PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
15 August 66 16/0300Z	Fort Smith, Arkansas

3. SOURCE
Civilian

4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
Varied

5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
Varied

6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
Ground-Visual (BX)

7. COURSE
Varied

8. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☒ No

9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
☐ Yes
☒ No

10. CONCLUSION

1. Possible (AIRCRAFT) 7:4
2. Astro (STAR/PLANET) ✓

ANTARES was at 212 degree azimuth and 15 deg elevation, at 2100L
ARCTURUS was at 270 degree azimuth and 28 deg elevation at 2100L

11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Observers reported various lights in the sky (red, green, and white in color), occasionally blinking, and twinkling. Some of the lights were traveling in a southerly direction. Local FAA tower reported objects resembled aircraft. No radar paints of any unusual objects were reported by the FAA. One witness reported that he observed two planes refueling overhead. Local tower operator said that he believed the people were looking at high-intensity strobe lights from aircraft passing overhead. A weather officer stated that the alleged UFO looked like one of the aircraft that has been seeding the clouds around the area.

The 70th BW, Clinton Sherman AFB, Okla., was refueling on the refueling track "Ten Killer" between 0243-0343, 16 Aug 66.

3 reels in No.1

See Also: Tape# 1. 7-3745-351
2. " -354
3. " -358
4 " -359
} 4 Tapes

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

AUDIO-TAPES
Aug. 15, 1966
Obs: GILBRETH
FT. SMITH, ARKANSAS
FILE # 1003732, 1003733, 1003734, 1003735, 1003736,
1003737, 1003738

IN CUSTODY OF AUDIO-VISUAL DIVISION

1925

CASE INCLUDES

6 Reels of TAPE

in separate folders

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 825TH STRATEGIC AEROSPACE DIVISION (SAC)
LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72076

REPLY TO ATTN OF: BDXI

7 September 1966

SUBJECT: UFO Sightings

TO: FTD

1. The following conforms to the basic reporting format shown in AFR 200-2. However, because of the large number of people involved and the number of sightings, information on the subject is not detailed.

2. Included are news clippings from local newspapers describing the events of 16 August. Recording tapes are being sent under a separate cover which go into detail on the sequence of sightings.

3. Description of the object(s)
   a. circular shape
   b. size of a pea
   c. red, green and white in color
   d. one to four traveling in a straight line
   e. blinking white light which changed to a steady white light
   f. no tail was noticed
   g. no sound was heard
   h. three were in formation and the fourth out of formation(shape of a triangle.)

Description of course of objects
   a. attention was drawn to the blinking lights in the sky
   b. seen to the northwest and moving south
   c. moved to the south
   d. flight path was straight and no sharp maneuvers
   e. objects disappeared abruptly rather than faded out
   f. objects disappeared instanteously to the south
   g. objects were visible for three hours — were same objects ?

Manner of Observation
   a. objects were seen from the ground and with the aid of binoculars
   b. Binoculars were used for a few of the sightings
   c. Sightings were all made from the ground.

Peace . . . . is our Profession

Time and Date of Sightings

a. Time of sightings were from 0300 hours zulu to 0600 hours zulu, 16 August 1966.

b. Sightings were made on a clear night with no haze.

Location of Observer

All sightings were made in the Fort Smith, Arkansas area

Identifying Information on Observer(s)

a. Sergeant J. W. Gilbreth (Fort Smith Police Department)

b. No military personnel were involved in the sightings

*c. It was noted that hundreds of city and area personnel were witness to the sightings. However, all were not interviewed.

Weather conditions

a. Clear night with no haze

b. No reading was taken on the wind direction

c. Apparently unlimited ceiling

d. No cloud cover

e. No storm areas

f. Temperature was normal for the year (70-75 degrees F)

No unusual activities as far as Meteorological conditions are concerned.

No identification action taken.

No air traffic designated for the area.

See news clippings for comments.

Existance of physical evidence; Under separate cover sheet are recording tapes, news clippings, and photographs (negative not obtainable) covering the sequence of events.

4. Forwarded for your information in our investigation of the August 16 sightings of UFOs in the Fort Smith, Arkansas area. Under separate cover sheets we are sending recording tapes to supplement this report.

5. We have included all information gleaned from the "more reliable" sources. Because of the large number of people (approximately 1, 500) involved, we did not attempt to formally interview more than two people. The descriptions given by these people coincided with that given by a majority of the observers.

6. If you feel that any further information is necessary, you can count on our full cooperation.

FOR THE COMMANDER

James S. Ector

JAMES S. ECTOR, Captain, USAF
Director of Information

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

16 August 66

Received a call from Col. Lemdley, Commander, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas at 0230 EST. He stated that objects had been seen in the sky over Fort Smith, Arkansas. Many people had witnessed the phenomena for the predeeding two hours. The objects looked as flashing red and green lights at low to medium altitude. Texarkana radar failed to pickup the objects. Colonel Lemdley suggested that contact be made with the Fort Smith Police Department (Sunset 31121). Tape recordings were made by the Little Rock AFB Command Post of reporting conversations. Following notification of SSgt H.T. Jones, the Little Rock AFB Command Post was informed that any further action from FTD would be forthcoming after 0715 ES T, 16 August 66.

Conversation with Lt. Dixon, Little Rock AFB. He will leave en the afternoon of 16 August to investigate the alleged sighting.

1 Sept. 1966

Contact was made with Capt. Ector ? of Little Rock AFB. He said that Jerry Baines, FAA, Fort Smith Muni. Airport saw the alleged UFO and reported to local news media that the object looked like an aircraft. Capt. ? telephone number is Autovon 631-1860 ex- 6974, 3311, 6211.
A weather officer also stated that the alleged UFO looked very much like one of the aircraft that has been seeding the clouds around the area.

13 Sept. 66

Called Lt. Dixon at Little Rock AFB. He will tell Capt. Ector that Project Blue Book needs additional information of any aircraft that were in the area on the night. Capt, Ector is to forward our office by of phone the necessary information regarding any aircraft in the area. Memphis Center of the FAA told Capt. Ector that they had no record of any aircraft in the area.

Contact was made with the 70th BW Clinton Sherman AFB, Okla. The 70th BW was refueling between 0243-0343Z on the refueling track Ten Killer on 16 August 66.

13 Sept. 66

Contact with 70th BW, Clinton Sherman AFB, OKla. The 70 th BW was using refueling track Ten Killer between 0243-0343Z 16 August 1966. The 43rd BW was in the area between 0055-0155Z 16 August 1966.

43rd BW 0055-0155Z 16 Aug.66 25,000 going west

70th BW 0243-0343Z 16 Aug. 66 27,000 going east

Saucers, Planes or Stars? Sky Gazers See Something

Fort Smith squinted skyward Monday night, searching for something — flying saucers — unusual phenomena— unidentified flying objects?

Many saw something, they'll attest.

But just what was a mystery today.

A deluge of reports of unidentified objects sightings were received between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. by the airport, law enforcement officials and radio stations.

The more the stations broadcast the reports, the more who scanned the skies.

Ed Stacy, chief of the Federal Aviation Agency tower at the Municipal Airport, said personnel observed nothing they could not identify.

He said there was nothing not visible on a clear night.

Stacy suggested there were aircraft away up there, their lights on, their jet engine noise not penetrating the thousands of feet between sky and earth.

"Reports of this nature occur from time-to-time, but there seemed more excitement last night than usual," Stacy said.

Reports of sightings began pouring in at 9:15 p.m.

They still trickled in after midnight, authorities said.

Hundreds throughout the county, including Fort Smith police patrolmen, told of sightings.

Sgt. J. W. Gilbreth Jr., 36, a six-year veteran of the Fort Smith Police Department, sighted the objects with his eyes and with the use of binoculars.

This is how he described them:

Four red lights, stationary but seeming to rotate like a police patrol car warning beacon, were spread out in the sky like points on the corners of a square.

One set of red and green lights appeared, then a white blinking light, then a steady white beam of light, all moving separately, in straight lines, from one to another of the four red lights.

"What we saw were lights," Gilbreth said. "What they were on, I can't say."

Gilbreth said he observed them for about an hour. Others said the lights were visible for about three hours. Gilbreth said he saw crowds of about 60, 350 and 600 watching the lights as he drove around the city.

Fort Smith police contacted Little Rock Air Force Base about the sightings. The base reported that it knew of no aircraft in the area.

"Apparently they saw something over there last night, but we don't know what it is," a base spokesman said.

Capt. James Ector, information officer at the base, said that from Jan. 1, 1947, to Dec. 31 of last year, 10,047 sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported and all but 646 were explained to the Air Force's satisfaction.

Gilbreth said the lights he saw made no sharp maneuvers, no fire, no smoke and no noise. He said other witnesses told him that when the lights disappeared, they seemed to "just blink off, not gradually fade away."

Gilbreth did not see the lights go out because he was talking by telephone at the time with Air Force personnel at the Little Rock base.

The following conversation was monitored over the police radio:

"Car eight to car four — did you see that UFO?"

"Ten-four (transmission signal that means yes or okay)."

"What did it look like?"

(Turn to page 5-A)

A VIEW OF AN UFO — Many citizens throughout the area spotted UFO's Monday night over the city. This photograph is a time exposure sho ject." (Southwester

Saucers

(Continued from page 1-A)

"Like a star. . .only one light is green and the other bright red."

"Car four, is that one straight ahead of you?"

"Ten-Four."

Crowds gathered on street corners. Citizens clad in slippers or barefoot scanned the skies with their searching eyes.

Monte Lumpkin of Alma, who was traveling down Rogers Avenue, said he saw two white objects "traveling low over the city.

Youths with binoculars or telescopes had a field day. There were discrepancies in what was seen. One man said that it was two white lights traveling together. Another commented that he saw only one light — "and it was red."

Yet, there are many possible —"and logical" — explanations for the phenomen, according to Jerry Bain, controller at the FAA tower.

"Yes, I saw something up there," Bain said. "But I believe it was high - intensity strobe lights from a high-altitude jet passing overhead. These have been known to start saucer scares in the past."

Bain said that the Memphis office of the Federal Aviation Agency, which has charge of radar in the Fort Smith area, had been notified.

"They say they have not seen anything on the scanner that cannot be accounted for," Bain said.

An ex-serviceman said that he believed that "the lights came from two planes refueling overhead."

"I was watching it through highpowered binoculars," he said. "I could see the tanker. The white lights were on the tanker and the red lights were on the jet. By listening closely I could hear the engines' roar."

The lights could also have come from a satellite passing above, Bain said.

The Associated Press said that at Pine Bluff, residents reported sighting four red lights in the pre-dawn darkness today.

The lights appeared to be very high, slowly moving northeastward, with three arranged in a triangle formation and the fourth light, very dim, described as "seeming to be out of formation."

The lights changed colors from red to silver to green to blue and back to red, witnesses said.

And at Paragould residents reported seeing what looked like a bright star traveling across the sky in an erratic pattern.

The light would zoom ahead, then hover in one spot, moved up and down, and two smaller lights would break off of it, travel away, and return, witnesses said.

Newsman Ken Bock of Radio Station KDRS, Paragould, said that he was asked to look at the light and he observed it

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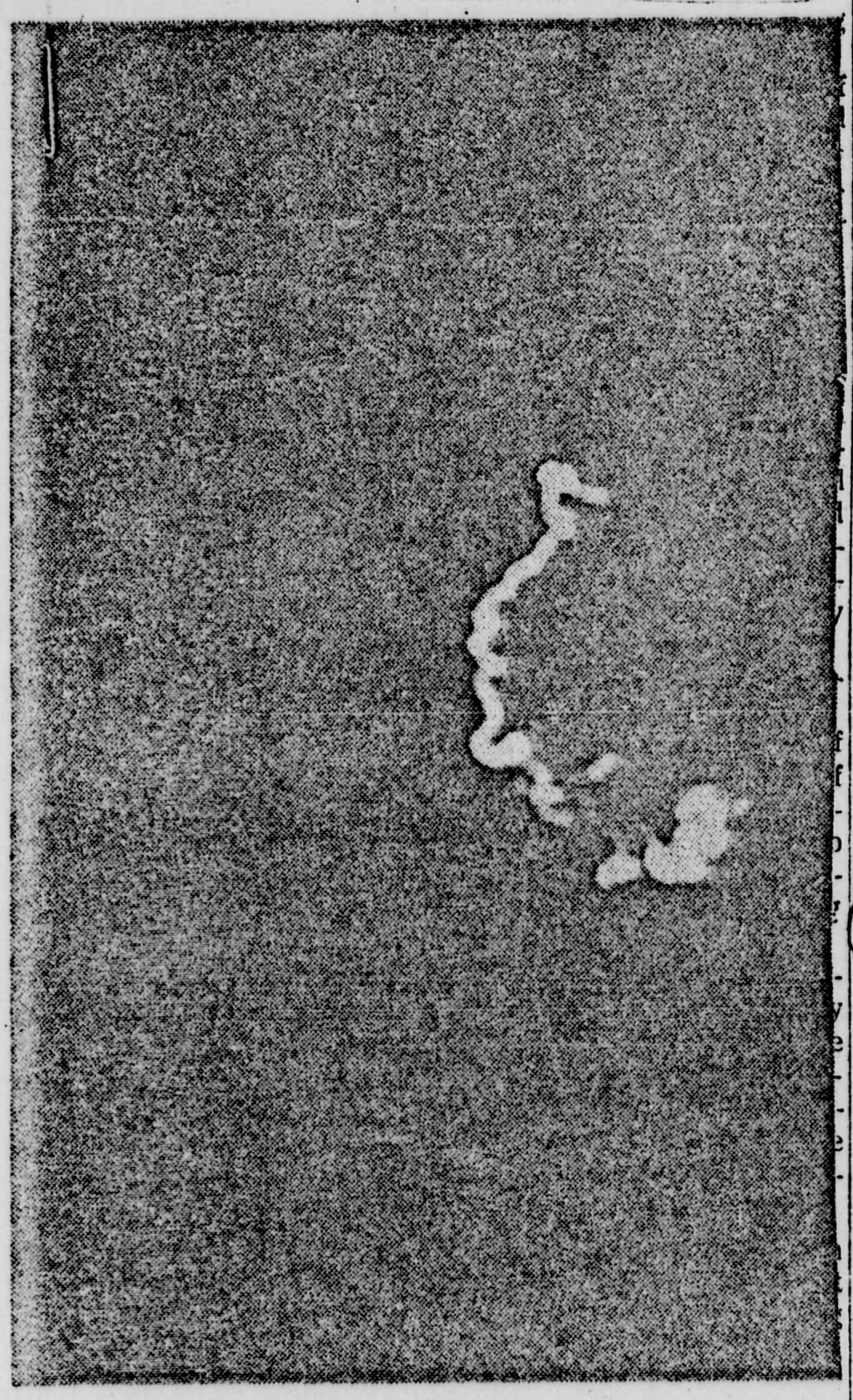

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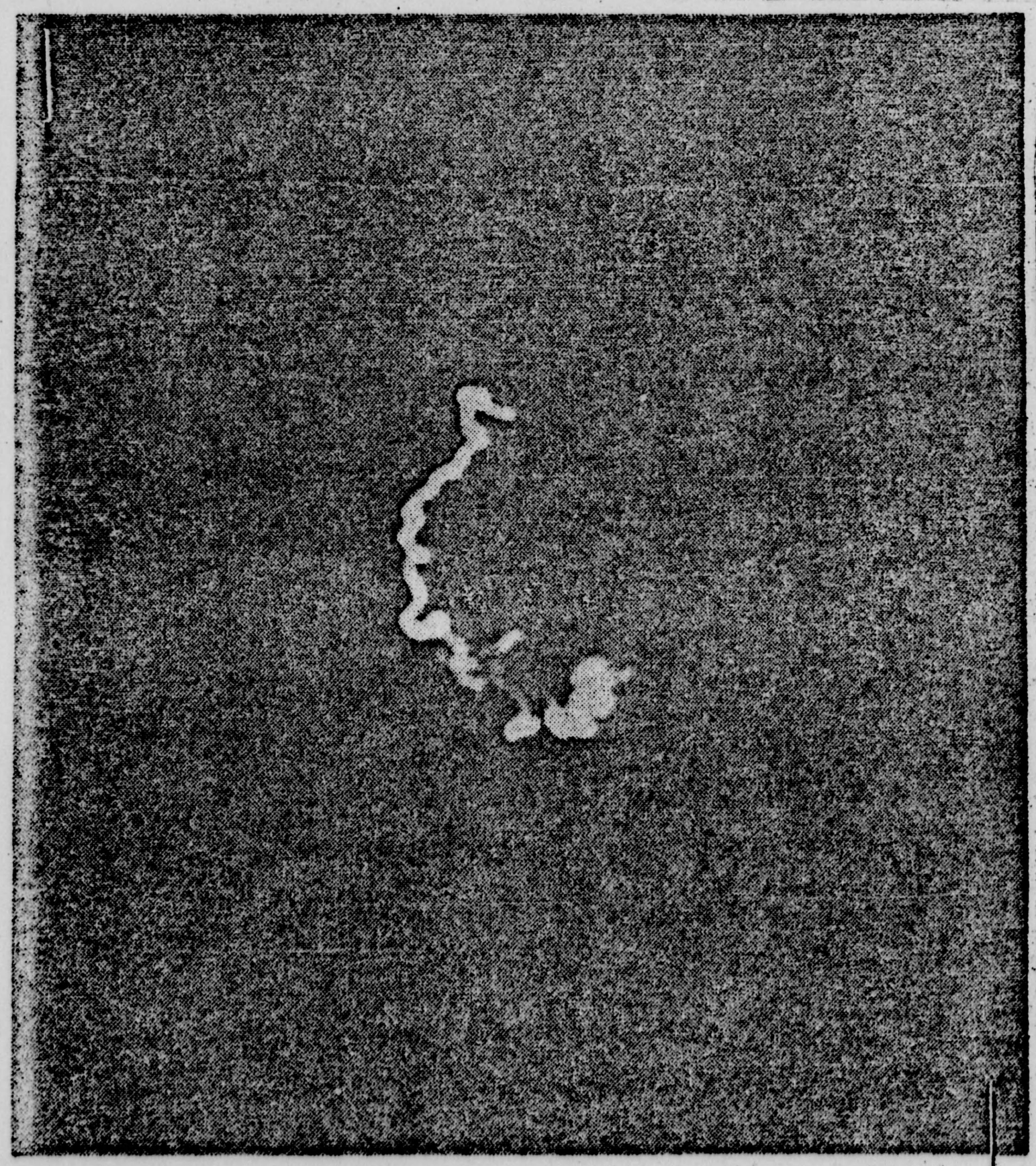

A VIEW OF AN UFO — Many citizens throughout the area spotted UFO's Monday night over the city. This photograph is a time exposure showing the path of an "object." (Southwestern Photo by Bill Spruell)

Sky Gazers

THESE TEEN-AGE BOYS point to the skies over Fort Smith after spotting a UFO which was seen by many citizens throughout the city and area Monday night. Crowds of from 60 to 600 were seen throughout the city as lights, red and green and white, appeared in the sky. Reports of sightings began pouring in at 9:15 p.m., and they were still trickling in after midnight. What the people saw is still a mystery. (Southwestern Photo)

Air Force Investigating Local Reports of UFOs

By FRANCES MILLER

Capt. James Ector, information officer at Little Rock Air Force Base, was in Fort Smith Tuesday to make a routine investigation on unusual lights in the skies Monday night and before dawn Tuesday.

Hundreds of city and area persons saw the lights which set off a batch of comment about unidentified flying objects. Witnesses included police officers and newsmen.

The lights — red, green, blue or white — didn't do much but blink on and off.

While the naked eye may not be able to identify an object, or light, this does not mean that it is necessaryily unidentifiable, Capt. Ector said.

But exactly what it (or they) was still remains a mystery.

As far as the visit here Tuesday by Capt. Ector and a non-commissioned officer from his office, he said: "It was standard operational procedure. We always follow up on sightings such as this.

"Our visit was to try and determine if a further investigation was needed and to obtain photographs if possible. We will continue the investigation until we get what we need."

Capt. Ector said more than likely he and a member of his staff will come to Fort Smith one more time — today or Thursday, perhaps.

"We will look at photographs and try to determine whether or not the UFO was really just that or if it was a high flying aircraft."

When asked his opinion about the sightings, Capt. Ector said: "We are prohibited from speculating. The only release that can be made must come from the Foreign Technilogical Division at Wright - Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. It's their job to examine the data we give them and then they will either identify what it was or they won't."

The captain said sightings of unusual lights are not infrequent and are usually easy to explain. "Three weeks ago we were flooded with calls about

(Turn to page 5-A)

Air Force

(Continued from page 1-A)

an unusual light. I went outside and looked through my binoculars and saw the light myself."

What was it? "A big sign advertising a fried chicken restaurant."

Capt. Ector said he and his NCO obtained a signed statement on their visit here Tuesday from Sgt. J. W. Gilbreth Jr., 38, a six-year veteran of the Fort Smith Police Department.

Sgt. Gilbreth viewed the lights above Fort Smith by eyesight and with the aid of binoculars.

His description went this way:

"Four red lights, immobile but seeming to rotate like a police patrol car warning beacon, were spread out in the sky like the points on the corners of a square.

"One set of red and green lights appeared, traveling in straight lines from one of the four red lights and then on to others. A blinking white light and later a steady white light proceeded in the same manner.

"What we saw were lights," Gilbreth said. "What they were on, I can't say."

The sergeant said he observed them for about an hour. He also saw crowds of 60, 350 and 600 watching the same objects during the night. One crowd, listening to a newsman broadcast his description of the lights, was estimated to number about 1,500.

Capt. Ector said he conducted several other interviews during the day but "they were listening type interviews."

The captain also said: "The people apparently saw something over there last night, but we don't know yet what it is."

He said that since Jan. 1, 1947, there have been 10,047 reports of unidentified flying objects. The Air Force has explained all but 646 to its own satisfaction.