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I saw an object which appeared in all details to be a comet going from East to West on a track south of my position. It was impossible to determine the distance to the object or its size. It appeared as a burning object with a long wake. I watched it for several seconds, after which it appeared to split into two portions and dissipate before any angle of descent was noticed. It broke up in mid-air much in the manner of a disintegrating comet. I first noticed it at approximately a 45° angle to my left and it crossed before me and disintegrated at approximately a 45° angle to my right. My window faces magnetic South.

W/Sgt Robert W. FREEMAN, Fapperrell Air Force Base was questioned and stated at 2205 local time, 31 July 1960, Sgt M.Z. Nicodemus and I left the NCO Club. We followed the sidewalk that runs along the north side of the NCO Club. We were facing in a westerly direction. Upon coming to the end of the club building, Sgt. Nicodemus called my attention to a flame that could be seen in the air. No object was discernable. The general direction of travel was Northwest. The estimated altitude was between 3 to 5 thousand feet. Approximate distance from the NCO Club put object, I would say, over the west end of Quidi Vidi Lake. The object appeared from the general direction of Cabot Tower and seemed to disappear near the top of Kanawus Hill. In my opinion, the burning charge was of a rocket type. The flame was of a bluish color changing to a reddish orange at the tail of the flame. At one point the flame seemed to fade out as though it were burned out, then the flame seemed to renew itself as though fresh charge had been set off. It is possible that the object could have passed behind a scud cloud. The weather at the time of sighting was good. There were some strata clouds to the west and some scud clouds overhead. Cloud coverage was about 3/10. Stars were visible. The object was not travelling at a great rate of speed. The object was seen for no longer than 15 seconds.

Constable R. R. HICKEY and Cpl A. EWING of the R.C.M.P. were questioned and made statements substantially the same as that of W/Sgt FREEMAN.

STATUS: Referred Upon Completion to Office of Origin.

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