

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 12 May 53 12/0905Z	2. LOCATION Dayton, Ohio
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON Rawinsonde Weather Balloon launch at Sulphur Grove was scheduled at 0900Z. Description and maneuvers of object are identical to weather balloon maneuvers.. Winds were from the SW.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Minutes	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE NW	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS White half moon-shaped object with red tail light moved back and forth like a pendulum traveling slowly in a NW direction at an estimated altitude of 3,000 ft.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Witness

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY C

FICATION (If any)

*12/0 110 EST
Dayton 0416*

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

Officers of the Day Report

TO ATIC

FROM EWHGS

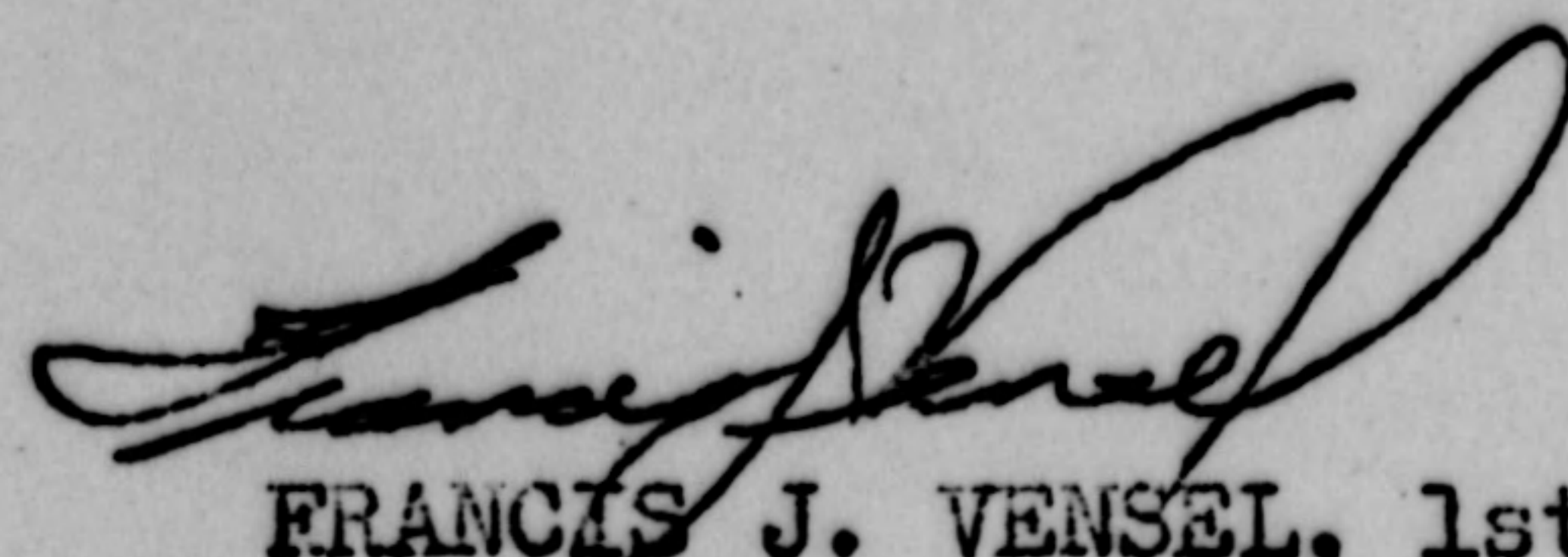
DATE 12 May 1953
Lt Vensel/mef
57220/B10/Rml17

COMMENT NO. 1

The following is for your information and/or necessary action taken from the report of the Field Officer of the Day and Asst Officer of the Day #1 for the period beginning 0830, 11 May 53 to 0830, 12 May 53:

A telephone call was received at 0410 EST, 12 May, from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Dayton, (Tel No. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~) reporting a flying object moving NW over Route 49 near the Miami Valley Golf Course. The object was observed for about 5 min. just before call was made. It was first mistaken for a star, but upon continued observation it appeared to be a 1/2-moon-shaped, white light with a red tail light. Estimated altitude was 3000 ft. The object moved back and forth like a pendulum and was traveling slowly. The object was about 50 degrees altitude from observer's residence.

Capt Wood, ATIC Duty Officer, was given the above information at 0416 EST.



FRANCIS J. VENSEL, 1st Lt, USAF
Asst Air Adjutant General

cc to EWI

- 1.) Observer 10 miles away from Sulphur Springs
- 2.) Check star pos.

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 28 May 53 29/0148Z	2. LOCATION Dayton, Ohio
3. SOURCE Civilian and Military	10. CONCLUSION Astronomical (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Additional observers evaluated as a meteor observation.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Object described as maybe a comet or ball of fire in flight from West to East. Below stars. About as high as an airplane. Did not come down to the horizon.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE East	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

Tip On "Saucer";

Season's First

Dayton's first "flying saucer" report in many months came from Belmont last night.

But the woman who spotted it said, "maybe it was a comet, so please don't quote me by name."

She said she saw what appeared to be a ball of fire flash through the sky from west to east over her house on Sauer Avenue. She fixed the time at 8:30 P.M.

"It was not as high as a star, but was about as high as an airplane. It didn't come down to the horizon."

The control tower at Wright-Patterson AFB said they had no report which might explain it.

28 May 1953

ATIC COMMENT: On the same night as the attached sighting, at approximately 8:30 P.M., two ATIC technicians well versed in astronomy also observed this object. There was no doubt in their minds but what the ~~subject~~ object was an extremely bright meteor which burned for about 5 to 6 seconds on a downward path. According to these sources, the object had a green-white hue. ATIC feels that here is a good example of how known phenomenon can cause widespread speculation due to an overly anxious observer. The fact that a meteor sighting was carried in a Dayton paper and advertised as a possible saucer plus the fact that the Control Tower at Wright-Patterson was quoted as saying that they had no report which might explain it, all makes for adverse publicity, and is reminiscent of 1952 situations where a known object has touched off a saucer craze.

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

OPERATIONS REPORT - 25-29 May 1953

The following numbered items of interest were noted in Project Blue Book operations for the above dates:

1. Progress report was received from Project Stork, contractor for Blue Book, on 24 May 1953. Sighting reports up to and including 31 December 1952 have all been processed and evaluated. All data for sightings up to and including 31 December 1952 have been transferred to IBM cards. Analysis of data contained on IBM cards was begun on 12 May 1953. By 10 June, after completion of the first phase of analysis of data, a preliminary report will be submitted to Project Blue Book.

One two-day evaluation conference was held during 23 and 24 April 1953. Three ATIC representatives and four representatives from Stork took part. Evaluation of 400 questionnaires was completed.

2. Recently an unidentified flying object was sighted over Dayton, Ohio and reported to the W-P AFB Control Tower. Project Blue Book feels that this case is a good example of misrepresentation of known phenomena. The observer was a woman who sighted an extremely bright object for a very short time arching downward and reported seeing the same to W-P AFB as an unidentified flying object.

The observer made the sighting at 8:48 p.m. On the same night, two ATIC scientists sighted the same object and described it as an extremely bright meteor lasting five to six seconds and having a green-white view. There was no question in the minds of these qualified observers that this object was a meteor.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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The sighting was publicized in a Dayton newspaper. This is a good example of how known phenomena can cause wide-spread speculation, due to an inexperienced observer. Two factors are interesting to note: (1) That the incident was carried in a newspaper, and (2) that the newspaper story stressed that W-P AFB Tower could not identify it. This is the type of publicity given to known objects which touches off the "saucer" hysteria.

Lt R. M. Olsson
ATIAE-5

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