PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
15 Jul 61

2. LOCATION
E of Monticello, Illinois

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local 2145
GMT 160245Z

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

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☒ No

6. SOURCE
Civilian

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
1-3 min

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
3 varied

9. COURSE
varied

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING 3 round white lights. size of quarters. In "V" formation. Lights appeared banked to left, travelling approx parallel to auto"s course, seemed to be descending slightly. Stayed in same relative position. Was about 30° high to left of car. Two objtect stayed in same place and the third joined the other two. Faded out.

11. COMMENTS There is no evidence available which would indicate that the object was anything other than the a/c reported by the investigating officer. It is easy to understand how under the circumstances the lights of the a/c could have been misidentified.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☐ Possibly Balloon
- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft
- ☐ Was Astronomical
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☐ Possibly Astronomical
- ☐ Other_____
- ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
- ☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 25 SEP 52)

HEADQUARTERS
CHANUTE TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS

REPLY TO ATTN OF: OSD

26 JUL 1961

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting

TO: ATIC D-E
Wright-Patterson AFB
Ohio

The attached report of UFO Sighting is submitted in accordance with AFR 200-2, par. 15.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Emmett C. Wyttenbach

EMMETT C. WYTTENBACH
Major, USAF
Chief, Operations Services Division

1 Atch
UFO Report

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

OBSERVER -	1	2	3
(1)	Round	Round	Round
(2)	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
(3)	White	White	White
(4)	Three	Three	Three
(5)	V-formation	V-formation	V-formation
(6)	None	None	None
(7)	None	None	None
(8)	None	None	None
(9)	None	None	None

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

(1) First observer: Noticed the lights through the windshield of car while driving west toward Monticello, Ill.

Second observer: Was sitting in front seat of same car and his attention was drawn by first observer.

Third observer: Was driver of the car. All three observers were in front seat.

(2) First observer: Lights appeared banked to left, travelling approximately parallel to auto's course, seemed to be descending slightly. Stayed in same relative position. Was about 30° high to the left of car.

Second observer: Seemed to be banked like an airplane. Approximately 30° angle high from car to the left of road.

Third observer: It was over to the left approx. Rather like an airplane banking to the left.

(3) First observer: Stayed in same relative position.

Second observer: Stayed in same place.

Third observer: Remained right in same place.

(4) First observer: Third light joined other two lights.

Second observer: Third light came from left to right other two lights were stationary.

Third observer: There were two lights together and a third further to the left. The third light travelled over to the other lights.

(5) First observer: The lights just seemed to fade out.

Second observer: They just faded out.

Third observer: All of a sudden they faded out.

(6) First observer: Three minutes

Second observer: One and a half minutes

Third observer: One to two minutes

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION

(1) Ground (moving vehicle @ 55 mph) to air.

(2) No opticle aids used.

(3) N/A

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

(1) 0245 Z.

(2) Night

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS

Approximately four statute miles east of Monticello, Illinois, and ten miles west of University of Illinois airport. See attached map.

F. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON OBSERVERS:

(1)First observer: Civilian, [redacted], 27, [redacted], Tuscola, Illinois; mechanic.

(2) Civilian, T[redacted]y, 28, [redacted], Monticello, Illinois. Foreman at general cable in Monticello.

(3) Civilian, Mrs. J[redacted], 5[redacted], Monticello, Ill. All three observers seemed fairly reliable, quite intelligent people, and seemed to be sincere in presenting the story.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS

(1) 40 Ø U Ø

(2) SFC 190/7, 6,000-250/15, 10,000-250/15, 16,000-260/30K

(3) Neg.

(4) 12

(5) 7/10

(6) CB NW-N, SE-S movg SE OCNL LTG1C N-S

(7) (SFC-6,000=1°C/1,000')(6,000-10,000=1.5°/1,000')
(10,000-16,000=1.3°C/1,000')(16,000-20,000=2.0°C/1,000')
(20,000-30,000=1.0°C/1,000')

H. None

I. None

J. There was a Commanche type light aircraft inbound from South Caroline which landed approximately 2200 local.

K. Course supervisor, minuteman maintenance officers course. After checking with the University of Illinois airport control tower manager, the student flight scheduling of U of I and the flightline mechanic, I came to the conclusion that it was a transient Commanche circling for a landing at the U of I airport. The mechanic said he thought this Commanche had an additional landing or taxi light on its nose gear. The double landing lights on the Commanche are located out in the wing tips. The double lights on each wing tip plus the nose light would account for the three lights. The pilot of the aircraft probably turned on his lights to give the tower his position while requesting landing instructions as he circled the ares west of the field. The statement that the lights did not change their relative position to the car could be due to the car travelling west at 50 to 60 mph. The aircraft was probably beginning a turn from a west to east heading and its ground speed west at the time seen was approximately the same as that of the car. Each observer said they couldn't see any other lights. The lights were seen for approximately two minutes and when they went out there were a few moments of night blindness during which time the aircraft probably passed to the rear and out of sight through the windshield. The observers said they heard no sound. The window on the left side was rolled up. The road was in very poor surface condition. We drove it at 55 mph and it would have been extremely difficult to have heard an aircraft under those conditions. I was unable to talk to the tower operator to see if he remembered any details of the Commanche's landing pattern. But the serial number of the Commanche is N 7375P. It came from South Carolina and stopped at U of I airport for refueling and later departed prior to the investigation.

L. Map of area involved.

Marshall G. Bennett

MARSHALL G. BENNETT
Captain, USAF
Investigating Officer

STANDARD
RESTAURANT FOUNTAIN & GIFTS
Your hosts at all service areas on the Illinois Tollway

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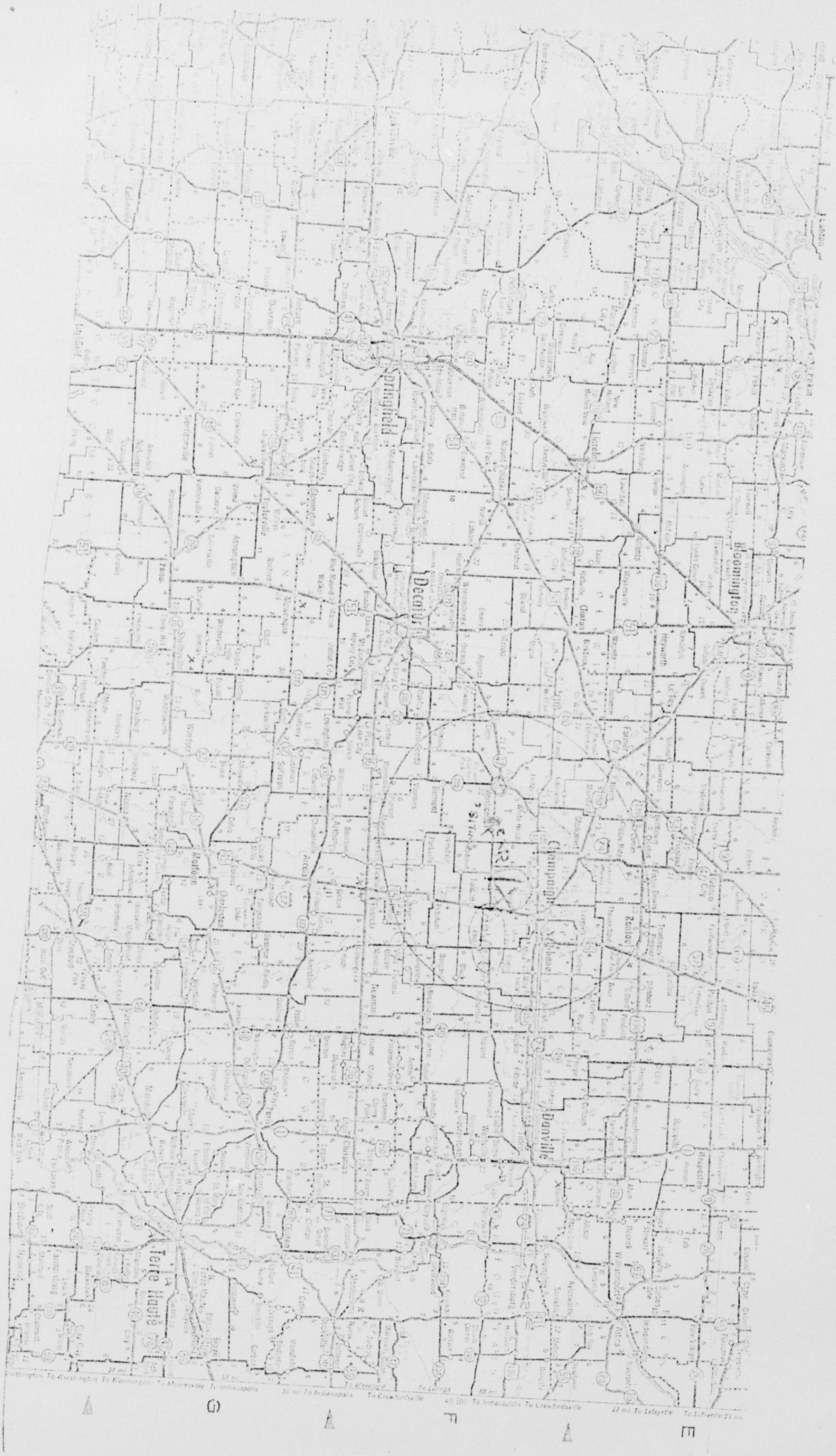
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Farmer City
Rochester
Rhoades
Williamsfield
Abingdon
Galesburg
Monticello
Clinton
Taylorville
Shelbyville
Windsor
Sullivan
Arcola
Tuscola
Paris
Oakland
Casey
Greenup
Effingham
Flora
Olney
Robinson
Marshall
Clark
Cumberland
Coles
Douglas
Piatt
Macon
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Edgar
Clark
Crawford
Lawrence
Jasper
Richland
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Bond
Fayette
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58 mi. To Indianapolis
To Crawfordsville
To Lafayette
40 [illegible] To Indianapolis
To Crawfordsville
27 mi. To Lafayette
To Lafayette 25 mi.
To Worthington
To Worthington
To Bloomington
To Mooresville
To Indianapolis
To Wrzeland
G
F
E

Douglas County
District No. 2

[redacted]
Police — Magistrate
VILLA GROVE, ILL.

Telephones
3014 and 3391

July 18, 1961

Chanute Technical Training Center
Att. O.S.D.,
Chanute Air-Force Base, Illinois

Dear Sirs:

This is the information given to me.

On July 15, 1961 about 4 miles east of Monticello, Illinois three people were in a car on a highway and saw in the sky, about 500 ft., hight three lights traveling through the sky, to the north. The time in the evening was about 9:45 P.M., the lights were two in front and ¥ setting at an angle, about 30 to 40 ft., apart one other light in the rear which keep getting a little closer to the two lights in front. When the one light in the rear caught up with the two lights in front they all begain to fade out and the last the people saw of them when they had faded away they were within about fifteen feet of the earth. The lights were real light white in color.

Names of persons
that give information:

[redacted], and [redacted]
[redacted] Monticello, Ill.
(Husband and Wife)

[redacted] Tuscola, Ill.

Very Truly Yours,

[redacted]

Marshall E. Bennett
Capt
43711A
Ext 2477
Tech Sch

RECEIVED
20 JUL 1961 07 46 Z
HQS
CHANUTE AFB, ILL

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