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PENNINGTON N J

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3 Civilian women

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Bright light was observed traveling in front of a civilian airplane by a group of civilian women.

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UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY U.S.A.	REPORT NO. IR-44-52E	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYING		
AREA REPORTED ON Northeastern United States	FROM (Agency) 56th Air Base Group, McGuire AFB, N J	
DATE OF REPORT 25 July 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 23 July 1952	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major Joseph H. King, Operations Officer		SOURCE 3 civilian women, names listed below
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Reg 56th A B 0930 BOM, 25 1400Z Jul 52, FLYING		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

At 0920 hours, 23 July 1952, the Wing PIO office, 4709th Defense Wing, received the following message from Mrs. [REDACTED]: "Five people sitting with Mrs. [REDACTED] at 9:50 p.m., 22 July, saw a plane (type unknown) travelling from northeast to southwest, preceded by a huge light which seemed to be towing the plane. The plane travelled at a normal rate of speed." This information was referred to the 56th Air Base Group for investigation, and was investigated by Staff Sergeant Dennis G. Washburn, Jr., Intelligence Technician. His complete report is forwarded.

Mrs. [REDACTED] and the other members of the observing party report that they saw a bright light travelling in front of the civilian airplane. They claim the reason for their noticing the object was the fact that it remained at a constant distance from the object at all times. The object was observed from two to three minutes and disappeared simply by drawing out of sight. It was travelling from northeast to southwest. After its disappearance it was not seen again.

APPROVED:

William B. Holmes
WILLIAM B. HOLMES
Capt, USAF
Chief Intelligence Branch

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DOD DIR 5200.10

INCL.

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1 cc - Eastern Air Defense Force, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N Y
1 cc - CG, 4709th Defense Wing, McGuire AFB, Trenton, N J

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 88th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N. J.	REPORT NO. IR-44-52E	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES
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Report of Investigation of Unidentified Object Sighted in the Air on
22 July 1952 at Remington, N. J., by S/Cpt Dennis G. Washburn, Jr.

At 1400 hours, 23 July 1952, I was instructed by Major Joseph H. King, Operations Officer, 88th Air Base Group, to investigate an unidentified flying object report received at 0920 hours. The person reporting the unidentified object was Mrs. [REDACTED]. I contacted her immediately by telephone and made an appointment for a personal interview at 1900 hours, 24 July 1952. Mrs. Meredith appeared unable to give any other information over the telephone, as connections were extremely bad.

At 1900 hours 24 July I made an interrogation of three of the observers of the incident: Mrs. [REDACTED], Miss [REDACTED] and Miss [REDACTED]. I was unable to contact the others (Mrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) as they are in Kansas.

All observers agree that the object seen followed a straight course across the sky, and that the aircraft following the object remained the same distance behind at all times during the sighting. They were unable to formulate any ideas as to size and shape, although Mrs. [REDACTED] states that she believed the object to be oval; and Miss [REDACTED] believed the object to be slightly larger than any star. The witnesses agreed that the color was a very dull yellow - orange. Only one object was seen, and all observers continued to watch it for as long as it was in view. Possibly because of their lack of experience in incidents of this nature, none of the observers were able to distinguish any aerodynamic features or to advance any theory as to the object's propulsion system. No trail or exhaust was seen, and statements of all the observers coincided in the fact that the object travelled at exactly the same speed as the following aircraft. As far as the observers were able to determine, it made no distinguishable sounds and definitely executed no maneuvers. Mrs. Meredith stated that possibly the object was flying in some type formation with the aircraft, and both continued their courses to the southwest until out of sight.

No other pertinent or unusual features of the object were noted, and observers say that the incident occurred in a matter of two or three minutes. The weather was very clear; it was extremely hot, and observers say that there just have been quite a lot of humidity in the air. There was no breeze and no clouds were to be seen in the sky. Miss [REDACTED] remarked several times upon the number of fireflies flitting about throughout the sighting. All observers agree that no member of the party had been drinking any intoxicating beverages. Mrs. [REDACTED] in her signed statement to me declares that the object was approximately two to three lengths from the aircraft. In this statement she says that by lengths she refers to the length of the aircraft itself.

All observers agree that in all parts of their description of the object there appears to be no variation in any of the narrative which they gave to me. I have received no other reports of an incident of this nature occurring on the night of 22 July 1952, and as nearly as I can determine, this group comprises the only observers of the reported sighting. Miss [REDACTED] advances the theory that the object may have been observed by the pilot or some of the crew members of the following aircraft, and suggests that the

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 568th Air Base Group McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton	REPORT NO. AF IR-44-52E	PAGE 3 OF 6 PAGES
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Air Force made a routine check of all air crews that traveled from northeast to southwest on the night of 22 July 1952.

The next item in this investigation report will be copies of the statements signed by Mrs. [REDACTED], Miss [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and following that will be a copy of the interrogation of each of them.

STATEMENT BY MRS. [REDACTED]

On the evening of July 22nd as I sat in the back yard with Mrs. [REDACTED] and son Walter, my sister-in-law, Miss [REDACTED] and my daughter [REDACTED] (age 21), I noticed an unidentified object moving across the sky, which seemed to follow a set course. Immediately following the object was what seemed to be a civilian air liner. The object flew a straight course and was followed by the aircraft as long as it was in sight. I was unable to determine any specific shape or size. Its color was a very dull yellow or orange. There was only one object and it appeared to be flying some type of formation with the aircraft. I could distinguish no aerodynamic features and it left no trail or exhaust. I have no idea as to its propulsion system. Its speed was the same as the following aircraft. It made no distinguishable sound and executed no maneuvers. The object with the aircraft continued its course to the southwest until out of sight. I can list no other pertinent or unusual features of the object. This sighting took place at exactly 2150 hours. The duration of this sighting was approximately two-three minutes. The weather was very clear and there were no clouds to be seen in the sky. There was no breeze and fireflies were to be seen all around. Neither I nor any of the members of my party had partaken of any intoxicating beverage. To the best of my knowledge no identification or interception action was taken against the object. The aircraft following the object seemed to be the only aircraft in the general area. The reason for my noticing the object was the fact that it appeared to be from two to three lengths ahead of the aircraft, and seemed to follow exactly the same course as the aircraft. I can give no other information concerning this incident.

/s/t/ Mrs. [REDACTED]

STATEMENT BY MISS [REDACTED]

I have read the statement of Mrs. [REDACTED] and concur with her description of the unidentified object sighted at 9:50 o'clock on the night of July 22, 1952. I should like to add however, that the object appeared to me as though it were a copper penny only half of which was discernible, (similar to a quarter moon with the far side fusing into the sky). I would like to reiterate that the object was followed by the aircraft across the sky and proceeded at the same speed. I should like to suggest that a thorough check be made of all air traffic in the general area in the event that it was sighted by any crew members of the airplane.

/s/t/ Miss [REDACTED]

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
568th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N.J.	IR-44-528	6	6	6

Mr. [REDACTED]: When I first saw the object it appeared remarkable to me that it always kept the same distance from the airplane that was behind it and it was just as if it was trailing the airplane.

S/Sgt Washburn: Describe the weather at the time of sighting.

Mr. [REDACTED]: The sky was extremely clear and there were no clouds to be seen. There was no breeze.

S/Sgt Washburn: Have you ever observed any object such as this before?

Mr. [REDACTED]: No.

S/Sgt Washburn: Is there anything else that you can think of which might aid the Air Force in this investigation of the incident?

Mr. [REDACTED]: No, there isn't.

S/Sgt Washburn: Miss Margaret Meredith, you have read the statement made by your sister-in-law and have listed all the questions I have asked her. Is there anything that you might like to add or elaborate on which hasn't been thoroughly covered thus far?

Miss [REDACTED]: No, I can't add anything except that the object did remind me of the color of a bright new copper penny, a portion of which was invisible and fading into the sky.

S/Sgt Washburn: How much of this so called penny could you distinguish?

Miss [REDACTED]: It was just about the same as a quarter moon.

S/Sgt Washburn: Was it also the same size as a quarter moon?

Miss [REDACTED]: No, it was a little bit larger than a star.

S/Sgt Washburn: Is there anything else you would like to add, Miss Meredith?

Miss [REDACTED]: No.

S/Sgt Washburn: Miss [REDACTED], can you add any information not covered in the statements and interrogations of your mother, Mrs. [REDACTED] and your aunt, Mrs. [REDACTED]?

Miss [REDACTED]: No, there isn't, except that I'm near sighted and didn't have my glasses on. I didn't see the object as clearly as the rest of the witnesses, but I did see it and agree with everyone else in their descriptions.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 568th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N J	REPORT NO. IR-44-52E	PAGE 5	OF 6	PAGES
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STATEMENT OF MISS [REDACTED]

"I have read my mother's statement and I concur in what she says. However, I would like to say that the object preceding the aircraft seemed to be a light orange-yellow color. I am slightly near-sighted and the object did not appear to me as distinctly as it might possibly have appeared to the others. The object appeared to be slightly larger than the average star. I can add nothing further to this statement.

/s/ [REDACTED]

INTERVIEW OF MRS. [REDACTED], MISS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] BY S/SGT DENNIS G. WASHBURN, JR.

S/SGT Washburn: [REDACTED], what were you and the other members of your party doing at the time of the sighting?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: Immediately after dinner we retired to the back yard because of the extreme heat, and were sitting around sipping iced tea.

S/SGT Washburn: Exactly what made you notice the object?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: At first I was under the impression that the object was a shooting star, but then I noticed it was followed by the airplane, and it seemed to be following a course straight across the sky. I knew by this that it was not a shooting star because all shooting stars seem to make an arc.

S/SGT Washburn: Would you say that the object stayed at the same distance at all times?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: Yes, very definitely I would.

S/SGT Washburn: Mrs. [REDACTED], can you give me any idea as to the shape or size of the object?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: No, I can't. I think that it was oval, but I do not know why I have this impression, and it appeared to me that the object was larger than any star in the sky.

S/SGT Washburn: Was the object clear and distinct, or was it misty?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: It was very readily discernible, and the fact that it was moving across the sky made it all the easier for it to direct our attention.

S/SGT Washburn: Did any of you happen to look at your watch as the sighting was going on, Mrs. Meredith?

Mrs. [REDACTED]: Yes, Jean checked the time and it was exactly 9:50.

S/SGT Washburn: When you telephoned to McGuire Air Force Base, you mentioned that the object seemed to be towing the aircraft along: will you please explain that statement to me?

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency): 56th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N.J.	REPORT NO. IR-44-528	PAGE 6 OF 6 PAGES
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STATEMENT BY STAFF SERGEANT HASEBURN CONCERNING RELIABILITY OF OBSERVERS:

I would judge all the observers of this incident that I was able to contact to be fairly reliable. Both Mrs. [REDACTED] and Miss [REDACTED] are ladies of approximately forty five years and appear to be cool, self possessed, and nothing indicated that they were not describing the incident exactly as it occurred. Neither appears to possess a nervous disposition. Miss [REDACTED] is a young lady, twenty one years old, who is attending St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. I would judge that the report deserves a (C-) evaluation.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion I make a brief summary of the incident. On the night of 22 July 1952, at 2130 hours, an unidentified object was sighted in the air over Pennington, New Jersey (Latitude- 40 Degrees North, Longitude- 74 Degrees West) by five persons: Mrs. [REDACTED], Miss [REDACTED], and Miss [REDACTED], who were contacted immediately, and Mrs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are presently in the Middle West on vacation. The object appeared to be a light which drifted along in front of an aircraft, much as if it might have been towing the aircraft. No guess could be made as to size other than to say it was slightly larger than a star, and its speed appeared to be the same as the following aircraft. It was travelling in a southeasterly direction and disappeared by travelling until the eye could no longer see it. The weather during the time of the sighting was very clear and apparently no meteorological conditions could have caused the incident. After its disappearance it was not seen again.

STATEMENT BY MAJOR JOSEPH H. KING:

I have coordinated with Sgt Haseburn during all phases of this investigation and concur with his evaluation of the sources and of the report.

Joseph H. King
JOSEPH H. KING
MAJOR USAF

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23 JUL 1952 10 09 2

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CBA133T

TDE158

JEPME 49

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPNE 444

DE JEPME 11

P 251400Z ZEX ZNJ

FM CO 568TH ABG MCGUIRE AFB TRENTON NJ

TO JEPHQ/D/I HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

JEDWP/ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO SPGS COLO

JEPNE/CG EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

/ 568ABG 0936 BOPR FLYCRPT PD ATTN CLN ATIAA-2C

PD IN ACCORD WITH AFLT 200-5 CMA FOLG MSG IS SUEM PD UNIDENTIFIED

OBJECT SIGHTED 22 JUL 52 BY THE FOLG PERSONS CLN MRS 3

CMA MISS M CMA MISS J CMA MRS F

AND PD FOLG INFO SUEM FROM PRELIM INTERROGATION

OF CEVRS CLN SHAPE CLN OVAL CMA PROBABLY STARKER SMOEN SIZE CLN

UNDETERMINED CMA BUT CEVRS BELIEVE OBJ TO BE LARGER THAN STAR PD

UNCLASSIFIED

NUMBER CLN ONE PD TRAIL OR EXHAUST CLN NONE PD PROPULSION SYSTEM CLN
UNK PD OTHER PERTINENT FEATURES CLN NONE CDVD PD TIME OF SIGHTING CLN
2150 HRS PD MANNER OF OBSERVATION CLN VISUAL FROM SURFACE PD ELECTRONIC
OR OPTICAL INSTR USED CLN NONE PD LOCATION CLN 42 DEG N 74 DEG 20 MIN

PAGE TWO JEPME 11

W PD LOCATION IN RESP TO OBVRS CLN OBJ CAME FROM NE AND WENT SW PD
OBJ WAS SEEN AT ANGLE APPROX 80 DEG PD ALTITUDE CLN UNK PD OBVRS EST
APPROX 12,000 FT PD EST OF RELIABILITY AND EXPERIENCE OF WITNESSES
CLN WITNESSES APPEARED TO HAVE NO PREV EXPERIENCE MAKING OBSERVATIONS
OF THIS NATURE PD WOULD ESTIMATE WITNESSES ARE FAIRLY RELIABLE PD
FACTORS BEARING ON RELIABILITY OF WITNESSES CLN NONE PD WEATHER CLN
VERY CLEAR CMA NO CLOUDS CMA NO BREEZE PD ACTIVITY METEOROLOGICAL
OR OTHERWISE WHICH MIGHT ACC FOR SIGHTING CLN NONE PHY EVIDENCE SUCH
AS FRAG AND THE LIKE CLN NONE PD INTCP OR IDENT TAKEN CLN NONE PD
LOCATION OF AIR TRAF IN GEN AREA AT TIME OF SIGHTING CLN ONE CIVILIAN
AIR LINER FOLLOWED OBJ AS LONG AS OBJ WAS IN SIGHT PD AIR FORCE FORM
112 BEING COMPLETED AND WILL BE FORWARDED ASAP PD
23/1603Z JUL JEPME

(Cy-)

UPH078

YDA069

VYD102

VDD077

JESBY B068

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN 333

DE JESBY 43BY

P 222145Z ZNJ

FM CG MOAMA BROOKLEY AFB ALA

TO JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDWP/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEDWP/G AMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

~~SECRET~~ MOIP 7-13-E. FOR ATIAA-2C. FLYOBRPT A SINGLE FLYING
OBJECT WAS OBSERVED AT BROOKLEY AF BASE MOBILE ALA ON 22 JUL 52 AT
APPROXIMATELY 1425 HOURS CENTRAL TIME DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BARREL SHAPED
ABOUT 3 1/2 FEET TO 4 FEET IN DIAMETER BLACK COLOR OBSERVED ABOUT TWO
MINUTES EMITTING

NG A BLACK PUFF OF SMOKE AND A STEADY STREAM OF BLACK
EXHAUST SMOKE NO SOUND UNUSUAL SPEED AND MANEUVER CHARACTERISTICS.
OBJECT WAS OBSERVED VISUALLY FROM THE GROUND. OBJECT SITED AT LATITUDE
30 DEGREE 40 MIN NORTH LONGITUDE 88 DEGREE 5 MIN WEST AND OVER MOBILE
ALA. OBJECT WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE AWAY AT 5000 FEET FROM OBSERVER
TRAVELLING EAST THEN PERPENDICULAR. NO INTERCEPT ACTION TAKEN. SEVERAL

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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20 JUL 1952 15 08

ACTION

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ACTION INFOR. AGO 1 INFOR.
7:25

22 JUL 52
BROOKLEY AFB ALA

7-3719-1

PAGE TWO JESBY 430Y

AIRCRAFT IN AREA NONE REPORTING ANY UNUSUAL CRAFT. OBSERVERS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] RASNAKE T/SGT AF 13034838 2941ST DTW BROOKLEY AFB ALA AND MR
[REDACTED] CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF BASE SUPPLY DIVISION BROOKLEY
AF BASE ALA EXPERIENCED AND RELIABLE WITNESSES. WEATHER REPORT REPORT
TAKEN AT 1330 HOURS - SKY CONDITION 2500 SCATTERED 9000 FEET
BROKEN 25000 FEET OVERCAST. VISIBILITY 8 MILES. SEA LEVEL PRESSURE 29.7.
TEMPERATURE 87 DEGREES F. DEW POINT 75. WIND NORTH-WEST 15 MILES
AN HOUR.

22/2226Z JUL JESBY

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1952 JUL 23 15 41

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1. ATIAA
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3. C. Files

RE116

WPF128

YDA156

VYB172

VDA177

JESBY A198

IR JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN 333

DE JESBY 19N

R 231405Z ZEX

FM CG MOAMA BROOKLEY AFB ALA

TO JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDWP/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEDWP/CG AMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

/MOIP 7-14-E. FOR ATIAA-2C FLYOBRPT. MYMSG MOIP

7-13/22 JUL 52 OBJECT REPORTED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN EXPLOSION OF

USED OIL IN A DRUM AT MOBILE CITY DUMP. EXPLOSION CREATED AN UNUSUAL

SMOKE FORMATION AND WAS IMMEDIATELY LABELLED BY OBSERVERS AS A "FLYING

SAUCER."

23/1429Z JUL JESBY

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