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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

13 June 1968

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomena Division
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: TDPT (UFO)

Subj: Report on Mosinee, Wisconsin Sighting
May 29, 1968

To: Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, Jr.

1. Enclosed is the report on the investigation of the subject sighting.

J. Allen Hynek

J. ALLEN HYNEK, Director
Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center
Northwestern University

JAH:lp
encl.

Investigation of June 8, 1968

This report concerns a sighting reported by Mr. John [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Road, Mosinee, Wisconsin); the event took place on Wednesday night, May 29, 1968, at 10:00 P.M.

At the interview, the witnesses present were Mr. John [REDACTED], daughters [REDACTED], his wife [REDACTED], his son Tom, and a friend of the son's, Mike [REDACTED]. The principal witnesses were Mr. [REDACTED] and his daughter, Linda, the others (except for Tom and Mike) having been present, but being too frightened to make any useful observations.

The sighting began as the family had just gone to bed; the girls were in two beds (the younger pair sharing one bed, and Linda having the bed next to the window). Linda heard a sound getting louder and louder, and noticed that there was a light outside. At this point the shade covering the window was all the way down. Linda pulled the shade aside and looked out the window, where she saw a very bright light just west of north, low over the ground in the back yard. It was so bright, she said, that looking directly at it was painful. As she watched, too frightened to say anything, she could see the light coming closer. In order to see the light past a tree growing right outside the window, she had to lean far to the left; this leads to a line of sight passing just by the nearby tree-trunk and over the fencepost marking the northwest corner of the back yard. An object in that direction would have been nearly in line with a gap between trees growing behind the neighbor's yard.

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Linda then saw the object appear to tilt upward slightly, and then could see the whole outline of it, and a protruding "wing" (The family had drawn pictures of the object for an officer from the sheriff's police; these drawings will be obtained).

At the same time that Linda was watching out her bedroom window, Mr. [REDACTED] had heard the sound and was sitting on the edge of his bed looking out the window toward the back yard; he also saw a light, but no outline. The light was hovering about "15 foot above that corner fence-post", again in line with the gap between trees (the two windows are only about 15 feet apart).

Just prior to the sighting, Mr. [REDACTED] had been preparing for bed, and noticed that the dresser lamp became very dim for a moment; he thought there might be a power failure, and so got undressed quickly and into bed while the light was still available. At the time he said he may have noticed a noise, but that occasionally they picked up a little noise from the belt-line (the main highway) and paid no attention to it. The noise then got louder and louder, and "it got lighter out there. I looked out the window, and there it was."

He continues, "I would say from here I could just see the light... it was like a big floodlight right aimin' at me." The sound was like a turbine starting up - a sound that rises and falls in pitch and loudness, getting faster and louder and higher pitched. The description matches very closely the sound of an electronic police-car siren (see later).

[REDACTED] heard Linda scream then, and thinking that she was in

some danger, ran out of his bedroom; he nearly collided with her, since she was also leaving her bedroom. Together they ran to the garage at the west side of the house and out the back door onto a concrete patio.

When [REDACTED] got outside, he could see the object now at about a 60 degree elevation (indicating an angle quite close to 60 degrees); it was tilted up so that the bright light was partly hidden, and he could see the circular outline of the body of the object, dark against the background of light. From the bottom there was what looked like a trailing wing protruding.

The sound reached its maximum just after everyone went outside, becoming a steady high-pitched scream that was so loud that [REDACTED] said he had to put his fingers in his ears. The object climbed on a course from north to south that brought it closer and then directly overhead. [REDACTED] said he thought the object would hit his television antenna. As it passed overhead, he then ran back into the garage and out the front (south) door; the object was then just a little south of overhead. At this time the object appeared as a circular patch of light, much higher. It appeared to pause for a moment, and then, "in less than a second", moved rapidly south, disappearing as if the light had been turned off when the object was visible in a gap through treetops across the street to the south, at an elevation of about 15 degrees.

Reconstructing the time-sequence on the basis of the taped interview, it would appear that the initial observations from the bedrooms took between 15 and 20 seconds; getting outside required about 10 seconds; the observation in the back yard lasted another 15 seconds, and getting

to the front yard took another 10 seconds; the final phase probably lasted about 10 seconds. The total time of the event, then, would be about one minute; the estimate given by [REDACTED] was 2 to 2½ minutes. A reasonable estimate would be one to two minutes.

While the events at the [REDACTED] home were occurring, the son Tom and his friend, Mike, were walking along some railroad tracks about one-half mile north of the Duberstein home, their position being in a direct line with the window-to-fencepost line of sight described previously. They heard a wavering sound "like a police car", and saw the sky to the northeast light up. The light appeared to travel rapidly (in less than five seconds) from bearing 045 to bearing 120. No light-source was seen, just the lit-up sky. The point where the light disappeared was in the direction of the [REDACTED] home, but could also have been over the highway. Neither boy thought much of what they had seen. They returned home within ten or fifteen minutes, and only related what they had seen when Mr. [REDACTED] said that they had missed seeing a flying saucer.

[REDACTED] said that he never had believed in those things before; in fact when he heard that his children were learning about UFOs in school, he thought the teacher was wasting their time on nonsense. The only book on UFOs he has in the house is a paperback by Frank Edwards, given to him after his sighting, by a friend. He now definitely believes that there are such things.

At the time of the sighting the weather was threatening. The ceiling was about 650 feet, solidly overcast, and there was a tornado

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warning out for an area about 15 miles to the west; a funnel cloud had been reported.

Immediately after the sighting, [REDACTED] went to several neighbors' houses to find out if they had seen or heard anything. One neighbor said she had heard something, but thought it was a flock of geese; her mother heard something, too, but thought the children had the television on. At another house the neighbor said she heard nothing, but the television set was on and the children were making noise.

[REDACTED] called the county sheriff's office, and within 15 minutes Officer Lester Rawlings, Jr. was dispatched to the home. Rawlings said he talked with the family for about an hour, trying to convince them that they hadn't seen anything, and came away convinced that they certainly had observed something. He ascertained, however, that at the exact time of the sighting, state patrol car 403 had been on the highway one-half mile north of the [REDACTED] home, with its "yelp" siren going. These electronic sirens make a sound that is very high-pitched and loud, and that wavers rapidly in pitch and loudness. He feels that this siren accounts adequately for the sound that the family heard, but not for what they saw.

The investigators knew of this possibility when they went to see the [REDACTED]; they had arranged for the county police to have a car go to the appropriate spot at 2:15 P.M. (the interview was set for 2:00 P.M.) and turn on the siren. At about 2:20 P.M. the investigators and the male witnesses went to the railroad tracks where the boys had been, while the daughters and mother remained at the house. No sound was heard at the

railroad tracks, and the other witnesses said nothing about having heard anything.

The location where the police car had been with its siren on, the night of the sighting, was described as "one-half mile north" of the [REDACTED] residence. However, the residence is about one-half mile west of the highway, so that the total distance is closer to three-quarters of a mile. Also the highway goes through a deep cut and is generally 50 feet or more below the level of the hill on which the [REDACTED] live. It is possible that sound propagation depends heavily on weather conditions. It is hard to reconcile the outcome of the experiment, however, with the description of the sound as being so loud that the witness had to cover his ears.

The boys described the light they saw as being bluish; this could easily be tied to the blue rotating light on the state patrol car. The description [REDACTED] gave, however, of a brilliant spotlight having the color and brightness of a welder's arc is not consistent with the idea that a reflected light caused his visual impression, or that of his daughter. The line of sight given by the witnesses at the house bears 345, or fifteen degrees west of the direction of the road; the line of sight could not possibly have passed closer to the road than one-half mile, the separation of the house from the highway.

Pending further investigation, it appears now that what the boys saw and heard could be ascribed to the police car; the sound to its siren, and the moving bluish light to the light from the rotating blue

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light on the car lighting up the low-hanging clouds. The bright spotlight, however, and the general behavior of the object, cannot be easily associated with the police car. There appears to be a coincidence; it is even conceivable that the sound from the siren did reach the house, due to the peculiar weather conditions at the time, but that there was also a sound from the object. It would seem important to talk to the driver of the police car, to see why he had his siren on.

██████████ mentioned that after the object reached altitude and went to the south, that "I never knew the neighbors had so many dogs around here. They were all just - bayin', you know, just whining, and my dog out in the back here, she was on top of the doghouse trying to jump over the fence. Apparently the noise must have really hurt their ears." Everyone agreed that the noise was extremely loud, a fact that makes it difficult to believe that the siren, at the very closest one-half mile away, could have created so much noise.

Officer Rawlings said he reported the event to the Antiago Radar Base, but that the radar operator told him he could get no returns from the relevant direction because of weather conditions; the returns were drowned out from rain cloud reflections.

Rawlings also checked with the local airport, but there was no traffic except for one arrival from Stevens Point at 9:36 P.M. He did not check, however, for arrivals at Stevens Point, which is 19 miles south, and which has a field where jets land.

There is a possibility that the family saw a jet airplane with

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with its landing light on. Checking with North Central Airlines at Stevens Point, however, revealed that the last inbound flight was on the ground at 9:00 P.M. (Daylight Saving Time), and that an outbound flight (not a jet) to Wausau departed at 10:14 P.M. Neither flight can be associated with the sighting.

The only remaining possibility is a military jet from Antigo Air Base.

The driver of the state patrol car in question was Sgt. Thomas Price; his home phone is [REDACTED], and the office number is 845-1144.

Television station WSAU requested viewers to report anything unusual they saw; three reports from the night in question were received. The respondents were

Eugene [REDACTED] 5979 (Rothschild/Schofield
area)
Earl [REDACTED], Wausau
Mrs. Wyman [REDACTED] St., Whiting

Another report for May 2 was received from Nancy [REDACTED]
Sherman, Wausau (seen at Goodnow), phone [REDACTED].

The employee at North Central Airlines said that "one time" an incoming flight refused to land until a strange object that was flying near the airport departed.

WSAU TV/AM/FM

POST OFFICE BOX 1088
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54401

6:30 PM June 4, 1968

Dear sir,

at Studios

Enclosed is a carbon copy of the report to the sheriff's department of Marathon County, on the sighting of the UFA near Mosine May 29..

One correction I might make... on page 2, there is reference to a Frank Kerzak.. this should be Frank Jerzak of the FAA..

It is not necessary to return this report... I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, and hope we have some response to our request for further witnesses...

Sincerely,

Don Debyle
Chan 7 News

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1968

ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

MARATHON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

May 29, 1968

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REPORT ON Unidentified Flying Object reported by John [REDACTED] Road Mosinee, Wis

TO Dennis A. Wronkowski

A/Sergeant of Deputies

At 10:17 PM date this officer was dispatched to see a Mr John Duberstein who lives on Ranger Road Mosinee, Wisconsin. This is across the street from the Mosinee Ranger Station. in reference to his seeing an UFO.

Mr Duberstein related the following story: At 10:00PM date Mr [REDACTED] was just going to bed when he heard this weird noise (like the flying saucers on TV) he came out of his bedroom and was going through the kitchen when his daughter Lynda age 15 came out of her bedroom, which is located in the center of the house on the north side, shouting to him to run outside and see what that strange object was. Mr proceeded out the door which is located on the south side of the house connecting through the garage, he observed an object climbing almost straight up for approximately 600 to 700 ft then level off and zoom off in a southerly direction. Mr described this object as about 20' in diameter with a wing attached at a downward right angle to the body (see attached drawing) it appeared very brightly (like the light of an electric welder when you strike an arc) and as soon as this object passed from sight the noise stopped. Lynda described this object as a bright florescent light emitting this weird sound with a stubby trailing wing (upside down washtub with a concave bottom) she said it appeared to hover about four feet off the ground momentarily as if to land then zoomed off over the top of the house in a southerly direction. Further their son Tom age 17 was walking home with Mike [REDACTED] R. 1 Ex 447-A Mosinee when they had just crossed the railroad tracks and were walking east when they heard this weird noise and observed a very bright light approaching in the sky from the east pause momentarily and then disappear in a southerly direction. A check was made with other residences and no one heard this or observed same.

Incident reported to Sgt Block at the Antiago Radar Base at 12:01 AM 5-30-68.

Mabey of no consequence but SP car 403 was dispatched south on 31 at 9:59PM date and he was at the end of the beltline where it turns into two lanes traveling south with his siren on YELP this is approximately 1/2 mile north of the Duberstein residence.

DEPUTY

MARATHON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

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REPORT ON

TO

Also a check was made with Frank Kerzak FAA operator at the airport for incoming or outgoing traffic at this time and in this area. Frank advised only one incoming aircraft from Stevens Point and it touched down at 9:36PM date, no further traffic.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lester Gawlings Jr
Lester Gawlings Jr

DEPUTY