

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 August 1954		2. LOCATION Philadelphia, Pennsylvania		12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1940 GMT 23/0040Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 Minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1 or 5		9. COURSE NE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round, silver, hovered in one place—became smaller or disappeared.				11. COMMENTS Phily newspaper carried stroy. W/X personnel described objects as balloons. Upper air balloons were in area.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
3TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

1 September 1954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5D 24-21-153

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
Sighting of Unidentified Flying Object
at Philadelphia, Pa., Between 1940 and 2005 Hours,
22 August 1954
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATIAA-20

1. Transmitted herewith for your information is one (1) copy of
Spot Intelligence Report, dated 26 August 1954, from the 3d District
OSI (IG), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, concerning subject matter.

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

1 Incl
Spot Rpt dtd 26 Aug 54

cc: Dir OSI w/o Incl



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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

5D-F-178000

 54MP-178000

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EQ, 3d DISTRICT OSI (IG) USAF
1612 S. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pa.

VIA AIR MAIL TO:
Dir OSI
AFIC, W/P AFB, Ohio,
Attn: ATIAA-2C

300 I-10-36

26 AUG 1954

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unidentified Flying Object at
Philadelphia, Pa., between 1940 and 2005 hours,
22 August 1954

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

1. SYNOPSIS: A civilian, reported that he and his wife, along with approximately twenty (20) other persons unknown to him, had sighted an unusual light in the sky northeast of Philadelphia, Pa., apparently over the Delaware River or Southern New Jersey. Mrs. [redacted] interviewed and described the object as being round in shape, silver in color, and that it hovered in one spot. Sighting occurred between 1940 hours and 2005 hours, 22 August 1954, when object faded out of sight and disappeared. The "Philadelphia Inquirer", morning newspaper, carried front page story, 23 August 1954, concerning incident. Article stated that five (5) mysterious fluorescent aerial objects were sighted in the skies over Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey early the night before by armed forces control tower personnel and scores of volunteer ground observers. Article stated the Air Force had sent a group of Sabrejets to investigate, and that pilots filed reports upon return to their base, but authorities refused to disclose findings pending completion of investigation. Meteorologist at U. S. Weather Bureau, Philadelphia, Pa., advised no unusual activity or condition meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise had occurred at time of sighting.

2. DETAILS:

- a. At 2030 hours, 22 August 1954,
Philadelphia, Pa., telephonically advised Special

300 I-10-36
5th OSI DISTRICT (IG) USAF
30 AUG 1954
AGENCY: [redacted]
REPORT TO: [redacted]

8324620

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3d District OSI SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT. Subj: Sighting of Unidentified Flying Object at Phila. Pa., btwn 1940 and 2005 hrs, 22 Aug 54

Agent [redacted] that he and his wife, along with approximately twenty (20) other persons unknown to him, had sighted an unusual light in the sky. [redacted] stated that the light was seen at 1940 hours, 22 August 1954, northeast of Philadelphia, apparently over the Delaware River or Southern New Jersey. The object was round in shape, silver in color, and hovered in one spot from 1940 hours until 2005 hours at which time it faded out and disappeared.

b. On 23 August 1954, [redacted] contacted Mrs. [redacted] 3349 N. Hartville St., Philadelphia, Pa. Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband was working out of town, and that she did not know any of the other persons who had sighted the object the night before. Results of the interview with Mrs. [redacted] are set forth below in outline form in accordance with AFM 200-2, 26 August 1953:

1. Description of the object:

(a) Round

(b) The size of a quarter held in the hand at arm's length.

(c) Silver

(d) One (1)

(e) Not applicable

(f) Object was slightly longer than it was wide

(g) A blue halo appeared intermittently around the surface of the object. This halo appeared pink when a cloud passed over the object.

(h) No sound was heard

(i) The object was not similar in comparison with a nearby star.

(2) Description of course of object:

(a) [redacted] first noticed the object when she followed the stare of a crowd of people who were

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3d District OSI SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT, Subj: Sighting of Unidentified Flying Object at Phila., Pa., btwn 1940 and 2005 hrs, 22 Aug 54

Looking up at the sky.

(b) Approximately 45° angle of elevation. Azimuth unknown.

(c) Approximately 45° angle of elevation. Azimuth unknown.

(d) Stationary

(e) Object faded away to the northeast, became small and disappeared.

(f) Twenty-five (25) minutes

(3) Manner of observation:

(a) Ground-visual

(b) No optical aids used

(c) Not applicable

(4) Time and date of sighting: 1940 hours to 2005 hours,
22 August 1954

(a) 222340Z Aug 54 - 230005Z Aug 54

(b) Dusk

(5) Location of observer: [redacted], between Westmoreland and Ontario Streets, North Philadelphia, Pa.

(6) Identifying information of observer: Mrs. [redacted]
[redacted], Civilian, Age 22,
[redacted], Philadelphia, Pa., Housewife. Estimate of reliability: Fairly reliable.

(7) Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sighting:

(a) Observer stated it was partially cloudy.

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3d District OSI SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT, Subj: Sighting of Unidentified Flying Object at Phila, Pa., btwn 1940 and 2005 hrs, 22 Aug 54.

(b) On 23 August 1954, Meteorologist, U. S. Weather Bureau, Philadelphia, Pa., supplied the following information to concerning the weather conditions for the Philadelphia area from 6:28 to 7:28 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, 22 August 1954: At 6,000 feet the wind direction was 50 degrees at a velocity of 7 knots; at 10,000 feet the wind direction was 330 degrees at a velocity of 5 knots; at 16,000 feet the wind direction was 300 degrees at 8 knots; at 20,000 feet the wind direction was 320 degrees at 15 knots. There were no readings available for higher altitudes. There was no wind at the surface. There was an unlimited ceiling, and visibility was 15 miles. There were scattered clouds at 7000 feet and thin broken clouds at 35,000 feet. There were no thunderstorms in the area nor were there any unusual activities or conditions, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.

(c) Unknown

(d) Good

(e) Occasional clouds passing over object. Object still visible.

(f) None

(8) None

(9) None

(10) None known to

(11) No air traffic in area at time of sighting

(12) OSI Detachment, Philadelphia, Pa., conducted the interviews pertaining to this investigation. Possible cause of the sighting is unknown.

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c. On Monday morning, 23 August 1954, "The Philadelphia Inquirer", Philadelphia morning newspaper, carried a front page story concerning the incident. The story stated that five (5) mysterious fluorescent serial objects were sighted in the skies over Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey early the night before by armed forces control tower personnel and scores of volunteer ground observers. The story continued, "The Air Force, acting at the request of the Ground Observer Corps Filter Center and Co-ordinator's Headquarters, Trenton, sent a group of fast Sabrefets to investigate the objects. Pilots of the jets, which were in the general area on routine training flights from the New Castle, Del., Air Force Base, filed reports upon their return to the field. But authorities refused to disclose the findings pending completion of the investigation. Thousands of Philadelphia residents, who viewed one of the silver objects as it passed over the northern sections, flooded The Inquirer, the Electrical Bureau, and police stations with calls. Similar colored objects were reported over Trenton and other nearby towns. "Military ground observers said they assumed the objects were a type of weather observation balloon." "A Weather Bureau employee at Northeast Philadelphia Airport, who viewed one of the objects, said he thought it resembled weather apparatus." "Foster Scheirey, on duty as air traffic controller at North Philadelphia Airport shortly after 7 P.M., said he observed two balloon-shaped objects in the sky for more than 45 minutes. He said the mystery objects were above the clouds." "Officials of the Balloon Club of America said if the objects were balloons they could not have been manned because of the high altitude. A Spokesman for the club said there were no balloons of the organization in the air last night."

3. ACTION: No additional investigation of this matter is contemplated by this District unless otherwise requested by competent authority in accordance with AFCSI Letter No. 85 dated 7 January 1953. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, and the Commander, New Castle County Airport, Wilmington, Delaware, have been furnished copies of this communications.


OWEN L. COLAN
Major, USAF
District Commander

cc: ATIC, W/P AFB, Ohio
Attn: ATIAA-2C
Comdr, NCEA, Del.