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1A1	1	1		AFDAP	1	1		MATS	(1)	1		AEC			
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1B1	1	1		AFCSI	1	1		TAC	1	1		OASD-ISA			
2A2	1	1		AFDRQ	1	1		TRC	1	1		ASPPA			
2A5	1	1		AFOAT	1	1						USIA			
2B	1	1		AFOAT-1	1	1		OVERSEAS COMMANDS				JCS/JMEPC			
2C	1	1		AFOPD	1	1		AAC	1	1					
2C1	1	1		OPD-PY	1	1		CAIRC	1	1					
2C2	1	1		OPD-PL	1	1		PAF	1	1		MISCELLANEOUS			
2C3	1	1		OPD-SP	1	1		USAFE	1	1		NTPC	1	1	
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2D1	1	1		AFMMS	1	1		FOREIGN SERVICES				given:-			
2D2	1	1		AFAAC-3	1	1		BJSM	X			AFCIN-X1A Mot Byrne			
2D3	1	1		INTERIOR COMMANDS				AJSS	X			AFCIN-1A1 Capt Copies			
3A	1	1		ACIC-S.L.	1	1		CJS	X			Ver John			
3B	1	1		ACIC-D.C.	1	1		NON-USAF AGENCIES							
OIN-Z	1	1		AFSS	1	1		ARMY	2						
1B3	(1)			AU	1	1		NAVY	4						
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS: OROGRANDE, NEW MEXICO, USA	DATE OF INFORMATION: 4 Nov 57	
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT: 1006th AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado	DATE OF COLLECTION: 6 Nov 57	SRI STATUS (If applicable) SRI NO. CANCELED/COMPLETE
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL: WILLIAM P. BRUNSON, Lt. Colonel, USAF	DATE OF REPORT: 12 Nov 57	SRI NO. CANCELED/INCOMPLETE
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JAMES W. STOKES	EVALUATION: E-3	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*)

UNDIENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

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. James W. Stokes

PART TWO: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART THREE: Comments of the Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: This report contains information about an Unidentified Flying Object sighted by Mr. James W. Stokes on 4 November 1957 while driving south on US Highway 54, approximately eight to ten miles south of Orogrande, New Mexico; results of supplementary investigative efforts; and possible identification criteria. SOURCE is an electronics technician (Instrumentation) with the High Altitude Test Division (Rocketsonde Branch) at the Air Force Missile Development Center, Alamogordo, New Mexico, and a veteran of twenty-four years service with the US Navy.

III. INVESTIGATOR: Captain Patrick O. Shere, AO 1639638

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

_____ INCLS

APPROVED:

William P. Brunson Lt Col

for JOHN W. MEADOR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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DCS/Ops, Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (*Agency*)	REPORT NO.	Part One
1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado	AISS-UFOB-438-57	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES

I. SOURCE: JAMES W. STOKES

Address: 1209 Michigan
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Age: 46

Occupation: Electronics Technician (Instrumentation)
High Altitude Test Division, Rocketsonde Branch
Air Force Missile Development Center
Holloman AFB, New Mexico

Education: 2 years college

Qualifications: 24 years, US Navy, Chief Petty Officer (Ret)
Private Pilot

II. RELIABILITY: Although SOURCE claims to have had two years of college, and although he holds a GS-11 rating, he does not give the impression of being a reliable or careful observer. He states that he jotted down, in a pocket notebook, the details of the sighting he witnessed, and so is able to remember precisely what he saw; however, he later made somewhat contradictory statements. At first he stated that as the object passed at its nearest point, he felt "kind of a heat wave" and that when he reached home he found he had a severe sunburn. Subsequent medical observation disclosed that there was no trace of sunburn, and SOURCE later admitted that he had been in error on this point. By the time this interviewer was able to make arrangements to talk with SOURCE, he had been interviewed several times by reporters and had made a taped radio interview; he did not seem adverse to the large amount of publicity which followed. An interesting aspect of his personality is the fact that to reporters he referred to himself as an "engineer" whereas in actuality he is a "technician". SOURCE, on several occasions, stated that he had had some doubts as to whether or not he should report his sighting; in order to resolve this question, he had telephoned his chief, who told him he saw nothing wrong in describing it. SOURCE was quite definite in his statements and appeared to have little doubt about any details of what he had seen.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At approximately 042010Z Nov 57, SOURCE was driving south in open countryside on US Highway 54 toward El Paso, Texas. He was alone in his automobile, a 1957 Mercury, and travelling around seventy miles per hour. The radio was tuned to an El Paso, Texas, station, which, according to SOURCE, gives good reception in a rather spotty area, where there are several dead spots. SOURCE stated that his radio began to fade out; simultaneously his car began to slow up, almost as though it were developing battery trouble. About this time, he noticed about six other cars (originally reported as ten) which had pulled off the road; their passengers had disembarked and were pointing skyward. SOURCE followed suit, left his car, and saw an egg-shaped object in the northeast sky, just below the Sacramento Mountains. SOURCE does not wear spectacles, nor did he observe it through binoculars. He estimated that it was 35 degrees from the horizon, and about 45 degrees from true North. It appeared to be lustrous, the color of mother-of-pearl, and with a faint, purplish tinge; there was no glow or corona. SOURCE stated that it was brighter than the dull sky background, although the brightness did not approximate that of an automobile headlight; at no time did its brightness change. SOURCE stated that the object appeared to be solid, rather than transparent, but could offer no theory about construction details. SOURCE estimated that the object

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appeared to be solid, rather than transparent, but could offer no theory about construction details. SOURCE estimated that the object descended from an altitude of about 5000 feet to between 1500 and 2500 feet, turned west toward the San Andras Mountains, and disappeared at approximately 15 degrees from the horizon, and 270 degrees from true North (Refer to Figure #1). The object appeared to be between three and five miles ahead of the first car parked along the road. Approximately two minutes later, SOURCE observed the object make an identical appearance, although slightly south of the path of the first. SOURCE stated that the object appeared to be about the size of a pea held at arm's length; he stated he believed it to be about 500 feet long; he noticed no ports, heard no sounds, noticed no smoke or vapor trails, and said it was sharply outlined with nothing fuzzy about the silhouette. SOURCE stated that it did not appear to change shape at any time, did not stand still, did not flicker or seem to pulsate. As the object passed, SOURCE noticed a distinct rise in his body temperature, as though he had been exposed to a "giant sun lamp", and later stated that he had incurred a sunburn. (This statement was later retracted). During this time, SOURCE discussed the phenomena with two other motorists, one of whom, as did SOURCE, made notes; the other allegedly took photographs of the object. SOURCE took down the names of these two men, although he neglected to take down the license numbers of their automobiles. A subsequent search for the two men failed to disclose their whereabouts, nor could they be further identified, no other reports of such a sighting were made by anyone else. Although the day was dull with scattered clouds and a 2500 foot broken high overcast, SOURCE stated that he had observed the two flights of the object for a total of three or four minutes; he later estimated the speed of the object to be between 1500 and 2000 miles per hour. SOURCE has never been married. SOURCE stated that his car started again quite easily, although the battery had been steaming.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check was made with the Holloman Flight Service Center for unidentified aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting; negative results.

2. Information from the US Weather Bureau at El Paso, Texas, indicated that weather conditions were not conducive for the creation of ball lightning.

3. Weather records at Holloman AFB indicate that at 1300 hours MST, the temperature was 62.2 degrees, with scattered clouds at 1400 feet and a broken high overcast at 2500 feet.

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COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER:

1. The opinion of the Preparing Officer is that SOURCE possibly witnessed an optical phenomenon for the following reasons:

a. The object does not remotely meet identification criteria for aircraft, balloons, meteors, stars or planets.

b. Although the reported color of the object is consonant with that of ball lightning, the fantastic speed of the unidentified object rules out that possibility.

c. The reported shape, lack of trail and sound, incredible speed and other reported conditions are in harmony with the theory of an optical illusion.

2. It would be manifestly impossible for SOURCE to have observed the object for as long as he stated if it were travelling at the estimated speed.

3. Due to the flat white sandy terrain, mirages cannot be considered unusual occurrences.

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

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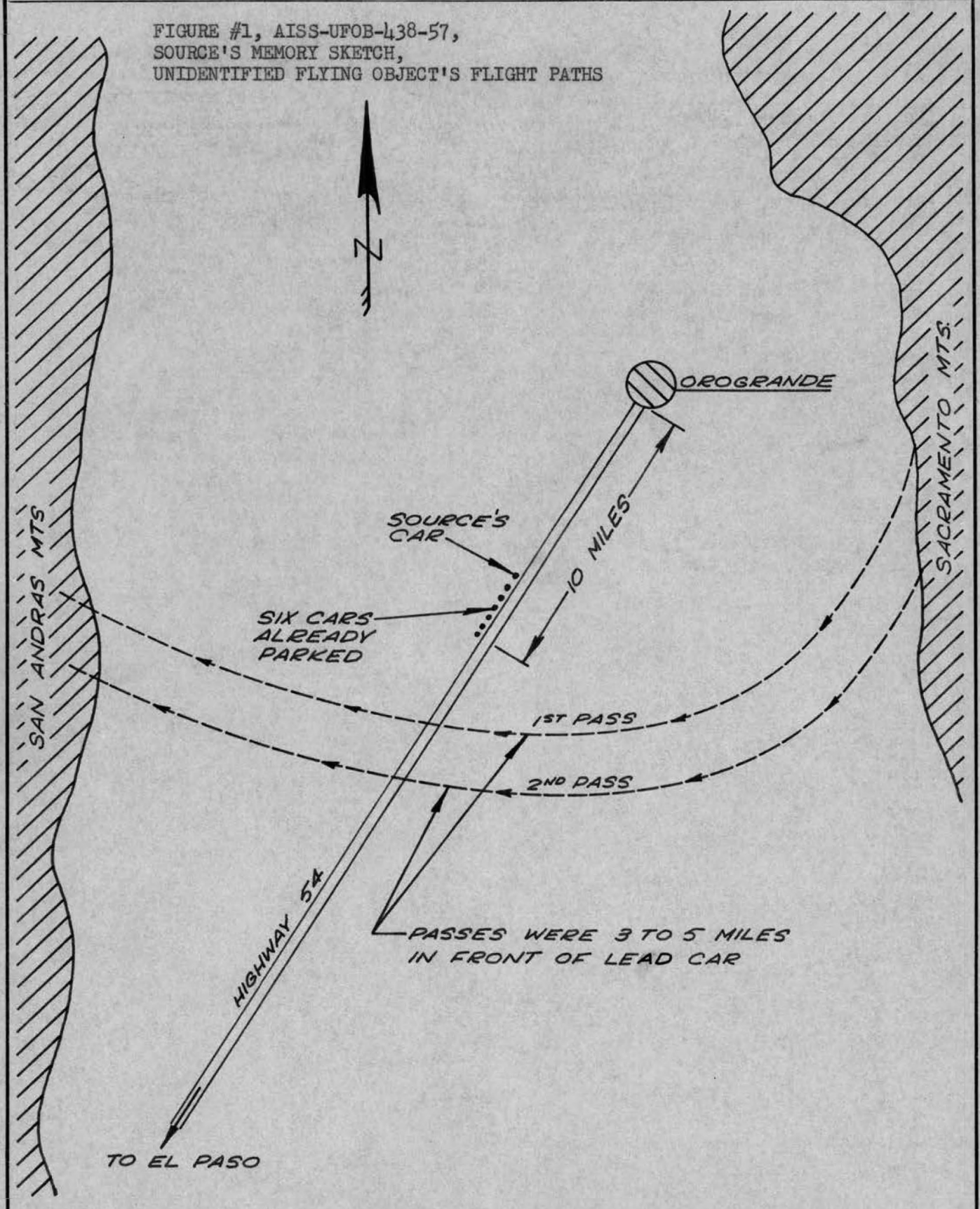
FIGURE #1, AISS-UFOB-438-57,
SOURCE'S MEMORY SKETCH,
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT'S FLIGHT PATHS



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