

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 26 Feb 51		2. LOCATION Durban, S. Africa		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 26/0255Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE NOT GIVEN CIVILIAN			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 minute		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE Not given	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Color was bright dark red, Shape like torpedo. Looking through a windshield from a lorry which was stationary. It was traveling parallel to the ground and not dropping like a star.				11. COMMENTS UNIDENTIFIED.	



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

AF287826

In reply refer to
IAD:CMW 745a. 5612/2-2551

March 14, 1951.

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Directorate of Intelligence,
Chief, Collection Control Branch,
Room 5-C-135 The Pentagon,
Department of the Air Force.

SUBJECT: Report of Flying Saucers from
Union of South Africa.

Enclosed as of possible interest to your Department is
copy of despatch No. 282 of February 26, 1951 from the
American Consulate at Durban, transmitting copies of two
articles from local newspapers concerning the appearance
of a torpedo-shaped object floating in the sky over the
Durban area.

Edward J. Carroll
Edward J. Carroll
Chief, Military Liaison Branch
Division of
Acquisition and Distribution

Enclosure: ✓

Copy of despatch
No. 282, Feb. 26,
1951 from Durban
with two attachments.

UNCLASSIFIED



7-2712-34

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Enclosure to
despatch no. 282

American Consulate,
Durban, South Africa.
February 26, 1951.

C O P Y:

TORPEDO SHAPE IN SKY

Three Europeans and some Natives saw a torpedo-shaped object travelling slowly over the Point area of Durban shortly before 5 o'clock this morning.

Mr. W. [REDACTED], Glenwood, told The Daily News: "We were coming off night shift and with two companions I was sitting in the lorry while the trailer was full of Natives. As the lorry stopped at the corner of Point Road and Winder Street I looked up through the wind-screen and saw something that looked like a torpedo travelling slowly overhead towards the Bluff. I called my companion's attention to it and asked the time. It was 4.55.

"It was beautifully coloured, the front part being bright red, the centre dark red and the end bright red. There was no noise and no trail that I could see, and although I have seen thousands of shooting stars I will swear it was not a star for it was travelling parallel to the ground and not dropping like a star.

"It was by far the prettiest thing I have ever seen in the sky and we watched it for about a minute before it passed out of sight, going in the direction of the Bluff.

"With me in the lorry was Mr. [REDACTED], of [REDACTED], and a driver whose name I'm not sure of. The Natives were very excited by this lovely thing in the sky!"

Natal Daily News, February 21, 1951.

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

56

SECURITY : UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

AF287826

For Dept.
use only.

TO : Department of State (For Department of Defense)

R
E
C
D
MAR
8

745a,5612/2-2651

FROM : DURBAN 282 February 26, 1951.

REF : - -

A
C
T
I
O
N
OL
DCR
EUR
IE

SUBJECT : Flying Saucers over Durban.

As of possible interest to the Department there are attached two newspaper articles which appeared in the Daily News of Durban on February 21, and February 22, 1951.

tjk

V.E.Prichard,/thw

Robert G. McGregor
American Consul.

Enclosures:

Two clippings.

Copies to: American Embassy, Pretoria
American Consulate General, Johannesburg.

Department of State
Acquisition and Distribution Division
Military Liaison Branch
MAR 1 4 1951

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Enclosure to
despatch no. 282

American Consulate,
Durban, South Africa.
February 26, 1951.

C O P Y:

OTHERS SAW "TORPEDO" OBJECT

The torpedo-shaped object reported to have been seen flying over Durban early yesterday morning was also seen by passengers waiting for a train at Merebank station.

Mr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Merebank, says a group of people were standing on the platform waiting for the 5 a.m. train when the object was seen in the sky over the sea in the Isipingo area.

He says: "It was exactly the same as the description given by Mr. [REDACTED] in The Daily News yesterday but the color to me appeared to be blue. It was a most beautiful sight. It looked like a ball when I first saw it, and then it gradually became torpedo-shaped, until finally it disappeared in the sky somewhere near Reunion Rocks. There was no noise and the object seemed to be at a low altitude travelling slowly".

Mr. Douglas Robertson, a Durban astronomer, says that although he did not see the object himself, the possibility of it being a comet can definitely be ruled out. The reports say this object travelled up the coast, and comets are known to travel only from west to east.

UNCLASSIFIED