300

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE TIME GROUP 5 Feb. 49 5/0830 Z	LOCATION South Parkersburg, West Virginia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro(Meteor)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 -20 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer first noticed an intense white light , which was followed by a reddish yellow light. The object looked like it was four inches in diameter inclining toward the hill. the object had molten drops coming from its rear. Duration was probably overestimated.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground visual	
7. COURSE S.W	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

RETURN TO:
Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

R&R 3.6018-1
Feb 1949

FORM
ETD AFR 0-300 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

CONTROL NO.	SUBJECT: Ltr Rpt of Info on Flying Disc AV-15 33 (CONF)	DECIMAL FILE NO.	FOLLOW UP ON / DATE
4-5 9			

FROM: Orlando Air Force Fla DATED 8 Feb 49

TO: AXO NO. INCLS. (0)

RECORDING DATE

DESK AXI-3 RECORDED 15 Feb 49 HOUR 0930

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (Initials)	DATE
1 AXO	21 Feb	[illegible]	2-15
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY | OTHER DISPOSITION:

WF-L-7 DEC 48 125M Sets of 3

TRANSMITTAL AMC Form No. 10-2 (20 Nov 27)

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

[redacted]L

10

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/WJL/nlb

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

1 June 1949

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21J

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Akron, Ohio
5 February 1949

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXS

1. Reference is made to the report of Special Agent WILLIAM J. LAYMAN, of this office, dated 12 May 1949.

2. Forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate is the final report of Special Agent WILLIAM J. LAYMAN, of this office, dated 1 June 1949. With the submission of this report, all logical investigative leads have been covered and reported.

3. Mr. [redacted] who reported sighting an aerial phenomenon on 5 February 1949, was interviewed and executed a detailed signed statement regarding the same.

4. With the submission of this report the files of this office are being closed regarding this case.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR.
Captain, USAF
Acting District Commander

1 Incl
Rpt of S/A WILLIAM J. LAYMAN, dtd 1 Jun 49 (in dup)

Copy to:

OSI HQ

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR. 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

SAFE

5003001

A-1312-15

8 15M

[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 5D 24-21J	DATE 1 June 1949
REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM J. LAYMAN nlb	
REPORT MADE AT DO #5, W/P AFB, Dayton, Ohio	
PERIOD 18 May 49	
OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #5, W/P AFB, Dayton, Ohio	
STATUS CLOSED	

TITLE

PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Akron, Ohio
5 February 1949

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Rpt of S/A WILLIAM J. LAYMAN, DO #5, W/P AFB, dtd 12 May 49.

SYNOPSIS

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed by OSI Agents GERALD B. DRUMMOND and CLARENCE A. WILSON at Akron, Ohio on 18 May 1949. A signed statement, setting forth detailed information regarding aerial phenomenon, was executed by Mr. VARNER at that time.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
CG, AMC, W/P AFB (Incls)	2	Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, Chio ATTN: MCIAXS	UNCLASSIFIED
OSI HQ (Incl)	2		
File (Incl)	2		

APPROVED
for WOJG, USAF
THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR.
Captain, USAF
Acting DISTRICT COMMANDER

[redacted]

16—68438-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted]

5D 24-21J
PROJECT GRUDGE

UNCLASSIFIED

DETAILS:

1. The following phase of this investigation was conducted by GERALD B. DRUMMOND and CLARENCE A. WILSON.

AT AKRON, OHIO

2. On 18 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Room No. 2 [redacted], Akron, Ohio, was interviewed in the Detachment Office [redacted] Akron, Ohio, in reference to [redacted] observation of [redacted] aerial phenomenon. After having been informed of his rights under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Mr. [redacted] executed a signed statement, the gist of which is as follows:

On 5 February 1949, at approximately 0330 hours, while driving three (3) to five (5) miles south of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on U. S. Route #21, toward Elizabeth, West Virginia, an aerial phenomenon was observed that lasted from fifteen (15) to twenty (20) seconds. Mr. [redacted] first noticed an intense white light, which was followed by a reddish yellow light. Against the hill which served as a background, Mr. [redacted] saw an object approximately four (4) inches in diameter inclining toward the hill. The object had molten drops coming from its rear. Mr. [redacted] could not judge whether the object disintegrated or rose over the hill.

INCLOSURES:

FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, AMC, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OHIO

1. The original signed statement of Mr. [redacted] dated at Akron, Ohio, 18 May 1949 (in duplicate).

2. Sketch of the location of the sighting by Mr. [redacted]

FOR HEADQUARTERS, OSI

1. The original signed statement of Mr. [redacted] dated at Akron, Ohio, 18 May 1949 (in duplicate).

- C L O S E D -

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[redacted]

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STATEMENT

I, [redacted], residing at Room No. 2 [redacted] Akron, Ohio, having been duly advised of my rights under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America that I need not make any statement; that my silence in this respect will not raise any inference of guilt against me; that I may make a sworn or unsworn statement; and that any statement I care to make may be used against me in any proceeding, civil or criminal, which may arise from the facts hereinafter stated, do proceed to state as follows:

Q. What is your name?
A. [redacted].

Q. Where do you reside?
A. Room No. [redacted], Akron, Ohio.

Q. Where are you employed?
A. At the present time I am unemployed. Until February 1949, I was employed at the B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio, where I was laid off because of a reduction in force.

Q. What was the date of your observation of the incident you mentioned in your letter to Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio?
A. The date was 5 February 1949, at approximately 0330 hours.

Q. Where were you at the time of the incident?
A. I was driving approximately three (3) to five (5) miles south of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on U. S. Route #21 toward Elizabeth, West Virginia.

Q. What happened?
A. The highway and roadside were suddenly illuminated with an intense white light, changing into a reddish yellow light that lit up the whole area. I was going up a grade at the time between Parkersburg, West Virginia, and Mineral Wells, West Virginia.

Q. After the flash or lighting up of the highway, did you see any objects?
A. No, I saw no objects. However, I don't believe this was a mechanical thing. It didn't appear to be mechanical. There was this white light which diminished to this reddish yellow color, and then I was in darkness again.

Q. What was the length of time of this incident?
A. I would say that it lasted for approximately fifteen (15) to twenty (20) seconds.

HHV HHV

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Exhibit #1

Q. Did you see any falling objects either during or after the flash?
A. No, I didn't. This incident occurred so quickly, I was taken by surprise. The intense white light which seemed to be directly over me faded into a reddish yellow glow, and the first thing I noticed was this reddish yellow stuff over to my right with a hill in the background. I picture it like a cast-iron cupola bursting out. The white light was so intense that I could see trees and stones along the road approximately twenty-five (25) to fifty (50) yards away from me.

Q. Did you see any moving objects prior to the flash?
A. No, I did not. There was nothing mechanical, nothing moving; it appeared to me to be soft molten stuff. The hill was in the background, and this thing was above me. Stuff seemed to be spewing out of it. I thought it was a meteor.

Q. Did this thing fall to the hillside?
A. No, it inclined to the hill and then sputtered. Whether it dissolved or not, I do know.

Q. What color was this thing you describe?
A. It was reddish yellow, like molten cast iron. It had a deep reddish yellow color, unlike molten steel which gives off a more intense and brighter light.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the size of this thing? Compare it with something in the office.
A. I actually don't know. Something was shooting out in the back of it, or the end of it. This spewing out was the principal thing in my mind. It happened so fast it was hard to grasp. I suppose it was about the size of that alarm clock on the file cabinet, but it is difficult to estimate sizes and distances, expecially after dark. (Note: The ordinary alarm clock in this office has a diameter of four (4) inches, and [redacted] was a distance of approximately eighteen (18) feet away from it at the time of the above statement.)

Q. What was its altitude when it started on an incline?
A. It was a distance of two or three miles from me. It seemed quite a ways away from me.

Q. What was the altitude?
A. It was just below the hilltop. The road is surrounded by steep hills, and since the hills were the background, it couldn't have been too high.

Q. From your direction of travel, where did the object land?
A. It was southwest to my right, but whether it landed or cleared the hill, I can't say.

[redacted]

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Q. From what direction did its travel start?
A. No specific direction, from all around. It was very surprising to me. I could see the highway very clearly. It was a very intense light, as clear as daylight.

Q. From the time of the flash and from the last you saw of the object, can you recall how long a period of time was covered?
A. Not more than fifteen (15) or twenty (20) seconds. A very fast operation, twenty-five (25) seconds at the most.

Q. Was there any sound?
A. I didn't hear anything.

Q. Was there any odor?
A. No odor. I was in the car and the windows were closed.

Q. Did you see any objects other than the previously mentioned objects?
A. No. Picture a comet with a tail. I saw sparks or lines at the rear, and then my attention was directed to the spewing of a substance similar to drops of molten metal.

Q. Were there any wings or fins?
A. No. The action of it was like pictures I have seen of Halley's Comet. It shed drops, and was similar to a cupola in a foundry.

Q. After the flash, did it make a route of travel to the southwest?
A. All I saw was the object making the incline, it was not a sharp incline, and the red drops seemed to be a constant action.

Q. Did it hit the mountain or disintegrate?
A. I don't know, I couldn't see.

Q. Could it have gone over the top of the hill?
A. Yes.

Q. You first noticed it fading away into the distance?
A. Yes. There are gas wells there but they don't act like that. There are no steel mills to my knowledge in the vicinity. I don't know whether it was the first or second ridge of the hills. The drops and the reddish yellow color are what got me. I saw the light and then looked over on this hill and saw the object.

Q. What were the weather conditions as you remember them?
A. It was clear night, the moon may have been shining. It was not too cold. The temperature was around 30° or 40°, I would say, but this can be checked with the Weather Bureau.

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[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Did the flash of the object leave any noticeable change in the weather?

A. I don't know, I had the car heater going and the windows up.

Q. Were you wearing glasses then?
A. Yes.

Q. How long had you been driving?
A. I worked from 6 to 12 midnight at Goodrich in Akron, and after work drove to Parkersburg, which is 170 miles. I stopped for gas once, and then stopped for more gas and had coffee and toast in Parkersburg. It was 3:05 approximately, West Virginia time. I may be off fifteen or twenty minutes. Around 3:15 or 3:30, I left Parkersburg. Then I drove three to five miles. I was tired.

Q. Was there anyone else in the area?
A. No, the highway was clear.

Q. Did you discuss the incident with anyone?
A. No, I was making the trip to see my boy and his girl. I got to Elizabeth at 4:20, and had to wait until the town woke up. My boy was in Parkersburg, so I didn't get to see him, but I saw his girl friend.

Q. Do you have any mechanical hobbies?
A. No, but I am a turret lathe operator, a grinder, and do some mechanical work.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?
A. Stamp collecting.

Q. What about your glasses, why do you wear them?
A. My eyes are in good shape. I wear glasses for eye strain, and there is only a slight correction in the lens. I don't wear them when I work.

Q. Has anyone mentioned seeing this object to you?
A. No.

Q. You were the only witness as far as you know?
A. Yes. I was alone in my car. I passed two or three cars on the way down from Parkersburg. I met another car at the junction of Routes #21 and #14. It is possible the occupants of this car could have witnessed the incident.

I further state that the foregoing statement was made by me freely and voluntarily, without promise of benefit, or threat or use of force or duress. I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 5 pages, and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Dated 23 May 1949

We hereby certify that we were present at Room 544, Goodyear Hall, [redacted], Akron, Ohio, when [redacted] made the above statement and that he was fully advised of his rights as set forth above, that no promise of immunity or reward was made to him, that no force or duress was used or threatened, and that the above statement was freely and voluntarily made. We further certify that the said [redacted] signed the above statement in our presence.

WITNESSED:

Clarence C. Wilson — SA, 5D-051 (16)

Gerald B. Drummond — SA 5D-051 (16)

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[redacted]

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Distance on Map shows 116 miles Parkersburg W. Va. To Mineral Wells W. Va.

Cambridge and Akron to North on Eastern Standard Time

Approximate Estimates

Rt. 40 U.S. 21

Marietta

Rt. 7

Belpre

Parkersburg Arrived here approx 3:15 AM or shortly thereafter

Meteor or Meteorite Flash of light Was here, lighting highway approx. 3:25 AM. Surrounding Territory lit up and objects clear. Could see trees, Rocks etc. plainly.

Mineral Wells.

Rt. 14

W. Va. Rt. 14

Rt. 14

Slate Run

U.S. Rt 21

Southbury

Rockport

Bridge under construction

Elizabeth

Arrived here approx. 4:15 AM.

Top of Ridge May be several ridges here.

Top of Hill or Hills

Sparks To Rear

Some Sparks

Reddish Yellow

Molten Red. drops.

Perhaps Comet Tail

It Was Not Positive as To shape.

Not Positive #2.

Fig #2.

Parkersburg.

Rt 21 looking South

N E S W

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Fig #1.

Approx 3:25 A.M. Feb 5, 1949.

Possible Meteor or Meteorite.

N W E S

Check To see if Parkersburg had large clock or other sta

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 5D 21-21J

DATE 12 May 1949

REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM J. LAVIAN nlb

REPORT MADE AT DO #5, W/P AFB, Dayton, Ohio

PERIOD 11 May 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #5, W/P AFB, Dayton, Ohio

STATUS PENDING

TITLE

PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Akron, Ohio
5 February 1949

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

None - This is an initial report.

SYNOPSIS

Investigation predicated on R & R from MCIAXS, Headquarters, Air Material Command, dated 5 May 1949, with inclosed letter from [redacted]R, requesting an investigation of the sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomena near Parkersburg, West Virginia on 5 February 1949.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
CG, AMC (MCIAKS) (Action copy)	2	Commanding General Air Material Command Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAKS	
OSI HQ	2		
DO #5, Detachment (Lead) (Inel)	2	APPROVED JOHN E. MORRILL W/O/G USAF THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR. Capt., USAF Acting DISTRICT COMMANDER	
File	2		

AFOSI FORM 4
23 JULY 48

[redacted]

16—56428-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted]

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DETAILS:

1. Investigation predicated upon receipt of a Routing and Record Sheet dated 5 May 1949 from the Technical Intelligence Division of Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, with inclosed letter dated 27 April 1949 from Mr. [redacted], 8 South Summit Street, Akron 8, Ohio, Phone: Blackstone 2767, Room #2.

2. Mr. [redacted] states in his letter that at about 0125 hours on the morning of 5 February 1949, about seven to nine miles south of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on Route #21, he observed a comet-like ball or saucer of sparkling flame (sparks-red) proceeding from East to West across the lower horizon. It had the appearance of molten iron or steel in the stage of complete melt. [redacted] and others, unidentified, are of the opinion that it was a meteor, although mechanical device could be considered.

AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

3. A review of the name files of this office reveal no former record on [redacted].

INCLOSURE:

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OHIO

Guide to Aerial Phenomena Investigation

PENDING

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

5D 24-21J
PROJECT GRUDGE

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, W/P AFB

AT AKRON, OHIO

Will interview Mr. [redacted], Ohio, Phone: Blackstone 2787, Room #2, and obtain detailed signed statement reference sighting using inclosed guide for reference. Obtain names of any other witnesses and further information as to exact location of sighting.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

MCIAXS File Cy
CWT

UNCLASSIFIED

MC LAXS/CWT/amc

MCIAXS

10 May 1949

Mr. [redacted]
Akron 6, Ohio

Dear [redacted]

Receipt of your letter, dated 27 April 1949, reporting the sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomenon on 5 February 1949 is acknowledged.

You may expect to be contacted in the near future for additional information regarding this phenomenon.

Your interest in the security and welfare of our country is to be commended.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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COPY

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[redacted]
Akron 8, Ohio

April 27, 1949

Gentlemen:-

About 1:25 A.M. on the morning of February 5, 1949, about 7 to 9 miles wouth of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on Route #21, I observed a comet-like ball or saucer of sparkling flame (sparks-red) proceeding from east to west across the lower horizon. It looked like molten iron or steel in the stage of complete melt.

We are of the opinion, it was a meteor, although mechanical device could be considered, there from a far distant source.

I was in Hq, Co., 34th Inf. honorably discharged 3/11/27.

Hoping that this will aid your records in astrological survey,

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Phone Akron:-
[redacted]

[redacted]

COPY

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[redacted]

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Project "Grudge" 300

5D OSI HCIAXS 5 May 49 1
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Morrill

1. It is requested that your office initiate an investigation of the sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomena as reported by the inclosed letter.

2. Information as outlined in the inclosed Guide to Investigation is desired.

2 Incls:
1. Ltr, 4/27/49, fr [redacted]r
2. Form, N/D, Guide to Investigation, (1-4pgs)

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

GMT/amc
6-6398
Bldg 285
Post 213-B

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[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]
AKRON 8, OHIO

April 27, 1949.

Gentlemen:-

About 1:25 A.M. on the morning of February 5, 1949 about 7 to 9 miles south of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on Route # 21, I observed a comet-like ball or saucer of sparkling flame (sparks-red) proceeding from east to west across the lower horizon. It looked like molten iron or steel in the stage of complete melt. We are of the opinion it was a meteor. although mechanical device could be considered there from a far distant source.

I was in Hq Co., 3rd Inf. honorably discharged 3/11/27.

Hoping that is will aid your records in astrological survey,

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Phone [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

.052

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4-29

INCIDENT NO. 300

1. Date of Observation 5 February 1949 Date of Interview 18 May 1949

2. Exact Time (local) 0330

3. Place of Observation 3-5 miles South Parkersburg, West Virginia

4. Position of observer Ground in auto

5. What attracted attention to object Intense white light changing to reddish yellow.

6. Number of objects one

7. Apparent size 4 inches in diameter at 18 ft.

8. Color of object Reddish yellow light

9. Shape Like comet with tail dropping drops of molten metal

10. Altitude Below summit of hill

11. Direction from observer SW

12. Distance from observer 2-3 miles

13. Direction of flight of object(s)

14. Time in sight 15-20 seconds

15. Speed

16. Sound and odor

17. Trail

18. Luminosity

19. Projections None

20. Maneuvers

21. Manner of disappearance Died out or dropped over hill

22. Effect on Clouds

23. Additional information concerning object

24. Weather Conditions Clear night

(over)

Name and address of observer: Mr. [redacted]
Akron, Ohio

Occupation and hobbies: Stamp collecting

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

On 5 February 1949, at approximately 0330 hours, while driving three (3) to five (5) miles south of Parkersburg, West Virginia, on U.S. Route #21, toward Elizabeth, West Virginia, an aerial phenomenon was observed that lasted from fifteen (15) to twenty (20) seconds. [redacted] first noticed an intense white light, which was followed by a reddish yellow light. Against the hill which served as a background, [redacted] saw an object approximately four (4) inches in diameter inclining toward the hill. The object had molten drops coming from its rear. [redacted] could not judge whether the object disintegrated or rose over the hill.