

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE June or July 1956		2. LOCATION Warrenton, Virginia		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2 AM</u> GMT _____		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☒ Other <u>Unreliable Rpt</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian (then military)			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5-7 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 6 or 7		9. COURSE stationary	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Letter written in 1958 regarding a sighting in 1956 of lights that moved around. First impression was that they were ground lights. Soft glowing about 2 ft in diameter.				11. COMMENTS Other (unreliable rpt: too old)	

1956

CO 2 SHEET

SUSPENSE

ORIGIN OF BASIC

DATE

ASSIGNED BY

DATE

TYPE

NO.

SUBJECT UFO Report and Manuscript - Mr. [REDACTED]
Sierra Madre, California

ROUTING

Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action; ✓ for coordination.)

IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT
	OIN-1			OIN-2			OIN-3			OIN-4			AFOIN	
	OIN-1X			OIN-2X			OIN-3X			OIN-4X			AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X1	
													AFOIN-X2	
													AFOIN-X3	
													AFOIN-X4	
													AFOIN-X5	
													AFOIN-Z	
													CABLES	
													FILE	
													DISPATCH	

TO:

SAFIS-3 Major Tacker

DATE

18 July 1958

FROM:

AFCIN-4E

COMMENT NO.

1

COMMENTS (Use reverse, if necessary)

AFCIN-4E4/Capt. Gregory/ac
Ext. 6-9216/Bldg 828

1. Subject correspondence received from General Schweizer's office is submitted for necessary action, with the following upon which to base a reply:

a. Source cannot give exact date or time, only that incident took place sometime in June or July, 1956.

b. To properly solve any UFO case, immediate reporting of the incident is necessary for on-the-spot investigations. A matter of a few days' delay can render the investigation worthless.

c. Cannot comment on the "Min-Min" lights and "Ghost" fire reported seen in an Australian marsh, although the phenomena is typically characteristic of ball-shaped gaseous glow, an electrical discharge, often referred to as St. Elms Fire, and associated with swamps and particularly if methane gas (CH₄) is in the area.

2. Copies of the report have been made for our files.

1 Incl.
Ltr and Manuscript
fr [REDACTED]

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

April 16th 1958

Dear Sirs:

I am very ashamed that I haven't written you before now. I'll try to be as complete as I can considering the lapse of time, however, and perhaps the details will explain something of the delay.

I cannot fix the exact date - perhaps I could pin it down by research - I didn't make a note of it because I felt sure I would remember. It was on a Saturday night - that is Sunday morning of the month of either mid-June or early July. I was based at Ving Hill Farms Station - near Warrenton, Virginia - a Specialist 3rd class at the time - Army. I had been dating a girl in Rockville, Maryland, and would hitch-hike or take a bus there every chance I had - which was fairly often as our free time at the post was pretty much our own.

One of my favorite pastimes has always been to take long walks, so this particular night - having arrived with no money whatsoever in my pockets - my camera case on my back - (loaded with color film and camera equipment - my hobby) a little too late to visit the girl - but with hopes of seeing her the next day - I had hitched a ride with a buddy who lived in Rockville - I did many things on a shoestring while I was in the army - Most of that night I just wandered up and down the various roads in and around Rockville - ending up on the road leading out to the girl's house.

The exact spot is in front of an old house - now deserted - formerly utilized as an old-folks home - until (as I understand) it was condemned - this is on the crest of a small hill - and marks a decided dip in the road - I was standing on this spot when I looked down the hill to where I knew a house to be, I noticed a single light glowing - too large to be from a simple bulb - My first impression of the light was that it was an approaching automobile - but it was on such an angle that I wondered at this, because it did not correspond with the location of the roads - their being an intersection of three roads - (one main road curving and a newer side road) - the light was centered about where the crossing was - and a hill was just behind the light - as I watched it, it seemed to grow a little larger - which made me wonder if it might be a flare - I watched for a dripping at the base - thinking it might be an airforce maneuver of some sort - but I saw none - Then the light rose a little with a slight swaying motion - and was soon followed by several other lights the same size and description - not quite ~~as bright as a flare~~ as bright as a flare would be and glowing with a steady white glow. Remembering my training in spotting objects at night - I tried looking to either side in hopes of seeing anything that might be attached to the lights making some sort of silhouette. There was no indication. This doesn't mean much, however, since the night was clear, but moonless - and except for the glow of occasional street lights, quite black. It occurred to me to try for a picture - but I felt that with the movement of the lights themselves - and the low exposure of the color film - that it would be time better spent observing the objects than in getting out my paraphernalia and attempting to set it up in the darkness - In all, as I remember there were six or seven of the lights - they appeared to be rising immediately next to a tree in the yard of the aforementioned house (two story - near the intersection) - I wondered whether they were some sort of signal system connected to the tree - but they (assuming they were at this distance) swayed separately as they rose - as much as three to four feet from side to side - seeming to bob around slowly - they rose in a kind of order one above the other - until the highest light reached a point a little above the height of the tree - I connected the tree, because the lights seemed to show in front of what I

could see of the tree - it being lit slightly - to see a semi-sillouhette of the upper branches. Consequently I placed the lights in the yard of the house itself - I was a distance of approximately 200 yards from the objects-

At this point I remembered reading an article some time previously in a magazine I picked up in a latrine somewhere - concerning similar lights that had been seen in Australia - unexplained but seen on various occasions - (I am enclosing the article - as I have since relocated it). These are described very similarly to what I saw. / *Therefore, sometime in June or July 1956*

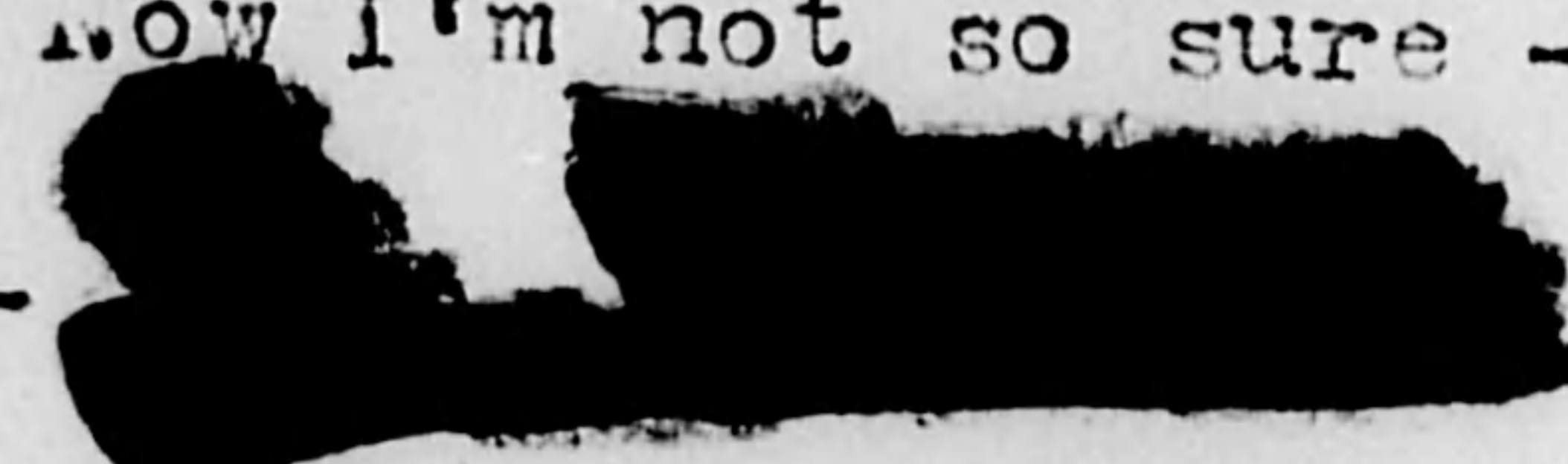
This was in 1956 - just prior to my seperation. About two in the morning. From the crest of the aforementioned hill on which I stood I was facing downhill - and could see the distant sky lit by the lights of Washington D.C. -

I watched the lights for about five to seven minutes - I timed them - but have since forgotten the exact time - After this period of time the lights, without dimming began to bob sideways a little more - still slowly - almost erratically ~~and~~ and began to settle - still one above the other back - seemingly into the ground - There was no sound that I could detect during this - or any other sensation than the lights themselves - After a brief moment, when I saw they were not going to reappear, I ran down the hill (I hadn't up until this time, because by so doing, I would momentarily lose sight of the lights - and thought too, that they would be explained if I continued to watch them - When I reached the spot where I had thought them to be, I looked about - there was seemingly nothing out of the ordinary - I tried to detect any unusual odor as of something having been burned - but nothing of this sort presented itself. I knew from earlier observation that the people in the house had been there and long since gone to bed. There ~~was~~ was no sign of life - and I couldn't see waking them up to ask if they had seen any lights in their front yard - I can see trying to explain this to a desk-sergeant. I walked back into town - thinking of calling you people - Upon arriving there I found the only thing open was a little coffee-shop - and the proprietor seemed thouroughly convinged that I was a real no-goodnik - so I couldn't see asking him for a dime for the phone-call - Also, I thought that it was probably something that could be explained away - and I was getting excited over nothing - So I let it go - I discussed it with various and sundry friends and acquaintances - and finally felt that it was probably of little or no importance. As I recall, there was at that time quite a stir going on concerning sightings from our base and other outlying army posts of strange high flying green and red lights - that upon investigation proceeded to disappear - I wondered afterward of the time connection - but dismissed it from my mind.

The lights I saw were about two feet across - judging by the assumed distance - and glowed with a soft - almost diffused light - white in color - and round - with definite diffusion around the edges - not sharp like an electric globe would be - very definitley round - almost as though they were rice-paper disks illuminated from behind -

You can check any references on me you choose - I have a complete TopSecret clearance filed with the FBI - and a good army record - I am not given to sensationalism, per se - But this has been on my conscience for some time - and I felt that, at least, I should tell you about it, on the chance that you get another similar report, you can lend it a little more credence than you probably otherwise would.

Forgive me for the delay in notifying you - There was at that time so much crackpot publicity and general pooh-poohing of the "flying saucer" business - that I felt that I would be just taking up you time - Now I'm not so sure -

Sincerely yours - 

(Here is a copy of the article I mentioned in relation to the lights - another reason why I didn't immediately notify you - or take the lights seriously - I am not in the habit of reading these magazines - but happened to have kept this one)

from: FATE magazine (ANC) August 1953 (True stories of the strange and the unknown ((don't laugh)))

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS
- of Australia →

Manuscript from Fate Magazine

by [REDACTED]

Those of you who have not visited Australia may never have heard of its "Min-Min Light", a phenomenon familiar to nearly all Australians. Visible only at night, the "Min-Min Light" is a huge globe of brilliant light which soars up from the wooded horizon, travels rapidly over the tree tops for some distance and then hovers, stationary for some time, giving the observer the eerie impression that it is watching him.

No one has ever gotten close to the "Min-Min Light", as the closer one approaches the further it recedes. A man who has spent nearly 18 years in western Australia states that nearly every one in that section has seen this strange aerial light at one time or another and no one can explain it satisfactorily. Apparently there is no legend associated with the "Min-Min Light", and various queries have failed to explain how it received its name or what the words "Min-Min" signify.

One night a stockman, riding his horse, spied the eerie luminosity and chased it. In his excitement he ran his horse into a fence, was thrown violently to the ground and died of his injuries.

Mr. Glenville Pike, of Mareeba, North Queensland, Australia, writes that he saw a similar light, one night, in the marshy country about 40 miles from St. Lawrence, on the central coast of Queensland. ~~He first~~ He first thought it was someone waving a lantern. Then he saw it soar into the air and dance about for some minutes, finally hovering in the air some 50 yards from him. Taking courage he strode through the darkness towards it and succeeded in getting to within 20 yards of it. To him it looked like "some huge glowing ball, hovering seven or eight feet above the ground." Suddenly it soared to one side and began a retreating, dancing motion over the boggy ground. He found that the light was leading him into dangerously marshy ground and he stopped. The light also stopped, "hesitated" awhile and glided a little nearer to him as though tempting him to follow. Mr Pike previously had been told by a companion that a deep chasm lay just on the other side of the marsh and he took no chance of falling into it. As he started back to his camp the light, as though realizing it had lost, swept over the chasm and fell from his sight.

When he returned to camp his companion told him that, according to the local legend, a man had been murdered many years previously by being pushed into that chasm and that his spirit persistently tries to lure newcomers to the same unlucky fate.

Mr. Pike states that a similar light is often observed near the remains of an old inn beside the nearly deserted Winton-Boulia road on the treeless plains of West Queensland. It is said that this inn was the rendezvous of drunkards and thieves and several nearby graves attest to the unfortunate potency of the home-brewed liquor sold there. Several years ago a young stockman observed a strange ball of light one night as he rode his horse past the place on his way home. He reined up and watched it for some time. He noticed that the light advanced and retreated but always returned to approximately the same location. Finally it came toward him. Losing his nerve, the stockman dug his heels into his horse and galloped frantically all the way to Boulia where he reported it to a sceptical police-trooper. But not long thereafter several others saw the same curious light. One was driving past in his car, saw the light along the road and gave chase, at 40 miles an hour. He declared that the

light kept "just ahead" of him all the time and vanished when he approached the old inn. ~~AMMEX~~

~~AMMEX~~ Another Australian "ghost light" is seen frequently on the stock-route, near Bourke, in northwest New South Wales. It is observed during the Summer months and drovers, already acquainted with it, will not camp overnight in the area as the light invariably stampedes their horses and cattle with disastrous results.

Apparently these mystery lights strike terror into the hearts of animals! Horses steadfastly refuse to enter the gateway over which a strange light dances on a farm in north-western Queensland. The tenant is so accustomed to seeing this light, bobbing and hovering over the slip rails of the horse paddock nearly 100 yards from his home, that he scarcely takes notice of it.

The lonely region at the head of the Murrumbidgee River, in New South Wales is noted for the remarkable "Quinn's Light," seen for years at regular intervals by awe-struck witnesses. This light is singular in form, being like a brilliantly glowing, immense eagle with wings fully spread. Some describe the light as "a most powerful glow." It was first observed floating about three feet off the ground among the trunks of the lofty gum-trees on the grazing property of a successful farmer named John Quinn. Some persons have shot at it but without the least effect. Others have tried to approach it but, as though directed by an observing intelligence, it always eludes them. One night a newcomer to the district was amazed to see this glowing, bird-like shape hovering over the homestead he had just bought. He declared to the local policeman that it hung in mid-air for fully 10 minutes, emitting a light so brilliant that "it made the ~~place~~ place as bright as day". He was so frightened ~~by~~ by this experience that he "reckoned it was time he packed up."

Police-trooper W.G. Noble wrote an account of the "Ghost Fire" occasionally observed in this same district. As he was riding his horse along the lonely stock-route, miles away from the nearest farm just an hour before day-break he noticed a glow in the woods alongside the road. He urged his horse over and got close enough to see that the light actually was a fire "emitting a kind of sulphurous, incandescent glow" and that it was shooting flames up against the side of a fallen tree. His horse refused to approach the weird light and reared and plunged in terror. Finally the horse stood stock-still trembling noticeably. The trooper circled the area and saw no sign of human life. Then the light vanished. Noble dismounted and felt the side of the fallen tree. It was not charred nor in the least warm. There was no sign of ashes or burned wood on the ground. He said that he had often heard reports of the "Ghost Fire" but up to that time had placed no credence in the stories.

Explanations of these strange lights vary. Some declare that they are "will-o'-the-wisps. others say that they are masses of fire-flies. Some claim that they have noticed the odor of escaping gas or petrol in connection with the lights. But why, always, do the lights elude their pursuers?

... ..

Well, that's the article - I don't know if there is any relation between it and my occurrence - but included this for documentary completeness - in that I had thought of this article when I witnessed the lights - Maybe you've already figured it out - in any event it's all yours ...

formerly:

x/166!