

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 8 June 1954		2. LOCATION Sardis Lake, Mississippi		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>RADIO TRANSMITTING</u> DEVICE	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>Between 0900-1000</u> GMT <u>8/1500</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes PHYSICAL SPECIMEN ☐ No		6. SOURCE CIVILIAN			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE N/A	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING SEE CASE FILE				11. COMMENTS Object was a Signal Corps Radio Transmitting Device.	

ROUTING SLIP

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION
AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE

SUSPENSE DATE _____

DATE REC'D 26 OCT 54

TO: ATIA

ACTION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Chief | 1. ☒ Information |
| ☐ Deputy | 2. ☐ Coordination |
| ☒ Ex O <i>PH</i> | 3. ☐ Signature |
| ☐ Tech Adv | 4. ☐ File _____ |
| ☐ Adm O | |
| ☐ P & O | |
| ☐ Stork O | |
| ☐ Proj Control | |

☐ ATIAL

☒ ATIAE

☐ ATIAW

*note the description of the
obs as it fell and after it
hit the water*

check the sample case

*let
Case file*

Wednesday A. M. 22 Sept 1954

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL, MEMPHIS.

Strange Object May Be Portion Of Data Balloon

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SARDIS, Miss., Sept. 21.—Officials of the Air Force and U.S. Engineers opened an investigation here Tuesday to determine the identity of a mysterious object which plummeted from the skies into Lake Sardis three months ago.

U.S. Engineer Jack Stewart, chief of dams and reservoirs at Sardis, announced that U.S. Engineers recovered the object Monday when receding waters in the huge reservoir left it exposed to view.

Engineers had inspected the lake once very week for evidence of the strange object which fell near J. P. Phillips, a Como, Miss., fisherman, some six months ago.

Mr. Stewart said the recovered article, which was taken to the Sardis field engineers office, was "a plastic case, measuring 4 by 10 by 8 inches with parachute harness and containing metal radio tube and wires." He said the number LU-2450-AN-AL was found inscribed on the case.

Capt. Virgil Kuns, assistant flying safety officer at Greenville Air Force Base, was called into the investigation late Tuesday afternoon on the assumption that the object might be connected with the Air Force.

"We don't have any idea as to the identity of the apparatus," Mr. Stewart said. "The thing doesn't look too complicated but you can't tell," he added.

Air Force officials at Greenville base said they feel the object may be the data transmitter off a weather balloon. They

explained, though, that it couldn't have come from Greenville because the base doesn't release weather balloons.

As to when positive identity of the object will be made, Mr. Stewart said he couldn't tell. "Investigation may end Wednesday or it may go on for days," he declared.

SARDIS MYSTERY BOX IS AIR FORCE RADIO

Greenville Base Identifies It
As Lost Transmitter

From The Commercial Appeal
Greenville, Miss., Bureau

GREENVILLE, Miss., Sept. 22.

A mysterious object which dropped from the sky into Lake Sardis three months ago was identified by Greenville Air Force Base officials Wednesday as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device.

Dam and Reservoir officials at Sardis had kept up a weekly surveillance of the lake after J. P. Phillips, a Como, Miss., fisherman, reported seeing a strange object fall near his boat three months ago.

Capt. Virgil Kuns, Assistant flying safety officer at the Greenville base, was called to identify the object after receding waters in Sardis Reservoir Monday uncovered a "plastic case, measuring 8 by 10 by 4 inches, and containing metal radio tubes and wires."

Captain Kuns and other Greenville Air Force Base officials agreed the case was a paratroop signal transmitter which is dropped from troop carrier planes to mark the spot where parachuters are to bail out.

The apparatus transmits a weak radio signal which is picked up by the troop carrying aircraft. Air Force officials said the transmitter probably fell by accident from a passing plane.

SUBJECT: Fallen Object - Sardis Lake, Mississippi

6. The apparatus was taken to the Greenville Air Force Base by Capt. Virgil Kuns.

Jack B. Stewart

JACK B. STEWART

Chief, Dams & Reservoir Branch
Greenwood Area

Incl.

Newspaper Article dtd 21 Sept. '54

Newspaper Article dtd 22 Sept. '54

Dec. 202 (L. J. Jallatich
K. F. Jallatich)

WICKSBURG DISTRICT

SARDIS DAM FIELD OFFICE

SARDIS, MISS.

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

ENGINEER IN CHARGE
SARDIS DAM FIELD OFFICE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROUTE 3, BOX 171
SARDIS, MISSISSIPPI

SARDIS DAM
ARKABUTLA DAM
ENID DAM
GRENADA DAM

REFER TO FILE NO.

27 September 1954

SUBJECT: Fallen Object - Sardis Lake, Mississippi

THRU: The Area Engineer, Greenwood Area Office, CE, Greenwood, Miss.

TO: The District Engineer, Vicksburg District, CE, Vicksburg, Miss.

1. On 8 June 1954, between 9:30 and 10:00 A. M., Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Como, Miss. was fishing in the Hays Crossing Area, which is located on Sardis Lake about six miles northeast of Sardis Dam.

2. Mr. [REDACTED] noticed an object approximately one mile high and descending straight down. The object was described by Mr. Phillips as being small and round and seemed to be emitting a blue flame from a series of holes. The object hit the water about three hundred feet from his boat, creating a splash about three or four feet high. Mr. Phillips stated that after the splash, the object floated on the surface for almost a minute with steam rising from the water, it then disappeared in the water which was about nine feet deep.

3. Mr. ██████████ and reservoir personnel visited the site on the afternoon of 11 June 1954. A search was made by probing when Mr. ██████████ pointed out the location where he thought the object had fallen. Probing continued on 14 June by the Sardinia Reservoir Manager and Rangers. An inspection was made of the area once or twice each week after the object was reported fallen.

4. The object was found at 3:30 P. M. on 20 September 1954 by Sardis reservoir personnel. Reservoir stages had fallen sufficiently by this time to expose the apparatus. The object was a plastic case approximately 4 X 10 X 8 inches, with parachute harness, and containing metal, radio tubes and wires. The apparatus was taken to Sardis Dam Field Office where Captain Virgil Kuns, assistant flying safety officer, Greenville Air Force Base, examined it. At this time, the Air Force Officer identified the object to be a weather data transmitter off a weather balloon. A newspaper account in the Commercial Appeal dated 21 September, regarding discovery of the object is inclosed.

5. According to a newspaper article in the Commercial Appeal dated 22 September, Greenville Air Force Base officials identified the object as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device. It is understood that the apparatus transmits a weak radio signal which is picked up by the troop carrying aircraft. Air Force officials said the transmitter probably fell by accident from a passing plane. A copy of the 22 September newspaper article is inclosed.

JAP. PHILLIPS
19 OCT 1954

Colonel Thomas B. Simpson
District Engineer, Corps of Engineer, USA
Vicksburg District
Vicksburg, Mississippi

Dear Colonel Simpson:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 6th containing a complete report of the fallen object at Sardis Lake, Mississippi.

As you are probably aware, for the past several years the Air Force has had a major active program in this area and reports such as yours, which involve considerable time on your part, are greatly appreciated.

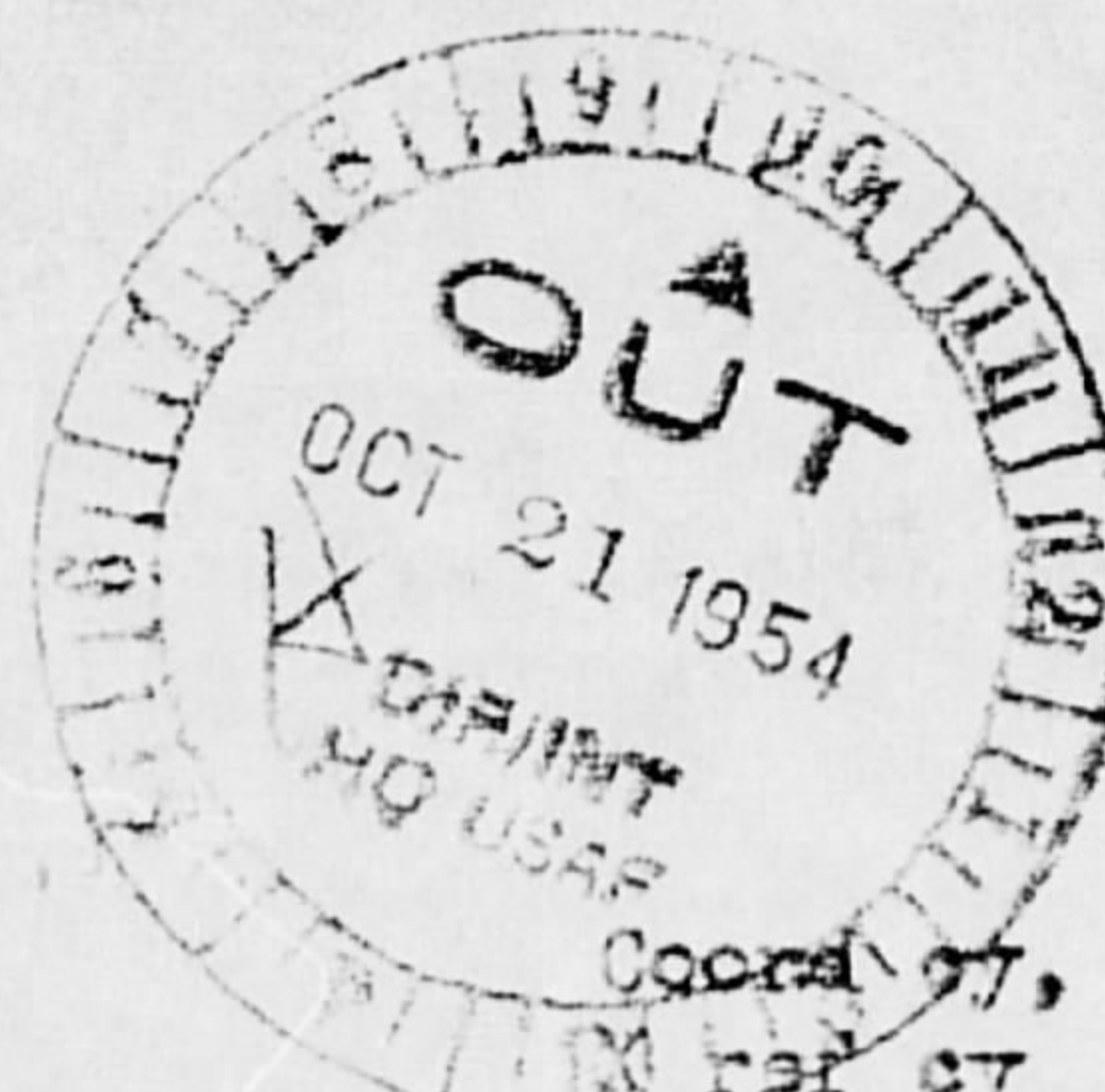
For your convenience I am attaching a copy of the "U. S. Air Force Summary of Events and Information Concerning the Unidentified Flying Object Program," which compiles all of the latest facts which have been established by the Air Force in its program in this area.

Thank you again for your interest in keeping the Air Force informed.

Very truly yours,

1 incl
USAF Summary on
Flying Objs, undtd

Signed
JOSEPH A. BLOOMER
Lt Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Intelligence



Coord 77, AFOIN
ref cy
cy to AFIC

*From equipment dropped from
weather balloon*

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER
VICKSBURG DISTRICT
U. S. POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE BLDG.
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
DISTRICT ENGINEER
VICKSBURG DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

REFER TO FILE NO. LMKVE

6 October 1954.

SUBJECT: Fallen Object - Sardis Lake, Mississippi.

TO: Intelligence Officer, U. S. Air Force,
Washington, D. C.

1. On 8 June 1954, Mr. [REDACTED]amo, Miss., stated that he saw a strange object fall near where he was fishing in Sardis Lake, near Sardis, Miss. Since Sardis Lake is a Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, lake and dam, it was decided to contact Mr. [REDACTED] and make an effort to locate the object. Mr. [REDACTED] was contacted and he gave the general location where the object supposedly fell. It was determined at that time that the object was in several feet of water and could not be located. Since the normal plan of operation of our reservoir called for the reservoir to be gradually lowered during the summer months, it was felt that the object would be exposed within a couple of months and perhaps could be recovered. Close observation was maintained and the object was recovered on 20 September 1954. Air Force personnel from the Greenville Air Base were contacted and identified the object as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device. A copy of the report pertaining to this object is attached hereto, as Inclosure 1, for your information.

2. In view of the frequent reports that are made in the papers concerning unidentified objects, it is believed that this information would be of value in your office for clearing up at least one unconfirmed report.

Inclosure:

✓ No. 1 - Report w/2

newspaper clippings.

Thomas B. Simpson

THOMAS B. SIMPSON

Colonel, CE

District Engineer