

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 22 Apr 54/2200Z	2. LOCATION San Nicholas Island, California
3. SOURCE military	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Cigar-shaped, object 4-6 ft in diameter, sighted from moving vehicle. Gray. Object hit ground. Smoke arose from area of impact. Search proved negative. Insufficient data.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground visual	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☐ No	

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21-145

28 June 1954

**SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted by SA
JAMES B. STEPHENS, Jr., 297 54 19, USN,
San Nicolas Island, California, 22 April
1954
SPECIAL INQUIRY**

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

1. Transmitted herewith for your information are two (2) copies of Spot Intelligence Report, dated 10 June 1954, from the 18th OSI District, Cheli Air Force Depot, Maywood, California.

2. Your attention is invited to the provisions of AFR 124-1, which prohibit the release of investigative information to unauthorized persons.

1 Incl (in dup)
Spot Intell Rpt, dtd 10 Jun 54

cc: Dir OSI w/o incl


ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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5414C-177039

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10 June 1954

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted by SA JAMES B. STEPHENS, Jr., 297 54 19, USN, San Nicolas Island, California, 22 April 1954; Special Inquiry, 1SD 24-321

**TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.**

1. SYNOPSIS: On 17 May 1954, a letter inclosing copies of three statements executed by SA JAMES B. STEPHENS, Jr., 297 54 19, USN, SN BERNARD G. KLEIN, Jr., 445 27 90, USN, and Lt. W. B. CATES, 2846921/1311, USN, was received by this office from the District Intelligence Officer, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California.

The inclosed statements concern the sighting of an unidentified flying object by STEPHENS on San Nicolas Island, California on 22 April 1954 at approximately 1400 local time.

2. DETAILS: STEPHENS, in his statement, said that while proceeding down the main road between the Operations Building and the camp area in Navy carryall vehicle No. 387, driven by BERNARD G. KLEIN, Jr. on the above date and time, something attracted his attention on the right side of the vehicle. When he looked, STEPHENS said he sighted a cigar-shaped object, gray in color, which appeared to be approximately 4 feet to 6 feet in length. This object was travelling just above the ground and appeared to be proceeding at an appreciable speed. Its direction of travel indicated that it would cross the road some distance ahead of the vehicle in which STEPHENS was riding. STEPHENS added that almost immediately after he sighted the object, it hit the ground in a semi-flat attitude, and a cloud of dust or smoke arose around the point of impact. After the impact, nothing more was seen of the object.

STEPHENS said that he called this incident to the attention of KLEIN, who denied seeing the object, and KLEIN stopped the carryall and together they made about a twenty-minute search of the area, with negative results.

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Dir OSI, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted by SA JAMES B. STEPHENS, Jr., 297 54 19, USN, San Nicolas Island, California, 22 April 1954; Special Inquiry, 18D 24-321

STEPHENS said that he and KLEIN reported this incident to Lt. W. S. CATES, the Officer-in-Charge of San Nicolas Island.

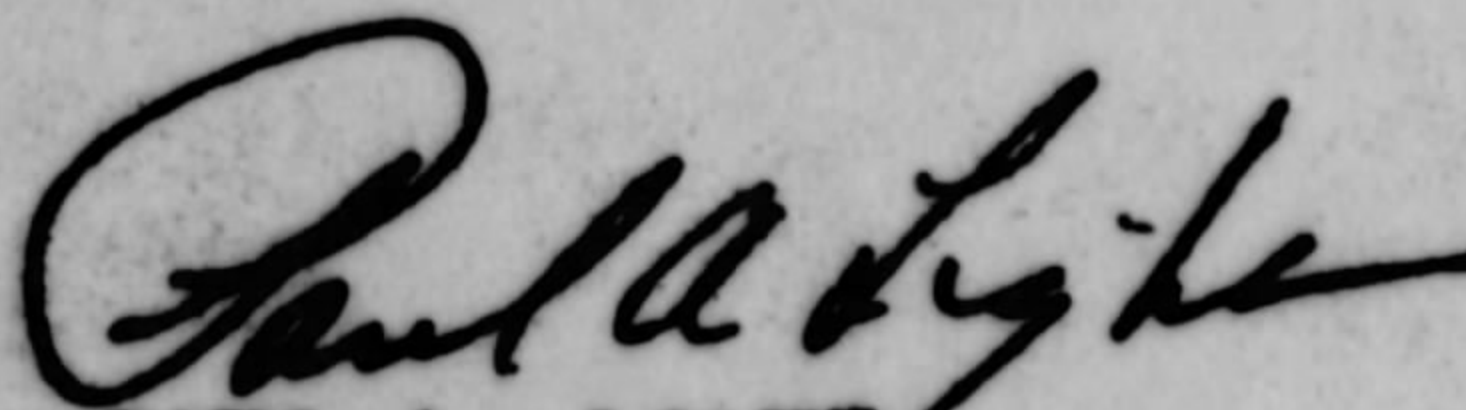
BERNARD G. KLEIN, Jr., and Lt. W. S. CATES, in their statements, corroborated in substance the statements of STEPHENS relative to this matter. However, CATES, in addition, stated that when he was advised of the sighting by KLEIN and STEPHENS, he had initiated an intensive search of the area, with negative results. Further, a check with underground radar established the fact that no aircraft had been in the vicinity of San Nicolas Island during the time of the sighting, and, in addition, CATES stated that on 26 April a man from the RADSAFE School, Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, California, utilizing special equipment, had canvassed the area for possible radio-active residue, with negative results.

Copies of the three statements sighted above are attached to this report for the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Attention: ATIAA-2C, as inclosures 1, 2, and 3.

3. ACTION: None.

2 copies to:
Air Technical Intelligence
Center, Wright-Patterson
Air Force Base, Ohio, Attn:
ATIAA-2C, w/3 incls

DO #5, Wright-Patterson Air
Force Base, Ohio.



PAUL A. LIGHT
Lt. Col., USAF
District Commander

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STATEMENT OF STEPHENS, James B., Jr., SA, 295 54 19, USN

23 Apr 1954

On San Nicolas Island on 22 April 1954 at approximately 1400 local time, I sighted an unidentified flying object. This object was sighted while proceeding down the main road between the Operations Building and the Camp Area. The vehicle we were riding in was a Navy carryall #387 and was driven by KLEIN, Bernard G., Jr., SN, 445 27 90.

Something attracted my attention to the right side. I looked and sighted a cigar shaped object, gray in color and appeared to be approximately 4' to 6' in length. It was traveling just above the ground and appeared to be traveling at an appreciable speed. It's direction of travel indicated it would cross the road some distance ahead of us.

Almost immediately, it hit the ground in a semi-flat attitude and a cloud of dust or smoke arose around the point of impact. After impact, nothing more was seen of the object. I was under the impression that KLEIN hadn't seen the object. We stopped the carryall and made about a twenty (20) minute search of the area.

Upon finding nothing we returned and told our story to LT W. S. CATES, the Officer-in-Charge of San Nicolas Island.

/s/ J. B. Stephens Jr.

J. B. STEPHENS, JR.

J. B. Stephens Jr
was sworn by me
on 23 Apr 1954

/s/ W. S. Cates
LT USN

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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STATEMENT OF KLEIN, Bernard G., JR., SN, 445 27 90, USN

23 Apr 1954

Somewhere between 1400 and 1410 on 22 April 1954 I left the Operations Building to take STEPHENS, James B., JR., SA, 295 54 19, USN to the Camp Area. We had proceeded about half way to the Camp Area when STEPHENS said, "Do you think it will cross the road?" Not knowing what he meant, I said, "What?" He said, "That missile or shell of some kind." It threw dirt in the air like when a bullet hits the ground. We stopped then and looked around for about twenty or more minutes. When we couldn't find whatever it was, I asked him if he saw what it looked like. Then he described it to me. About four feet long, gray, and had a point-shaped nose. Being very curious by now, I returned to the strip after leaving STEPHENS at the Camp Area and told LT W. S. Cates, my Commanding Officer, all I knew.

Then we started our search.

/s/ Bernard G. Klein, Jr.

BERNARD G. KLEIN, JR.

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ENCLOSURE (2)

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STATEMENT OF LT W. S. CATES, 2846921/1311, USN

27 April 1954

On 22 April at approximately 1500 local time, STEPHENS, James B., SA, 297 54 19, USN and KLEIN, Bernard G., Jr., SN, 445 27 90, USN reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object. The story recounted is, for all practical purposes, identical to that discussed in their statements. A search party consisting of myself, the two sighters, and DUCKHOFF, Kenneth (a), ALC, 375 80 48, USN, proceeded to the point of sighting. An intensive search of the area was conducted with negative results. STEPHENS was questioned extensively relative to the object's speed, length, approximate distance, etc. A check with Underground Radar and ERSKINE established the fact that no aircraft had been in the vicinity of San Nicolas Island during the time of sighting.

Organized search parties searched the area on 23, 24 and 25 April with negative results. On 26 April a man from the RADSAFE School, NAS, Point Mugu, utilizing special equipment, canvassed the area for possible radioactive residues. All results were negative.

/s/ W. S. Cates

W. S. CATES
Officer-in-Charge
San Nicolas Island

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DOD DIR 6200.10

ENCLOSURE (3)

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