

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 2 November 53 3/0400Z	2. LOCATION Horton AFB, California
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION AIRCRAFT Witness thought light to be a/c landing light.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Two airmen observed a bright white light at 2000, 2037, 2043 LST, approx 3-5 deg above H horizon. Object did not move at any time during observation. Each time the object was observed it was in the same place. Observers stated that the edges seemed to be fuzzy.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS XX Yes Not Rev'd. No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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02/2010
Norton AFB
Calif

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AIRWAYS AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
Detachment 1907-2 (1907th AACS Sq)
Norton Air Force Base, California

4 November 1953

SUBJECT: U. S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet

TO: COMMANDER
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio

ATTN: ATIAE-5

1. Submitted herewith is U. S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet with information regarding an unidentified aerial phenomenon observed by a control tower operator for Norton Air Force Base.

2. Pictures of the object were taken by the tower operator and the film is being forwarded to your Headquarters this date.

1 Incl
as stated


MELVIN R. ERICKSON
Capt., USAF
Detachment Commander

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?

2 November 1953
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

1. 2000
2. 2037
Hour 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?

Det. 1907-2 H.A.C.S. Norton A.F.B. Calif.
Nearest Postal Address City or Town State or Country

Additional remarks: I saw the object while on duty
in the control tower. Saw the object three
different times.

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours Minutes 20 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?

(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

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 star~~)?

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

14. Did the object appear:

(Circle One):

☒ a. Solid?

b. Transparent?

c. Don't Know.

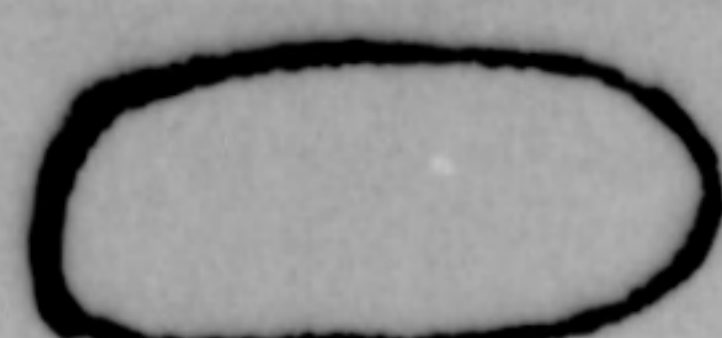
15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

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

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

- a. Sound No sound was heard.
- b. Color Light appeared white and very bright.

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.



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? _____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

*The same object or light was seen
three different times in about the
same position.*

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.

No movement was observed either time by any of the objects or lights.

21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.
25 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. Peg
- 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? *The light rapidly diminished in intensity until it went out.*

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.

I presume that the object I saw was a light of high intensity like that of an aircraft such as a landing light.

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 Norton AFB, Calif.

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

On the course of watching the area around Norton AFB. I saw the bright light west of the field. I was on duty in the Norton Control Tower when I saw the light.

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

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)

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

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | <u>g. West</u> |
| 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).

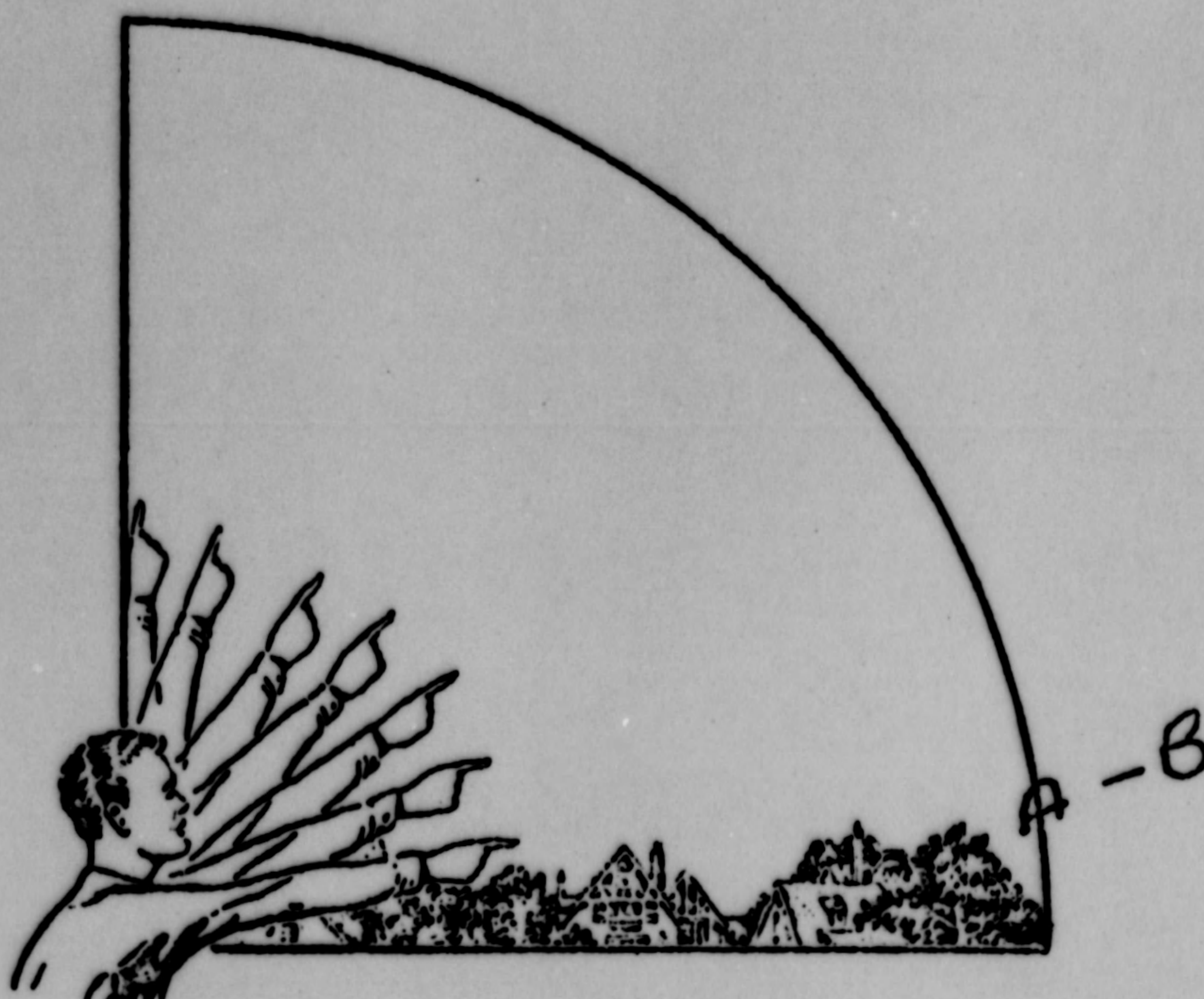
31.1 When it first appeared:

- a. From true North 260 or 270 degrees.
- b. From horizon 3 to 5 degrees.

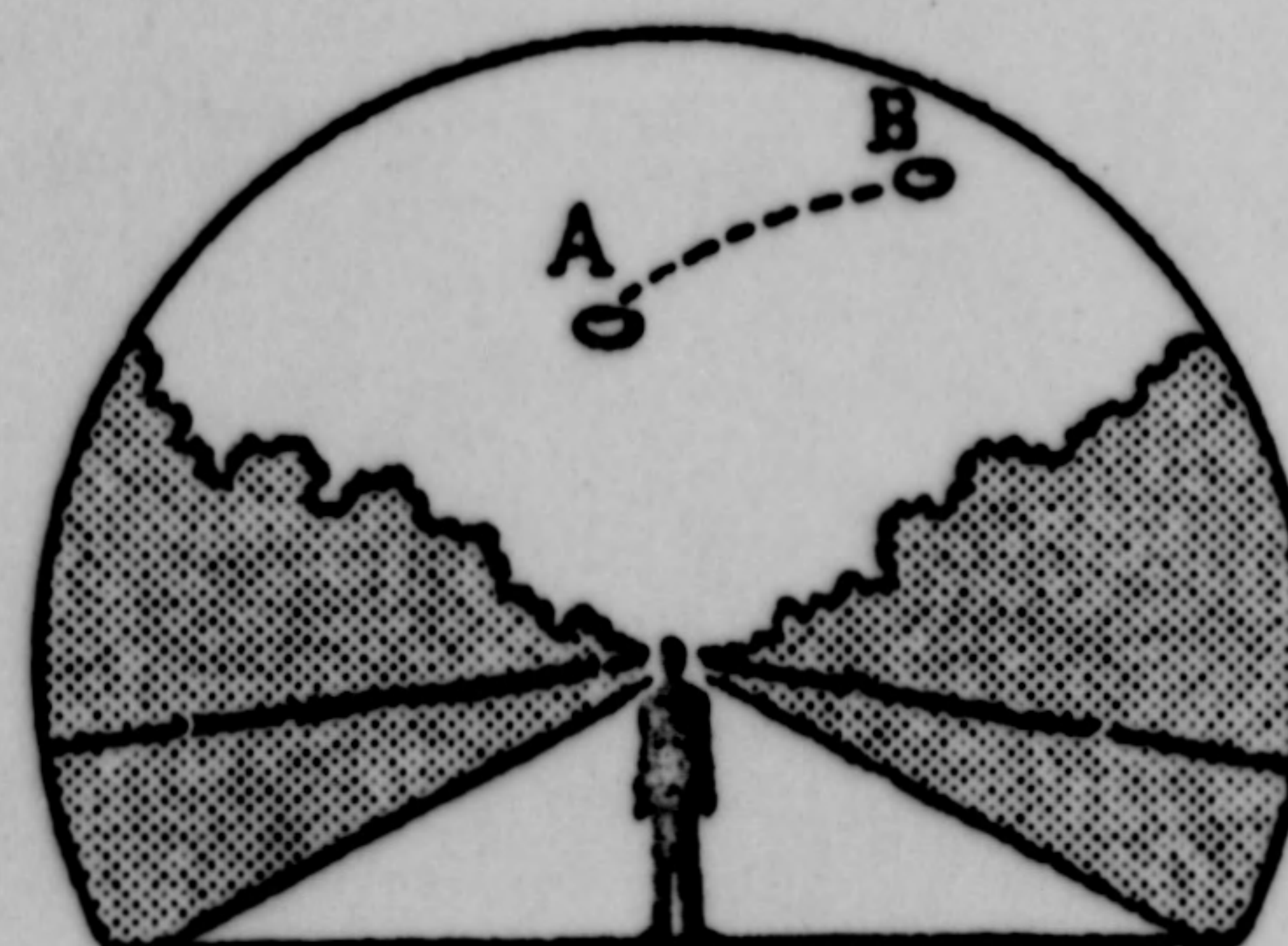
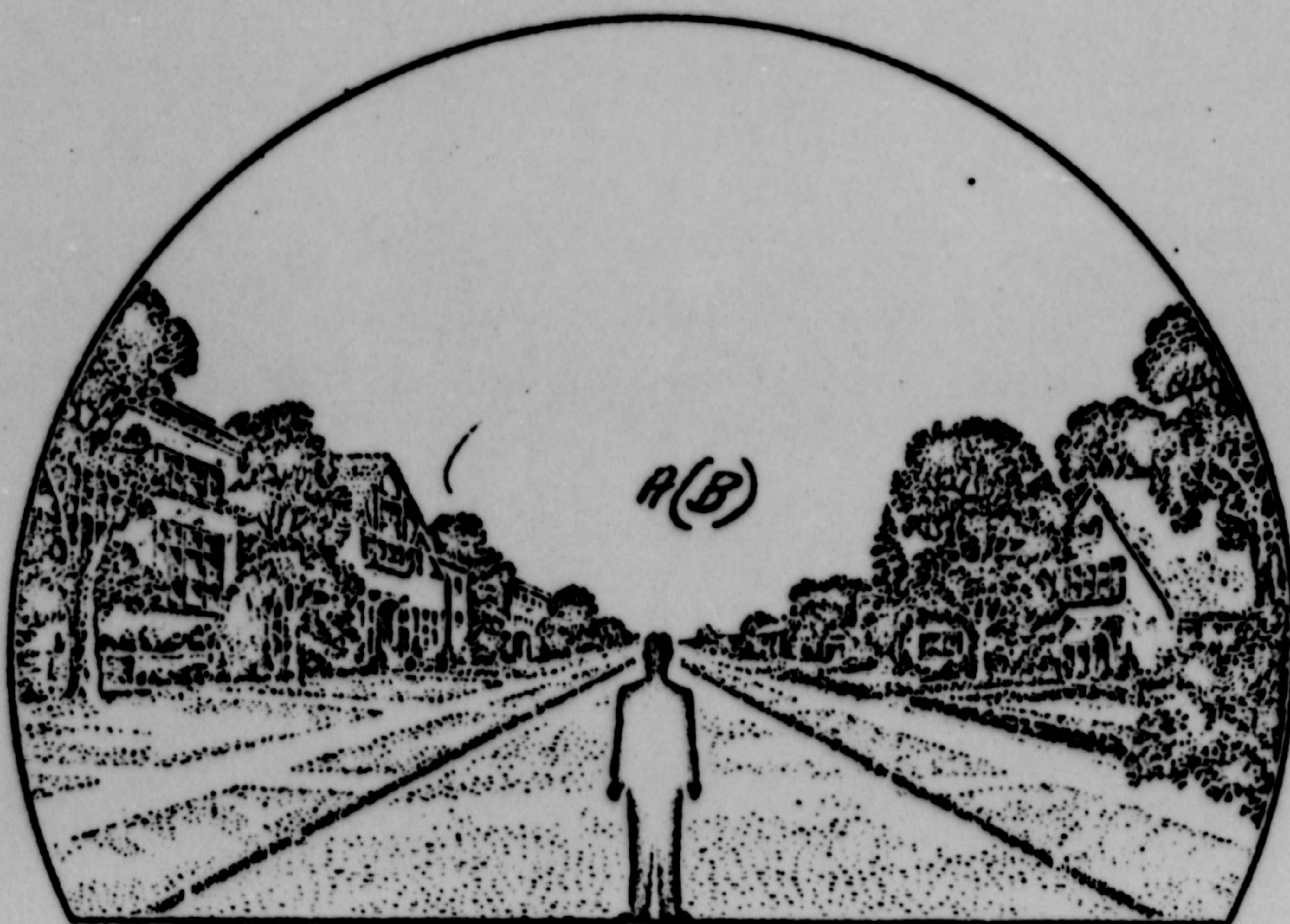
31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North 260 or 270 degrees.
- b. From horizon 3 to 5 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.



(B):
object did not
move.

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

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
- b. Cool
- c. Warm
- d. Hot
- e. Don't remember

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

2 November 1953
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:

A/3C [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] S.
Norton AFB, CALIF.

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?

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

*I think that the ~~obj~~ object was a light
and might have been caused by an aircraft
landing light.*

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?

_____ m.p.h.

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

(Circle One)

Yes

No

5 to 10 miles.

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

_____ feet.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

_____ Last Name

_____ First Name

_____ Middle Name

ADDRESS

_____ Street

Norton A.F.B.

City

_____ Zone

CALIF.

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

What is your present job?

Control Tower Operator - U.S.A.F.

Age

22

Sex

Male

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school

✓

e. e. Technical school

✓

b. High school

✓

(Type)

Control Tower School

c. College

f. Other special training

d. Post graduate

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

3

Day

November

Month

1958

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 Pf/C [REDACTED]
(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

CODE:

DATE 4 November 1953

The first time I saw the bright light was at about eight-o'clock in the evening while making routine visual checks of the area around the field.

Seeing the light I assumed that it might be an aircraft's landing light of some plane nearing the Ontario Airport located west of Norton Air Base.

Ten or fifteen minutes later I was informed by the Norton dispatch section that the editor of "The Sun", a San Bernardino newspaper, was on the phone saying that several persons in the Fontana area, a small community located west of San Bernardino, had reported sighting a very bright light in the vicinity of Fontana. A request was made by the dispatcher that we notify them if we saw the light again.

at eight thirty seven I saw the bright light again and notified the dispatcher. A short while later I was told that more persons had sighted the light again. This time the light was at about the same spot as the first and stayed on for about twenty seconds. The light diminished in intensity steadily and rapidly until it went out.

Six minutes later at eight forty three I saw the light again in the same place as before. I picked up the camera and stepped outside of the Control Tower cab and was able to get one picture of the bright light before it went out. This was the last time I saw the light. In taking the picture shutter speed was set at one ~~ten~~ tenth and the diaphragm set at three and five tenths.

The light did not move at any of the three times I saw them and I would estimate the altitude at which I saw them to be about six thousand ft. There were stars visible around the lights but none were near as bright as the three lights.

NO CASE (INFORMATION ONLY)

3 Nov 1953 (England)

THREE MESSAGES RECEIVED 19 November 1953 REGARDING SIGHTING IN ENGLAND:

1. A British sergeant and four assistants were testing a radar set in a London suburb. Suddenly, an intense signal flashed on the set--far greater than those obtained from ordinary planes. The signal came from an object which seemed circular or spherical and white in color.

The five radar men knew they were dealing with a mysterious metallic object about the size of a very large bomber. For fifteen minutes, the strange signal persisted on the radar. Then the object sped off over the English countryside at a height of 60,000 feet.

Two RAF officers flying a jet at 20,000 feet also saw the saucer-shaped phenomenon. They said the huge spheroid was giving off or reflecting a fierce light -- and passed their plane at tremendous speed.

The British War Office and the Royal Air Force Fighter Command are said to have begun an investigation.

2. The British War Office and Air Ministry confirmed this morning that a "strange object" had been tracked on November 3rd by Army radar. The object--a metallic phenomenon the size of a very large bomber--also was sighted by two Royal Air Force officers flying in a jet plane. Even as an investigation was begun, a woman in Essex said she had sighted a "mysterious object" in the night sky on the same day and again ²days later.

OVER

3. People in England are up in the air over a new "flying saucer" controversy. The meteorological office in London says a white disc reported by two fliers and registered over a radar screen is nothing but a weather balloon. Another official claims the alleged "flying saucer" fits the description of a new aircraft being built by a foreign power. He declined to name the power.

11/19 DR 324P

VIRGINIA FIREBALL OF 1953 NOVEMBER 3

A.M.S. No. 2366

B. S. RAGLAND and C. P. OLIVIER

On this date at about 6:11 p.m., E.S.T., a bright fireball was observed by 11 persons in or near Richmond, Va. The reports were gathered by Beauford S. Ragland who, 6 years later, became our regional director for Virginia, and whose sudden and untimely death in 1961 was a very great loss to the A.M.S. These reports he later turned over to Olivier for a possible solution. The difficulty to the latter comes from all reports being in an area with a difference of longitude only 16' and 21' in latitude, and all, who gave coordinates, with 21' of latitude. The sub-end point is determined by intersection of 4 azimuth lines almost in a point. The end height is based on two definite and two indefinite estimates and 4:1. H2 comes out as 110 km. The separation of the end points is only 11' hence the end point is in a point is

most surprising. As for the sub-beginning point we have only one complete observation and one altitude from another station. By using the proportional tangents an approximate beginning point, H2, is found. The height is 110 km but must be considered as of low weight. From the chart we then find the radiant's azimuth is 156° and the altitude uncorrected for slope is 10° . The fireball's color was bluish-white and it was designated as "large", one person definitely saying it equalled the full Moon. As some observers were indoors or in cars it must have been very bright to attract their attention. No train was mentioned and no durations given. Ragland did not at that time have a copy of our questionnaire as guide for asking data. The path is unusually high for a fireball, and as H1 is uncertain no orbit is calculated. The usual data follow:

Date	1953 Nov. 3.46
Sidereal time at end point	313°
Began over	$\lambda=78^\circ 43'$; $\phi=35^\circ 49'$ at 110 km
Ended over	$\lambda=78^\circ 02'$; $\phi=35^\circ 42'$ at 85 km
Projected length of path	140 km
Length of path	142 km
Radiant uncorrected	$a=156^\circ$, $h=9^\circ$
Zenith correction parabolic	-1°
Radiant corrected	$a=156^\circ$, $h=8^\circ$
	$a=177^\circ$, $\delta=+45^\circ$

On this same date at 6:25 p.m., E.S.T., another fine fireball was observed from New Jersey. We have one good observation from D. S. Wood at Palmyra, and two very poor ones from elsewhere. Wood gave the beginning at zenith, path vertical to N.W., end altitude 20° , duration 4 seconds. It was brilliant blue, diameter $1/3$ of full Moon so $\approx 10'$. A fragment broke off just before disappearance. Though the path of this fireball could not be computed

we have enough data to be sure it could not have come from the same radiant as the Virginia one 15 minutes earlier. It may be added, that in our fireball card file, for 1961, we already have 8 fireballs seen from November 1 to 6 inclusive of which 4 came on Nov. 3 and 4, an unusual number for non-shower nights when one remembers that, in spite of all efforts, it is certain that we receive reports on only a very small fraction of fireballs which appear.