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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS: LEVELLAND, TEXAS	DATE OF INFORMATION: 2 to 3 Nov 57	
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT: 1006th AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado	DATE OF COLLECTION: 4 to 6 Nov 57	SRI STATUS (If applicable) SRI NO. CANCELED/COMPLETE
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL: WILLIAM P. BRUNSON, Lt. Colonel, USAF, Operations Officer	DATE OF REPORT: 8 Nov 57	SRI NO. CANCELED/INCOMPLETE
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: Mr. Newel E. Wright and others	EVALUATION	SRI NO. ACTIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (Date)

REFERENCES (BAIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)

AFR 200-2

SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTING, LEVELLAND, TEXAS AREA

SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by Mr. Newel E. Wright, Jr., 1309 Eight Street, Levelland, Texas.

PART TWO: Description of sighting by Mr. Pedro Saucedo, 219 Avenue H, Levelland, Texas

PART THREE: Description of sighting by Sheriff Weir Clem, Box 1907, Levelland, Texas.

PART FOUR: Description of sighting by Patrolman Lee Roy Hargrove, 600 W First Street, Little Field, Texas.

PART FIVE: Description of sighting by T/Sgt Harold D. Wright, 205 Arnold Drive, Lubbock, Texas.

PART SIX: Description of sighting by Mr. J.B. Cogburn, Box 1023, Whiteface, Texas.

PART SEVEN: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART EIGHT: Comments of the Preparing Officer

8 INCLS
(See Individual Parts)

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	PAGE 2 OF 19 PAGES

II. SUMMARY: Between 02/1100MST and 03/0130MST, an oval shaped object, approximately two hundred feet long, was seen in the area of Levelland, Texas (FJCD3835). Two witnesses observed the object hovering or resting on the ground for from three to five minutes. The information in this report was obtained from interviews with the SOURCES during an investigation conducted to determine the possible cause of the sighting.

III. INVESTIGATOR: STAFF SERGEANT NORMAN P. BARTH, AF 19500406

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

APPROVED:

John W. Meador

JOHN W. MEADOR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	Part One PAGE 3 OF 19 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Newel Eliphalet Wright, Jr.

Address: 1309 Eight Street, Levelland, Texas

Age: 19

Occupation: Student at Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas

Education: Second Semester, Freshman Year, Texas Tech.

Qualifications: None.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seemed to the investigator to be very sincere about his sighting. He was appalled at the amount of publicity given him and was anxious to have the sighting resolved. He was unhesitating in his replies; however, during the course of further questioning, he admitted uncertainty in some of his answers. SOURCE can be considered usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE stated that he was driving home from Lubbock, Texas (FJDD0935) on the night of 3 November 1957 at 0005 CST on Texas highway 116. Approximately four miles west of Smyer, Texas (FJDD2035), the ampmeter on SOURCE's automobile registered discharge for a moment. Upon the return of the ampmeter to normal, the engine of the automobile began cutting out as if it were not getting any gas. After it had quit running, the lights and car radio went out. SOURCE then got out of the car and lifted the hood to check for battery malfunction and, finding none, closed the hood of the car and turned around to look for help. It was at this time that SOURCE saw the object and returned to the inside of the car.

SOURCE described the object as oval shaped and he thought that the size of the object was that of a baseball at arm's length. He estimated that the object was seventy-five to one hundred feet at its longest dimension. SOURCE stated that the object was white in color, with a greenish tint, possibly caused by the tinted windshield of SOURCE's car. (Refer to inclosure 1 for SOURCE's memory sketch of the object.)

SOURCE estimated that he had been observing the object for four or five minutes when it rose virtually straight up and out of his line of vision. SOURCE was unable to estimate the speed with which the object left the area and was unable to estimate the distance he was from the object.

Upon the departure of the object, SOURCE stated that the lights and radio of the car came on and the motor started with no difficulty.

SOURCE stated that there were heavy clouds in the area and a light rain falling.

SOURCE had no opinion concerning the possible cause of the sighting.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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FROM (*Agency*)	REPORT NO.	Part One
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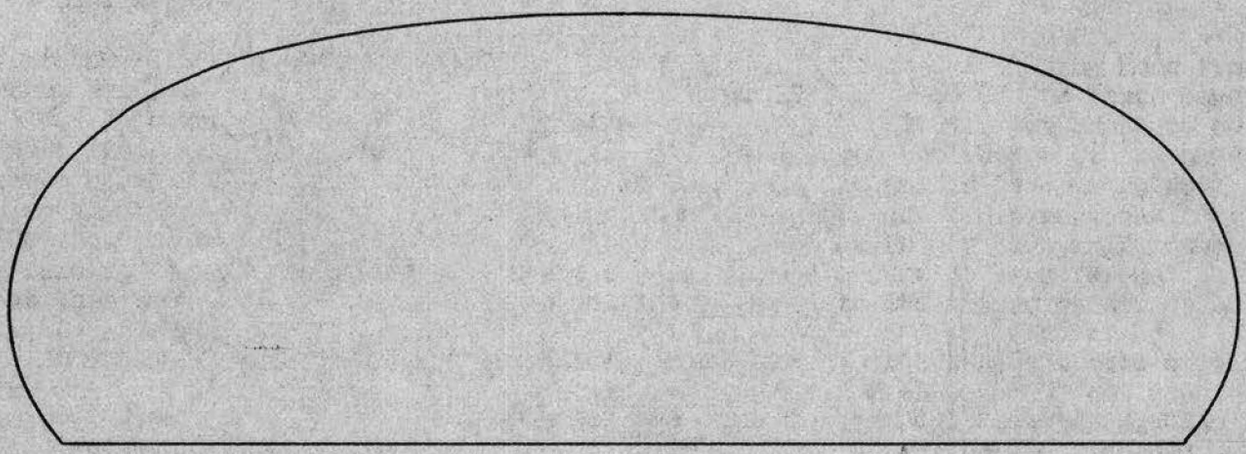
Inclosure 1 to Part One

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of Object



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Inclosure 2 to Part One:

S T A T E M E N T

I was driving home from Lubbock on state highway 116 at approximately 12:00 p.m. when the ampmeter on my car jumped to complete discharge, then it returned to normal and my motor started cutting out like it was out of gas. After it had quit running my lights went out. I got out of my car and tried in vain to find the trouble. When I found nothing I closed the hood and looked for a passing motorist to obtain help. It was at this time that I saw this object, I got back into my car and tried to start it, but to no avail. After that I did nothing but stare at this object until it disappeared about 5 minutes later. I then resumed trying to start my car and succeeded with no more trouble than under normal circumstances. I then proceeded home very slowly and told no one of this sighting until my parents returned home from a weekend trip to Hobbs, New Mexico for fear of public redicule. They did convince me that I should report this and did so to the sheriff around 1:30 p.m. Sunday November 3rd.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/Newel E. Wright, Jr.

William P Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	Part Two PAGE 6 OF 19 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Pedro Saucedo

Address: 219 Avenue H, Levelland, Texas

Age: 30

Occupation: Barber

Education: Grade School

Qualifications: None.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of below average intelligence. He stated his occupation was a barber; however, Sheriff Clem of Hockley County stated that SOURCE was a part-time farm laborer, dishwasher, barber, etc. SOURCE had no concept of direction and was conflicting in his answers. SOURCE can be considered not usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 02/2300 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving west on Texas Highway 116 about four miles from Levelland, Texas (refer to Inclosure 1, Part Seven) when he saw a large flame in the west. SOURCE first thought it was caused by lightning. The object, however, moved over his position and his truck engine and lights went out. Because of the heat and speed of the object, SOURCE got out of his truck and laid on the ground. SOURCE described the object as shaped like a torpedo. The color of the object itself was blue. The object had yellow flame coming out of the rear and white smoke surrounding the flame. SOURCE estimated the dimensions of the object to be two hundred feet long and six feet wide. SOURCE stated the object was in sight for two to three minutes and disappeared by burning out. SOURCE estimated the speed of the object to be eight hundred miles per hour and he estimated the object to be three hundred feet away. Upon disappearance of the object, SOURCE was able to restart the engine, and after the engine started, the lights of the truck came on. SOURCE stated he thought the object was an electronically controlled rocket.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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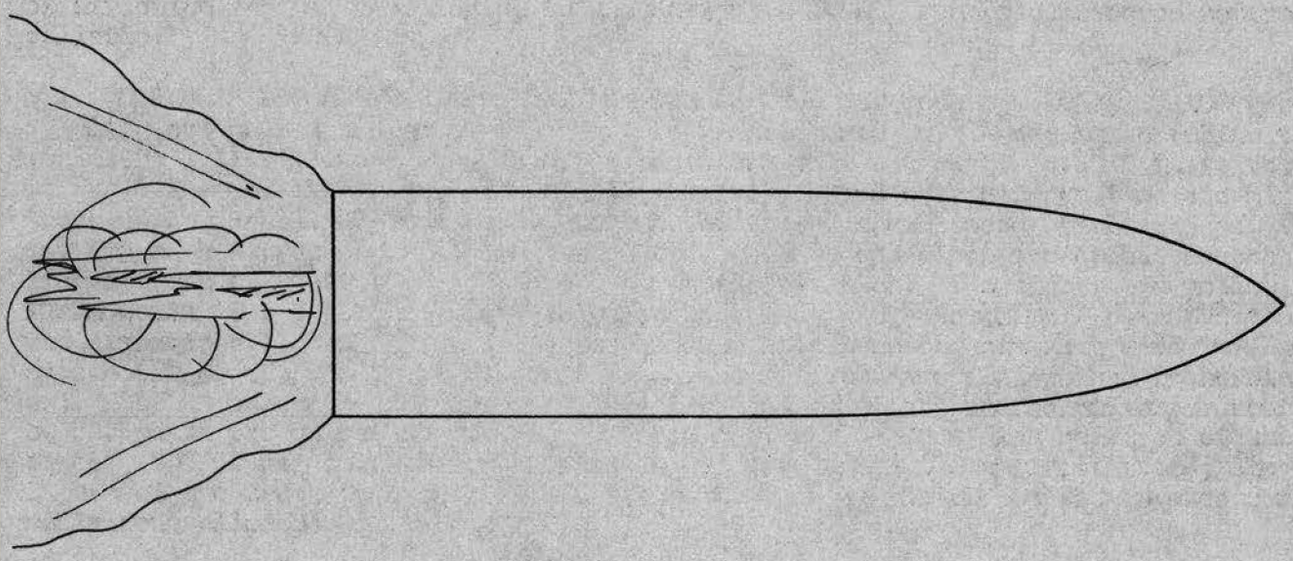
FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	PAGE 7 OF 19 PAGES

Inclosure 1 to Part Two:

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of Object



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Inclosure 2 to Part Two:

S T A T E M E N T

To whom it may concern, on the date of November 2, 1957, I was traveling north and west on route 116, driving my truck. At about four miles out of Levelland, I saw a big flame, to my right, front, then I thought it was a lightning. But when this object had reach to my position, it was different, because it put my truck motor out and lights. Then I stop, got out, and took a look, but, it was so rapid and quite some heat, that I had to hit the ground, it also had three colors, yellow, white and it look like a torpedo, about 200 feet long, moving at about 600 to 800 miles an hour.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/Pedro Saucedo

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	Part Three PAGE 9 OF 19 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Weir Clem

Address: Box 1907, Levelland, Texas

Age: 43

Occupation: Sheriff of Hockley County

Qualification: Officer's School of Texas

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE impressed the investigator as being of average intelligence. He was eager to cooperate in resolving the sighting and frequently asked the investigator for advice on releases to the press. He was rather pleased with the sudden importance of the county. SOURCE can be considered fairly reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 03/0130 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving his car looking for objects that had been reported in the area. SOURCE was travelling south on the Oklahoma Flat Road (refer to inclosure 1, Part Seven) at twenty miles per hour when he saw "just a streak of light one time". This light had a reddish glow and moved from south to west in two seconds. SOURCE estimated the object to be eight hundred feet at its longest dimension and estimated the object to be four hundred yards away from his point of observation. SOURCE had no opinion as to the possible cause of the sighting.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
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I. SOURCE: Lee Roy Hargrove

Address: 600 W First Street, Littlefield, Texas

Age: 24

Occupation: Texas Highway Patrolman

Education: High School

Qualifications: Patrol School and Jet Aircraft School

II. RELIABILITY: Usually Reliable.

S T A T E M E N T

Was driving south on the unmarked roadway known as the Oklahoma Flats Highway, and was attempting to search for an unidentified object reported to the Levelland Police Department. When I saw a strange looking flash which looked to be down the roadway approximately a mile to a mile and one half, the flash went from east to west and appeared to be close to the ground. The flash lasted only a fraction of a second, and was red to orange red in color. This flash occured approximately 1:15 a.m. on the morning of November 3, 1957.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/Lee Roy Hargrove

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
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I. SOURCE: Harold D. Wright

Address: 205 Arnold Drive, Lubbock, Texas

Age: 28

Occupation: Aero-Medical Technician, USAF

Education: Some college work

Qualifications: T/Sgt, USAF

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of above average intelligence and experience. He stated that he was giving his information only to aid in resolving the sighting. SOURCE can be considered usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 02/2335 CST November 1957, SOURCE and his wife were driving home on Texas Farm Road 1073 (refer to inclosure 1, Part Six) about two miles south of Shallowater, Texas (FJDD0047), when he saw a flash of light visible for approximately three (3) seconds. The flash was seen in the southwest and was white orange in color. At this time, the lights and radio on SOURCE's car went out for approximately one to three seconds. SOURCE and his wife remarked then that it "was certainly a strong bolt of lightning to put out our lights and radio." SOURCE stated that he thought no more of this sighting until he heard about the sighting on Sunday (3 November 1957) when he noticed the concurrence of the time and location factor and decided to report his sighting.

SOURCE stated that the weather at the time of the sighting was misty, with scattered clouds and a slight breeze.

1 Incl
Statement

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	Part Five PAGE 12 OF 19 PAGES

Inclosure 1 to Part Five:

S T A T E M E N T

The information contained in this pamplet is given not to mislead anyone and is of my own observance.

On the night of 2 November 1957, at approximately 2310, my wife, 2 children and myself departed my father's home in Sudan, Texas. At about 2330, in the vicinity of Anton, Texas, my wife and I noted occasional lightning and at the same time static on our radio. At approximately 2350 or 2355, I turned south (at Shallowater, Texas) on State Farm Road 1073. In just a few minutes, later this bolt of lightning occured to our southwest. At the same, my radio and car lights went out for approximately 1-3 seconds, and then came back on. My wife and I remarked that was certainly a strong bolt of lightning to put out our lights and radio. We didn't think anything about this until we heard the radio report (Sunday night) of this phenomenon, with its location and the time factor, certainly coincides with this flash of lightning that my wife and I observed.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/Harold D. Wright

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (*Agency*)	REPORT NO.	
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-386-57	Part Six PAGE 13 OF 19 PAGES

I. SOURCE: J.B. Cogburn

Address: Box 1023, Whiteface, Texas

Age: 52

Occupation: Superintendant, McCulchin Drilling Company, Whiteface, Texas

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of below average intelligence. He was hesitant about details and constantly added details of the description of the object. SOURCE can be considered not usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 04/2045 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving about seven miles north of Sundown, Texas (FJCD3132) on farm road 300 (refer to inclosure 1, Part Seven) when he saw a red object the size of a basketball at arm's length in the northeast. The object appeared to be swinging in about a quarter mile arc from north to south. SOURCE stopped his automobile by the side of the road and watched the object for about three or four minutes. At the ends of the arc, SOURCE stated flame and sparks were given off, as if to start the object on its course back. The object appeared to be attached by a hose or cable to a larger stationary object. The stationary object appeared to be a similar to a balloon. After three or four minutes, the object, still swinging, turned white and rose at a rapid rate of speed into the clouds and disappeared. SOURCE stated that it was pitch dark with no stars and no moonlight, thick, heavy clouds and a light rain. SOURCE had no opinion as to the possible cause of the sighting.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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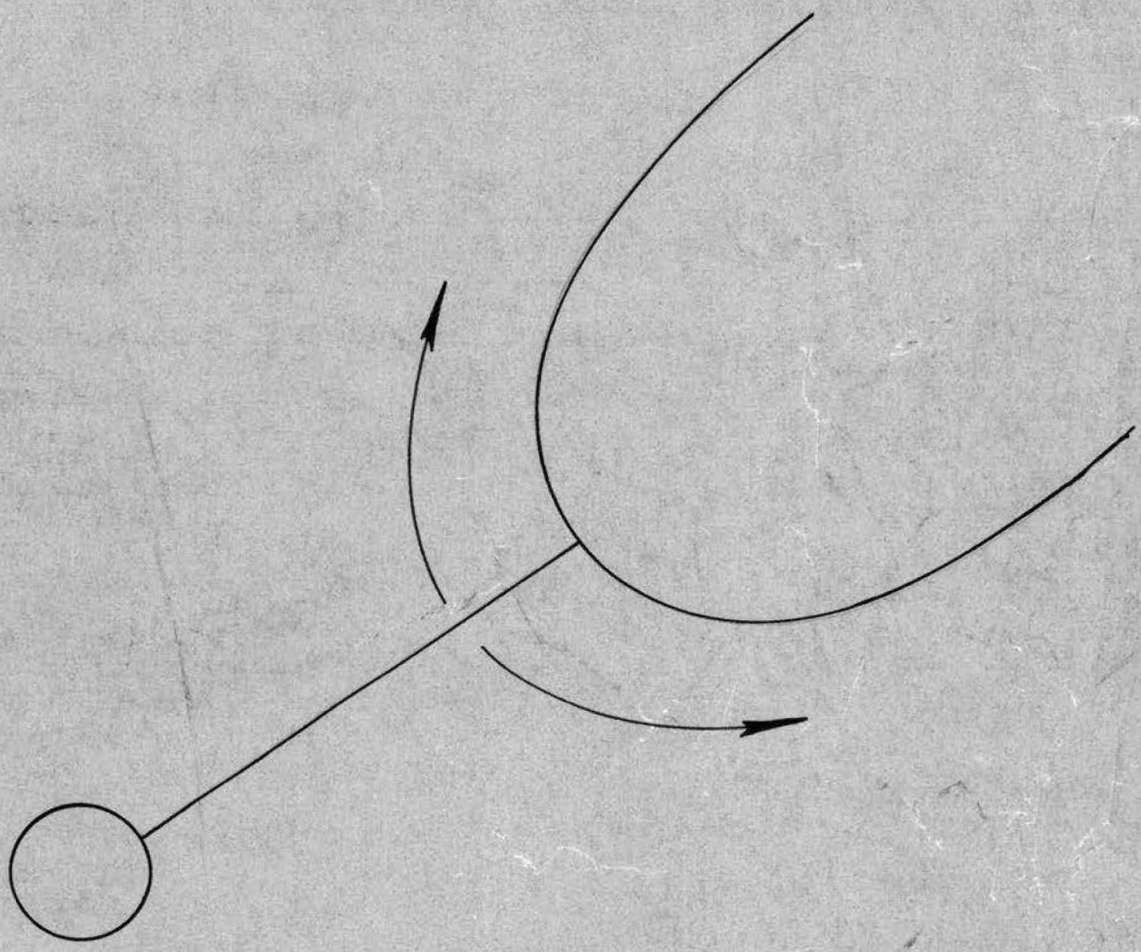
Inclosure 1 to Part Six:

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of object



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Inclosure 2 to Part Six:

S T A T E M E N T

While driving north about 7 miles north of Sundown, Texas, I saw a light about the size of a basketball about 200 or more feet above ground traveling from east to west. I stopped by side of road with my wife and we watched the object, a bright red light giving off a glow. It apparently stopped and began swinging from north to south about a ¼ mile distance while getting higher slowly and fire or sparks similar to a cutting torch cutting iron scraping out with visible smoke. An object above it seemed to hold up the light on a cable or hose appearing link between the light and the balloon object above it. It continued swinging north to south 3 or 4 minutes and then at a fast rate of speed it went straight up into the clouds and disappeared or the light went out.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/J.B. Cogburn

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS

1. A check made with Lowry Flight Service, Carswell Flight Service, Reese AFB Operations, and Lubbock, Texas CAA for any traffic in the area produced a negative reply.

2. A check for balloon operations showed that Amarillo and Midland, Texas weather stations released balloons at 1200Z and 2400Z daily. However, these balloons were not likely to be in the area.

3. An interview with Dr. Ralph S. Underwood, BA, MA, PhD, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Texas Technological College revealed the following information:

a. The amount of rain in the area, together with the condition of the crops, could have developed a phenomenon similar to St. Elmo fire.

b. The possibility of burning excess gas from nearby oil operations reflecting off low clouds existed.

c. The possibility of lightning stalling a car and extinguishing the lights existed; however, the possibility decreases as the number of such incidents increase.

4. A check with Reese AFB and US Weather Bureau at Lubbock, Texas revealed the following weather conditions:

a. A shallow temperature inversion existed from the surface to approximately 6,000 ft.

b. A complete overcast existed with a 400 foot observed ceiling and visibility at 3 miles.

c. Winds were as follows:

SURFACE: Light and variable

6,000	:	160 degrees at 18 knots
10,000	:	170 degrees at 25 knots
16,000	:	230 degrees at 35 knots
20,000	:	240 degrees at 35 knots
30,000	:	250 degrees at 65 knots
50,000	:	245 degrees at 65 knots

d. There was a drizzle or light rain throughout the period.

5. A check made with oil companies in the area revealed that a limited amount of excess gas from oil operations was being burned. Most of the gas is returned to the ground.

6. A check for downed power lines during the period was made with negative results.

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SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS,(cont'd)

7. The other witnesses reported in newspaper accounts as having observed an object had either disappeared or returned to their homes, leaving no forwarding addresses.

1 Incl
Vicinity Map

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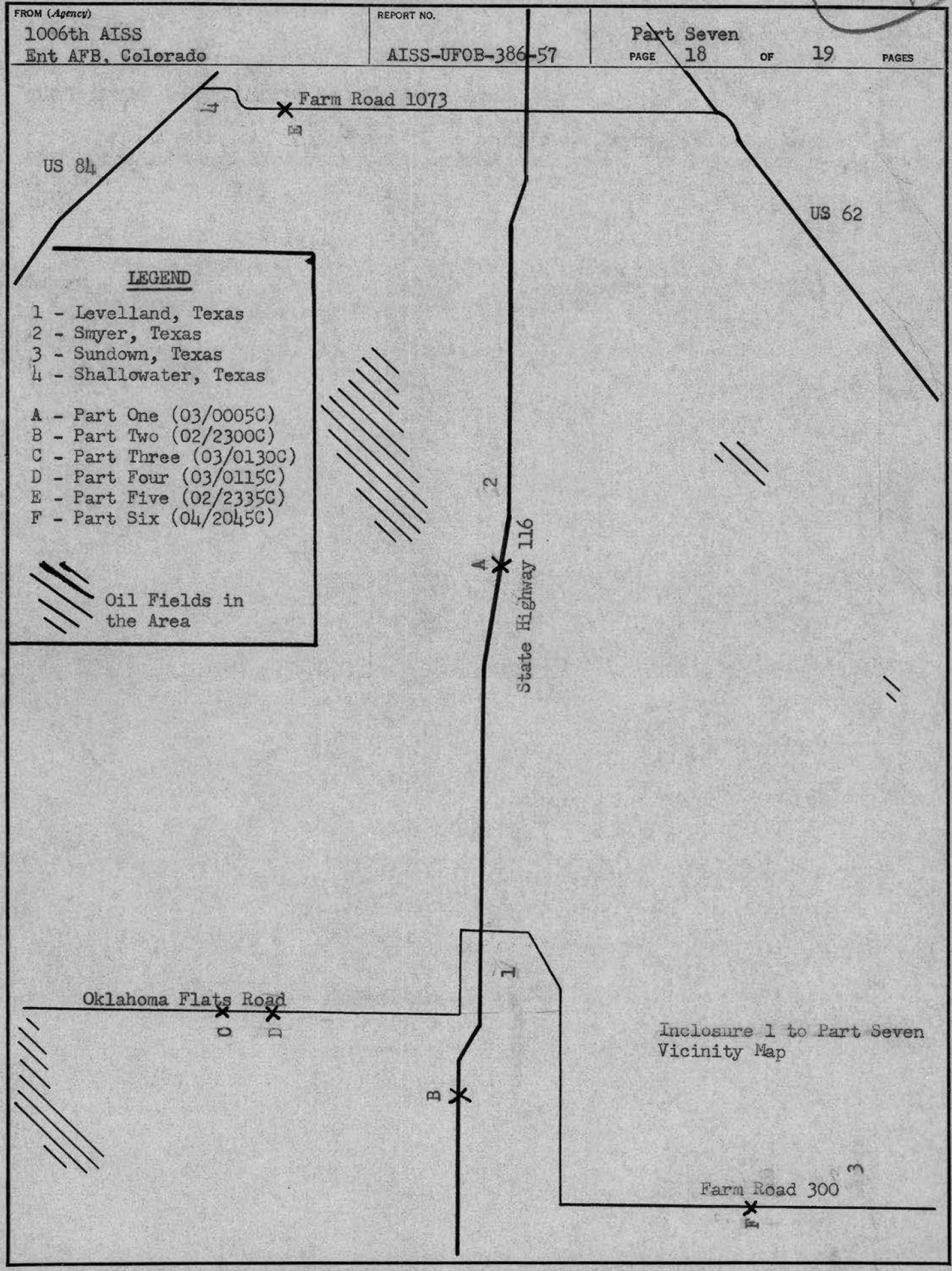

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COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER

1. The following comments concerning the descriptions, reliability, etc., of the SOURCES treated in Parts One through Six are offered:

a. Only one observer (Part One) said an object hovered over or on the ground. One observer (Part Two) said an object moved over his head at a low altitude, and one observer (Part Six) saw an object hovering and swinging in a pendulum motion considerable distance above the ground. The other observers saw a light streak across the sky (Parts Three and Four) or a bolt of lightning (Part Five).

b. Reference Part Two. This observer's account of the sighting cannot be relied upon. His statements that the object was going eight hundred miles per hour and that the object was three hundred feet away from him are not compatible with the reported length of time in sight. Also his description of the weather conditions does not agree with the established conditions in the area.

c. The observers treated in Parts Three and Four reported seeing only a streak of light. In the opinion of the preparing officer, no basis exist for linking these sightings with the sightings treated in Parts One, Two, Five and Six.

d. Reference Part Six. The sighting described in this part occured two days after the sightings treated in the other parts. The description of this sighting is so completely different and unsupported by other sightings that the Preparing Officer feels that it is not connected with the other sightings

e. Reference Part Five. The sighting treated in this part is included only as a possible explanation for the other sightings. The fact that the radio and lights were cut out for a few seconds by the lightning in this sighting indicates that lightning could have entered into the other sightings.

f. Reference Part One. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the sighting treated in this part is the most important. The reliability, sincerity, and intelligence of the SOURCE lend credence to this account of his sighting.

2. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the following possibilities causing this sighting exist:

a. Weather phenomena, such as St. Elmo Fire on a similar phenomenon.

b. Ball lightning. There were Nimbus clouds in the area, which, according to information at this organization must be present for ball lightning to occur.

c. Reflection of excess burning gas from a very low cloud cover.

d. A meteorological phenomenon which could be any combination of paragraphs 2a, b, and c above.

3. It is felt that insufficient knowledge of the above phenomena exists at this organization to completely resolve this sighting. Therefore, this sighting is forwarded as unresolved.

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

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