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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/1/97

On June 24, 1997, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Manorville, New York, [REDACTED] was contacted at Speonk, New York. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, he provided the following information:

At approximately noon on the day of the Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight 800 crash, [REDACTED] and several friends, [REDACTED] (phonetic), [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived at a water hole on private property in Speonk, New York owned by [REDACTED] grandfather (name unknown). The property, bounded by Old Country Road in the north, North Phillips Avenue in the west, and the Long Island Railroad tracks in the southeast, was accessed through a gated entrance on the south side of Old Country Road, four-tenths of a mile east of North Phillips Avenue. [REDACTED] and his friends spent the afternoon swimming from a sandy clearing on the water hole's western shore. [REDACTED] advised that the weather was clear, there was no wind and the water was calm.

[REDACTED] could not recall exactly the time but advised that, at some time near sunset, [REDACTED] and his friends were playing in the water. [REDACTED] was standing in the water six to eight feet out from the shore line, facing east, when out of the corner of his eye to his right (south) an object in the sky caught his attention. [REDACTED] looked right and observed a light that he thought looked like a flare or firework at approximately thirty to thirty-five degrees up from the estimated horizon (the actual horizon was obscured by trees). [REDACTED] called his friends' attentions to the object.

The lighted object was round, the relative size of a dime, and colored a solid orange, similar in color to a setting sun, but not too bright to look at directly. [REDACTED] advised the object moved upward, away from him, and from his right to left at an incline of forty-five degrees or less to the estimated horizon. He observed the lighted object move at a constant speed in that direction for approximately one second.

The object then reached its highest point in the sky

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File # 265A-NY-259028 -CC1-621 Date dictated 7/1/97
by SA Jennifer A. Leonard
SA Bradley S. Morrison

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and stopped for approximately half a second, and then moved in a sharp horseshoe turn downward. [REDACTED] advised the object's speed downward was faster than its speed upward. At a quarter of the way down from the object's maximum height above the horizon, it began to leave a smoke trail. The width of the smoke trail was approximately the same size as the object. The smoke was gray, a little darker than that left by a jet at high altitude. The smoke trail's appearance was constant until the lighted object reached a point halfway down from its maximum height.

[REDACTED] advised that it took the object approximately one and a half to two seconds to move from its highest point to the halfway point. At the halfway point, the orange light turned red and was followed by a break up of the object into numerous pieces. At this time the smoke coming from the object turned black.

The break up of the object resulted in three large red-lighted pieces and approximately twenty to twenty-five small pieces that looked like sparkles. The sparkles surrounded the three large pieces but most were falling below, with some out to the sides and a few above. The sparkles nearest to the three large pieces were a brighter red than the rest.

Of the three large pieces, none had a defined shape, and two were approximately the same size as the original object while the third was about half that size. A black smoke cloud surrounded all of the objects. [REDACTED] advised that at break up, two of the pieces moved away and down from the third, leaving it slightly high in the middle. One of the rapidly falling pieces fell faster than the other three, but [REDACTED] could not remember which one. The falling pieces left a trail of black smoke; however, the faster falling piece also left a white trail resembling a cloud. The red color of the pieces remained constant during their fall.

[REDACTED] watched the pieces fall until they disappeared behind the trees at the southern end of the lake. It took a total of three to four seconds for the object and resulting pieces to move from the highest point in the sky to the point where they disappeared. The black smoke trail dissipated a few seconds after the pieces disappeared.

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From [REDACTED] observation point, the entire event occurred over a sandy beach and unique notch in the trees at the south end of the lake. Horizontally the event occurred within the relative width of his thumb held out at arm's length.

Approximately three to five seconds after the pieces disappeared behind the trees, there was a loud bang that [REDACTED] advised sounded like thunder. The bang lasted for approximately one second and was loud enough to be heard over conversation but not so loud that he could not have a conversation over the sound. The noise echoed within the water hole and [REDACTED] could not determine from which direction it came.

[REDACTED] and his friends stayed at the water hole for approximately half an hour after the event. He did not think he had seen an airplane crash until after he arrived home and heard a news account of the TWA Flight 800 crash on television. [REDACTED] was not under the influence of any substance while he watched the event.

Following the interview, [REDACTED] held a ruler given to him by the interviewing agents straight, up and down at an arm's length away, with the one inch mark nearest the ground. He placed his thumb on the two inch mark and aligned it with the horizon. SMITH advised that the highest point of the event occurred near the six and one half inch mark on the ruler.