ADDRESS

115 HARMON DR.

Street

REESE AIR FORCE BASE

City

TEXAS

Zone

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

NONE

What is your present job?

INSTRUCTOR PILOT

Age

37

Sex

MALE

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school

☒

e. e. Technical school

b. High school

☒

(Type)

c. College

f. Other special training

d. Post graduate

PILOT TRAINING CLASS 43-D

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

18

Day

FEB

Month

1955

Year



# U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

## (SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

NAME DELMYN E. RITZDORF  
(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE:

SIGNATURE *Delwyn E. Ritzdorf*

DATE 18 February 1955

On February 1st, 1955, I was on a day-night navigation flight from Reese Air Force Base to Williams Air Force Base and return. I had two students with me whose names are set forth in question No. 36.

We took off from Williams Air Force Base at approximately 8:15 P.M. Central Standard Time on Green 5 Airway. After crossing Tucson we climbed to 13,000 feet on a heading of 80°, making good a track of about 90°. We crossed over Cochise, Arizona, radio at approximately 8:50 P.M. Central Standard Time.

About five minutes later I turned to my student, who was flying left seat, to ask him about making a position report and I noticed a bright light off our left wing, just slightly ahead of my student's face. I nudged him and told him to take a look, and remarked, "That couldn't be a star, could it?" He shook his head "no", and at that time I called for the other student who was acting as Navigator in the navigator's compartment to come up and take a look also. The three of us came to the conclusion that it was not a star and was some object that appeared to hover off our left wing. It appeared to be approximately five miles out from us at an altitude 500' to 1000' higher than we were flying. We watched it for approximately five minutes as it hovered off our left wing.

While watching it I tried to call Tucson, Douglas, and Columbus radio but couldn't make contact.

The object appeared to be round, very bright, of reddish-bluish-white color. We could detect no noise over our own engine noises. We were comparing it to a small star that was at approximately 2:00 o'clock

-2-

above the object, so that we were definitely sure it could not have been a star.

About this time the object started to move in an easterly direction, climbing at approximately a 5° angle. When the object started to move it appeared to dim down, crossed in front of the star and continued its climb to the east at an incredible speed, which I estimate to be 600 to 700 MPH. At the time we were traveling with a ground speed of 240 MPH.

We watched it for approximately three minutes more until it disappeared from sight still climbing.

As soon as I was able to contact Columbus radio I gave them the report and continued on my mission, back to Reese Air Force Base. After landing at Reese, Flight Service contacted me to make a report which I did immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*



③ DIRECTION OBJECT  
MOVED AWAY AND  
FINALLY DISAPPEARED.

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |                |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 400 | 410 | 420 | 430 | 440 | 450 | 460 | 470 | 480 | 490 | 500 | 510 | 520 | 530 | 540 | 550 | 560 | 570 | 580 | 590 | 600 | 610 | Kilometers     |
| 250 | 260 | 270 | 280 | 290 | 300 | 310 | 320 | 330 | 340 | 350 | 360 | 370 | 380 | 390 | 400 | 410 | 420 | 430 | 440 | 450 | 460 | Nautical Miles |
| 250 | 260 | 270 | 280 | 290 | 300 | 310 | 320 | 330 | 340 | 350 | 360 | 370 | 380 | 390 | 400 | 410 | 420 | 430 | 440 | 450 | 460 | Statute Miles  |

GILA RIVER (405)  
UNITED STATES - MEXICO  
U.S. AIR FORCE EDITION