PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
7 Jul 62

2. LOCATION
Hallett Station, Antarctica

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local
GMT 07/1115Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☒ Yes not rec'd
☐ No

6. SOURCE
Civilian & Military

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
not given

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
one

9. COURSE
WSW to ENE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING
On 7Jul62 at 1115Z an intense light was obsvd fm Hallett Station. This light was obsvd fm the roof of a building & obsv at first thought it was a flare. He rptd that the light was as large as a basketball & when it passed over the stadion he noticed 2 smaller lights appearing to the rear & the side of the main obj. Tis smaller lights were of lesser intensity & they maintained the same relative position thruout the sighting. The obj left a clearly visible trail, the lights were traveling fm WSW to ENE. At 10dgr above the e horizon the obls gave of a brilliant flash & disappeared over the horizon. The obj sighted by these witnesses was prob a bolide, bolides possess thesame characteristics as fireballs & in addition are heard to make noise, usually whistling, tumbling or series of explosions or is heard or seen to explode. Remote possibility this re-entry of US satellite Alpha-Beta1. This sat. decayed between 1100Z &2300Z on 7 Jul Decay during revolution no.234 could have resulted in a display as descri-bed at Hallett. Concluded bolide because 1)Revolution nr 234 was earliest computed for decay of sat. & it probably decayed nearer to the mean of the computing time limits. 2) path of sat. would have been SW to NE, as viewed fr Hallett, i.e. to lose orbital characteristics to represent the description limited, characteristics of bolide.

11. COMMENTS

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

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

Bob:
Here's one for your files. Real weird.
Rec'd this informally from Murata of OSD/ISA - OX 79673.
It don't sound man made but ISA wondered if they should notify other nations. I referred them to AFCIN and NIC.
Haven't heard anything since.

(H)

NAVAL MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED NAVY DEPARTMENT

PRECEDENCE		RELEASED BY	DRAFTED BY	EXT. NO.
PRIORITY	(ACTION)			
PRIORITY	(INFO)			

P 071200Z

FM HALLETT STA

TO COMNAVSUPPFOR ANTARCTICA

INFO DET ALFA ANTARCTIC SUPPACTY

COMANTARCTIC SUPPACTY

READDRESSED ROUTINE 091820Z
FM COMNAVSUPPFOR ANTARCTICA
INFO CNO
CINCLANTFLT

AA
Fd
Copy to
CBI Ith

U N C L A S

UNUSUAL PHENOMENON REPORT

1. INTENSE BRIGHT LIGHT OBSERVED AT 071115Z

2. FIRST OBSERVER ON ROOF OF MET BUILDING AND STATED THAT HE THOUGHT A FLARE HAD BEEN FIRED IN CAMP AS LIGHT WAS SO INTENSE THE LIGHT WAS AS LARGE AS A "BASKETBALL" AS THE OBJECT PASSED OVER THE STATION TWO SMALLER LIGHTS WERE NOTED WHICH APPEARED TO BE TO THE REAR AND ON EACH SIDE. THESE SMALLER LIGHTS WERE OF LESSER INTENSITY. BEHIND WAS A WHITE VAPOR TRAIL

3. AT THIS TIME SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS OBSERVED THE OBJECTS INCLUDING THE SCIENTIFIC LEADER AND OINC

4. TRAVELED FROM THE WEST - SOUTH - WEST TO EAST-NORTH-EAST

5. THE THREE LIGHTS MAINTAINED THERE SAME RELATIVE POSITION TO EACH OTHER WITH THE VAPOR TRAIL CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE CLEAR NIGHT SKY

6. AT APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 10 DEGREES ELEVATION THERE WAS A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT. FOLLOWING THIS THE LIGHTS WERE STILL VISIBLE AND DISAPPEARED AT THE HORIZON

7. IN HOPES THAT THE LIGHTS ARE RECORDED ON THE SKY CAMERA FILM WILL BE DEVELOPED ASAP

92.....COG
SECNAV UNSECNAV ASTSECNAV(R&D) 00 09 09B 09M 09D 03 33 34 35 05 06 07 72 76 94 IP NAVAIDE JCS CSA USAF CIA NIC COGARD CMC FLAGPLOT BFR

CONTROL NO.	CIRCUIT NO.	PAGE OF PAGES	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
53516/JH/DC/3	A167	1 1	2244Z/09 JUL	071200Z JUL 62

UNCLASSIFIED

On 7 July at 07/1115Z an intense light was observed at Hallett Station, Antarctic, This light was first observed from the roof of a building and the observer stated that he thought th,t a flare had been fired in camp, as the light was so bright. He stated that the light was as large as a basketball and when it passed over the station it was noted that there were two smaller lights appearing to the rear and the sides of the main light. These smaller lights were of lesser intensity. A vapor trail followed the object. These lights maintained the same relativ relative position throughtut the sighting and along with the vapor trail were clearly visible in the night sky, described as clear. These lights travelled from WSW to ENE. ~~[illegible]~~ At 7-10 degrees above the horizon ~~[illegible]~~ THERE WAS ~~X~~ a brilliant flash. From this flash the three lights ~~[illegible]~~ continued ~~[illegible]~~ over the horizon ~~[illegible]~~. The lights were observed by the Scientific leader, the IWC and several other persons. A sky camera is located at the sight and the films will be processed.

Apparent brilliance rules out satel ites, except for a possible reentry. 62 Alpah Beta 2 reentered this date. This exists only as a very remote possiblility. There is no breaking up as is usually associated with such a phenomena. A preponderance of reds in the color scale is usually noted. This object was launched in polar orbit with an inclination of 75.09. This inclination would carry the object over or near Hallett Station on certain revolutions and it is possible that the decay could have occured in this area. As stated the usual characteristics of a reentry sighting were not reported in the message.
Color, and explosion rules out aircraft. Travel from ESE to an undetermined point over the horizon rules out flares. Locale and general description of the object rules out missile observations. Apparent speed and description rules out WX Bal
Other than the remote possiblity of 62A Beta 2 reentry there is only one logical explanation for this sighting on the limited data presented. The rather obvious
bolide sighting of a fireball class of meteor. The brilliance of the object, the straight flat trajectory, disappearance over the horizon, trail etc can all be accounted for by this explanation. Before positive identification could be made several additional facts would have to be ascertained. Most important would be the duration of the sighting. A sighting of a meteor of this type should last at most 30 seconds with the most probable duration close to 7-10 seconds, and an exceptionally fast meteor travelling this distance and ~~[illegible]~~ entering the atmosphere against the earths rotation should still last 4-7~~2~~ seconds. The

The object of this sighting is tenatively explained as a meteor. For a more positive identificationof the object the following would have to be known. Duration of sighting. Was flight smooth and constant, speeding up or slowing down other than the noted explosion. Color? Estimated speed or distance travelled, estimated altitude, possible sound associated with object? Have observers ever witnessed a fireball? How was 7-10 degree elevation determined? Did object cross the zenith or go to ~~N~~ or ~~W~~ of station on passage from WSW to ENE? How was duration of sighting determined. What were the estimates of the other witnesses on duration. How much of the flight did each witness observe. Also what happened to the film that was to be processed? Were other antarctic locations checked for meteor observation this time and date?(Weather was reported as clear).

It is concluded that a fireball and the trail it generated was responsible for the UFO sighted from Detachment Alpha on 22 June 1962.

3. On 7 July 1962 at 1115Z an intense light was observed from Hallett Station. This light was first observed from the roof of a building, and the observer stated that he thought at first it was a flare. He reported that the light was as large as a basketball and when it passed over the station he noticed two smaller lights appearing to the rear and the side of the main object. The smaller lights were of lesser intensity and they maintained the same relative position throughout the sighting. The object left a clearly visible trail. The lights were traveling from WSW to ENE. At 10° above the eastern horizon the objects gave off a brilliant flash and disappeared over the horizon. The object sighted by these witnesses was probably a bolide. Bolides possess the same characteristics as fireballs and in addition are heard to make noise, usually a whistling, rumbling or series of explosions or is heard or seen to explode. There is the very remote possibility that this was the re-entry of the U.S. satellite Alpha-Beta I. This satellite decayed between 1100Z and 2300Z on 7 July 1962. Decay during revolution number 234 could have resulted in a display similar to that described by the Hallett Station witnesses. It was concluded that this object was probably a bolide because: (1) Revolution number 234 was the earliest computed for the decay of the satellite and it probably decayed nearer to the mean of the computed time limits; (2) The path of the satellite would have been more from the SW to the NE as viewed from Hallett Station, if it did not lose its orbital characteristics due to re-entering; and (3) Though the witnesses provided only a limited description of the object they sighted, the characteristics are much closer to those of a bolide.

4. FTD is not aware of any United States or foreign activities which could account for the unidentified flying objects sighted in the Antarctic on 7 and 22 June 1962 and 7 July 1962. Further there is no evidence available which indicates that these phenomena were due to other than natural causes.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Robert J. Friend HQ 3 Aug 62

for EDWARD H. WEBB
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

TD-E/Lt Col Friend

Unidentified Flying Objects Sighted in the Antarctic — 3 August 1962

Hq USAF
SAFOI-3b (Major Hart)
Wash 25 DC

1. On 7 June 1962 at 0105Z witnesses at Hallett Station, 72-20 S and 170-00 E observed an object which they described as brighter than a first magnitude star. This object was sighted on a true bearing approximating 250° from Hallett Station. The elevation was reported to be approximately 30° and the object was observed for more than five minutes. This sighting probably resulted from the misidentification of the planet Jupiter due to distortion of that body by inconsistencies in the atmosphere. The reported azimuth of the object and that of the planet at the time of the sighting are very nearly the same. The witnesses reported the object moved slowly in a southerly direction which is the same as the apparent motion of Jupiter when viewed from Hallett Station at this time and date. At the time of the sighting Jupiter was the brightest astronomical object, -2.0 magnitude, which could be seen from Hallett Station. Jupiter's elevation at the time of the sighting was less than five degrees, far from the thirity degrees reported by the witnesses. It is the FTD opinion that the witnesses estimate of the elevation was in error for they indicated that the object passed behind a mountain peak and as far as can be determined the nearest mountain peaks have elevations of less than five degrees when measured from Hallett Station. It is probable that a strong inversion was present in the area at the time of the sighting and that mirage effects associated with this condition contributed to the sighting.

2. On 22 June 1962 at 0303 Z an object leaving a smoke or vapor trail was observed from Detachment Alpha, Antarcticia. The object was reported to be brighter than a first magnitude star, white in color and to have moved from a bearing of 340° to 345° at an elevation of 7°. The duration of this sighting was approximately two seconds. This object was probably a very bright meteor known as a fireball. Fireballs are a rare class of meteor, brighter than -3.0 magnitude, usually multicolored, often leaving a very evident trail and are of relatively long duration. The trails left by these meteors appear as smoke during daylight hours and during darkness display many colors. Trails left by fireballs have been used to study winds in the upper atmosphere, fifty mile zone, by such eminent astronomers as Dr. Fred Whipple, Harvard and Dr. Charles P. Oliver, University of Pennsylvania. Since these trails may persist for half an hour or more, it is not unusual for them to be distorted by these winds.

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