PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 28 Feb 61	2. LOCATION Honolulu, Hawaii	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
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local_____ GMT 010537Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1 to 3	9. COURSE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Fine contrail followed by breakup into 3 parts and burnout.

11. COMMENTS No reentry this date. Therefore probably a meteor since sighting is characteristic of daylight observation of bolide.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

REPLY TO ATTN OF: AFCIN-4X2

SUBJECT: Extract from Duty Officers' Report

1 Mar 61

TO: AFCIN-4E2 (Maj Friend)

The following, extracted from Capt Smith's report dated 28 Feb 61, is quoted for your information:

> By telecon from AF Warning Center in Washington around 0530; message relayed from PACAF 01/0537Z. "Three pilots noticed fine contrail over Honolulu, Hawaii followed by breakup into three parts and burnout". Thought to be satellite burnout.

Michael J. Stroff Jr.
MICHAEL J. STROFF, JR.
Major, USAF
AFCIN-4X2

ASTRONOMY

Mars and Venus Still Prominent

February's brilliant night sky features the constellations of Orion, Taurus, Auriga, Canis Minor and Leo, as well as the planets Venus and Mars, James Stokley reports.

▶ STILL INCREASING in brilliance, Venus is now brighter than any other planet or any star, in the evening sky. You can see it in the west soon after the sun has descended below the horizon, and long before the end of twilight. In fact, it is now so bright that you can even see it in broad daylight—if you know just where to look.

Even though it is now about a month past the time of its greatest brilliance, Mars is still prominent on February evenings. It is in the constellation of Gemini, the twins, high in the south as shown on the accompanying maps. These show the skies as they look about 10 p.m., your own kind of standard time, on Feb. 1; about 9 p.m. at the middle of February, and at 8 p.m. as it comes to an end.

On the astronomer's scale of brightness, Venus has a magnitude of minus 4.2 on Feb. 15. That of Mars is minus 0.1, which makes it about a fortieth as bright as Venus. Only one star is as bright: Sirius, the dog star, in Canis Major, the great dog. Sirius exceeds Mars by more than three and a half times.

Mercury Seen Above Horizon

Because Mercury, the innermost planet, is so close to the sun, it is seldom seen. But on Feb. 6 it will be farthest east of the sun, and so will remain above the horizon for a little while after sunset. Thus, for a few evenings about this time you will be able to see it low in the southwest in the gathering dusk. By the time the sky is dark, Mercury will have set; we can never see it in the nighttime sky.

Higher than Sirius, and a little to the right, stands the notable constellation of Orion, the warrior. The three stars in a row, which form his belt, will help you recognize it. Above the belt is Betelgeuse and below is Rigel; both of these stars are first magnitude.

Still higher and farther right you will see Aldebaran, the bull's eye. A V-shaped group of stars, called the Hyades, outline the bull's face. Among these is ruddy Aldebaran, which marks his eye.

Directly overhead, at the times for which our maps are drawn, stands Auriga, the charioteer. In it is the bright star called Capella, shown on the northern sky map. Below it, to the south, is Mars, in Gemini, the twins; in this same constellation is the first magnitude star Pollux. And below the Gemini is Canis Minor, the lesser dog, with Procyon.

In no other region of the sky are so many brilliant stars concentrated in so small an area. It is because they are visible in the evening at this time of year that the winter skies are so magnificent. The added presence of Mars now makes them even more so.

Climbing into view in the east is another first magnitude star, Regulus. It stands in the figure of Leo, the lion.

In the northeastern sky is Ursa Major, the great bear, of which the familiar great dipper is part. The two stars in the bowl of the dipper called the pointers show the way to Polaris, the pole star, which is always in the north. This is in Ursa Minor, the lesser bear.

To the left is Cepheus, the king, and Cassiopeia, the queen. The latter consists of stars arranged to form a letter M, on one side. And above and to the left of Cassiopeia is Perseus, the mythological hero, with the star called Algol. This is a famous variable star. Every 2.86 days this star dims in light as the brighter orb is eclipsed by a darker star that revolves around it.

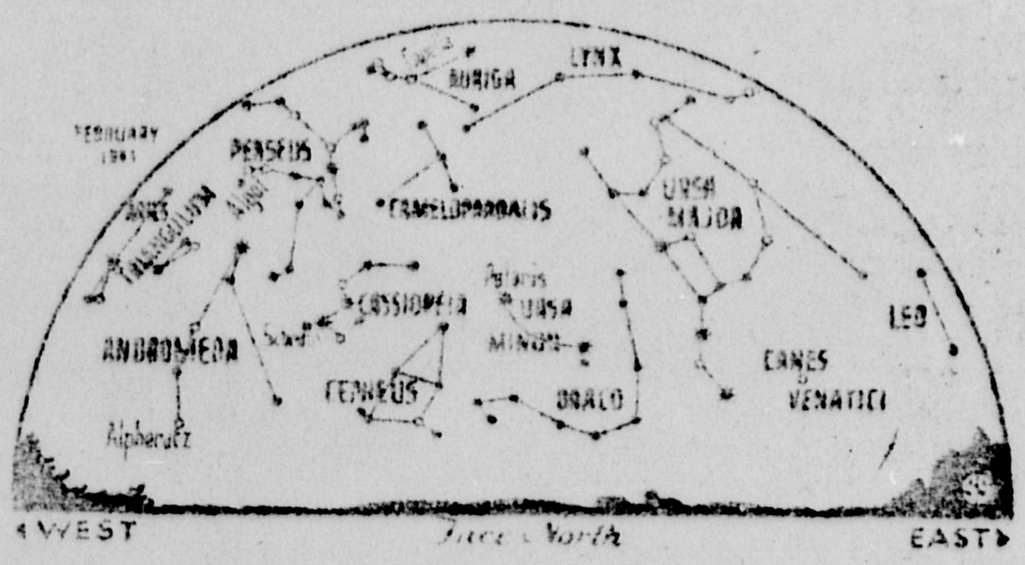
Twice each year the moon comes between the sun and earth, producing a solar eclipse. When this happens, the tip of the moon's conical shadow may sweep across the earth, along a path a hundred or so miles wide and several thousand miles long. In this "path of totality" the moon completely hides the sun's globe and the surrounding corona comes into view for a few minutes. When this happens, astronomers can make many observations possible at no other time.

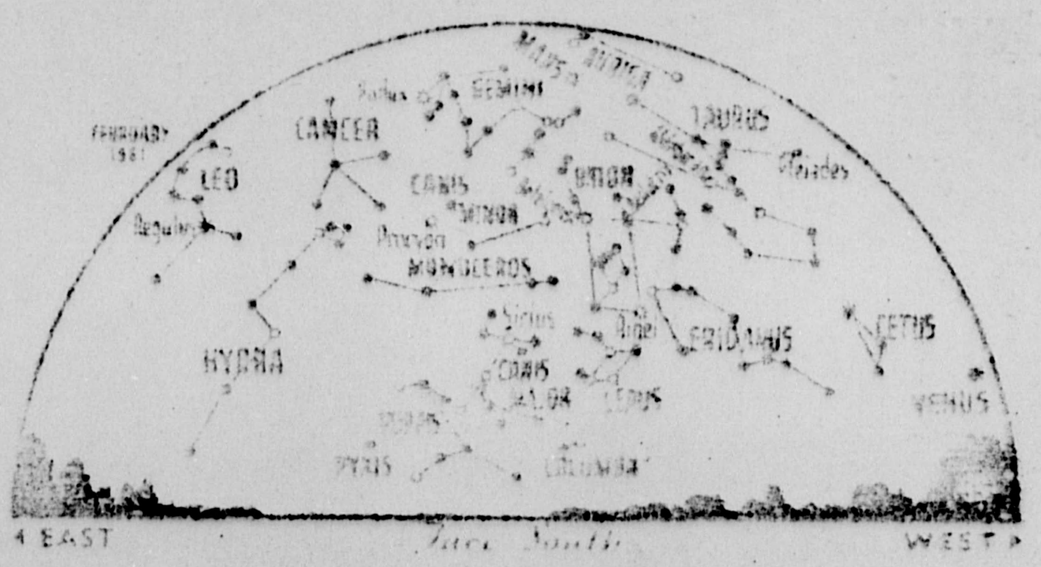
The eclipse track often passes over distant parts of the world, or over large areas of ocean in which there are but a few scattered islands. Many eclipse expeditions have been organized, at great trouble and expense, to get to the places where the eclipse can be seen. Sometimes all these efforts are frustrated by clouds in front of the sun during the crucial minutes.

Eclipse Comes to Astronomers

Since an eclipse path may reach any part of the earth, occasionally it may happen to go over a well-populated region, even one with many permanent observatories. Then the astronomers do not have to go to the eclipse—it comes to them.

This will happen on Feb. 15, when the sun will be hidden for millions of people in southern and eastern Europe. The path of totality starts in the Bay of Biscay as the sun is rising. Then it sweeps over southern France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria and the U.S.S.R. It ends just as the sun is setting in northern Siberia, near the Taimyr Peninsula. At the beginning of the path, in the Bay of Biscay, it is 193 miles wide, and at the middle the width is 164 miles.





• • • SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

NO CASE (INFORMATION ONLY)

Source: Fawcett

16 February, 196[illegible]
Lakeport, California

On February 16 near Cow Mountain outside of Lakeport, California the son of Mr. [redacted] [redacted] photographed a multi-colored UFO. The object was seen for over an hour by the entire [redacted] family. It had a white center, a red bottom and a blue top.

OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO PRIVATO
PIAZZA DI PORTA CASTIGLIONE, 10
BOLOGNA - ITALIA

CABLE ADDRESS: ORBITRACK

copy

1961 FEB. 18

FEB 21 1961

Operation Section
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
1520 H Street N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Attention: Mr.E.C.Buckley

Dear Sir,

I have observed an unidentified object that may be the balloon that today's newspapers say has been launched from Wallops Island base and now missed or not under control.

DATE: 1961 February 16

TIME: (U.T.) $19^h\ 45^m$

COORDINATES: R.A. $11^h\ 40^m$
Decl $+33°$ approx.

MOTION: slow

DIRECTION: from EAST-NORTH EAST to WEST-SOUTH WEST Westward object

MAGNITUDE: +4

It cannot be the satellite Echo I because in these days this satellite is well observable in the evening going in opposite direction.
I am sorry I am not in a position to give you further informations, but during this observation I was operating with a telescope photographing.

Sincerely,

very truly yours

dr. U. Dall'Olmo

RECEIVED

No Case (Information Only)

19 February 1961
Berlin Heights, Ohio

1961

..On February 19th a strange missile hit a house near Berlin Heights, Ohio, and landed with such force that it broke a number of slats on the roof before falling to the ground. When the owners of the farm checked later, the object had split into several pieces which were scattered over the side steps. The largest chunk is about four inches by two inches, and is made up of several strata of translucent rock. The top layer resembles limestone, and the lower layers appear to be of a different substance, fused to the rock by intense heat....

No Case (Information Only)

22 February 1961
Conroe, Hempstead &
Ellington Field, Texas

* *

MYSTERIOUS OBJECT STIRS LAW OFFICIALS - "Object appeared to be about 200 feet off the ground. Then moved in a westerly direction at a high rate of speed". That was part of an exchange between the Bryan Department of Public Safety radio dispatcher and various units from here to Houston. The time was about 10 p.m. last night. The object referred to was an elusive "unidentified flying object". The first sighting was near Conroe by a Highway Patrol Unit. He described the "thing" as a bright, silent light." Another Highway Patrol unit at Hempstead also saw the object. An Air Force spokesman at Ellington Field near Houston said that there were no military aircarft in that area. He also said that their radar would not pick up objects as low as 200 feet. Houston International Airport also said that they knew nothing of any air activity in the area. The radar apparatus here was not in operation at the time. Dr. Dale F. Leipper, head of the Dept. of Oceanography and Meteorology said he knew of nothing that could have caused the bright light. (College Station, Texas, Battalion, 2/23/61)

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFCIN-4X2

SUBJECT: Extract from Duty Officers' Report

27 Feb 61

TO: AFCIN-4E2, (Maj Friend)

The following, extracted from Capt Morton's Report dated 24 Feb 61, is quoted for your information:

> 1905 hours, received call from Capt Mack, Information Officer, Washington DC for information on UFO in that area. Contacted Maj Friend who said there was no information pertaining to that UFO. Called Capt Mack to relay the negative report.

Michael J. Stroff Jr

MICHAEL J. STROFF, JR.
Major, USAF
AFCIN-4X2

No Case (Information Only)

28 February 1961 Massachusetts
Lakeville, [redacted]

On February 28, 1961 an elongated UFO, yellow with a dark red edge and surrounded by "black smoke" illuminated the ground for 5 minutes near a house at Lakeville, Massachusetts. It caused the failure of electric lights in the house, but when the UFO moved from the area the house lights came on again. On its second pass above the house an odor like 'fat burning' was detected.

Low-Flying UFO Puts out Lights

A strange elliptical UFO which emitted clouds of smoke and affected electric lights was sighted early on the morning of February 28 near Lakeville, Mass. The UFO, moving at a low altitude and making a roaring sound, was seen by at least three witnesses at two locations 12 miles apart. The sighting has been investigated by the Boston-NICAP Subcommittee.

Adviser Walter N. Webb, astronomy lecturer at Charles Hayden Planetarium and Chairman of the Subcommittee stated in the evaluation report:

"The strange unearthly appearance and behavior of this object place it in the UFO category. Of particular interest is the apparent electromagnetic (E-M) effects, during its passage, which resulted in the failure of electric house lights. Whatever this UFO was it was not anything conventional or astronomical." (Compare Tyndall Air Force base sighting for another recent instance of E-M effects.)

The UFO was sighted about 3:20 a.m. by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blackwood of Lakeville. On hearing a roaring noise in the sky they looked out their window and observed an eerie elongated object, bright yellow with a dark red edge and surrounded by "black smoke," which was visible low in the northeast sky. The UFO was "rolling back and forth" rapidly and moving slowly toward the southwest. As it passed over the house the bedroom was illuminated like daylight. The lights which had been left on in the kitchen dimmed and then went out. The Blackwoods rushed to a south window and watched the object continue on its course. It was visible about 5 minutes. After it passed, the house-lights came on again.

Mr. & Mrs. Blackwood observed a second pass of the UFO a few minutes later after hurrying outdoors. The house-lights again faded out and the pair detected an odor similar to "fat burning" as the UFO passed overhead. Later the object was visible a third time at a greater distance.

About 12 miles to the south a third witness in New Bedford, who reported his sighting to the Standard-Times, heard a loud noise at 3:15 a.m. and saw a barrel-like object with "black clouds" at each end.

"It bobbed up and over," said the observer, "like a bobber on a fishline," giving off a blinding light as it moved slowly from west to east. At 3:30 the UFO disappeared, heading south toward Fairhaven.

1 - 14 MARCH 1961 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
1	Spring Brook & Tioga, North Dakota	Multi	Astro (VENUS)
1	San Bernardino, California	[redacted]	Aircraft
2	St Albans, W. Va./Cincinnati, Ohio/ Dayton, Ohio/Richmond, Indiana	Multi	Astro (METEOR)
2	Great Falls, Montana	Multi	Astro (METEOR)
2	Minot, North Dakota	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
3	Aviano, Italy	Military	Astro (METEOR)
3	Ephrata, Washington	Military Visual	Astro (VENUS)
		RADAR	Other (WEATHER RETURNS)
4	Lakenheath, England	Military	Astro (METEOR)
4	Grand Rapids, Michigan	Not Stated (PHYSICAL S)	Other (ALUMINUM)
4	42.55N 43.30W (Atlantic)	Military	Insufficient Data
5	Lanett, Alabama	[redacted]	Satellite
5	49.38N 20.26W (Atlantic)	Military	Insufficient Data
6	Portland, Oregon	[redacted]	Satellite
7	120.08W 55.43N British Columbia	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
7	San Bernardino, California	[redacted] & [redacted]	Balloon
8	39.20N 133.20W/43.11N 134.04W	Multi	Astro (METEOR)
9	Dallas, Texas	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
9	Chanute AFB, Illinois	Military	Other (MISINTERPRETATION)
9	Heppner, Oregon	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
10	RAF Upper Hayford, England	Military Visual	Astro (MARS)
		RADAR	Other (WEATHER RETURNS)
10	Minot, Bismarck, North Dakota	Multi	Astro (VENUS)
12	Australia	Multi	Astro (METEOR)
12	Carswell AFB, Texas	Military	Aircraft
13	Osgood, Indiana	[redacted]	Satellite
13	Guard Island, Ketchikan Alaska	Military	Astro (CAPELLA)
14	Elkins, West Virginia	Eastern Airlines	Astro (METEOR)
14	West Hollywood, Florida	[redacted]	Balloon
Spring	Kemah, Texas	[redacted]	1. Other (SPIDER WEB) 2. UNIDENTIFIED

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Mar	Universe	Science News Ltr	
Spring	Millville, New Jersey	Zambone (Ltr)	
1	Washington & California	Newsclipping	
3	Kansas City, Missouri	Moonwatch Rpt	
4	Idaho & Utah	Newsclipping	
5	London, England	Newsclipping	
7	Portland, Oregon/Sacramento, Calif	Newsclipping	
8	Henderson, Ky/Eureka, California	Newsclipping	
9	Perry, Iowa/Glendale, Oregon	Newsclipping	
10	Walnut Creek, California	Newsclipping	
12	Lewiston, Idaho	Newsclipping	
13	San Diego, California	Newsclipping	
14	San Diego, California	Newsclipping	