

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/20/97

409 [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Center Moriches, New York. Also present during the interview was [REDACTED] 607 wife, [REDACTED]. After being advised of the official identities of the interviewing Agents and the purpose of the interview, [REDACTED] then provided the following information:

409 On July 17, 1996, [REDACTED] 409 [REDACTED] 607 and their son, [REDACTED] were at Great Gun Beach on the North/Bay side of Barrier Island. It was a clear chilly night and the sun had not yet set. The [REDACTED] 409/607 just finished eating dinner. They brought their own food because there are no restaurants at Great Gun Beach and the area is only accessible by water or ATV four-wheel vehicles. Some of the dunes at the Beach are thirty feet high. In addition, there is no electricity on Barrier Island. The [REDACTED] came to the Beach via their boat [REDACTED]

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There were other people at Great Gun Beach that night including, [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED]. At approximately 8:20 p.m. 409 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were standing on the dock looking out when [REDACTED] stated, "Watch this, we're going to see fireworks." 409 [REDACTED] then saw a light grayish streak/line ascending into the sky over the ocean. The streak was southeast from [REDACTED] location, and it was moving from east to west 409 at a five degree, almost vertical angle. The streak was fine, like a pencil line, and moved for two seconds. The line itself did not grow, but remained the same length. The line then disappeared, "like it stopped in midair for a second."

409 [REDACTED] then observed a bright white light in the sky in the area where the streak had disappeared. The light appeared one second after the streak disappeared. [REDACTED] 409 stated that the light appeared at a thirty degree angle above the horizon, and [REDACTED] stated that the light appeared at a forty-five degree angle above the horizon. The light was round and it began to slowly descend toward the ground for two to three seconds.

Then, the ball of light became slightly smaller and instantly turned bright orange in color. [REDACTED] 409

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attributed the change in color to a second explosion. At arm's length, the second explosion appeared to be the size of a quarter, and it remained that size. At the same time that the ball changed to bright orange, the ball instantaneously broke into two separate pieces. One of the pieces broke off and descended from left to right toward the ground. The section to the east was all on fire. [REDACTED] could see the flames and observed a black color under the flames. The section to the west had no fire. The distance between where the east and west sections fell appeared to be six inches apart at arm's length. (During the interview, [REDACTED] utilized a standard ruler to determine measurements in inches.) The ball separated into the two sections when it had descended one quarter of the distance to the horizon.

409 [REDACTED] began observing the streak two to three seconds prior to seeing the initial white light/ball. The 409 [REDACTED] never heard an explosion. 409 [REDACTED] stated that the wind that night was southwest at seven to eight knots, therefore, people in the east may have heard explosions. [REDACTED] 409 further advised that the speed at which the streak ascended was two to three times faster than the speed at which the ball of white light descended. When the streak did not explode like fireworks, the [REDACTED] then believed that the streak was a flare. They never saw the plane. 409/607

409 [REDACTED] advised that the entire event lasted for ten seconds. 607 [REDACTED] believed that the event lasted five seconds. When timed by interviewing Agent BONGARDT, 409 [REDACTED] visualized the event in twenty seconds and [REDACTED] 607 visualized the event in five seconds.

409 [REDACTED] After the event, [REDACTED] listened to the Emergency Coast Guard Station and heard that a plane may have crashed into the ocean. The [REDACTED] then returned home in their boat, [REDACTED] 409/607 409

After returning home, [REDACTED] and a third individual took another boat, [REDACTED] out to the crash site. [REDACTED] is owned by [REDACTED] lives in Ronkonkoma, Long Island.

They went to the eastern debris field to see if there

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were any survivors. When they arrived in the eastern debris field, there were many unused life jackets floating in the water. The jackets were not inflated, but had little lit flashlights on the shoulders. These lights could be seen through the fifteen to twenty foot heavy ground haze which was over the water that night. The [redacted] remained there for three hours looking for survivors.

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⁴⁰⁹ [redacted] stated that he could also see flames on the water through the haze.

⁴⁰⁹ When [redacted] returned home in the early morning on July 18, 1996, there was a news crew waiting for him at his house.

The following is descriptive information for [redacted]

[redacted]

The following is descriptive information for [redacted]

[redacted]

The following is descriptive information for [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]