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[REDACTED]

17/2004

ATIC NO. _____ DATE OF INFO 17 March 1950

AP NO. _____ LOCATION Kirtland AFB, N.M.

REPORT NO. _____ SOURCE USAF Personnel

DATE OF REPORT 21 Mar 50 DATE IN TO ATIC _____

TIME OF STARTING 1500 COLOR Silver and dark

SHAPE _____ SPEED _____ Estimated

SIZE Varied estimates ALTITUDE 10,000'-12,000' Measured

COURSE N and NE LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED _____

NO. IN GROUP 3 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

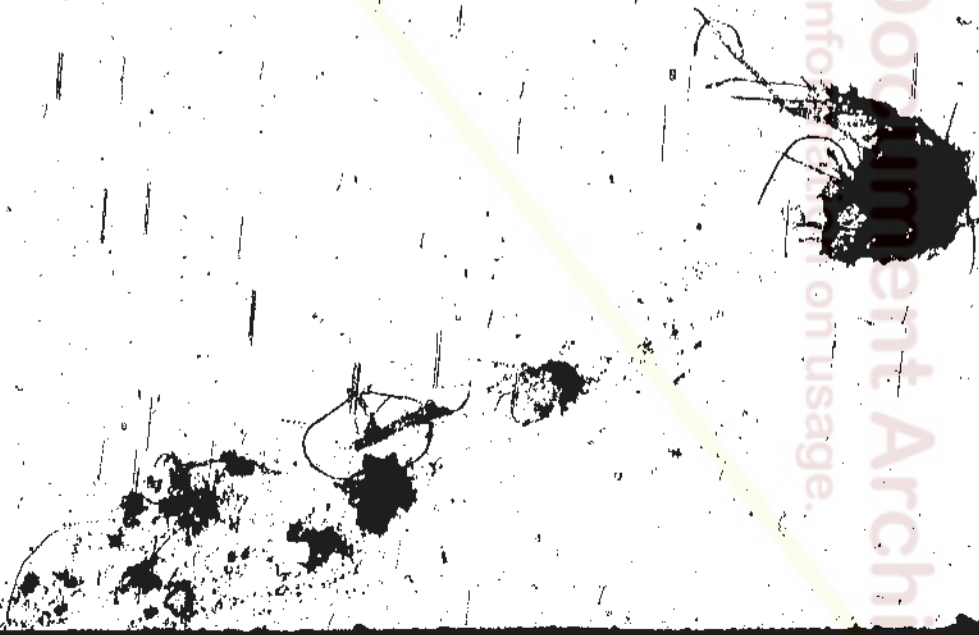
SOUND _____ MANEUVERS Tumbling motion ascending and descending.

PHOTOS _____ SKETCHES _____

Brown

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[REDACTED]



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INFORMATION ONLY

17 March 1950
Farmington, New Mexico
(BALLOON) Observation

Plastic UFOs and the "Stack of Coins"

A burst balloon has caused many a saucer scare, but the invasion of Farmington, New Mexico, on Saint Patrick's Day, 1950 was one of the most dramatic. The "saucers" began to fly about 10:15 A.M. M.S.T., and soon filled the air. In numbers estimated from 500 to thousands, for the next hour the gleaming saucer-shaped objects soared over the town, moving erratically at incredible speeds, darting in and out among each other in what one writer has called "the greatest exhibition of magnetic flight that has ever happened in this universe." [6] (See *Chapter IX*.)

The explanation is more prosaic. A Skyhook balloon had been launched that morning from Holloman Air Force Base near White Sands, New Mexico. Near Farmington, in the cold atmosphere at 60,000 feet the balloon had become brittle, burst, and disintegrated into hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic. Light as feathers, shining in the sunlight, they floated over the town and away [1, p. 106].

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3055

AF FORM 112-PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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COUNTRY UNITED STATES		REPORT NO. 164178-1	CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects			
AREA REPORTED ON Albuquerque	FROM OFFICE Headquarters Eighth Air Force	EVALUATION 46	
DATE OF REPORT 21 March 1950	DATE OF INFORMATION 17 March 1950	SOURCE A-1	
PREPARED BY (Office) CARL S. WACHNER, Capt., USAF	Eighth Air Force Personnel		
REFERENCES (Serial number, Airforce, previous report, etc., as applicable)			
SUMMARY: Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in first one-sentence paragraph. List indicators of source (etc.). Begin text of report on AF Form 112, Part II.			
<p>1. On 17 March at 1500 hours from the ramp in front of the Operations Building at Kirtland AFB, an officer and three enlisted men observed three objects at an altitude of between ten and twelve thousand feet. At first glance the observers thought they were parachutes. This was ruled out because of a tumbling motion exposing silver and dark side alternately, leading the observers to believe them to be wing tanks from fighters in the area. This was ruled out when suddenly one object rose vertically at a high rate of speed disappearing into the scattered clouds above the field, the other two objects seemed to be descending, one toward the North, the other Northeast. The object descending toward the Northeast was observed for a period of 15 minutes disappearing into the mountains approximately 20 miles away.</p> <p>2. Weather: Clear with scattered cumulus at 15,000 feet; visibility unlimited.</p> <p>3. Wind: Calm.</p> <p>4. No report was turned in to personnel at Kirtland AFB as the incident was not considered important until reporting personnel read of other reports of Unidentified Flying Objects in same area.</p> <p>5. Pictures: None.</p> <p>6. Size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capt. Wachner: Size of C-54 b. T/Sgt. Miller: Size of desk. c. T/Sgt. Key: Size of fighter aircraft. d. T/Sgt. Mansueti: No estimate. <p>7. Shape: All observers, non-descript.</p> <p>8. Report indicates definite objects, unidentifiable to the observers, were in area. Information as to the type of weather forecasting activities, special projects etc., is necessary before report can be properly analyzed.</p>			
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEAR DOD DIR 5200.10		APPROVED: Lt. Colonel, USAF Director of Intelligence Headquarters Eighth Air Force	

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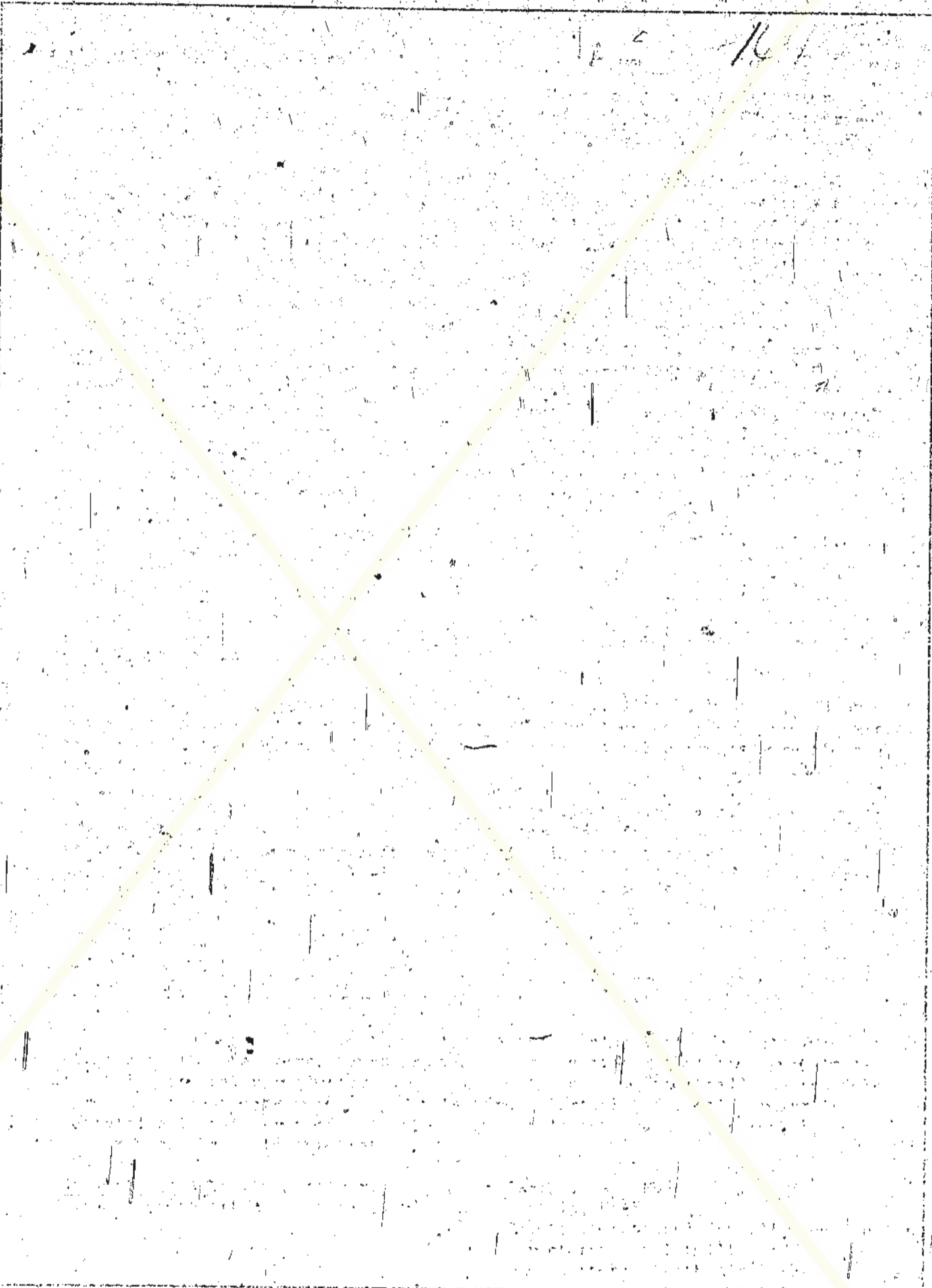
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ST FORM 112- PART II

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT



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