

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 30 November 50 01/0355Z	LOCATION South-Central Alaska
3. SOURCE Multiple	10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Evaluated as a Meteor observation.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 - 3 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer looked up and saw a blue-white meteorite traveling about NW by N from the SE. It was just a flash. He would judge about five miles up. About thirty seconds later he heard an explosion overhead where He saw the meteorite. Then he heard the second, third and fourth and fifth explosions in rapid succession, each one a little further away. The last one was very faint and far away. All explosions were almost overhead and a little to the South. XXXXXXXXXX
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE North	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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UNUSUAL CELESTIAL OBSERVATION - POSSIBLE METEOR; SIGHTED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN ALASKA.

8825

The following report is a compilation of information from various sources regarding an unusual celestial observation - possibly a meteor, at approximately 1950 hours, 30 November 1950, in South-Central Alaska.

Extract from the weather log of the United States Weather Bureau, located at Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska; entered by the weather observer on duty at the time of the sighting:

"Observed bright blue flash in sky at 7:55 PM accompanied by loud rumbling similar to thunder which lasted about two (2) or three (3) minutes. Evidently rather large meteor struck earth not too distant."

Extract from the Flight Control Log of the Civil Aeronautics Administration Control Tower, Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska; entered by the Senior Airport Traffic Controller Merrill Field Control Tower on duty at the time of the incident:

"Saw white flash, very bright lighting entire area at 7:51 PM. ES-2, OC 3, OYR DIA 0553 observed same, advised believed to be meteor. Flash also seen by most facilities at Merrill Field, also several persons reported having seen it from various points in Anchorage." ((NOTE: The code: ES-2, OC 3, OYR DIA 0553, refers to a civil aircraft approaching Anchorage at the time.))

On 1 December 1950, the following information was received from Captain Wyatt, USN, District Intelligence Officer, 17th Naval District, Kodiak, Alaska:

"Unusual light was seen approximately 30-1950W Nov by 2 watch officers at NOB, Kodiak, and by a USN vessel fifty (50) miles South of Kodiak. Light described by officers of the vessel as travelling on course 010°."

A Civil Aeronautics Administration Engineer, off duty at his residence witnessed the incident and reported as follows: "This phenomena appeared to be coming from a Southeasterly direction, lasting about 2 or 3 seconds at approximately 1950 hours. Immediately after the flash there was a sequence of rumbling sounds overhead, which I thought to be caused by Air Force maneuvers at the Air Base."

A telegram received from the University of Alaska indicated no signs of disturbance on their most sensitive seismographs.

The following is one of the most comprehensive eye-witness accounts of the sighting. The person making the statement was about four miles from Anchorage, Alaska, outside at his home, and there were no lights or sound in the immediate vicinity at the time:

"On the evening of November 30, 1950, at 7:50 pm, the sky lit up almost as bright as day. I looked up and saw a blue-white meteorite traveling about Northwest by North from the Southeast. It was just a flash. I would judge about five miles up. About thirty seconds later I heard an explosion overhead where I saw the meteorite. Then I heard the second, third and fourth and fifth explosions in rapid succession, each one a little further away. The last one was very faint and far away. All explosions were almost overhead and a little to the south. I live on a homestead about four miles south of Anchorage and there was no other light or noise to hinder me from getting a first hand observation."

A reporter on the staff of a local newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska was on the street at the time of the incident and obtained "spot" interviews with about twelve persons. All persons who had been outside indicated that there was a very large flash of blue-white light lasting about 2 or 3 seconds, although within the city no one apparently heard the subsequent explosions. People interviewed by the reporter indicated they thought it might be firing of photo-flash for aerial picture taking at night; or some sort of military action originating at Fort Richardson. There was no undue excitement

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MANUFACTURED BY OLD TOWN BROWN & CARP COMPANY, BROOKLYN, N.Y. JANUARY 17, 1950

MULTIPLE
A-6-V
(METEOR)

RECORD NO. 100-100
PAGE NO. 3

7-3712-33

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evinced by anyone he interviewed.

Two officers from the 11th Weather Squadron (Arctic Weather Control), USAF, at Elmendorf Air Force Base, who are both reputed to be experts on arctic weather conditions, stated they did not witness the incident but offered their joint opinion that it was in all likelihood caused by a meteor entering the arctic atmosphere. They stated that at the time of illumination, the meteor could have been at an altitude of from 5 miles to 20 miles; also that, as the meteor travels faster than the speed of sound, it would normally make a noise similar to that of a distant explosion.

COMMENT: The sources interviewed were in general responsible persons including United States Weather Bureau, Civil Aeronautics Administration, and United States military personnel. There was little or no panic after the incident. Local Anchorage radio stations immediately broadcast the news that a meteor had passed and possibly fallen nearby, urging the people not to bother police and fire departments with telephone calls. Most generally, the opinion of the people was that it was a meteor, or possibly some type of military action being practiced in the vicinity of Elmendorf Air Force Base, or Fort Richardson.

There was no AAA firing by any elements of the United States Army anywhere in Alaska at the time, as was reported by one local newspaper.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION UNCLASSIFIED
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED

DEPT ARMY MSG UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: CGUSARAL FT RICHARDSON ALASKA FROM ARCSI

TO : DEPTAR WASH DC FOR ACOFS G2

INFO: CINCAL FT RICHARDSON ALASKA, CG ALASKAN AIR COMMAND
FT RICHARDSON ALASKA, COM ALASKAN SEA FRONTIER

NR : 011055Z

1 December 1950

Text on following page.

A/C

Col. Williams

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DDI DIB 5200.10

INFO : OAT-1, OIN, SLO

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CAF IN: 7 9 6 8 7

(1 Dec 50) DTG: 011055Z
CM IN 16132

JJK/dk

COPY No.

AFHQ FORM 0-309 B
15 APR 49

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MESSAGE

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FROM: OGUSANAL FT RICHARDSON ALASKA FROM ARGSI

TO: DEPTAR WASH DC FOR ACOFS G2

INFO: CIRCAL FT RICHARDSON ALASKA, CG ALASKAN AIR COMMAND
FT RICHARDSON ALASKA, COM ALASKAN SEA FRONTIER

DTG: 011055Z

1 DEC 50

Unusual blue light lit up sky approx 010555Z. Pilot flying about 25 miles from Fort Richardson stated saw blue flash hitting ground and causing grumble or explosion. Many individuals saw light but few heard any sound. Check with one individual at Seward indicated flash of light directly overhead apparently some 5000 feet high but no noise heard. Check with Whittier indicates blue white flash lit up entire area. Appeared to directly overhead and high in the sky. It lasted about one second no noise was heard. Check with Palmer indicates object resembling photo reconnaissance flare blue white in color appeared just below overcast approx 1200 to 2000 feet with no noise heard. Area suddenly lit up with two flashes for about one tenth second. Object resembled Roman Candle dropping in general direction of Anchorage. Local commercial radio stations commenting on great number of calls state flash believed due to meteor.

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ACTION: G2

INFO: G3

CM IN 16132

(1 Dec 50) DTG: 011055Z EJM/C

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FROM : CG ALS AIR ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED
TO : C/S USAF WASH DC
INFO : COMALSTAFROM KODIAK ALS
CINCAL ELDF AFB
CG USAFAL ELDF AFB
NR : AA01D- 8111

2 December 1950

Urradnote dtg 012200Z Dec from AF01N-E/C I Hull. At approx 010553Z the entire Anchorage area was suddenly illuminated by a brilliant blue white light which rapidly increased in intensity most to daylight intensity before it disappeared high in the sky. Mountains were clearly visible at a distance of 70 miles. The light flash was observed for only a few seconds by hundreds of residents including those indoors at the time. The flash was followed in a few seconds by a rumbling noise. The light was reported observed from aboard a ship 50 miles south of Kodiak, at Kodiak and as far north as Healy (185 miles north of Anchorage). It was not observed at Fairbanks. Radar contact was negative. Varying descriptions of the aerial object causing the flash, its direction of travel and the resulting noise have been received. Samples are as follows:

1. Official weather bureau report noted that a bright blue flash accompanied by a loud rumbling like thunder swept the sky.
2. It blossomed out in the sky quite high and a little to the south. It resembled a flare traveling East to West and in a second or two crossed about 15 degrees of the sky, then went out like a match. It travelled in a flat trajectory curving downward.
3. I saw a blue white flash travelling north northwest. Thirty seconds later I heard an explosion, then a second, third, fourth, and fifth which got successively fainter.
4. Suddenly there was a blinding flash and the whole sky lighted up, followed, by a great rumbling crash.
5. It looked like the sort of flame that might result if a transformer exploded only brighter and was followed in ten or twelve seconds by a low rumble like distant thunder.
6. A pilot approaching Anchorage from the south said the object appeared directly overhead increasing in brilliancy until it was blinding to look at then seemed to explode northeast of the plane. The object left a faint trail and was visible only 20 to 30 seconds.

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CAF IN : 8 0 0 6 7 (2 December 1950)

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
NR : AAOID- 8111

2 December 1950

Page 2

8. Other observers said it was very high and seemed to rise diagonally to the northeast. Investigation is continuing and complete report will follow. On basis of current evidence it is considered that the phenomena was a meteor. Weather at time was layers of scattered clouds at 3000 feet and 5500 feet visibility 10 miles.

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DOR DIR 5200.10

ACTION : OIN

INFO : OPD OPD-PL OPD-PY OPD-PW SLO OOP

CAP IN : 8 0 0 6 7 (2 Dec 50)

DTG: 022327Z
RC : 16/03

CARY/vtc

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(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY ALASKA		REPORT NO. IP-32-50	UNCLASSIFIED (LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Observation of Celestial Phenomenon.			
AREA REPORTED ON Alaska		FROM (Agency) Alaskan Air Command	
DATE OF REPORT 28 December 1950	DATE OF INFORMATION 30 November 1950	EVALUATION B-2	
PREPARED BY (Officer) W. D. BLOTNICK, 1st Lt., USAF		SOURCE HQ, OSI, AAC 8364	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Radnote from Hq USAF, AFM-10/CI Hull 0122097 Dec 50; AAC Msg AACID-8111, 2 Nov 50			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. One significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
1. This report consists of information obtained during investigation subsequent to report made by AAC message, reference above, regarding a probable meteor, perceived in South-Central Alaska at approximately 1953 hours, 30 Nov 50. 2. It consists of extracts from the United States Weather Bureau Log Book; statements from civilian personnel, considered competent weather observers; seismograph reaction at the University of Alaska and extracts from eye-witness statements, both military and civilian. 3. Persons interviewed gave conflicting reports as to the color of phenomenon, with predominance of reports being bluish-white.			
1/12 (1 incl)		APPROVED: Don W. McKinney DON W. McKINNEY Lt Colonel, USAF Director of Intelligence	
005013			
1/1 INCL. Newspaper clippings re Subject Phenomenon filed AFM-10/CI (1/12)			
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
ALASKAN AIR COMMAND	IP-32-50	2	3	262147

The following is a final report regarding the sighting of an unusual celestial observation - probably a meteor, in South-Central Alaska at approximately 1953 hours, 30 November 1950:

1. Extract from the weather log of the United States Weather Bureau, located at Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska: (61° 17'N - 149° 51'W) entered by the weather observer on duty at the time of the sighting: "Observed bright blue flash in sky at 7:55 PM accompanied by loud rumbling similar to thunder which lasted about two (2) or three (3) minutes. Evidently rather large meteorite struck earth not too distant".

2. Extract from the Flight Control Log of the Civil Aeronautics Administration Control Tower, Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska: entered by the Senior Airport Traffic Controller, Merrill Field Control Tower on duty at the time of the incident: "Saw white flash, very bright, lighting entire area at 7:51 PM. 33-2, DC 3, CYR 0513 observed same, advised believed to be meteor, flash also seen by most facilities at Merrill Field: also several persons reported having seen it from various parts of Anchorage, Alaska". (NOTE: The code: 33-2, DC 3, CYR 0513, refers to civil aircraft approaching Anchorage, Alaska at the time).

3. On 1 December 1950, the following information was received from the District Intelligence Officer, 17th Naval District, Kodiak, Alaska: "Unusual light was seen toward Anchorage, Alaska at approximately 2000 hours, 30 Nov 50 by 2 watch officers at Kodiak. (62° 44'N - 152° 20'W) The light was also sighted by the U.S.S. Oliver A. 123, a USN vessel fifty (50) miles south of Kodiak. The vessel was located at 62° 50'N - 152° 05'W at the time of the sighting which was at 1950 hours, 30 Nov 1950. The flash was on a heading of 010°, describing a 45° arc toward the earth".

4. A Civil Aeronautics Administration Engineer, off duty at his residence in Anchorage, Alaska, witnessed the incident and reported as follows: "The phenomena appeared to be coming from a southeasterly direction, lasting about 2 or 3 seconds at approximately 1950 hours. Immediately after the flash there was a sequence of rumbling sounds overhead, which I thought to be caused by Air Force maneuvers at the Air Base".

5. The Chief, Overseas Communicator, CAA, Merrill Field, advised that at approximately 1950 hours, 30 Nov 1950, he was driving his car east in Anchorage and his attention was drawn to a bluish flash in the sky overhead which illuminated the sky as if the sun had suddenly appeared. The flash lasted approximately twenty (20) to thirty (30) seconds. The source stated that he immediately looked up into the sky, but could not determine the source from which the flash came. The CAA Communicator then produced a message received from a CAA communicator at Gulkana, Alaska, (62° 09'N - 145° 26'W) which is quoted verbatim below:

"From Gulkana, Alaska November 010805Z to Anchorage CAA-forward following to Air Defense Control Center (ADCC-Elmendorf Air Force Base). Two closely spaced brilliant flashes of blue light seen by several people over area of 90 miles tonight apparently simultaneously about 8 PM. A highway patrolman driving along road 12 mi. North of Gulkana reports that although it was snowing rather heavily, the flashes lighted the area as if it were daylight for about two seconds. No explosions reported".

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

ALASKAN AIF COMMAND

REPORT NO.

IP-72-50

PAGE

OF

PAGES

-262747

6. A telegram received from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, indicated no signs of disturbance on their most sensitive seismographs.

7. AT ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED:

a. At approximately 1950 an officer on duty with the 625th ACW Sq reported that he saw a flash of light through a window of the building where he was located. He then stepped outside and heard a rumbling noise two (2) to three (3) minutes later. Source was unable to determine height or direction of the flash and further stated that nothing was picked up on their radar screen.

b. Two navigators on a C-54 aircraft (#2626) while flying from McChord AFB, Washington, to Elmendorf AFB, stated that at 1/0546Z, while above 100 miles west of Naknek, Alaska, (58° 40' - 156° 30' W) they saw what appeared to be a green flare about twenty (20) miles ahead and about ten thousand (10,000) feet altitude, which burst into yellow. No turbulence was felt and no noise was heard.

c. An Air Inspector at Elmendorf AFB stated that at approximately 2000 hours he saw a flash of light which was very high in the air Southwest of Anchorage. He further stated that he then heard a low rumble from a southerly direction.

d. The following is one of the most comprehensive eye-witness accounts of the sighting. "On the evening of May 30, 1950 at exactly 7:50 PM, the sky lit up almost as bright as day. I looked up and saw a blue-white meteor travelling Northwest by North from the Southeast. It was just a flash which appeared to be about five miles up. About thirty seconds later I heard an explosion overhead where I saw the meteor. Then I heard the second, third and fourth explosions in rapid succession, each one a little further away. The last noise was very faint and quite far from the observer. All explosions were almost overhead, a little to the south".

9. A Special Agent with the OSI reported that at 1952 he saw a weird light, very brilliant, resembling that given off by an acetylene torch, which completely illuminated Fire Island, Alaska. (61° 09' N - 150° 13' W) The light was moving across the sky from North to South in much the same manner as a meteor: it disappeared in approximately thirty (30) seconds.

10. COMMENTS OF Preparing Officer:

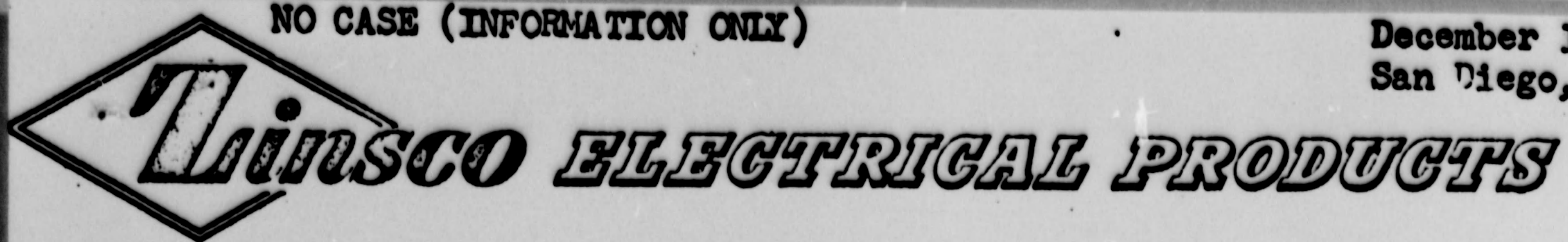
The sources concerned in this report are considered to be reliable individuals. In all probability the incident mentioned in this report was caused by a meteor or meteoroid traveling through space, which, when it encountered the earth's atmosphere, was heated to luminosity.

MAURICE D. FLOVICK
1st Lt., USAF
Air Intelligence Officer

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UNCLASSIFIED

December 1950
San Diego, California

GENERAL OFFICES: 729 TURNER STREET • LOS ANGELES 12 • CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Vallie

August 10, 1965

I have just finished reading your interesting book regarding UFO's entitled "Anatomy of A Phenomenon" and should like to tell you of an experience which I had while serving in the U.S. Navy. My rating was that of Aerographer 3/c (meteorologist) and during WWII served aboard the U.S.S. Santa Fe (CL-60) a light cruiser, attached to the staff of Rear Admiral Richard Deyo; I spent two years of the 3 1/2 I served in the South Pacific. Upon my discharge I completed my college and received my degree from Western Reserve U. in Cleveland, Ohio in 1948. On the 27th of November, 1950 I was recalled to active duty, and was sent to NAS North Island (San Diego), Calif. for duty at the Navy's Fleet Weather Central. The sighting I am about to describe occurred about the middle of December, 1950 - I remember that it was just a few days before Christmas. Myself and another aerographer named [REDACTED] went topside of the weather Central to make a pilot balloon launching to gather winds aloft data. I was operating the theodolite, while [REDACTED] launched the balloon and recorded the readings which I called to him each minute. The day was perfect. warm, no cloud cover and calm - I believe the time was early afternoon. We normally charted data on the balloon till it reached approx. 10,000 feet & then stopped our readings - we had almost

received all the readings necessary, when I noticed something pass through my field of vision, above the balloon. I did not think anything of it but as I watched a number of these things rapidly passed by and I commented to [redacted] about seeing something; he didn't believe me and when I saw more of them, turned the [redacted] over to him. He also saw them - in order to follow them, we had to disengage the ratchet gears which kept the theodolite on one point, thereby freeing it to turn rapidly. I sighted out over Point Loma, which is in general Northwesterly direction from the air station, and immediately picked up a number of these objects travelling together as if in formation. There would be groups of three or four, a pair and even single ones, all following the same course - they appeared to be travelling at a very high speed, as in order to follow them the theodolite had to be turned quite rapidly on its base. [redacted] reported our discovery via the [redacted] to those below but no one would believe us.

Finally our watch chief, Chief [redacted] (later he was made a Chief Warrant) came up and upon taking [redacted] the glass immediately sighted them - his report brought everyone up on the roof. The objects were not visible with the naked eye, nor even with a pair of binoculars brought down from the traffic control tower.

As to their appearance, they had a grayish-white color and were tear-drop shaped. If you were to cut through an airplane wing, the cross-cut would be very close to their appearance;



The arrow of course indicates the direction of their travel; at the rear end there was a Cottony-looking tail which seemed to wave about but did not become any longer in size - it did not look like a Jet trail as it grew no longer. They were travelling in a North to South direction, seemingly running parallel with the sea coast, & then very suddenly making a 90° turn at high speed and disappearing from view heading toward the ocean (toward the west). There were groups of them and I believe they kept reappearing, as if they were on a circular course round and around. We had as many as 30 people watching them, including Navy pilots, aerographers, traffic controllers, the meteorology officer from NAAS Holtville plus number of U.S. Air Force pilots who were using our field bring in Marine frost-bite cases from the Chungchin Reservoir in Korea. Our commanding officer, Commander [redacted] (later Captain), watched them for almost the entire time we served them, which was for about an hour and 1/2. I was & later that our base radar had these objects and they were over 100,000 feet. Cmdr. [redacted] sighted one which was not moving - we all had a chance to look at it and a few minutes later while [redacted] was watching it, he said there was a sudden white puff from its base and it shot out of view at the top of the eyepiece - he said it looked as if someone had "dropped a large bag of flour out of the bin" and then it was gone. The stationary one did not have a metallic appearance - it had a gray-white, rather fluffy appearance but did appear to be solid - I could not be able to estimate the size of these objects but would guess they were quite large. The objects very suddenly stopped appearing - we watched for a long while after they departed - we looked many days afterward but saw nothing. We wrote complete reports for the Navy but I never heard anything more regarding the objects. I felt you might find this of interest - many of the people involved were career Navy personnel and because it happened 15 yrs. ago I suppose many have now left

a service, so contacting them would be difficult -
the Aerographer whom I remember as being there
that day was [redacted], who later made Chief and
I believe retired and living in San Diego.

I am a [redacted] with Zinsco Electrical
products here in Los Angeles. If you should wish
to contact me for any reason please feel free to
do so. I do not know what we saw that day,
but they were real and tangible. Good luck on your
search.

Very truly Yours,

[redacted]
Van Nuys, California.