

CE-1

Possibly POLARIZED
LIGHT PHENOMENON
TRIANGLE CASE.

M-164
called M-7 Nov 66

26/AUG/66

STATEMENT

Friday, 26 August 1966 my wife, three children and I were traveling from Atlanta, Georgia to Huntsville, Alabama. Our trip began on US 41 North to Highway 20, through Rome, Georgia to the State line where Highway 20 becomes Highway 9. Four miles past the State line we intersected Highway 35 at approximately 8:51 pm CST. It was at this time that my wife first saw a small cluster of star-like objects. We turned North onto 35 ~~xxxxx~~ and the objects, which my wife noticed were then at our upper right (about two o'clock). She said her attention rested on them because they were brighter than other stars and because they were clustered so closely together. She said nothing to me at this time.

A few seconds later, she noticed that they were moving relative to several "near by stars." They moved toward our right, away from us and down - seemingly at a slow rate of speed. It was then that she first made comment of the objects to me. She said "There's an airplane flying up there." She pointed in the general direction. I paid little attention to this. Approximately one minute later, she said "It's coming down; I think it's going to land." To this I commented that commercial airplanes just do not land in the middle of God's Country. She then looked over toward me and then back out the window and said, "That's the biggest airplane I have ever seen; It's going to land!"

It was then that I looked up (about 11 o'clock) directly in a plane containing the objects and our stationwagon and approximately normal to the road. The objects had made a smooth maneuver turning from East to West and passing over us. I immediately applied the brakes bringing the car to a stop on the side of the road. I rolled down the window while the car was slowing down.

I saw four circular, orange-yellow, glowing, objects moving from East to West. Three were at the vertices of an obtuse triangle moving with the obtuse vertex in the direction of flight. The fourth object seemed to be at equilibrium in the center of the triangle and moved relative to the other three with rapid sporadic motion fore and aft, along the direction of flight, once leaving the confines of the triangle itself in the aft direction.

The objects passed directly overhead normal to the highway and off into the distance.

There was no noticeable wind on the ground, the temperature in Fort Payne, Ala. was 65° F (approximately 16 miles away), the sky was clear - so clear that I could have easily driven my car by the bright moon light (there was a 3/4 full moon), which was behind me and shining over my left shoulder. The objects were far off in the west at 8:55 (- 1/2 min) pm CST

This is Payne's wife's marking, not witness sketch

When I rolled down the window and the objects were directly overhead, and for all time thereafter during the observation, the objects produced no detectible sound.

FACTUAL OBSERVATIONS:

(1) The size of the objects when directly overhead had a relative diameter from 1/5 to 1/4 that of the moon's diameter or about the size of a fingernail 30" from the eye.

(2) The objects' formation increased in size approximately seven to ten times.

(3) The time of final observation was 8:55 pm CST \pm 1/2 min.

(4) The objects were circular.

(5) The triangular pattern was maintained by the objects for the duration of the observation.

(6) The color of the light received by us was orange-yellow when they were at maximum size and bright white when first sighted.

(7) The objects made a smooth maneuver, turning from East to West.

(8) There was no noticeable wind ^{at} the ground and visibility was excellent from that time of night.

(9) The moon was bright and about 3/4 full.

(10) All objects were of equal intensity and were glowing when closest.

(11) There was no detectible sound produced by the objects.

NON-FACTUAL IMPRESSIONS:

(1) The objects appeared to be higher than about 500 feet.

(2) If it were assumed that their speed was that of a conventional aircraft (about 300 mph), I would estimate their attitude at approx. 3000 feet. I do not mean that they were at 3000 feet, I am only trying to establish the angular velocity of their position vector.

(3) The time from first sighting to the time when they passed overhead was about 2 to 3 min.

(4) The time from passing overhead was approximately 1 to 2 min. (These are only good guesses.)

(5) The airport tower controller told me that there was only one small aircraft near the sighting area, but that it was South of there.

(6) I, personally, believe that it was not a conventional airplane.

(7) I leave open only the obscure possibility of balloons; however, I intuitively do not believe it was balloons.

(8) If they were balloons at an altitude of 500 feet, and if assumption 2 is good, then the speed of the balloons would be 50 mph. Recalling that there was little or no noticeable wind on the ground, this would hardly seem realistic. If they were balloons and farther away, they would have been travelling faster and they would have been very large.

(9) I do not believe the objects were reflection, since I saw them clearly with my head outside of the window. Also, since there were no clouds; I do not believe it was a reflection of a light on a cloud.

(10) I am considerably (but not dogmatically) sure of what it was not.

The objects were clearly seen by my wife, all of my three children, and myself. The above observations, as stated, is true and contains our best knowledge of what actually happened.

Burford H. Funk, Jr.

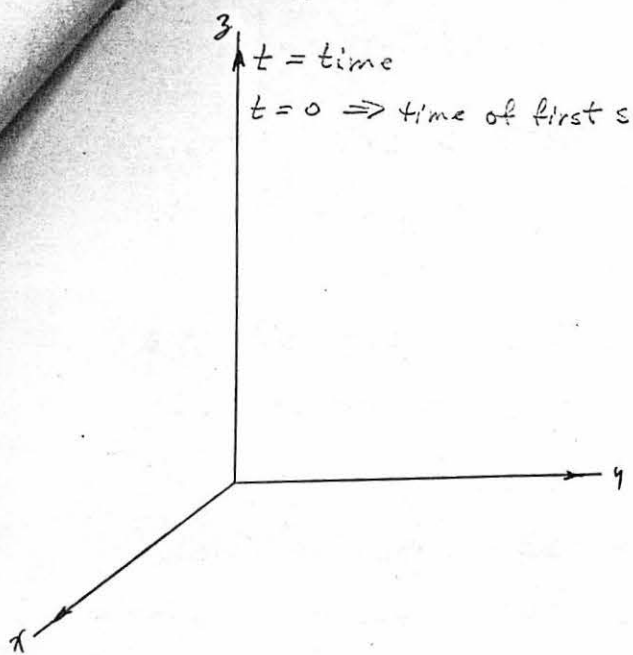
Burford H Funk, Jr.

213 Wingate Ave, S.W.

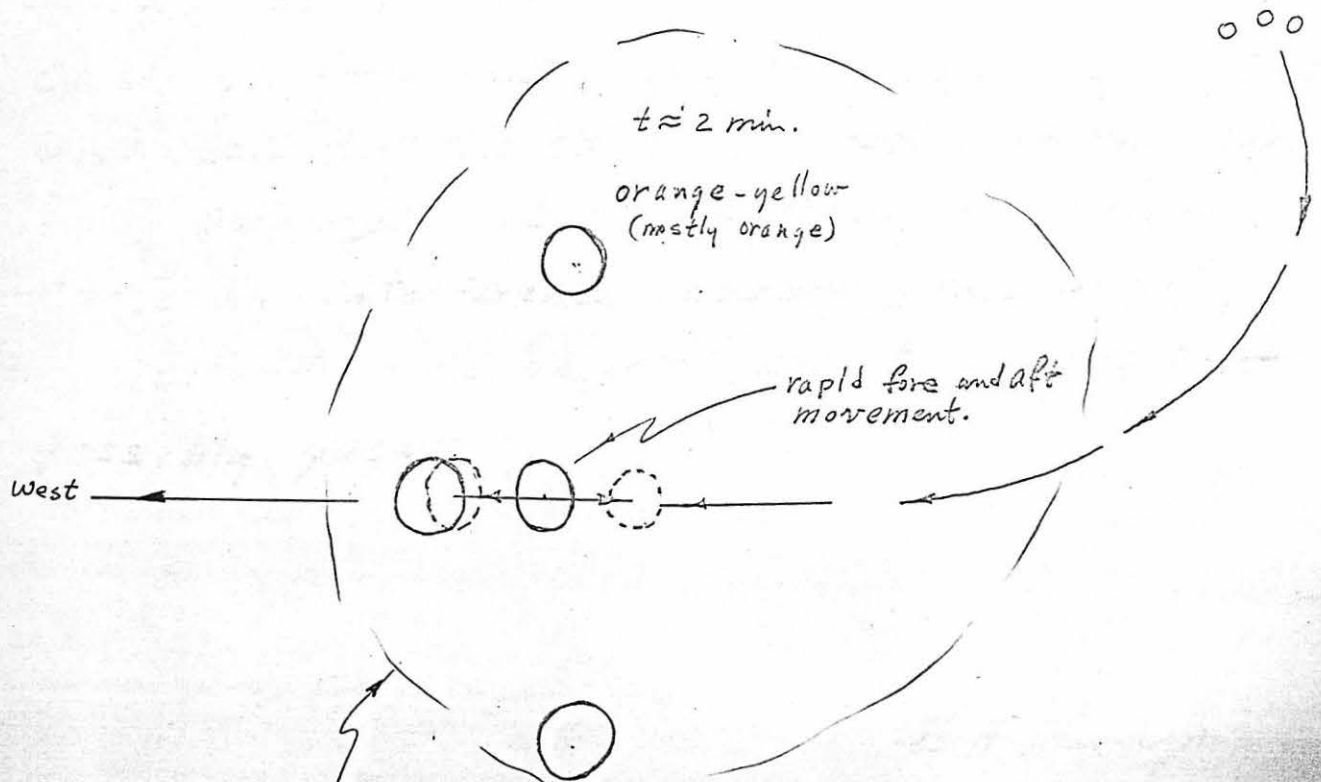
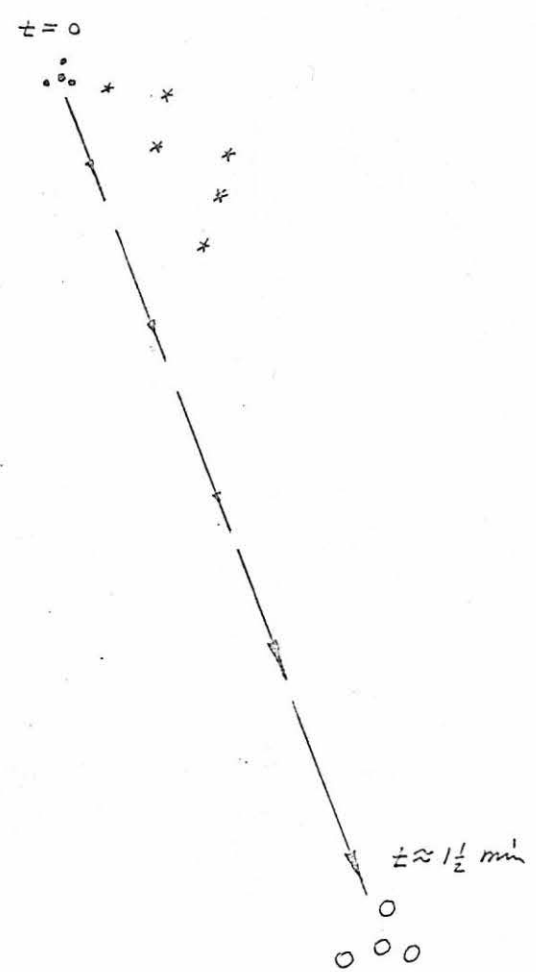
Huntsville, Ala. PHONE: 881-0190

NOTE: Sighting reported to Fort Payne, Ala
Police at 9:20 CST.

Guy was an
engineer in
aerospce
community



$t = \text{time}$
 $t = 0 \Rightarrow \text{time of first sighting.}$



⊗ Overhead View
 (looking up from ground)

B.H. Lark, Jr.
 30 Aug. 66

ATTU #1

"Factual"

Appendix

31 August 1966

actual observation:

(12) When the center "object" (light) was in its most forward position (see figure), there was a definite decrease in the intensity of the region where the leading object and the center object overlapped (dark spot). This occurred only once and then only for a fraction of a second but it was long enough that it was noticeable.

I didn't think that this was important until I was discussing the event with some professors at Georgia Tech. They seemed to think that it could be important. One professor in the Physics Dept. said that this could be a result of the light being polarized and the decrease in intensity cause by interference, however, this would indicate that the "objects" were transparent — possibly gases.

B. H. Frank Jr.