PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	12. CONCLUSIONS
2 Mar 59	Bloomington, Ill	☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 03/0142Z	**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION** ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☒ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No	**6. SOURCE** Civilian	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8 secs	**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS** one	**9. COURSE** NW
		☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Speck of light, heading NW, approx 50° elev, passed thru an angle of approx 20-25°.

11. COMMENTS

It is the opinion that the obj was probably a high flying jet a/c, distance and wind direction accounting for the absence of sound.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

On March 2, 1959, I stood on my front porch looking for a star on which to focus my telescope camera. I was looking at Sirius because it seemed to be bright enough to cast an image on the focusing glass on my telescope camera. As I studied the star I noticed a faint speck of light, so faint I would never have detected it if I had not been looking at Sirius, pass under the star Sirius on a northwesterly heading. At first I thought it might be an artificial moon - perhaps one of the Explorers - but if it were, I should think that it would be traveling in the opposite direction. I know it wasn't a meteor flashes by quickly and leaves a momentary streak of light, but this faint light did neither. During the time I saw it - about eight (8) seconds - I tried to estimate the distance it traveled. I should guess that it passed through an angle of about 20° - 25°. i.e.

I should guess that the object was at an elevation of about 50°. During the time I saw the light I heard no rumble or roar as would come from a jet plane, and I did not hear such a sound during the three or four minutes I spent trying to detect the light after I lost it. I lost it because I glanced at my watch to check the time which was 7:42 P.M.

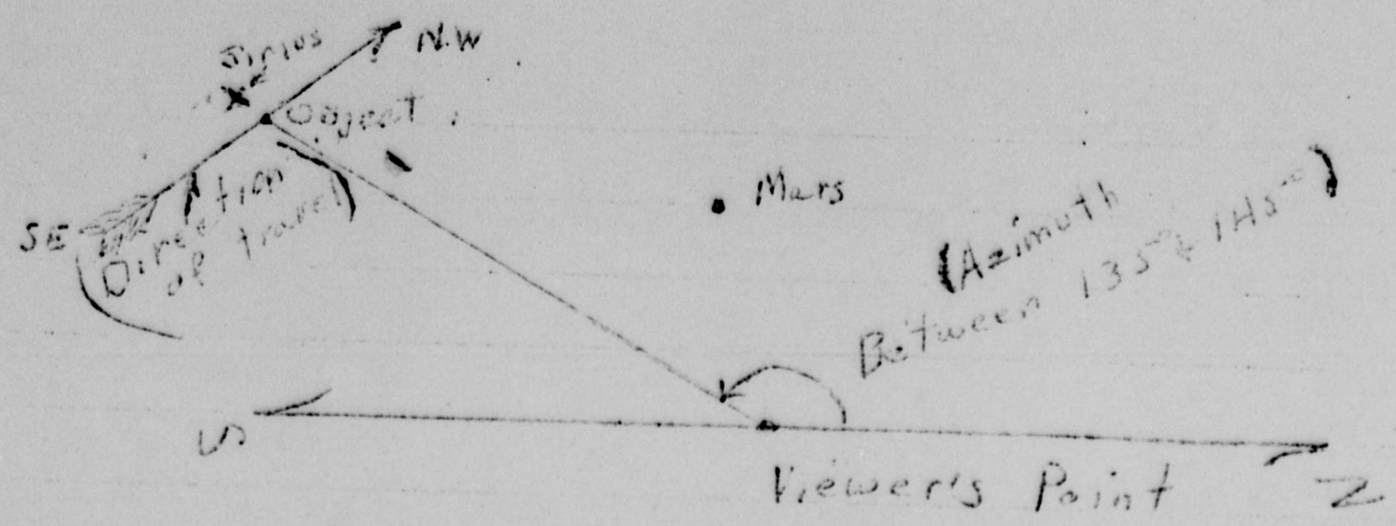
During the time I worked for the Ground Observer Corps I saw a few strange things which include a small cloud, a jet plane flying at very high altitude - it made no sound until it was well past my OP, and even a white kite. All of these I identified these objects within half a minute. I have seen all manner of lights at night all of which proved to be the lights of airplanes. In fact, I have never seen a light quite like it short of a satellite, but I don't think this one was a satellite. If you should find out what it was please notify me because my curiosity is really aroused.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Bloomington, Illinois.

RECEIVED
6 MAR 59 10 44A
ATIC



Time: 7:43 P.M.
March 2, 1959

UFO Sightings

SAFIS-3, ATTN: Maj. Tacker 25 March 1959

AFCIN-4E 1

AFCIN-4E4g/Maj Friend/ac/69216/Bldg 263

1. The possibility of Mr. [redacted] observing a satellite was considered. However, the speed of the object was too great and duration too short for a satellite.

2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is ½ second or less.

3. The speed, assuming the witness made a good estimate, is quite high for any aircraft other than an F-104 or B-58. It is known that F-104's operate in this area, and could have been running an intercept mission. The F-104's have four (4) lights on the tail arranged in a perimeter and thus can be seen from almost any angle.

4. It is the opinion of this office that the object was probably a high flying jet aircraft, with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

UFO response

1 Incl:
Ltr fr [redacted]
[redacted] (No date)

H. H. GIBBET
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

31 March 1959

Dear Mr. [redacted]

This is to acknowledge your letter received at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on 6 March concerning an unidentified flying object sighting in Bloomington, Illinois, on 2 March.

The findings of the Air Technical Intelligence Center reveal the following:

1. The speed of the object was too great and the duration of time observed too short for it to be a satellite.

2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is ½ second or less.

3. The speed as estimated is quite high for any aircraft other than F-104 or B-58 jets. It is known that F-104s operate in the Bloomington area and this aircraft has four lights on the tail structure arranged in a perimeter so they can be seen from almost any angle.

4. It is the opinion of the Air Technical Intelligence Center that you observed a high-flying jet aircraft with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

Sincerely,

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

Mr. [redacted]
Bloomington, Illinois