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PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Jan 51	2. LOCATION 50 mi SE of Holloman AFB N.M.	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Gas from balloon. <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 22/1800Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Project Gopher Observers	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Object observed from C-47 that was tracking a Gopher Balloon. First appeared to be star-like. the object held a constant position next to the balloon where it seemed to take shape and increase in size until it was 1/4 to 1/2 the size of the balloon. Then it detached and traveled in level flight at high speed, emitting orange sparks. The C-47 was at 11,000' and the balloon at 70-100,000'. Shape was circular. Color. Milky white. Speed. Hover to high.		11. COMMENTS White object observed in conjunction with balloon. Balloon scheduled for 4 hr flight. Descended shortly after observation of object. Most probable cause was gas leaking from balloon. Flash attributed to disappearance and/or explosion of leaking gas. Color attributed to altitude and temperature of escaping gas.

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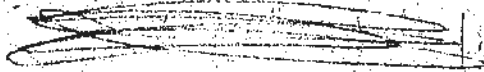
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[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a memorandum or report, with some words like 'subject', 'information', and 'action' visible.]

James E. Locher
JAMES E. LOCKER
Captain, USAF

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTER
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

Use this form for inter-office correspondence within headquarters.

Use authorized office symbols to designate addressee and address.

Place initials of dictator and typist, telephone number and location to right of signature.

Number all comments consecutively.

Note warning signal at lower left of form. Remaining space is sufficient only for proper spacing of typewritten signature.

Separate comments by horizontal lines across page.

Use entire width of sheet, both sides.

SUBJECT Sighting of an Unknown Object

TO ATIAA-2C
ATTN: Lt Rupert

FROM WCEFE-5

DATE

COMMENT NO. 1

Capt. Spradley/mah
27159/Bldg 17

1. The following information is submitted per request from Lt Rupert.

On 22 January 1951 the undersigned, Capt J. E. Cocker, and Mr. McAlcese, project engineer for General Mills Corp. were tracking a balloon on Project Gopher. We had taken off from Holloman A. F. B., New Mexico in a C-47 type aircraft at 0900 EST. We picked up our balloon shortly thereafter and were tracking it in an easterly direction. About half way between Holloman and Salt Flat Texas, we noticed an object near our balloon. The balloon was at 70 thousand plus feet and we were flying at approximately 11 thousand feet.

The object was above and to the side of our balloon; how far above and to the side cannot be said because there was no reference. The object was about the size of the balloon. It was flat and round. The balloon was pear shaped. The object was a milky color.

As long as I saw the object, which was approximately 3 minutes, it maintained its position in relation to the balloon. We flew under the balloon and lost sight of it. Capt Cocker and Mr. McAlcese went back to the astro-dome position and watched it from there. They said that the object descended to the balloon and then after several bright flashes disappeared to the west.

A short time thereafter our balloon started to descend and landed near Salt Flat Texas.

After landing at Holloman, we made a verbal report to the officials there.

Ernest W. Spradley
ERNEST W. SPRADLEY
Captain, USAF

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Dayton Daily News
9 Feb 51

Saucer Visiting Balloon? 2 Field Pilots Not Sure

Airmen Sight Object While On Mission
In New Mexico; AMC Officials Silent

Two Wright Field officers added another chapter to the "Flying Saucer story" last night.

Capt. J. E. Cocker, of the All-Weather Flying Division, and Capt. E. W. Spradley, of the Aerial Photographic Laboratory, claimed they "saw a strange object" in the sky while on a test mission recently.

They said they were flying in a C-47 at about 12,000 feet near Alamogordo, N. M. Their plane had taken off from Holloman Air Force base to track a large balloon sent up to take weather observations. The balloon was similar to the type used in "Project Skyhook" disclosed this week by the Navy.

Captain Spradley described it:

"We were following the balloon when I noticed a strange object in the sky. It was flat and looked like a dime. It was a milky color. It wasn't doing anything, just hovering there near the balloon."

Higher Altitude

The object and the balloon were at a much higher altitude than the C-47, they said. It was estimated "somewhere around 50,000 or 60,000 feet."

Captain Cocker also saw the object. He got up from his seat and looked at it from the plane's astrodome.

"I saw something I never saw before," he said.

"It was perfectly round. But I don't know what it was. In a way it looked like a star without any

twinkle, although it appeared a perfectly clear silver color."

Captain Cocker reported that he watched the object about five minutes.

Hovered Near Balloon

"It appeared to hover next to the balloon for a while, and then it separated. As it did, the thing accelerated in speed. Just before it disappeared I saw three brilliant flashes, like photo flashes, then it was gone."

An airman and a civilian also were in the plane and saw the object, it was reported.

Wright Field officials said they had no official comment to make. The flyers, however, reported their observations to field authorities.

Dayton Daily News
16 Feb 51

A. F. Officers Report Seeing Flying Saucer

Two Wright-Patterson Air Force base officers Wednesday reported they recently "saw a strange object" in the sky over Alamogordo, N. M.

Capt. J. E. Cocker of the All-Weather Flying Division and Capt. E. W. Spradley of the Aerial Photographic Laboratory said they spotted the object while tracking a large weather balloon.

The balloon was similar to the type used in "Project Skyhook," which the Navy disclosed this week.

Capt. Spradley described the experience:

"We were following the balloon when I noticed a strange object in the sky. It was flat and looked like a dime. It was a milky color. It wasn't doing anything, just hovering near the balloon in January."

Capt. Cocker said: "I saw something I never saw before. It was perfectly round. But I don't know what it was. In a way it looked like a star without any twinkle, although it appeared a perfectly clear silver color."

The flyers estimated the object and balloon were "somewhere around 50,000 or 60,000 feet."

"It appeared to hover next to the balloon and then it separated," Capt. Cocker said. "Just before it disappeared, I saw three brilliant flashes, like photo flashes."

Air Materiel Command officials said Thursday they had received no official reports from the two officers and "do not take it too seriously."

"As in most such cases, the observers were too far away to identify what they saw. How much can the average man see at a distance of more than 10 miles?" a spokesman said.

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