

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE-TIME GROUP 10 Apr 67 19/1210Z	2. LOCATION Burney, California (1 Witness)
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Probable (AIRCRAFT)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer reported a glowing white object traveling toward the northern horizon. The object was visible for approximately 10 minutes before slowly disappeared in the north. The FAA requested a radar fix be made. This was accomplished with range and height finder radars. The radar then reverted back to SAGE operation and did not track the object.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual & Radar	
7. COURSE N	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: There seems to be no reason why the observation could not have been of a small aircraft with its landing lights on. A small plane on VFR would not have had to have filed flight plans with the FAA and would explain why the FAA had no record of the flight. Under normal operation SAGE is not programmed to track objects going slower than 180 knots and this would explain why the object was not tracked on reverting to SAGE operation.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

** * Call * PROJECT 40073 RECORD		Red Bluffs Squadron
1. DATE - TIME GROUP 19 Apr 67 1210Z	2. LOCATION Burney, California	
3. SOURCE Civilian & Military	10. CONCLUSION Truck Lights 19/Apr/67 Other (Ionized Plasma) Calif. Night 4:10 A.M.	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One		
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observers reported a glowing white object traveling toward the northern horizon. The object was visible for approximately 10 minutes before slowly disappearing in the north. The FAA requested a radar fix be made. This was accomplished with range and height finder radars. The radar then reverted back to SAGE operation and did not track the object. Weather conditions appear to have been that which would in theory support a charged ice particle plasma. The plasma would be visible to both human eye and radar.	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual & Radar		
7. COURSE Northeastward		
8. PHOTOS None		
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE None	Moon had set. Call from Dayton Forester killed in accident.	

Pending

**SEND TO
RADAR**

19 April 67

*Red Bluff AFS, Oreg.
Calif*

TDET/UFO(Maj H Quintanilla/70916/mhs)

23 May 1967

UFO Observation, 19 April 1967

850 Radar Squadron
Attn: FAA/Mr. Wise

1. Reference a 19 April 1967 radar paint of an unidentified flying object which was reported to the Air Force through Adair AFS, Oregon. The initial message stated that contact was made by both range and height finder radars. In determining if the visual observation and radar paint were of the same object it is necessary for additional information on the radar contact. Azimuth, distance, and height information are requested if available.

2. At present, it does not appear that the two unidentified objects were related. Adverse weather conditions at the time of the sighting would imply that the object visually observed would have been quite low in the sky.

J
JAMES C. MANATT, Colonel, USAF
Director of Technology and Subsystems

TDET/UFO OFFICIAL FILE CY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY
Red Bluff, California

DATE: June 8, 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 19 April 1967
Reference your letter of 23 May 67FROM : Michael T. Wise
ET/Radar, Red BluffTO : Colonel James C. Manatt, USAF
Director of Technology and Subsystems
TDET/UFO
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, 45433Through: Chief, Airways Facilities Branch(SFO-400), *6/9*
FAA San Francisco Area Office

On 19 April 67 at 1210GMT, I received a call from the Flight Service Specialist on duty at the Red Bluff Airport, requesting information on an object in the sky at 32 degrees Mag and approximately 50 N. miles. He advised that the Sheriff at Burney California had reported the object and He was concerned as to it being a possible hazard to air navigation.

I confirmed an object being at 32 degrees Mag and 48 N.miles. The Radar contact was observed on MTI video. This would indicate the object had some movement to it.

I then called the Air Force Height Section and requested the altitude of the object, if they had it on their Height Finding Radar. The operator advised that they did have the object on radar, and he measured it at 8000 ft. He also said that the object was moving vertically above and below that altitude by 200 ft.

I relayed the information to the Flight Service Specialist at the Airport and advised the MLO at the Oakland ARTCC.

The Flight Service Specialist advised that the Sheriff estimated the altitude of the object to be 3000 ft above him and that his location was near 5000 ft.

At the time of the sighting the Radar showed that the worst part of the storm was in a different location than the area of the sighting, with little or no weather in the sighting area. Electronic means were in use at the time to minimize precipitation returns. //

The target size as seen on the radar would indicate the object to be smaller than most airliners, but this could be deceiving due to the characteristics of the MTI system. The target quality was such that it lasted for 3/4 of an antenna revolution.

I hope this information is what you desire and can be of some use to you.

Michael T. Wise
Michael T. Wise
ET/Radar, AFS-28630
Red Bluff, California

cc:AFS-28630, SFO-400

19 APR 67

1210Z

BURNEY, CALIF.

VISUAL
RADAR } PLASMA

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 10476 (22 Apr 67) A/ap

Pg 1 of 5

ACTION: RDC-4

INFO: XOP-1, XOPX-2, SAFOS-3, NIN-7, DIA-1 (19) ADV CY DIA
SMB AO72RUWMBDA2010 1112212- UUUU--RUED HQA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 212210Z APR 67

FM 26 AIR DIV ADAIR AFS OREG

TO RUWMFVA/ADC ENT AFB COLO

RUEDFIF/FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIV WRIGHT PATERSON AFB OHIO

RUEDPVA/HQ USAF WASH D C

RUEDHQA/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE WASH D C

RUWJSOA/UFO UNIV OF COLO BOULDER COLO

BT

UNCLAS 2601N 13407 APR 67.

FOR AFRDC - HQ USAF: SAFOI - SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

FOR BOB LOW AT UFO. UFOB REPORT. THE FOLLOWING

UFOB REPORT IS SUBMITTED. PART I.

PART A.

1. UNK

2. ORANGE

3. GLOWING WHITE

4. ONE

5. N/A

R
How bright?
D phase?
When was made?

D at 2:55 A.M.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 10476

Pg 2 of 5

6. NONE

7. NONE

PAGE 2 RUWMBDA2010 UNCLAS

8. NONE

9. NONE

PART B.

1. GLANCED UP

2. 045 ELEV. 180 AZIMUTH

3. 360 DEGREES NORTH

4. STRAIGHT

5. FADED

6. 10 MIN.

PART C.

1. GROUND

2. VISUAL - NO AIDS USED ALSO BY RADAR SEARCH AND HEIGHT FINDER

3. NONE

PART D.

1. 19/1210Z

2. NIGHT (SNOWING) !

4:10 A.M.

PART E.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 10476

Pg 3 of 5

Killed 3 hrs ago. Auto accident

1. 40 53 N 121 32 W DJPL 1550

PART F.

1. JAMES R. FORESTER, SHASTA CITY DEPUTY SHERIFF,

PAGE 3 RUWMBDA2010 UNCLAS

C/O SHERIFFS OFF BOX 547, BURNEY CALIF.

WISE (CIVILIAN) RADAR ENGR, FAA, 859 RADARSQ

RED BLUFF AFS OREG

PART G.

1. SNOWING

2. WINDS - SURFACE 200 AT 8K

6M 200 AT 10

10M 200 AT 15

16M 210 AT 18

20M 210 AT 20

30M 260 AT 40

50M 260 AT 20

CEILING 40 BRKN 100 BRKN

VISIBILITY - 10

CLOUD COVER - 5/8 ANG 6/8 TMS

THUNDER STORMS - ISOLATED TWRG CU ALL QUADS

335 44511 Sheriff's office

Call from Douglas

"Plasma"

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UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 10476

Pg 4 of 5

VERTICAL TEMPERATURE GRADIENT - 3 DEG 1000 FT

SUNSET - 1903L.

PART H. NONE

PART I. NONE

PART J. NONE

PAGE 4 RUWMBDA2010 UNCLAS

PART K.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER 26 NORAD A/D. INFOR-
MATION FROM RED BLUFF AFS STATED THAT THERE WERE
NO BALLOON RELEASES BY DET 3, OFFICE OF AEROSPACE
RESEARCH, CAMBRIA RESEARCH LABORATORIES, CHICO,
CALIF. AT THE TIME THE OBJECT WAS SPOTTED, THE FAA
REPRESENTATIVE, MR WISE, REQUESTED A RADAR FIX BY
THE 859 RADAR SQ., RED BLUFF AFS, CALIF. THIS WAS
ACCOMPLISHED WITH RANGE AND HEIGHT FINDER RADARS.
THE RADAR THEN REVERTED BACK TO SAGE OPERATION
AND DID NOT TRACK THE OBJECT. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT
THIS OBJECT WAS THE DERELICT BALLOON THAT WAS
SHOT DOWN 20 APRIL, HOWEVER, THIS POSSIBILITY DOES
EXIST. NO OTHER ANALYSIS IS OFFERED AS TO CAUSE

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UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 10476

Pg 5 of 5

OF SIGHTING.

PART L. NONE

BT

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

Observations: The object was seen moving Northerly at an altitude of roughly 8000 feet, near Lassen peak. Close examination of a navigational map of the area revealed that the radar ray does come close to several points on the terrain, but the Moving-Target-Indicator operates to remove all nonmoving objects and should have had no difficulty in discerning the moving object. If it remained at an altitude of 8000 feet, the observer would have seen it 'rise' above the hills to the south, near Lake Almanor. The hills there have an altitude of 6000-7000 feet. On a straight northerly course, the object would have been visible under ideal conditions until it passed ~~over~~ the hills just south of Klamath Falls. The southern range of hills is about 30 NM from the observer, the northern range about 50 NM from the ~~the~~ observer to the north, and also about 20-30 NM from the Klamath Falls airport, the largest one within several hundred miles. The object was within one hundred miles of this airport at the time the observer ~~lost~~ lost contact with it, and heading directly for the airport. This fact alone rules out the possibility of a truck being the object sighted, and close scrutiny of the map reveals no roads on which a truck might have been visible to the radar beam at the necessary ~~alt~~ altitude. I leave open the ~~the~~ question as to whether the radar will pick up a speed of 20 mph.

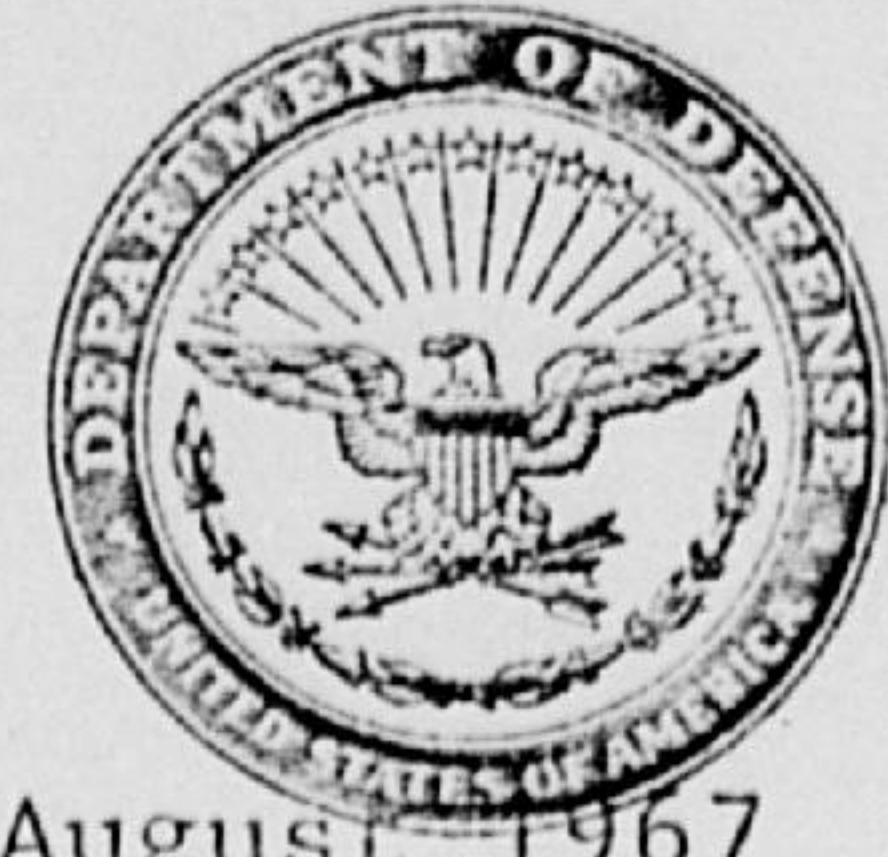
A talk with a friend who has had piloting experience revealed that it is entirely possible for an airplane to be flying at that altitude, at that time, in that weather, heading for the Klamath Falls airport. He suggested that the landing lights on some ~~s~~ military craft are comparatively large, and could appear much larger due to diffraction as it passed through the snow.

Another look at the map showed that the object may have been visible over a 70-mile path under ideal conditions. The position-indicator radar fixed a point about 18 NM as the crow flies from the observer, who must have seen the object a few minutes before that. Assuming a 20 NM visibility for the observer, the object covered 40 NM in 10 minutes, or 240 NM per hour speed. This speed is well within the range of twin-engine aircraft, and a small jet such as the T-38.

Suggestion: A small aircraft with its landing lights on flew over the path indicated at the time indicated. Size of light caused by snow diffraction; lack of noise caused by observer sitting in car with engine running, or wind noise, or both; landing light may have been on due to emergency condition. It may be possible to check with the Klamath Falls airport and ask them about any arrivals at this particular time.

Lt. Secret

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

TDEER/Capt F. C. Dunlap/mjb/70401

3 August 1967

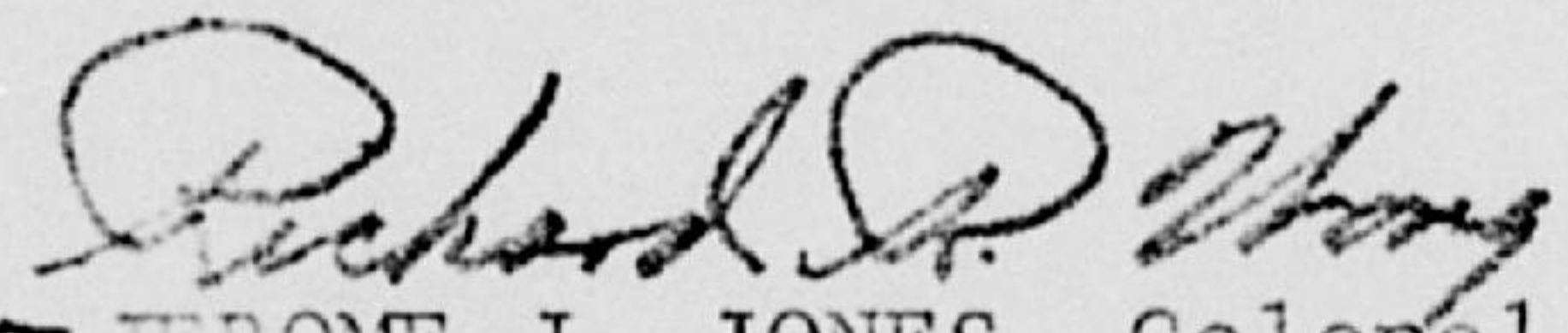
SUBJECT:

Unidentified Radar Returns - 19 April 1967

TO:

TDET(Major Qunitanilla)

1. From the information available it appears that:
 - a. Both search and height finder radars were functioning properly.
 - b. Weather conditions were not likely to have supported extraordinary electromagnetic refractions.
 - c. Visual observation was substantiated by radar.
2. The report indicates that a derelict balloon was shot down on the succeeding day; although no balloons were released in the proper time frame, this balloon should at least be considered.
3. Weather conditions do appear to have been that which would in theory support a charged ice particle plasma. The plasma would be visible to both human eye and radar. The orange color might have been a moon glow reflection as the incident occurred at 0410 hours between first quarter and full moon.

for 
JEROME J. JONES, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Electronics Division
Directorate of Technology and Subsystems

- 3 Atch
1. Ltr dtd June 8, 67
Subj: UFO Obs. 19 Apr 67
 2. Ltr, dtd 23 May 67
Subj: UFO Obs. 19 Apr 67
 3. Message Fm ADAIR,
13407 Apr 67

19 April 67

Pending

TDPT (UFO) Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/7 Dec 67

DEC 7 1967

UFO Observation, Burney, California, 19 April 1967

Michael T. Wise
ET/Radar
Federal Aviation Agency
Red Bluff, California 96080

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office has recently received several inquiries regarding the UFO sighting from Burney, California on 19 April 1967. As a result, we are re-investigating the case.
2. Request information on the specific type of radar on which the object was painted. Were any measurements made as to speed and course of the object, if so, what were they? What is the period of time for an antenna rotation?
3. It has been proposed that the target which was picked up on your radars could possibly have been a truck. A map of the area indicates that there are mountains in this area with elevations near 8,000 ft. Do you feel that a truck could have been painted by the radars? If so, is this considered routine for your station?
4. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

④
DIRECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
Case File
19 Apr 67

Sent this letter to

Mr. Wise again.

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

TDPT (UFO) Maj. Quintanilla/70916/mhs/7 Dec 67

DEC 7 1967

UFO Observation, Burney, California, 19 April 1967

UFO Investigating Officer
26th Air Division
Adair AFS, Oregon 97330

The Aerial Phenomena Office has recently received several inquiries regarding the UFO sighting from Burney, California on 19 April 1967. In your message 260IN 13407 Apr 67 you mentioned a derelict balloon. Request you provide all information available on this balloon.

FOR THE COMMANDER

RECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

Call By:

Maj. Shiflett
26th Air Div.

The funct. of balloon is classified
(See Confidential in files) however
it was def. not this balloon that
was seen.

TDPT (UFO)

Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/7 Dec 67

DEC 7 1967

UFO Observation, 13 April 1967, Burney, California

Det 1, AFCRL

Holloman AFB, New Mexico 88330

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office received an unidentified flying object (UFO) report from Burney, California on 19 April 1967.

2. The publication "Atmospheric Research" indicates that a balloon, sponsored by AFCRL was launched from your base on 13 April 1967. The flight duration is listed as 34.5 hours. If you charted the flight path of this balloon we would appreciate receiving a copy of your report. Thank you for any information you can provide on this balloon.

FOR THE COMMANDER

④
HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILECY

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORIES (OAR)
LAURENCE G. HANSCOM FIELD, BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CREA (Mr. Danaher/3005)

15 December 1967

SUBJECT: UFO Observation (Your Ltr, 7 Dec 67)

TO: TDPT (UFO)

A review of our records indicates that no balloon flight was launched by AFCLRL on 18 April 1967. However, a balloon flight of 34.5 hours duration launched on 18 April 1966 was reported in the fall 1966 issue of "Atmospheric Research". The flight path of this balloon launched from Holloman AFB, New Mexico was in a northeasterly direction with termination performed near Washington C. H., Ohio.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Robert M. Slavin

ROBERT M. SLAVIN

Director

Aerospace Instrumentation Laboratory

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

20 November 1967

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomenon Division
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: Major H. Quintanilla, Jr.

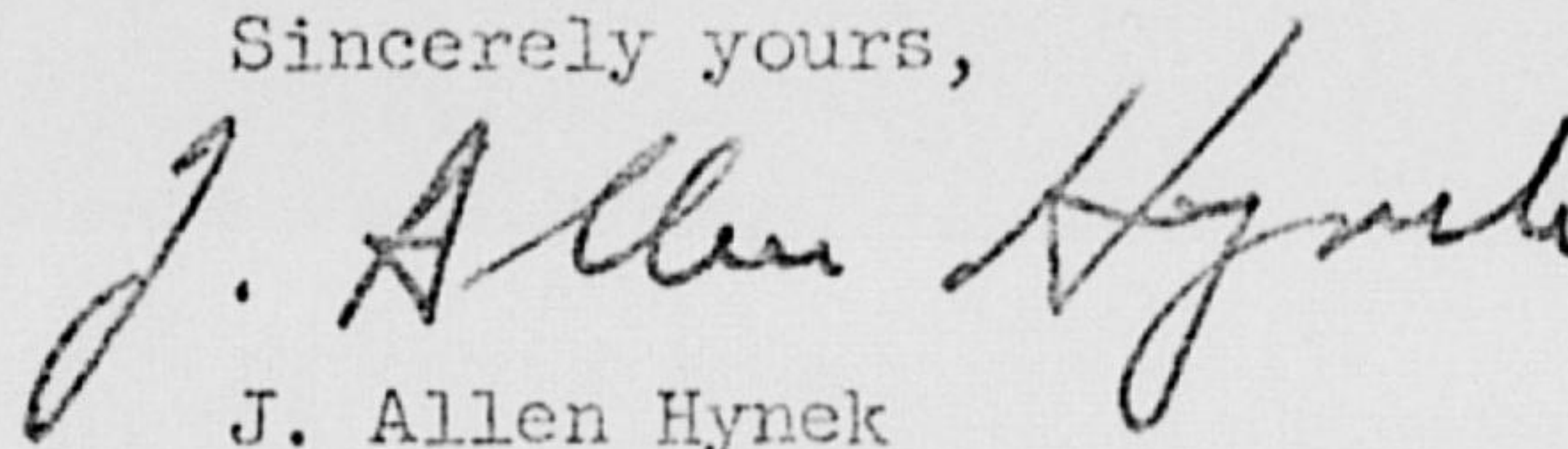
Re: Report on UFO sighting of
19 April 1967, Burney, Calif.

Dear Major Quintanilla:

I recommend that The evaluation be changed from ionized plasma to unidentified since there is nothing in the data to support "a charged ice particle plasma". In the first place, the term "ice particle plasma" is meaningless to a physicist. I, at least, do not know of any ice particle plasma that is glowing white, travels slowly and is visible for approximately 10 minutes. This appears to be a purely ad hoc evaluation and is open to the severest criticism.

Since this case has also been submitted to the University of Colorado, I suggest that we request an evaluation from them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Allen Hynek". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. Allen Hynek

JAH:lp

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

30 November 1967

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
FID (TDEIR)
Research and Aerial Phenomenon Division
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Dear Major:

I herewith return the Burney, California case. I was not aware that this was the original copy, but now upon examination I see that it apparently is. Had I realized this before I would have made a xerox of it before bringing it with me from Dayton.

At any rate, I wrote to Mr. Forrester, Shasta City Deputy Sheriff, to tell him that on Sunday, November 26 at 7:00 P.M., I would call him for further information. (This is part of my regular plan now; I write in advance to witnesses I wish to interrogate, telling them that I will place a phone call to them at a given time and asking them to be in readiness.) I found that Mr. Forrester had been killed in an auto accident just three weeks ago. Very ironically, he had quit his sheriff's job in Burney, California, "because he wanted to get away from its hazards" and accepted a job with the Los Angeles Police Department whereupon just a few days after he joined them, he was killed in an auto accident.

The case is still a good one, however, and our only chance of tracing down what this "ice particle plasma" might be is to check with the radar squadron in Red Bluff, Oregon. Since this is a military installation, I think it would be better if we placed an autocon call to them next time I visit Blue Book.

I must apologize for walking off with the Saigon "For Information Only" case, but the original has been returned. As far as I know I do not have any other original reports here, unless they inadvertently got mixed up with a batch of xerox copies. Rest assured that any original copies, should there be any, will be promptly returned to your files.

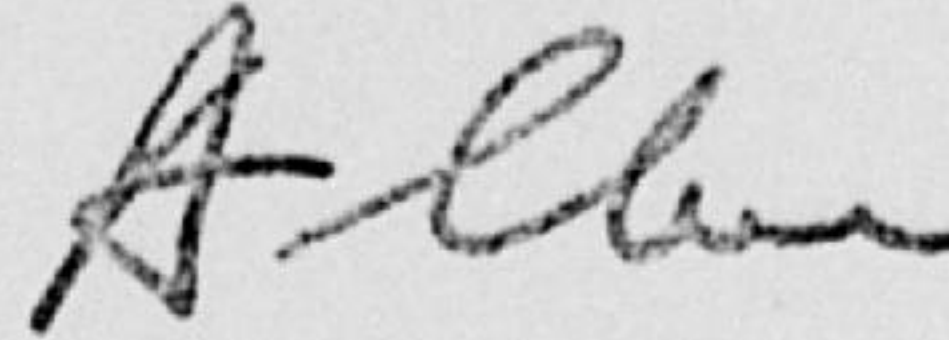
I am still surprised that no further investigation was made of the Saigon case. It is cases like this, I am sure you must realize, that spawn the rumors that "the Air Force knows all about it" since to the average citizen it is inconceivable that so striking a reported happening would go uninvestigated.

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.
Page 2

30 November 1967

But be that all as it may, this does not concern me directly. My job as called for in the contract is to continue to see whether I can find anything of scientific value in UFO reports. This task I am pursuing. I try diligently to avoid "looking under the bed" techniques. I will leave such matters to people trained to do such things and try to concentrate solely on the scientific aspects of the work, whatever those may be.

Sincerely yours,



J. Allen Hynek

JAH:lp

cc: Dr [REDACTED]

Mr [REDACTED]

JAMES RONALD FORRESTER

~~County Sheriff~~
Bureau, Calif.
NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94947

BANKERS-LIFE COMPANY

So -
out with
plasma, in
with truck!
JRF

J. Aileen Hynick
Director, SARC
Chairman, Dept of Astronomy

Dear Mr. Hynick:

I am sorry to say the information you want from James R. Danestee will be unable to get. As on November 3rd, James R. Danestee was killed in an auto accident in T. County.

I don't believe, I could be of any help. Only that Mr. Danestee had said, there was a truck upon the mountain at that time and he believed it was the lights of the truck. In fact, the man driving the truck had gone back up the mountain a few nights later, so, that Mr. Danestee could make sure of what he saw that night. He still believed it was the truck. The light seem to be visible at only one point from the mountain.

Sincerely

~~James R. Danestee~~

19 April 67

14 MAR 1968

TDPT (UFO) Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/29 Feb 68

UFO Observation, Burney, California, 19 April 1967

Michael T. Wise
ET/Radar
Federal Aviation Agency
Red Bluff, California 96080

Reference our letter of 7 December 1967 in which we requested additional information on the UFO sighting from Burney, California, 19 April 1967. To date, we have not received a reply. Since our previous correspondence may have been misrouted, we are attaching a copy of our 7 December letter.

RECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
Ltr, TDPT (UFO), 79Dec 67

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY

Red Bluff, California 96080

DATE: March 27, 1968

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, Burney, California, 19 April 1967

FROM : Michael T. Wise, Electronics Technician/Radar
Red Bluff, California

TO : Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433
TDPT (UFO)

Through: Chief, Airway Facilities Branch, SFO-400 *3/28*
San Francisco Area Office
Federal Aviation Administration

In answer to your letter, dated 3/14/68, I suggest you contact the Commander, 859th Radar Squadron, Red Bluff Air Force Station, Red Bluff, California, for the characteristics of the radar in use here.

The answers to the questions in your letter are as follows:

1. The only measurements made were stated in my previous letter.
2. It is my opinion that the object in question was not a truck, as you proposed.

In adhering to our proper communication channels, I am requesting that further correspondence be directed to the Chief, Airway Facilities Branch, SFO-400, San Francisco Area Office, Federal Aviation Administration, 831 Mitten Road, Burlingame, California 94010.

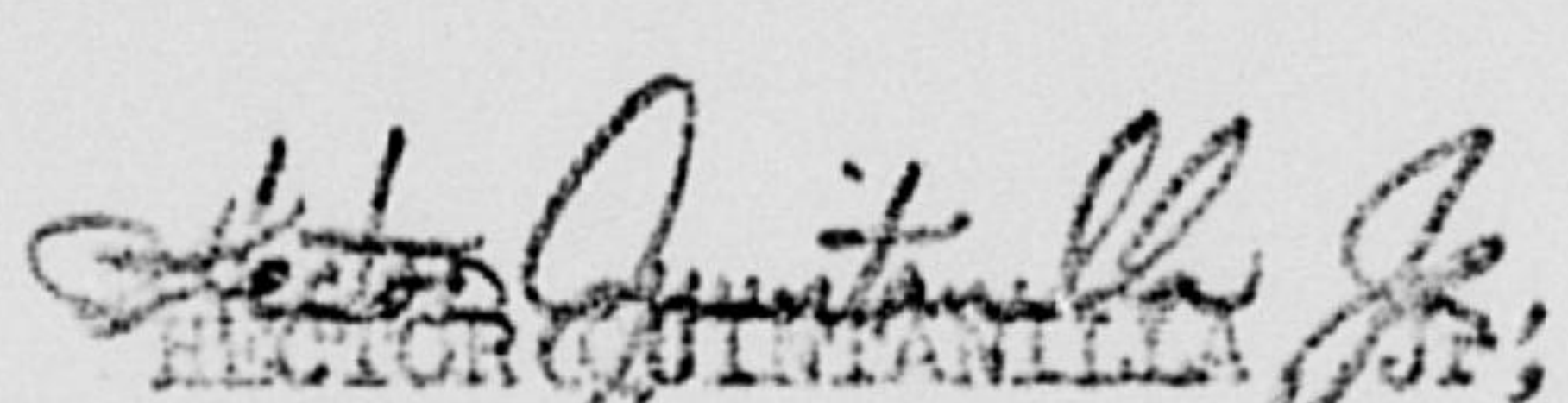
Michael T. Wise
Michael T. Wise

22
Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/22 May 68
TDPT (UFO)

Analysis of UFO Observation

TDDC
TDDCS/2d Lt Secrest
IN TURN

1. We would like to thank 2d Lt M. A. Secrest for his excellent analysis of the 19 April 1967, Burney, California, unidentified flying object sighting. It is one of the most comprehensive analysis that we have received, from a support activity in FTD, in quite some time. The background data that Lt Secrest provided in his analysis will enable this office to answer inquiries on this sighting with accuracy.
2. We are re-evaluating the sighting to that of a small aircraft with landing lights, as Lt Secrest suggested.


HECTOR QUINTANILLA JR., Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate