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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/20/97

On June 20, 1997, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Riverhead, New York 11901, [REDACTED], was re-interviewed at a private water hole located just south of Old Country Road and approximately one quarter of a (statute) mile east of the intersection of Old Country Road and Speonk Riverhead Road in Speonk, New York. [REDACTED] was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview. During the course of the interview [REDACTED] was given a standard ruler from which he made various measurements at an arm's length. The top of the tree line from approximately eye-level was measured to be one (1) inch. [REDACTED] provided the following information:

On the evening of July 17, 1996, [REDACTED] was with four friends at a water hole located on private property which was owned by a relative of one of [REDACTED] friends present that evening, [REDACTED]. The other three friends present were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was wading in the water approximately four (4) feet from the bank and was located on the western side of the water hole, facing in an approximate southeastern direction. His four friends were located behind him on the bank of the water hole.

[REDACTED] was looking in a direction he believed to be southeast at a clear sky when he observed the following series of events:

An "orange flare" flew up into the air from the direction of southeast immediately above the tree line from a direction of left to (a direction of) right. The spot on the tree line from which this occurred was above and between two fence posts that had a horizontal pole joining them which was located behind two bushes on the other side of the water hole. The "orange flare" ascended to, and appeared to impact with, a "speck" in the air above and at a higher altitude from where the "orange flare" was first observed. Because of the small size of the "speck", it was believed that the "speck" was a Cessna. The "speck" was light grey in color. A piece of the aircraft, believed to be a wing, came straight down in a near vertical path to the tree line from the "speck". The rest of the "speck",

Investigation on 6/13/1997 at Speonk, New York
File # 265A-NY-259028 CC1-653 Date dictated N/A
by Christina Gust
Steven A. Bongardt (sab)

6/20/97

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On the evening of July 17, 1996, [REDACTED] was with four friends at a water hole located on private property which was owned by a relative of one of [REDACTED] friends present that evening, [REDACTED]. The other three friends present were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was wading in the water approximately four (4) feet from the bank and was located on the western side of the water hole facing in an approximate southeastern direction. His four friends were located behind him on the bank of the water hole.

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[REDACTED] initially, also called the "orange flare", a "missile". He stated he saw no actual object but did see an

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orange light with a "spotted" contrail that seemed to be "propelled by something". The contrail was approximately one and a quarter (1.25) inch in length. [REDACTED] recalled observing the "orange flare" travel the entire the way up to the "speck". He heard nothing associated with the observations of the "orange flare". The path of the "orange flare" was further described as ascending vertically and arching to the right, the final angle of its path being approximately fifteen (15) degrees to the right of a vertical line from the tree line. [REDACTED] was certain of the left to right direction but recalled that the amount of movement across the horizon in a horizontal direction was very small. The "orange flare" was consistent in its speed which was described as "very quick". Based on his recollections of observing aircraft, [REDACTED] estimated this ascending object traveled at approximately twice the speed of a normal aircraft and took approximately three and one half (3.5) seconds to reach the grey "speck".

The "orange flare" ascended to the exact same point in the sky as the grey "speck" and exploded - increasing from the "size of a penny to the size of a quarter" and from a ripe peach color to a lighter "orange-orange" color. The point of this explosion was approximately one and five eighths (1.625) inches above the tree line. Immediately, as the explosion occurred, the piece that [REDACTED] thought was a wing came off and fell almost straight vertically downward - fifteen (15) degrees left of a vertical line drawn to the tree line - in about one half (.5) seconds. It came down approximately one quarter (.25) of an inch to the left (east) of the position of the explosion. This piece appeared to rotate.

The bigger (remaining) piece of the aircraft consisted of an orange light - a ball of flames which left a trail of black smoke. This piece descended at an approximate forty-five (45) degree angle (from a horizontal line with the point of the explosion) until it went behind the tree line. This bigger piece came down approximately one (1) inch to the left (east) of the position of the explosion. The flames were approximately three quarters as long as the length of the ball which did not appear to rotate. The smaller piece was one quarter the size of this bigger fireball.

[REDACTED] recalled that he had the impression that all three objects, the "orange flare", the smaller piece, and the large fireball, were coming toward him as opposed to away from or at a constant distance from him. [REDACTED] estimated that the entire event, from the time he first observed the ascending object, to the time the bigger fireball went behind the tree line, took approximately five and a half seconds.

[REDACTED] started to observe the sequence of events just after [REDACTED] started to witness them. After the fireball went behind the tree line, [REDACTED] and his friends left the water hole. [REDACTED] went home and told his mother what he had observed.

[REDACTED] contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation three to four days later to report what he had seen. [REDACTED]

stated he had waited until that time because he had felt that a lot of people would probably have witnessed what had occurred and that his statement would not have been needed. After a few days, when he had not heard anything conclusive about the cause of the crash on the news, he decided to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation because he thought that he might be able to help.

██████████ disliked the media and had not contacted nor been contacted by them. He had no plans to do so.

██████████ had no flight experience but was building a "gyrocopter" with his girlfriend's father. He had 20/20 vision and was not color blind.

██████████ stated that, since the explosion, he has looked up surface-to air missiles in a book belonging to his uncle. TOOKER further stated that what he saw did not look like the pictures he had seen in the book, in that the pictures in the book were taken closer distance than from where he had made his observations.

At the conclusion of the interview, ██████████ was asked to replay the sequence of events he witnessed that evening with respect to the "orange flare" and ensuing fireball in his mind or aloud - whichever he preferred. His silent recollection of these events took approximately twenty seconds.