

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 4 Jan 52	2. LOCATION TRAVIS AFB, CALIF.	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical (M. T. R.) ☐ Possibly Astronomical
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local: 4/0500 PST GMT: 4/1300 Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Airman	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15-30 Sec.	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE --
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Bright green, round object with a red tail appeared to travel at a high rate of speed on a downward course. Object was observed at a low altitude.		11. COMMENTS 1. Weather was dark, but clear with a high broken overcast.

4 JAN 1952 TRAVIS AFB, CALIFORNIA

ASTRO (METEOR)

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 5

DATE: 4 Jan 52

TIME (Local): 0500

LOCATION: Travis AFB, Calif.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 15-30 Sec.

SOUND: None

SPEED: Same as jet a/c

ALTITUDE: Low

HEADING: 90°

SOURCE: Airman

ACTION OR COMMENTS: Description resembled large meteor.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Source observed bright green tear drop shaped object descending through a cloud cover. The object had a long trail of red flame which seemed to shoot out large colored sparks. (~~Re-Added~~)

K243-6012-1 Jan 1952	RETURN TO: Director Aerospace Studies Inst ATTN: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama
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SMC

1003333

7-3712-42

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY

United States

REPORT NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

(LEAVE BLANK)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

Unidentified Object

AREA REPORTED ON

Travis Air Force Base, California

FROM (Agency)

Hq & Hq Sq, 5th Strat Recon Wg, Travis AFB

DATE OF REPORT

5 January 1952

DATE OF INFORMATION

4 January 1952

EVALUATION

Unknown

PREPARED BY (Officer) Maj John F. Larimer Intel Officer

SOURCE

1st Lt. William J. Quinn Jr. Asst Intel Of. Pfc [REDACTED]

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

Ltr fr Hq USAF, dtd 8 Sep 50, Subj: Reporting of Information on Unconventional Acft.

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.)

Pfc [REDACTED], an Airman assigned to this organization reported sighting an unidentified aerial object on the morning of 4 January 1952. This sighting was different from any other he had previously observed. The observer could not account for the object leaving the area or its disappearance.

APPROVED:

John F. Larimer
JOHN F. LARIMER
Major, USAF
Intelligence Officer

[Large handwritten signature]

5R (initial)

5R

1 INCLS.

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEARS IN
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12
DOD DIR 5200.10

Classification changed to restricted by authority CG, 15th AF, by J. G. Townsend, Major, USAF, 16 Jan 52

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

UNCLASSIFIED

(7)

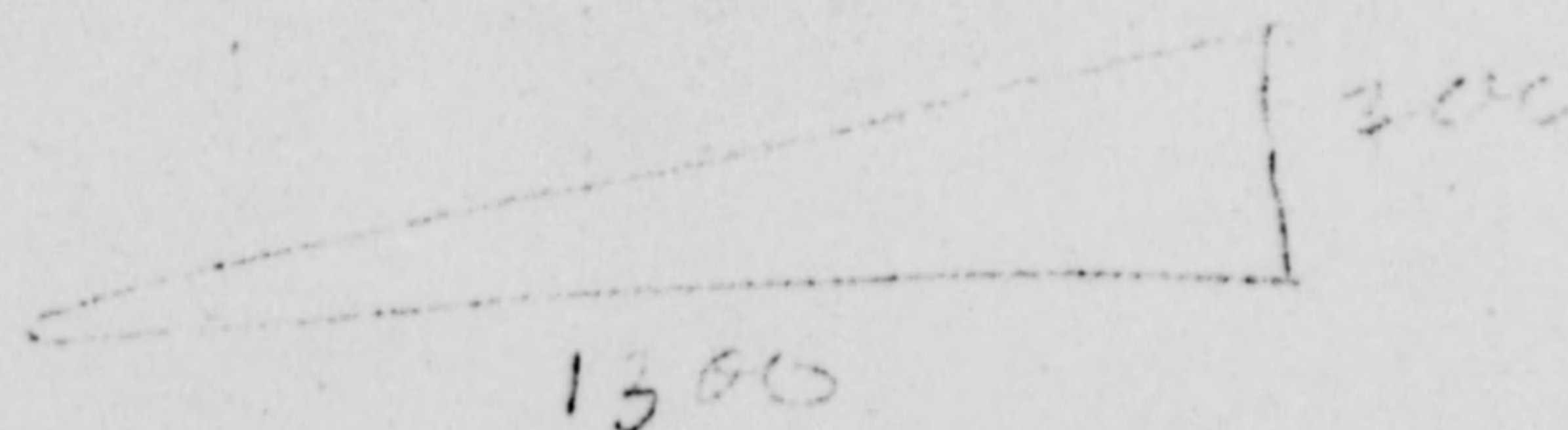
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Hq & Hq Sq, 5th Strat Recon Wg, (H) Travis Air Force Base, Calif.	8	2	2	2

The following report is submitted as the result of an interview with Pfc. Clifford W. Smith, AFI631394, 411th Armament and Electronics Squadron, 5th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Heavy, Travis Air Force Base, California, on 5 January 1952:

On 4 January 1952 between the hours of 0500 and 0530 the informant sighted what appeared to be an unidentified flying object. The weather during the time of sighting was very dark but clear, the moon was not visible however a high, broken, overcast was observed over the area. Smith was alone at the time and there were no nearby witnesses seen in the vicinity. He was walking east on Travis Avenue in front of the Wherry Housing Area when he sighted the unidentified object heading on a relative bearing approximately forty-five (45) degrees to the left about one-quarter (1/4) mile distance at an estimated altitude of three hundred (300) feet. The unidentified sighting appeared to be going forward and downward at an extremely high rate of speed described as being comparable to that of a jet type aircraft coming down from out of the clouds. To Smith the unidentified object appeared to be a tear drop shaped apparition very bright green in color lighting up a large area at the time. A red flame estimated as about thirty (30) feet long shooting out large phosphorescent colored sparks appeared to the observer to be coming from the rear of the unidentified object. During the period of sighting between fifteen (15) to thirty (30) seconds the unidentified object seemed to Smith to descend about fifty (50) feet in altitude from the initial sighting position. There was no sound heard or crash observed during the sighting time. The observer stated he is familiar with the appearance of Meteors and shooting stars and that the unidentified object he sighted had no resemblance to either of the foregoing.

JOHN F. LARIMER
Major, USAF
Intelligence Officer



Classification changed to restricted by authority CG, 15th AF, by J. G. Townsend, Major, USAF, 16 Jan 52

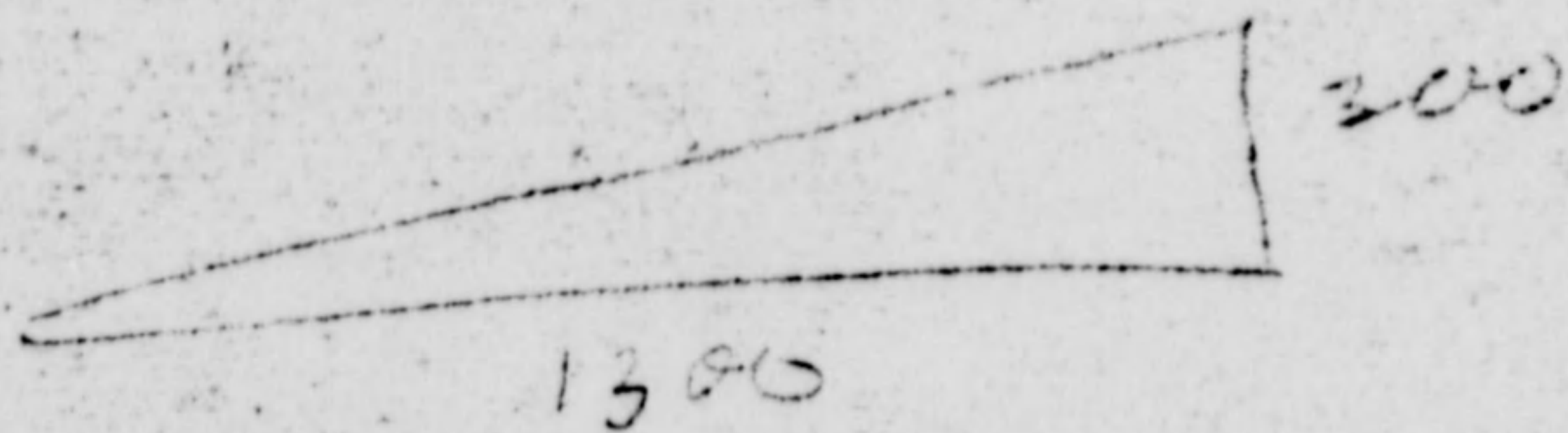
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On 4 January 1952 between the hours of 0500 and 0530 the informant sighted what appeared to be an unidentified flying object. The weather during the time of sighting was very dark but clear, the moon was not visible however a high, broken, overcast was observed over the area. [REDACTED] was alone at the time and there were no nearby witnesses seen in the vicinity. He was walking east on Travis Avenue in front of the Wherry Housing Area when he sighted the unidentified object heading on a relative bearing approximately forty-five (45) degrees to the left about one-quarter (1/4) mile distance at an estimated altitude of three hundred (300) feet. The unidentified sighting appeared to be going forward and downward at an extremely high rate of speed described as being comparable to that of a jet type aircraft coming down from out of the clouds. To [REDACTED] the unidentified object appeared to be a tear drop shaped apparition very bright green in color lighting up a large area at the time. A red flame estimated as about thirty (30) feet long shooting out large phosphorent colored sparks appeared to the observer to be coming from the rear of the unidentified object. During the period of sighting between fifteen (15) to thirty (30) seconds the unidentified object seemed to Smith to descend about fifty (50) feet in altitude from the initial sighting position. There was no sound heard or crash observed during the sighting time. The observer stated he is familiar with the appearance of Meteors and shooting stars and that the unidentified object he sighted had no resemblance to either of the foregoing.

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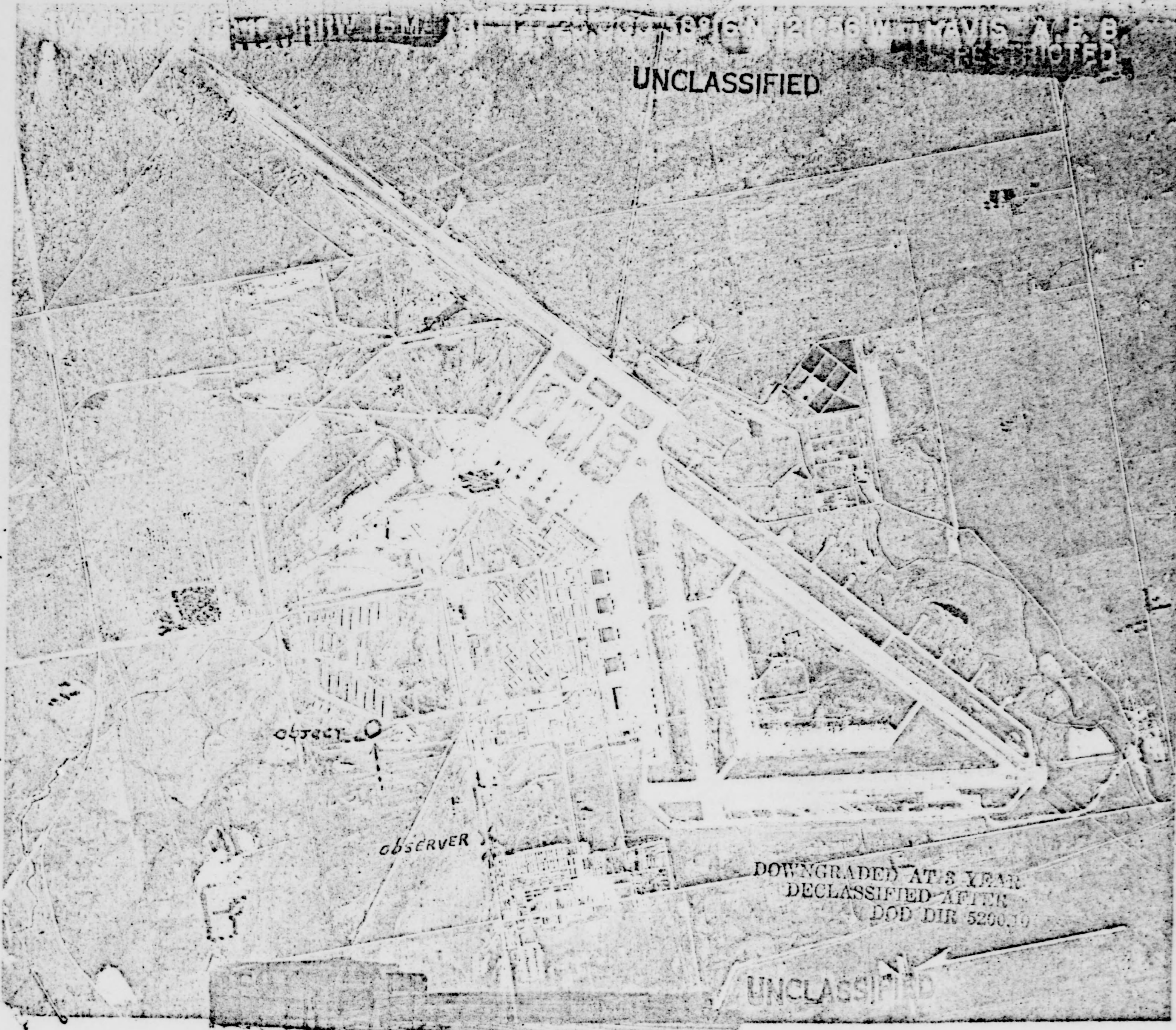


Case includes one (1) 8"x10"
photograph.

100-103-52

100-103-52

UNCLASSIFIED



OBJECT

OBSERVER

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR
DECLASSIFIED AFTER
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

100-103-52

Lt. Gen. B. H. H. H. *7 Jan 52*
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

4 June 1968

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomena Division
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: TDPT (UFO)

Subj: UFO Investigation

To: Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, Jr.

Reference: I. Your letter 22 May 1968, subject, UFO Investigations,
I have the following comments on all the cases you have
listed, in the order they were listed.

1. 7 January 1952, Palmer, Alaska.

I have rated this case $\Sigma 3 C7$, meaning that as far as strangeness was concerned, the stimulus giving rise to this report could have been something quite ordinary or it could have fallen into the category of "cigar-shaped Ufos" reported from many countries and which have no ready explanation. In this instance, there is not sufficient information to go on. The report we have states, "Alaska Air Command informed and will take further investigative action," and, "additional data will be forwarded when available". To the best of my knowledge the further data were never transmitted. This plus the fact that it was reported by one woman out of 4 or 5 (not 45 as the original report stated) and the fact that it was observed at the time of the setting sun, leads me to think that the sighting might have had a meteorological origin. Thus, "possibly meteorological, but data insufficient for firm evaluation" is my recommendation for this classification.

2. 14 April 1952, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

I originally asked to review this case in the hopes that unknown to me some additional followup had been made. I found that despite the fact that a captain of commercial airliner and others