

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 September 1954 21/234 5Z	2. LOCATION Santa Maria Airport, Azores
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION UNIDENTIFIED (SECOND HAND REPORT)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 - 3 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Civilian guard at airport rpts cigar shaped obj landed. Light metallic blue. 10' in length, 5' in height. Humming noise. No landing gear. Four poles. Orange light in nose of obj. 10/10 A blond-haired man, 5'10" in height got out of obj and approached observer. Attempts to conversed failed.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

UNCLASSIFIED

REPORT NO. **AF 215-58** ORIGINATOR **AF 640037**

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects

ASAC

FROM: **Intelligence Section AAF, AFHQ, Manila**DATE OF REPORT: **15 October 1954**DATE OF INFORMATION: **13 October 1954**SUBJECT: **UFO**REPORTED BY: **Robert D. Gamble, 1st Lt, USAF**SOURCE: **Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted]**

CLASSIFICATION: (Classification, distribution, and handling instructions)

REF: **3-40**

NOTE: (Instructions concerning structure of report. One paragraph for each paragraph. All information in this report is to be furnished to the AFHQ Form 100-1001)

Attached herewith is an unidentified flying object report, submitted by the Intelligence Officer, Asorac Air Transport Station, Lajes Field, Asorac. The information submitted herewith comprises statements made by Lt. [redacted] commander of the Portuguese International Civil Airport of Santa Maria; Mr. [redacted] PIA station manager at Santa Maria Airport; Mr. [redacted] a Portuguese national working for PIA at Santa Maria Airport; and a newspaper article translated from the Portuguese. The report follows the format outlined in par 6b, AFR 200-2, subject: Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (Short Titles UFOR) dated 26 August 1953.

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CLASS - [redacted]

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IR-112-112

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1. a. Oolong (Peanut shaped)
b. 10" in length, 5" in height
c. Light metallic blue
d. One
e. N/A
f. Plexi-glass type front portion, blue in color
g. None
h. Humming or whining noise, similar to noise made by wind passing over wire or like on telephone wires
i. Four poles (two on either end) supporting two parallel verticals. No landing gear. Door located on the front plexi-glass section. Orange light in nose of object.
2. a. Approached and landed approximately 30" from ground post
b. Unknown c. Unknown
d. Object made a slight nose down approach to land, then leveled off, hovered a few feet above the ground, and landed vertically. Take-off was slight nose up for a short distance, then craft leveled off and ascended almost vertically.
e. Became invisible due to distance and darkness
f. Approximately 2 to 3 minutes

3. a. Ground visual
b. None
c. None

4. a. 2145/2345Z

5. a. 36°56' N - 25°10' W

6. a. Name unknown, occupation - civilian guard for Portuguese government at Santa Maria Airport, Azores
b. N/A

7. a. None
b. 23-4 AMS, Terceira Island, Azores - 11/2 nautical miles SE of Santa Maria Airport, Azores

Wind velocity and direction:

Surface - Calm
6,000' - 230 at 14 knots
10,000' - 200 at 10 knots
16,000' - 180 at 8 knots
20,000' - 300 at 16 knots
30,000' - 30 at 17 knots
50,000' - 30 at 23 knots
80,000' - Unknown

c. Ceiling - 200'
d. Visibility - Unlimited
e. 1/8 cloud at 200'
f. None

8. a. None

9. a. None

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10. a. None

11. Comments of the Reporting Officer, 1st Lt. Robert D. Gamble, Wing Intelligence Officers

The above information was related by Lt. [redacted] Commander of the Portuguese International Civil Airports of Santa Maria, Azores, during a personal interview with the reporting officer.

According to the story reported by Lt. [redacted] the guard saw the strange object land. A blond-haired man approximately 5' 10" in height got out, walked over to him and spoke in a strange language which the guard did not understand. The guard attempted to converse in French without success. After a minute or so of this the headlights of a car were seen approaching the guard post, which is in the middle of an intersection with roads leading to the only port on the island, the town of Villa do Porto and the airport. The strange man patted the guard on the back of his shoulder in a friendly fashion and got back into his "flying cigar" (term used by [redacted] fastened a safety belt across his middle and some shoulder straps, then seemingly pushed a button. The craft took off with its nose raised a few degrees from the horizontal, traveled a few feet, then leveled off and shot almost straight up.

The occupants of the car whose headlights caused the departure of the strange man stopped to ask the guard what the strange light was they had seen above his post. The guard related a part of his story to the people in the car. Later, the guard decided he would not report the incident to his superiors for fear of not being believed. However, the parties in the car were spreading the story around the small island of Santa Maria. In view of the situation being created the guard made an official report of the incident late the following day. The guard stated he was too scared while the strange man was present to think about arresting him.

Lt. [redacted] stated he had interrogated the guard three days in a row and received the same story on each occasion.

[redacted] had a folder full of statements and drawings on this incident, which he kept in his safe. He displayed a rough drawing of the object, taken from this file, to the reporting officer. In this drawing, the pilot of the object was seated approximately in the middle of his craft at a slight backward slant from vertical. The shape of the object was similar to that of a pecan nut or a football except it did not have as pronounced a point at the front and rear.

The guard is 25-26 years old and originally from a town near Lisbon. He is reported by the Santa Maria Airport Director to be a good worker with no police record, a steady, reliable man and not a nervous type. [redacted] further stated there was no evidence to indicate the guard would invent the story for personal publicity.

When asked for his personal view on the sighting, Lt. [redacted] stated "I personally don't believe". Then he indicated he had nothing to support this belief except that the guard remembered too many details for a 2 or 3 minute period of time. Then he shrugged and said: "I don't know, maybe it is true. It is very strange indeed".

A Mr. [redacted] a Portuguese national working for Pan American Airways at Santa Maria told a representative of the AATS Intelligence Office he had been on the opposite side of the island at approximately 2200 the same evening and had seen some strange white lights above the island. Some fishermen coming into the island

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at approximately the same time also are reported to have seen some strange lights above the field.

Mr. [redacted], H.A. Director at Santa Maria Airport, told the reporting officer several of his American employees saw strange lights above the airfield during the latter part of September. Additional information as to time, color, number, dates, etc., has been requested and will be forwarded separately when received.

Since the sighting of the "flying cigar" was made at a Portuguese civil airport by a Portuguese guard the reporting officer did not have the opportunity to personally interrogate the principal. However, it is my opinion that it cooperated to the fullest extent in relating the facts of the case as he knew them. This is not another incident of someone thinking they saw something; the guard either saw the object as reported, or he saw nothing and concocted the entire story for reasons of his own. In the absence of information to indicate the latter, the former seems to be the answer supported by the facts so far presented.

The following article appeared in a local newspaper on this island (Terceira) on 3 October 1954, and is reported as additional information on unusual sightings in the Santa Maria area.

"Santa Maria 25- A B.A. DC-3 commanded by Captain [redacted] notified shortly after leaving Santa Maria, Azores, that at approximately 3:20 a.m. while flying at 6000 meters altitude with the weather exceptionally clear (no clouds) at 36° 12' north latitude and 31° 36' minutes west longitude he sighted above the ocean a large lighted area of abnormal brilliance, a fact for which no explanation was available.

"At any rate, it didn't seem possible that it could have been a ship. It gave off a greater amount of light than any illuminated ship could possibly have given.

"The phenomenon was also observed by passengers aboard, who unanimously affirmed that it was a flying saucer (or should be termed a flying saucer). The plane didn't attempt to come any closer to the strange object, which, as the plane continued onward, still remained above the water."

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Mr. [redacted], the H.A. Director, personally talked to Capt. Freeman on his return trip from Lisbon to the States and when shown the above article, the Captain stated it was essentially correct except the altitude of the aircraft was 15,000 feet. Mr. [redacted] stated Capt. [redacted] was positive the 40 to 50 very bright lights he sighted above the water were not ships at sea. He stated that he has flown across the Atlantic many times and has seen hundreds of lighted ships, but these lights were much brighter than any he has ever seen.

12. a. None