

1. DATE - 15 Jan 53 15/2100Z		2. LOCATION
3. SOURCE		10. CONCLUSION
Civ Woman		
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
TWO		
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION		
1 1/2 Hrs.		
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION		
Ground-Visual		First object red on top turning white as skies darkened was observed traveling slowly in a wavering motion. Second object semi-circle shaped traveled rapidly in a wavering motion. Source stated that objects resembled stars when last observed. Motion of wind to East.
7. COURSE		
West		
8. PHOTOS		
☐ Yes ☒ No		
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE		
☐ Yes ☒ No		

1 Witness

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

15/1/53
WEST HAMPTON
BEACH, N.Y.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

13 February 1953

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object
Sighted at Westhampton Beach
New York, 15 January 1953
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATIAA-2C

1. Attached for your information is one copy of report of investigation by Special Agent CHARLES L. STECHER, 2nd OSI District, dated 6 February 1953, file 24-319, subject as above.

2. No further investigative action is contemplated, and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed in this matter.

3. Attention is invited to par 7, AFR 205-1, which prohibits disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

1 Incl
R/I, DO #2, dtd 6 Feb 53

D. G. North
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

Copy to:
Hq OSI w/o abv incl

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

24-319

6 FEB 1953

REPORT MADE BY

Charles L. Stecher, S/A

REPORT MADE AT

DO #2, 72 East 10th St., New York 3, N.Y.

PERIOD

29 January 1953

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DO #2, 72 East 10th St., New York 3, N.Y.

STATUS

CLOSED

TITLE

Unidentified Flying Object
Sighted at Westhampton Beach
New York, 15 January 1953

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

None, this is an initial report

SYNOPSIS

Unauthorized disclosure of
information contained in this
report will be considered to be
a violation of AFR 205-1

Investigation requested by Commanding General, 26th Air Division, Roslyn, New York, of unidentified flying objects sighted over Westhampton Beach, New York. Mrs. [REDACTED] Civil Defense ground observer who sighted objects, interviewed; stated one (1) object approached from easterly direction, the other from westerly direction, altitude and speed unknown. Both objects lost to view traveling in a westerly direction. Interviewee person of high standing in community. Weather Officer, Suffolk County Air Force Base, stated no weather balloons released 15 January 1953. Prevailing winds that date from southwest.

DISTRIBUTION

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FILE STAMP

CO, 26th AD
(Action cys)

2

Commanding General
26th Air Division
Roslyn, New York

DO #5 (Info for
for ATIAA-20)

1

APPROVED

Hq OSI

2

File

2

FRANK P. DUNNINGTON
Colonel, USA District Commander.

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation requested by the Commanding General, 26th Air Division, Roslyn, New York, by letter dated 16 January 1953, file 26ADIPM, requesting an investigation be conducted concerning the reporting by Mrs. MAXWELL, 3155 Westhampton Beach, New York, of seeing an unidentified object at CL 2040 at 2130Z. The object looked like a star, was red on top and moved very slowly west.

AT WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NEW YORK

2. Mrs. [REDACTED] North Beach Road, Westhampton Beach, New York, was interviewed by the writer at her home on 29 January 1953. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is a member of the Civil Defense Ground Observer Corps and was on duty from 1600 hours to 1800 hours, 15 January 1953, in the tower of the Westhampton Beach High School at the time of her observation. She advised that at approximately 1630 hours she observed an object which she at first thought to be an airplane move very slowly into her view, traveling in a westerly direction, southwest of town. Mrs. MAXWELL could not describe its shape or size, or estimate its height or speed, except to say that it moved very slowly and appeared to waver. The unknown object was very high and at first seemed to have a redish glow at the top, and later as it began to get dark it glowed white and looked like a star. Mrs. [REDACTED] further stated that approximately twenty (20) minutes after sighting this first object she sighted a second one, exactly like the first, traveling quite rapidly and approaching the town from a westerly direction. It appeared to half circle the first object and then travel at the same speed and in the same direction as the first object. Mrs. [REDACTED] watched both objects until it grew dark, approximately one and one-half (1½) hours after sighting the first object, at which time they looked like stars and were lost to her view. Interviewee stated that she reported each object immediately after her sightings, by telephone, to the New Haven, Connecticut, Civil Defense Filter Center. She stated that she reported them as unidentified objects, but she is now quite certain that they were balloons, particularly because of their "waving". Mrs. [REDACTED] further stated that she heard no sound from the objects and that all of her observation was with the naked eye.

3. Miss [REDACTED] Village Clerk, Westhampton Beach, New York, was interviewed by the writer at the Village Hall on 29 January 1953. Miss [REDACTED] stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] is a respected member of the community and is honest, dependable, trustworthy, and loyal to the United States Government.

AT SUFFOLK COUNTY AIR FORCE BASE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NEW YORK

4. Captain DONALD M. COHEN, AO 831 495, USAF, 12-9 Weather Detachment Base Weather Officer, was interviewed by the writer on 29 January 1953. After reviewing his records, Captain COHEN stated that at 1630 hours, 15 January 1953, a twenty (20) knot southwest wind was blowing at three thousand (3000) feet, and further that no weather balloons were released from Suffolk County Air Force Base on 15 January 1953. COHEN stated that

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there are many United States Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard weather stations near enough for weather balloons to drift over Westhampton Beach, New York, if wind conditions are favorable.

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