

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP April 27/0445 Z	2. LOCATION Palo Alto, California (2)
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Possible (HOT AIR BALLOON)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	COMMENTS: The description and duration are consistent with that of a garment bag hot air balloon.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Several minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer sighted a red light south of his house. The light was fairly low in the sky and seemed to travel toward the S.W. After several minutes a red light fell straight down and disappeared after a few seconds. A second or two later the observer sighted a white light at the position of the original red light. After a short time this light, too, disappeared.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SW	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

SENCENBAUGH

26 Apr 68

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/13 Jun 68

17 JUN 1968

UFO Observation, 26 April 1968

[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, California 94306

1. Reference your unidentified observation of 26 April 1968 which you reported to Travis AFB, California. They transmitted your report to our office for investigation.
2. We feel that you may have been watching garment bag hot air balloons. We receive numerous sightings of these balloons, especially in the vicinity of colleges and universities. Inclosed is a brief description of this type of observation.

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

1 Atch
Description

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

May 17, 1968

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Palo Alto, California 94306

Dear Mr. Sencenbaugh

We have received your letter of May 7, and having checked circumstances of your reported sighting on April 26 with base agencies here, can turn up no useful information at this level.

Accordingly, your letter is being forwarded to the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Information for further consideration.

Your interest and cooperation in this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely

H. H. HERRIN, Captain, USAF
Information Officer

Mr. [REDACTED]

Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

May 7, 1968 (rues)

Travis Air Force Base
Office of Information

Subject: Possible UFO sighting

Dear Sirs:

On (Fri) April 26, I and several others observed an unusual light which appeared to be traveling over the town of Los Altos.

At approx. 9:45 PM I first observed the light as I walked to the back door of our home located at [REDACTED] in Palo Alto. After spotting the object in the sky, I walked through the house and out the front door to continue watching it. The light was red in color, south of our house and it appeared to be traveling at an even altitude towards the southwest. The light was traveling very slowly and it was fairly low in the sky perhaps, between 20°-30° elevation. I could not even guess as to its distance from our house but, I thought that the object was at least over the Los Altos area which would be over one mile. As I watched it the light appeared to grow dim slightly, grow bright again and then dim slightly again over and over. I then felt that the light might have been several lights revolving slowly with only one visible at any one time. Or else it might have been twisting slowly to one side and then back again. After watching it for a half a minute or so, I went into our home and asked my father if he knew whether or not balloons carried red running lights since this was what I thought it was. Then he (my father) my sister, her friend and I, all went back out to watch it again.

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We all watched it for about a min. or so and then everyone except myself lost interest in it and when went inside. I then also went inside the house again but, returned with my 40X power hand-telescope. After trying unsuccessfully to sight in the object with the telescope, I never could sight in anything fast with it that was small, I continued to watch the red light without the telescope. To my surprise, the red light suddenly fell straight down fast at first and then slowing. The light fell for only a few seconds and then it appeared to go out completely since I could no longer see it even though the sky around where it had last been was clear. A second or two after the red light had gone out a white light appeared for a very short time, perhaps three seconds, at about the same altitude ~~the red light~~ and position the red light had been before it had started to fall. The white light did not move at all and it went out completely only a few seconds after it had become visible. This then ended the sighting at about 9:35 PM. At this time only one aircraft was visible to me and that aircraft was over towards Moffet field. I watched the sky for about 15 mins. more and then went indoors myself. In those 15 minutes, I saw only two other aircraft and it was easy to tell they were planes since I could see their running lights, their dark outlines and hear their engines. As I previously had mentioned, I at first thought that the light was nothing more than a running light on a balloon that was drifting slowly through the sky. However the dropping of the red light and the appearance of the white light above the spot where the red light had gone out made me doubt if this was in fact ~~what I thought it was~~ a balloon.

Perhaps, the red light dropping was just the balloon dropping its instrument payload but, what then would explain the white light which later appeared? While I watched the red light I heard no noise, there was no wind blowing or even a breeze and the sky was completely clear. Since I could not positively identify the lights I saw as those associated with weather balloons or other aircraft, I felt I should notify your office.

I must apologize for the delay in reporting but, my studies at De Anza College where I am ~~now~~ a Law Enforcement Major and trouble with my car have necessitated the delay.

Sincerely, Yours;

[REDACTED]

P.S. Please notify me if this object does or does not turn out to be something explainable since I would like to know what it was that I saw.

Mr. [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]