PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE

12 Jan 58

2. LOCATION

Spring Hope N.C./Salem, Va.

3. DATE-TIME GROUP

Local 0020 EST

GMT 12/0515,0520Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar

☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. SOURCE

Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

few secs

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

one

9. COURSE

West

12. CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☐ Possibly Balloon
- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft
- ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☐ Possibly Astronomical
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
- ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Rnd obj w/short cone trailing appeared 10-20 ft in diameter. The face of the sphere appeared greenish in color the remaining portion appeared fire-red. The cone was about the same length as the obj.

11. COMMENTS

Although there appear to be inconsistencies in statements of observer, all the characteristics maneuvers etc are those of a typical fireball.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Clear a matter

HQ USAF, 11 Feb 58, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object, Salem, Virginia, 12 January 1958

AG 1st Ind

Headquarters, Langley Air Force Base & 836th Air Base Group, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia 26 FEB 1958

TO: Commander, Air Defense Command, Ent Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado

1 Incl
n/c

ADODI 2d Ind 4 MAR 1958

HQ AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, Ent Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado

TO: Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

1 Incl
n/c

Dr. Hynek: Direct handling, OSI Rpt. Submitted only because some press queries made.

Just encircled a "small report and believe obj. probably balide" Green [illegible] - fiery red, red - interpis. ma. (i.e. Dr. LePoer's classic description & his Fireballs.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
21ST DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

File No: 24-147 11 February 1958

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object, Salem, Virginia, 12 January 1958

TO: Commander
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

1. This communication confirms information furnished [redacted], Major, AO 421112, Intelligence Officer, 345th Bombardment Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, on 3 February 1958, relative to an alleged sighting of an unidentified flying object in the vicinity of Salem, Virginia.

2. The 12 January 1958 edition of the Roanoke Times, a daily newspaper published at Roanoke, Virginia, contained the following article:

"Strange Objects Reported in Sky in This Section"

"Strange objects in the sky created concern in the Roanoke Valley area early today. State Police at Salem received a report from a man who reported a large object in the sky with what appeared to be a ball of fire trailing it. He said he saw it about 12:20 A.M. In addition, state police reported that the object or objects had been seen by persons in Floyd County and near Draper in Pulaski. Origin of the strange object was not known early today."

3. On 15 January 1958, Special Agent JOHN R. McNEILL interviewed Mr. [redacted], Route 3, Salem, Virginia. [redacted] furnished the following information concerning the unidentified flying object which he allegedly sighted on 12 January 1958:

(1) Description of the Object:

a. Appeared round, with a short cone trailing.

b. Appeared 10-20 feet in diameter, the face of the sphere appeared greening in color, the remaining portion including the trailing cone was fire red. The cone appeared to be a cone of fire given off from the object itself. The cone was about the same length as the object itself.

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(AFR 190-16)

c. The forward part of the sphere appeared to be of greenish fire and the remaining part was red in color.

d. Only one (1) object was observed.

e. No formation of any type was noted.

f. The object was void of shape except for its roundness and accompanying cone.

g. A trailing cone of what appeared to be fire about as long as the sphere and was the same color. The face or nose of the object glowed with a greenish color. good clue!

h. No sound noted.

i. No other pertinent or unusual details.

(2) Description of Course of Object: note

a. At 0020 hours, 12 January 1958, object observed from living room of residence through the front window which faced west. Object proceeded in a rapid course westerly and disappeared after a very short period of observation. ? 100 - 500 - 1000 MPH !

b. Proceeding westerly.

c. The object disappeared over mountains to the west of Salem, Virginia.

d. Object although not resembling a meteor, gave off a short trail of what appeared to be fire.

e. Same as c above.

f. Object observed only a few seconds. 5 - 20 - 50!

(3) Manner of Observation:

a. Ground visual.

b. No optical aids used.

c. N/A

(4) Time of Sighting:

a. 0020 hours EST, 12 January 1958 20 min after midnight

b. Night

(5) Location of Observer:

a. Residence, Rt 3, Salem, Virginia.

(6) Identifying Information on Observer:

a. [redacted], age 27, [redacted]m, Virginia; occupation - Buyer of scrap metal for Roanoke Scrap Iron and Metal Company, Roanoke, Virginia.

(7) Weather and Winds-aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sighting:

a. Clear weather.

b. No report from nearest weather station.

c. Ceiling - very clear, visibility unlimited.

d. Visibility unlimited.

e. No cloud formations noted at time of sighting.

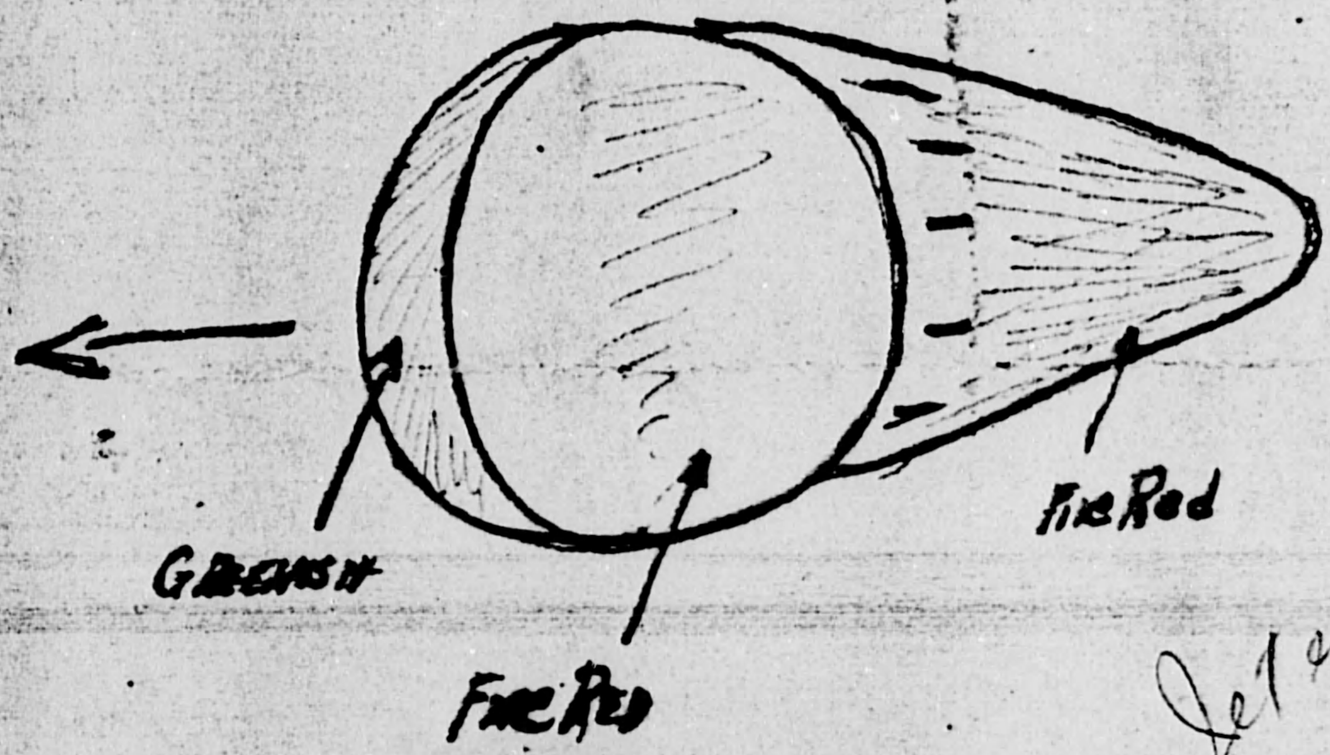
f. No thunderstorms in area at time of sighting.

(8) No air traffic noted in area at time.

1 Incl:
Drawing of [redacted]s version of object sighted

RICHARD G. COX
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

cc: Dir OSI, USAF



[redacted] version of the object observed on 12 January 1958.

Let's see if passing it around to these people results in anything?

Incl

AF FORM 112
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

34

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
US	IR-1-58	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT
Unidentified Flying Object

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
	Hq, 345th Bomb Wing, TAC, Langley AFB, Va

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
3 Feb 58	12 Jan 58	F-6

PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE
Clarke E. Johnston, Major, USAF	Hq, 21st District OSI, Langley AFB, Va

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
AFR 200-2, 12 Aug 54

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.)

1. On 12 January 1958, the Roanoke Times carried an article stating that an unidentified flying object had been seen early that morning near Salem, Virginia.

2. This office requested District Office 21, OSI, Langley AFB, to investigate this report.

3. Report is submitted on obsolete AF Form 112 because efforts to obtain current forms have been unsuccessful.

Clarke E Johnston

CLARKE E. JOHNSTON
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

APPROVED BY:

Albert W Satterwhite

ALBERT W. SATTERWHITE
Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 INCLS.
1. Illustration of Object
2. Newspaper article, Roanoke Times

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

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(CLASSIFICATION)

16—55340-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (*Agency*)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
Hq, 345th Bomb Wing (TAC) Langley AFB, Virginia	IR-1-58	

1. On 15 January, Special Agent John R. McNeill, DO 21, OSI, obtained the following information from an individual who stated he had seen the object.

a. [redacted], Rt. 3, Salem, Va., advised sighting a glowing object in the sky above Salem on 12 January 1958. On 15 January, [redacted] furnished the following information concerning the sighting.

CLUE

(1) Description of Object:

(a) Appeared round, with a short cone trailing.

(b) Appeared 10-20 feet in diameter, the face of the sphere appearing greenish in color, the remaining portion including the trailing cone, appearing fire-red. The cone appeared to be a cone of fire given off from the object itself. The cone was about the same lenght as the object itself.

(c) Forward part of the sphere appeared to be of greenish fire and the remaining part was red in color.

(d) Only one (1) object observed.

(e) The object was void of shape except for roundness and accompanying cone.

(f) See above.

(g) A trailing cone of what appeared to be fire about as long as the sphere and was the same color. The face or nose of the object glowed with a greenish color. Definite clue (See In. Over's meteor + Cloud Report)

(2) Description of Course of Object:

(a) At 0020 hours, 12 January 1958, object was observed from living room of residence, through the front window which faced west. Object proceeded in a rapid course westerly, and disappeared after a very short period of observation.

(b) Proceeding westerly.

(c) The object disappeared over mountains to the west of Salem, Va.

(d) Object although not resembling a meteor gave off a short trail of what appeared to be fire. Clue!

(e) See above.

(f) Object observed only a few seconds. 2, 4, 10 - ? ? ? ! !

(3) Manner of Observation:

(a) None

(b) None

See last page (Clues)

*See Dr [redacted]

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6-8 Dr (LA PAZ sightings)

(CLASSIFICATION)

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Hq, 345th Bomb Wing (TAC) Langley AFB, Va	IR-1-58	3	3	

(c) N/A

(4) Time of Sighting:

(a) 0020 hours, EST, 12 January 1958. 12:20 A.M a little after midnight

(b) Night

(c) Residence front room, living room, Rt. 3, Salem, Virginia. Through front window. Viewer's age 27. Occupation, buyer of scrap metal for the Roanoke Scrap Iron and Metals Company, Roanoke, Va.

(d) N/A

(5) Weather and Wind Conditions:

(a) N/A

(b) N/A

(c) Ceiling very clear, visibility unlimited.

(d) Visibility very good.

(e) There were no cloud formations observed at time of sighting.

(f) No thunderstorms in the area at time of sighting.

(6) Any other unusual activities or conditions:

(a) None

(7) Interception or identification action:

(a) None

(8) Location of any air traffic in area at time object observed:

(a) None observed.

(9) N/A

(10) None

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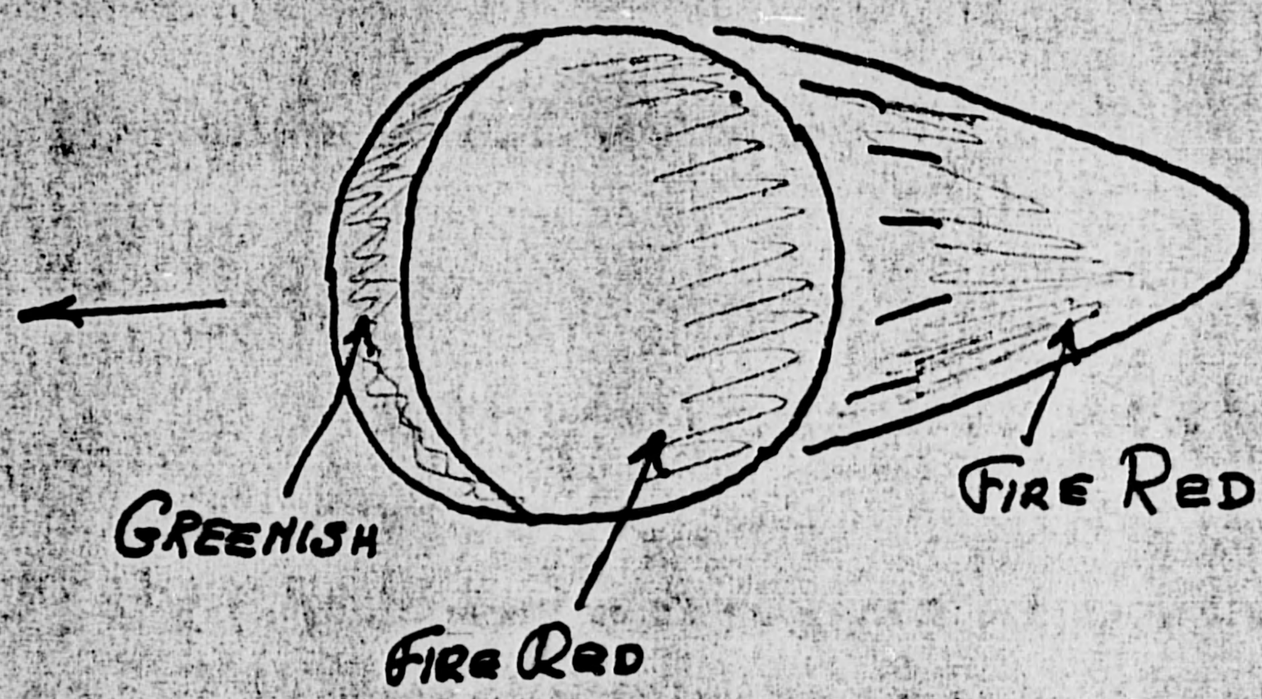
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
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[redacted] Version of the Object

Incl 1

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Hq, 345th Bomb Wing (TAC) Langley AFB, Va.	IR-1-58	1	1	

This is not an official, direct, 1st person report - newspaper story

THE ROANOKE TIMES, Sunday, Jan. 12, 1958.

Strange Objects Reported in Sky in This Section

Strange objects in the sky created concern in the Roanoke Valley area early today.

State Police at Salem received a report from a man who reported a large object in the sky with what appeared to be a ball of fire trailing it.

He said he saw it about 12:20 a. m.

In addition, state police reported that the object or objects had been seen by persons in Floyd County and near Draper in Pulaski.

Origin of the strange object was not known early today.

Sims Hypothesis

Question may be assumed that the Roanoke Times got the story from the Source?

ATIC Conclusion: Although there appear to be some uncertainties in Source's statements - all the characteristics, maneuvers, etc are those of a Typical Inbound (Inbound)

Incl 2

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(CLASSIFICATION)

Orb ASTIC

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12 Jan 0515Z

12 JAN 58

(33A)

SAFIS-3/Maj Tacker/jmd/74966/22 Feb 58

24 February 1958

Dear Mr [redacted]

Your letter addressed to the Morehead Planetarium concerning a sighting of an unidentified flying object on 11 January 1958 has been referred to this office for reply.

Your sighting has not been conclusively identified based upon the available data. However, your report will be used as part of the Air Force's continuing study on aerial phenomena.

For your information I am inclosing a copy of the latest Department of Defense Fact Sheet on this subject, dated 5 November 1957.

Your interest and prompt reporting of this sighting are appreciated.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

2 Inclosures
1. Fach Sheet
2. Summary

Mr. [redacted]
Reynolds Branch
Winston-Salem, N. C.

COMEBACK-SAFIS-3
HEADER-SAFIS-1
STAYBACK-SAFIS-3

cc: Mr. [redacted] the Morehead Planetarium,
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NOT TO BE USED FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1 NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
MAJOR L. J. TACKER			
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
SAFIS - OSAF			
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
	Jenzano		(Daniel)
	Chapel	Hill	SIGNATURE N. C.

REMARKS Suggested reply to [redacted]

1. Your letter to the Morehead Planetarium has been referred to the Air Force.
~~2. Thank you for your sighting~~
2. Your sighting has not been conclusively identified. Your report, however, will be used as a part of our continuing study on aerial phenomena.
3. Your interest and prompt reporting of the matter is appreciated.
4. (Suggest sending attached summary and DOD release to [redacted] and copy of letter to Jenzano.)

FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE
Ted Hieatt	7 Feb 58
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE
AFCIN-4X3	55266

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

☆ GPO : 1958—O-403461

The Morehead Planetarium, one of the six Zeiss planetariums in the western hemisphere, and the first on any university campus, is open for performances every evening at 8:30; 11:00, 3:00 and 8:30 on Saturday and 3:00, 4:00 and 8:30 on Sunday. The program is changed frequently . . . There is always something new at the Morehead Planetarium. ¶The Morehead Building contains, in addition to the Planetarium, the permanent Art Gallery in the Rotunda, and other galleries devoted to temporary art exhibits. Also, there are halls for scientific exhibits. ¶The 35-foot Copernican orrery, one of only two such installations in the world, is a particularly impressive mechanism.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
THE MOREHEAD PLANETARIUM

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

January 17, 1958

Dept. of Defense
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed, for your examination and correlation is a report recently received in this office.

Your reply and comment, if any, will be appreciated.

Cordially,

THE MOREHEAD PLANETARIUM

[redacted]

Box [redacted]
Raymond Branch
Winston-Salem, N.C.

(Jan 11, 1958)

Dear Sir,

Saturday night as I was traveling U.S. 64 I saw something which puzzled me. It was approximately 12:15 and I was about 2 miles east of Spring Hope, traveling west, when I saw a green object. It seamed to be travelling straight toward the earth and reminded me of a meteor, except that it was very large and had a green color. The speed seemed to be about the same as a meteor. when it seemed to reach the earth, the horizon lighted up as if an explosion had occured. I couldn't estimate the distance it was from me but it was very large compared to anything I have ever seen fall from the sky.

Several of my friends have also seen things similar to this. Friday night, January 10, my nephew saw something which he described, and it was very similar to what I saw. Two more of my friends have seen green lights at different times. A friend from Rocky Mount saw something green Friday night, but it seemed to be a little different from the rest. All these probably have a very simple explanation, and I would appreciate any help you could give me in finding out what caused these lights. Thank you very much.