# PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

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| **1. DATE**<br>13 Jan 59 | **2. LOCATION**<br>Norristown, Pa | **12. CONCLUSIONS**<br>☐ Was Balloon<br>☐ Probably Balloon<br>☐ Possibly Balloon<br>☐ Was Aircraft<br>☐ Probably Aircraft<br>☐ Possibly Aircraft<br>☐ Was Astronomical<br>☐ Probably Astronomical<br>☐ Possibly Astronomical<br>☒ Other Sun Dog<br>☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation<br>☐ Unknown |
| **3. DATE-TIME GROUP**<br>Local 1655 EST<br>GMT 13/2155Z | **4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION**<br>☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar<br>☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar | |
| **5. PHOTOS**<br>☐ Yes<br>☒ No | **6. SOURCE**<br>Civilian | |
| **7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION**<br>50 mins | **8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS**<br>one | **9. COURSE**<br>SW |

**10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING**

Cigar shaped obj, color of golden sunlight, seemed to be descending slowly toward the horizon.

**11. COMMENTS**

From description and apparent motion, witness probably observed a parhelia.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Dear ...

AFIC for possible evaluation and/or analysis

[redacted]

Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

20 May 1959

Major Joseph Boland
Hq USAF - SAFLL - 3
RM 5 D 916 The Pentagon
Washington 25 D.C.

My dear Major Boland;

So long ago that I am embarrassed to recall how long, I shared a observation of mine with Colonel [redacted] He gave me your address, and suggested that I write to you about it. I failed to do so, in the pressure of things - and because the whole thing seemed a bit foolish. However, I feel sheepish every time I visit where the Colonel is a patient for not having written, so here goes!

On Tuesday, 13 January 1959, at about 1655 EST, I observed a strange object in the sky. I was driving at the time, watched the object for a mile or so of driving, and then parked the car and continued observation until it disappeared. Within 15 minutes I was home, and instantly sat down and made notes. I endlose the sheet of scribbled notes made at that time. If convenient kindly return it to me.

I was driving on route 202 about 4 miles northeast of Norristown, Penna - driving toward Norristown. The sun was only a few degrres above the horizon.

I noticed this object ahead of me through the windshield, about 10 degrees above the horizon, and about 10 degrees south of the setting sun.

It was shaped like a cigar. Its axis was vertical, as observed. Length about half the apparent diameter of the sun.

Its color was like golden sunlight - the sun itslf was then quite red.

My first reaction was a cloud. On many counts that was rejected (no adjacent clouds; its smallness and sharply defined and stable outline; its ultimate observation ~~through~~ beyond a bar of horizon cloud, of which I shall write later in these notes)

Second reaction was the moon That was soon rejected (wrong shape and size; too rapid descent and I think the calendar for that date shows moon at another phase than just past new moon)

As I drove for five minutes before parking, the object seemed to be descending slowly toward horizon. As I observed from the parked location it descended further and went behind a small bar of horizon cloud. It reappeared below that bar of cloud! It was too faint in the denser horizon atmosphere, and twilight, so that I gave up observations at 1705. The sun had set somewhere between 1655 and 1705.

I was alone. After parking I made comparative onservations, with and without the car window intervening - and with and without my bifocals! Visible under all conditions.

I would appreciate any comment you have to make. Whenever anyone claimed to have seen things in the sky, I have at least inwardly smiled! Although a priest by vocation ([redacted] here, and a civilian chaplain at [redacted] Army Hospital) I have had considerable technical and engineering training, and continuing interest (studied astronomy in College long ago) and have had considerable military training (though not service) in my youth in the 1920s. My son is a Regular Army Infantry Officer ([redacted] currently learning Arabic in the FAST program. So, we haven't yet acquired a reputation as screwballs!

Cordially yours

[redacted]

P.S. Have been Amateur Radio [redacted] since December 1922

Tuesday, 13. Jan 59
@ abt 1655 EST
Sun only a few degrees above horizon

Brilliant object in sky
sighted on Bronx Parkway south on 202
a little east of terminus of Bronx St
seemed to be ~~at~~ 10° above horizon
& 10° south of setting sun
shape like a cigar
axis vertical as viewed
color like golden sunlight (sun then now out)
seemed moving toward horizon very slowly
seemed to change axis slightly several times

observed as I drove on 202, & on Bronx St to Pelham
& up Pelham for 1/8th mile, & then parked & watched
seen with or without glasses
thin bank of cloud a few degrees above horizon
object disappeared behind it, & in minutes later
reappeared below it
position & size
seemed had set
drove off about 1705

[redacted]