

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

This is a special report on the investigation of the sighting of an unidentified aerial object. Special reports such as this will be made on outstanding incidents and in incidents where such a report is requested by higher authority.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

PORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, INCIDENTS

On 10 and 11 September 1951, a series of both visual and radar sightings were reported from the Port Monmouth, New Jersey, area.

1. VISUAL SIGHTING BY PILOT AND PASSENGER OF T-33 AIRCRAFT

A. Discussion

At approximately 1135 EDT an unidentified object was sighted by the pilot of a T-33 aircraft, an Air Force Lieutenant, enroute to Mitchell Air Force Base, New York, from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. The object appeared to be over Sandy Hook, New Jersey, between 5000 ft. and 6000 ft. at 11 o'clock from the aircraft heading. The T-33 was approximately over Point Pleasant, New Jersey, at the time of the initial sighting. Upon seeing the object, the pilot started descending at 360° turn to the left in an attempt to intercept and identify the object. Approximately 45 seconds after the pilot first sighted the object, the passenger, an Air Force Major, who had been making a radio check, sighted the object. The object was then near Freehold, New Jersey, making a 120° turn toward the coast. The pilot continued his 360° turn but the object was lost as it crossed the coast. During the descending turn the speed of the T-33 increased from 450 to 550 mph and the altitude decreased from 20,000 ft. to 17,000 ft. (See inclosed overlay.)

When first sighted, the object appeared to be descending over Sandy Hook, New Jersey. It then leveled out and maintained a constant altitude. The object was round and silver in color but did not reflect the sunlight. At one time during the attempted intercept, it appeared flat. The size was judged to be 30 ft. to 50 ft. in diameter.

At approximately 1112 EDT, 10 September 1951, two balloons were released from the Evans Signal Laboratory, New Jersey, located at 40° 10' W and 74° 04' E. (See inclosed overlay.) These balloons are 7 ft. - 8 ft. in diameter at time of release and expand on ascending. They ascend at an average of 800 fpm and are painted silver for radar tracking. Experienced balloon observers state that when viewed from certain angles they appear to be disc-shaped. At 1135 EDT these balloons would have been at approximately 18,000 ft., and would have moved to a position nearly in line with Point Pleasant, New Jersey, and Sandy Hook. (Wind SE at 10-15 knots.)

Attempts were made to use the information obtained from the interrogation of the T-33 crew and the data on the balloon launching to prove that the pilot and passenger of the T-33 had observed a balloon. However, not all of the data given was consistent with such a conclusion.

In an attempt to establish the fact that the object was a balloon, a flight path similar to the one given by the T-33 crew was assumed. (See "Assumed Path of T-33" in inclosure.) The T-33 crew was interrogated twice and gave different flight paths and tracks of the object at each one. It is therefore assumed that due to the altitude and speed of the T-33, and the fact

UNCLASSIFIED