

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 23 Sep 55		2. LOCATION Leonape, Pa		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 23/1630Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civ		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-5 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE unk	☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Dark obj, shaped like toy top. Had rudder underneath.			11. COMMENTS Possible balloon observation.		

ACTION

WPA44 YDD233 TYAD24 THE22 TIE11424.63

FP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPNY RJEPHO

DE RJEPNL 39A

P 232120Z

FM CONDR 32ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WILM DEL

TO RJEDEN/CONDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

RJEPNY/CONDR 26TH AIRDIVDEF ROSLUN AFS NY

RJEDWP/CONDR AIRTECH INTEL CEN WPAFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/CONDR DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC

BT

/UCNALSSIFIED/GPOT 2963. REPORT OF UFCE

/1/DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS

A CHILD'S TOP

B SIZE OF BASEBALL

C DARK

D ONE /1/

E N/A

F RUDDER UNDERNEATH OBJECT

G I/A

H N/A

Witness

OD

*5/1/68
called 246700
least
want to
with
other
release
margin and*

*270 IN-4E4
3 " 4x2a
4*

25 SEP 1955 07 22

IN

PAGE TWO RJEPNL 35A

I N/A

/1/ DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

A LIGHT AIRCRAFT (PIPER CUB)

B

C

D DISAPPEARED

E UNKNOWN

F THREE /3/ TO FIVE /5/ MINUTES

/3/ MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

A GROUND-VISUAL

B BINOCULARS

C N/A

/4/ TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

A 1234 EDST

B DAY

/5/ LOCATION OF OBSERVER:

A RD WBR 5 LEONAPE PA. PA ROUTE 100-52

/6/ IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

A MRS. [REDACTED], AGE 33, MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]

R [REDACTED], PA. HOUSEWIFE

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/7/ WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT

A FAIR

B ILG 2500 SCD, 4000 SCD, 10000 EKN, 25000 EKN, 15 MILE VIS, WINDS EAST S

C PHL 4000 CCST, VIS 8 RW--WINDS SE S

D 5000' 250 - 10K

10000' 250 - 20K

15000' 300 - 25K

20000' 300 - 30K

30000' 300 - 55K

50000' 330 - 70K

80000' N/A

E 1/10 SC - 2500 2/10 SC - 4000 2/10 - AC - EST 10000 2/10 CIRUS 25000

/8/ NEGATIVE

/9/ NEGATIVE REPORT FROM CGI STATIONS

/10/ ONE AIRLINER UNKNOWN IDENTIFICATION

/11/ GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER, 32ND FIGHTER GROUP, AIR DEFENSE.

NO COMMENT

/12/ NEGATIVE

BT

23/2112Z SEP RJEPNL

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. 34-UF0B-9-55	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT UFOB			
AREA REPORTED ON WEST CHESTER, PA.		FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	
DATE OF REPORT 4 October 1955	DATE OF INFORMATION 23 September 1955	EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) CHESTER B. HANSON, Captain, USAF		SOURCE MRS. [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directives, previous report, etc., as applicable) TT MSG FM CMR 82ND FTR GP GPOT 2968, dtd 23/2112Z Sept 55; Conversation between Maj Thrasher and Lt Berrier, Flt.3-H, 27 Sep 1955			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112- Part II.)			

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by Mrs. [REDACTED], Lenape Road, RFD#5, West Chester, Pennsylvania (GeoRef GJQK 2557).

PART TWO: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART THREE: Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: An unidentified flying object was reported to the Operations Officer on duty at New Castle AFB, Delaware (GeoRef GJQK 2540) shortly after its sighting by Mrs. [REDACTED] at 23/1630 September 1955 near West Chester, Pennsylvania. The following report is the result of an interview with the above-mentioned observer and various other agencies in the vicinity of the sighting whose assistance was sought in determining the probable cause of the sighting.

III. INVESTIGATOR: 2/Lt Charles L. Berrier, AO 3019814

Chester B. Hanson
CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVED:

John M. White Jr
JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 INCL. (See individual parts)

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 26 ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Flt 3-H, 4602d AISS

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO. 3-H-UFOB-9-55

Part One

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

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I. SOURCE: Mrs. [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]
(GeoRef GJQK 2557)

Age: 33

Occupation: Housewife

Education: College

Qualifications: 20/15 vision, uncorrected

II. RELIABILITY: Good. SOURCE was contacted personally.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE stated that on 23 September 1955 at 12:30 EDST a sound similar to the sputtering of a light plane's engine drew her attention to the sky. SOURCE dashed around to the side of her house in order to scan the horizon but was unable to see the aircraft. She began scanning the sky, when suddenly she noticed the appearance of a strange flying object, oval-shaped and charcoal gray in color moving across the sky.

SOURCE watched the object perform a counter-clockwise rotational movement which continued as the object moved away and out of sight. The time of sighting was between two and five minutes. Its course seemed to be due west.

SOURCE could discern no sound being emitted by the UFOB during the time she observed it, even though it was the sputtering sound which had first drawn her attention to the sky. During the UFOB sighting an unidentified airliner, flying low at what SOURCE estimated to have been 1,000 ft., flew below and to the right of the UFOB.

In addition to the oval-like configuration of the UFOB already noted, SOURCE described that after she had dashed inside to get a set of 7 x 50 binoculars, she was able to distinguish a small blister on the ventral center of the object as well as a circular object just off the right side of the UFOB. SOURCE was certain that the smaller object was moving independent of the larger one.

SOURCE described the UFOB's physical appearance to have resembled the cover of an alligator skin purse with slightly irregular protrusions visible.

The condition of the sky was overcast with an approximate 3500' ceiling.

No photographs were taken of the UFOB.

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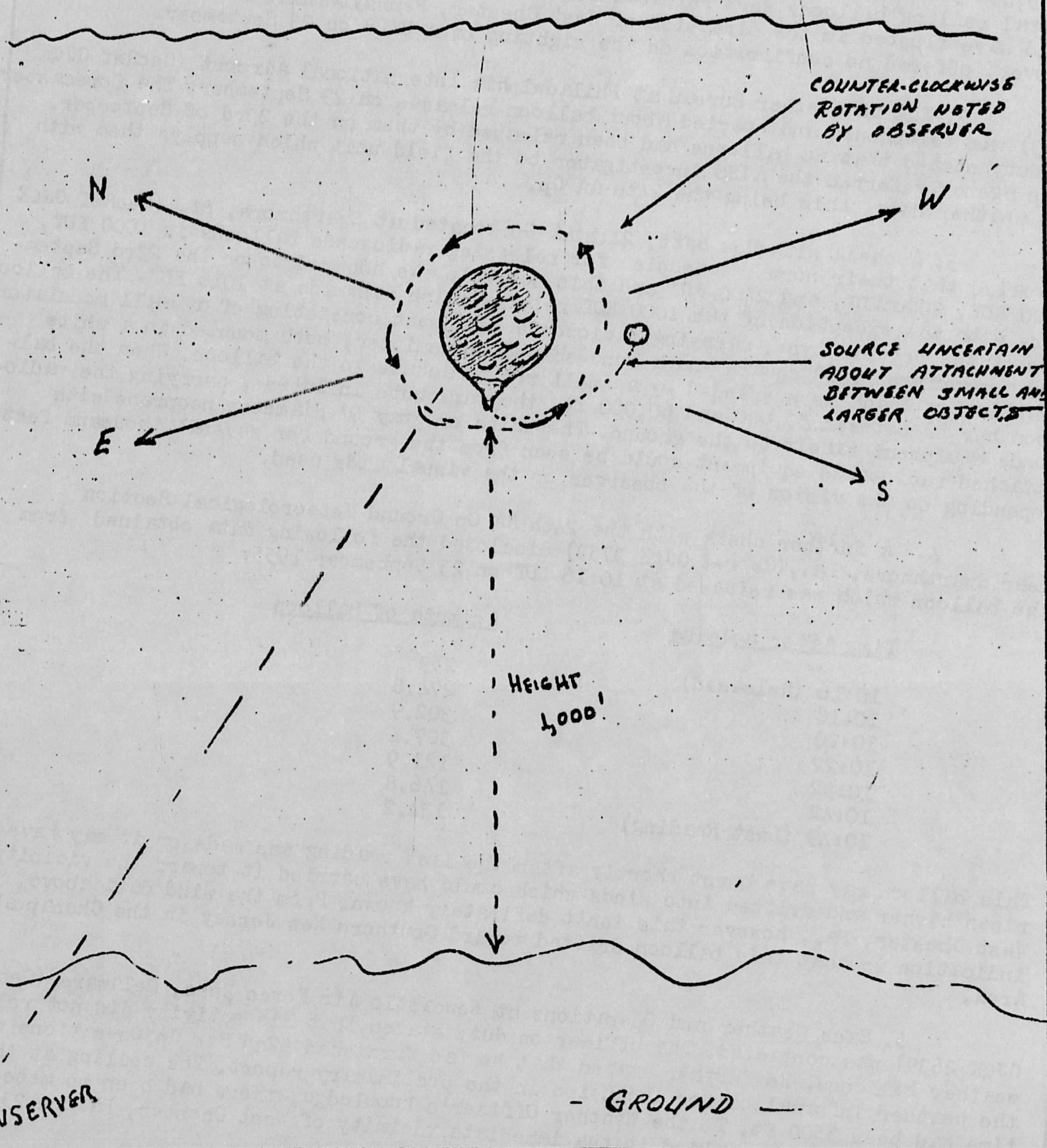
OF

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PAGES

Incl #1, SOURCE'S Memory Sketch of Object's Formation:

COMPLETE OVERCAST 3500' CEILING



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1. The officer on duty at the New Castle, Delaware, County Airport Weather Station (GeoRef GJQK 2640) was contacted and furnished the following information. His station releases ceiling balloons at irregular intervals. Inflated, this type of balloon measures approximately 18" in diameter, is frail and usually bursts before reaching 5,000 ft. No balloons had been launched on 23 September, however, on the 24th several ceiling balloons were released at one hour intervals throughout the day and would have floated in the direction of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The latter report, however, offered no confirmation on the sighting of a UFOB on 23 September.

3. A check with Hqs Batt, 24th AA Gp located at Swarthmore, Pa., (GeoRef GJQK revealed that their normal schedule for releasing radiosonde balloons is 1000 EDT, 1600 EDT, 2000 EDT, and 2400 EDT and this schedule was adhered to on the 23rd September, with the exception of the 1000 EDT release which was made at 1016 EDT. The balloon was of the regular type, carrying radiosonde equipment consisting of a small modulator box approximately 6" square and a cone-shaped transmitter, both mounted in a white plastic box which is suspended by a small red parachute to the balloon. When the balloon bursts between 50,000 and 60,000 ft, the parachute inflated, carrying the radiosonde equipment safely to the ground. The white or gray 9' diameter neoprene with attached radiosonde equipment could be seen from the ground for several thousand feet, depending on the vision of the observer or the visual aids used.

<u>Time After Release</u>	<u>Azimuth of Balloon</u>
10:16 (Released)	259°
10:18	274.8
10:20	302.9
10:22	307.4
10:32	121.9
10:42	146.8
10:49 (Last Reading)	134.2

5. Base Weather and Operations at Newcastle Air Force Base, Delaware (GeoRef GJQK 2639) was contacted. The officer on duty stated that his activity did not release weather balloons. He further stated that he had furnished 82nd Ftr Gp Operations with the weather information for inclusion in the preliminary report. The ceiling at that time had been 3500 ft. To the Weather Officer's knowledge, there had been no meteorological releases of any kind in the immediate vicinity of West Chester, Pa. on 23 September 1955.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS: (Cont)

6. The US Weather Bureau in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (GeoRef GJPL 0816) reported that the only balloons which they release are ceiling balloons measuring 15"-20" and 24"-30" in diameter which do not carry rasonde equipment. They are released at 0400EST, 1000 EST, 1600 EST, and 2200 EST and remain aloft seldom over an hour.

7. A check with the US Weather Bureau at Greater Pittsburg Airport (GeoRef GJLL 0227) revealed that radiosonde balloons had been released from this station on 23 September at the following times, 0400 EST, 1000 EST, 1600 EST, and 2200 EST. The forecaster on duty felt that only under unusual conditions would one of their balloons have drifted as far as West Chester. In the event of a leak in the balloon, it probably would not have attained a sufficient altitude for it to have burst. If this had been the case with respect to the balloon launched at 0400 EST, it may feasibly have drifted in the higher velocity wind currents that are common above 35,000ft, reaching the vicinity of the sighting at the approximate time the UFOB was observed.

The following data was recorded on the balloon released at 0400 EST:

<u>Altitude (ft)</u>	<u>Wind Direction</u>	<u>Wind Velocity (knots)</u>
6,000	250	14
8,000	250	19
10,000	270	26
14,000	270	22
20,000	270	26
25,000	290	40
30,000	290	53
35,000	300	82
45,000	310	59
50,000	330	70

8. A check with Air Traffic Control at Friendship Field (GeoRef GJPK 2212), Md., yielded no confirmation on the unidentified flying object observed near West Chester, Pennsylvania on 23 September.

9. Air Traffic Control at Philadelphia International Airport likewise was unable to offer confirmation on the UFOB sighting.

10. The Weather Station at Ft. Meade, Maryland (GeoRef GJPK 1607) was called by telephone but had nothing to offer in the way of confirmation on the UFOB.

11. Operations at the 647th AC&W Sq in Manassas, Virginia (GeoRef GJNJ 3047) was also contacted but had no information to relate which might serve to confirm the sighting of a UFOB near West Chester, Pennsylvania on 23 September 1955.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Incl. #2, PART TWO

TT MSG GPOT 2968 FM COMDR 82ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WILM DEL

PQT

PP RJEPNB RJEPJR

DE RJEPNY 11

B 240315Z

FM COMDR 26TH AIRDIVDEF ROSLYN AFS NY

TO RJEPNB/DIR INTEL EADF STEWART AFB NY

RJEPNB/HQ 4602ND AISS EADF STEWART AFB NY

RJEPJR/FIT 3H 4602ND AISS MCGUIRE AFB NJ

P 232100Z

FM COMDR 82ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WILM DEL

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

RJEPNY/COMDR 26TH AIR DIV DEF ROSLYN AFS NY

RJEDWP/COMDR AIRTECH INTEL CEN WPAFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/COMDR DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/ GPOT 2968, REPORT OF UFOB

/1/ DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS

A CHILD'S TOP

B SIZE OF BASEBALL

C DARK

D ONE /1/

E N/A

F RUDDER UNDERNEATH OBJECT

G N/A

H N/A

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I N/A

/1/ DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT :

A LIGHT AIRCRAFT (PIPER CUB)

B

C

D DISAPPEARED

E UNKNOWN

F THREE /3/ TO FIVE /5/ MINUTES

/3/ MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

A GROUND-VISUAL

B BINOCULARS

C N/A

/4/ TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

A 1230 EDST

B DAY

/5/ LOCATION OF OBSERVER:

A RD NER 5 LEONAPE PA. PA ROUTE 100-52

/6/ IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

A MRS. DORRITA MILLER CARTY, AGE 33, MAILING ADDRESS WEST CHESTER

RD NER 5 LEONAPE RD, PA. HOUSEWIFE

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

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Part Three

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

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COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

P-R-O-B-A-B-L-E

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the UFOB sighting reported by the observer at West Chester, Pennsylvania at 23/1630Z Sep 55 was probably the result of alarm upon seeing a radiosonde weather balloon caught in a fluctuating current of air.

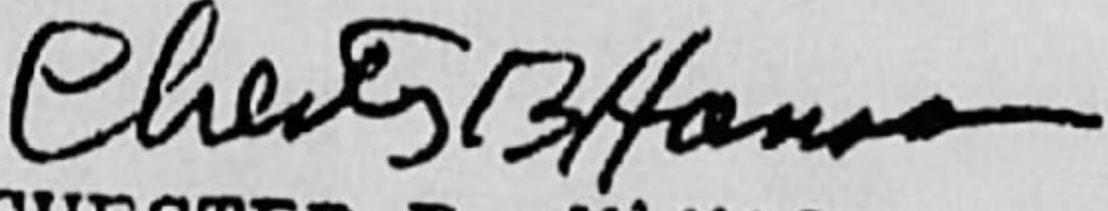
a. The appearance of the UFOB from the observer's description and memory sketch seemed to bear a strong resemblance to a radiosonde weather balloon.

b. The wind data collected from the Greater Pittsburgh Airport seems to extend the possibility of there having been a radiosonde balloon in the vicinity of West Chester, Pennsylvania at the approximate time of the sighting, providing there was a leakage in the balloon which was released at 0400 EST.

c. The fact that the object was not picked up on radar in the vicinity suggests that it was not a metal object as believed by the observer.

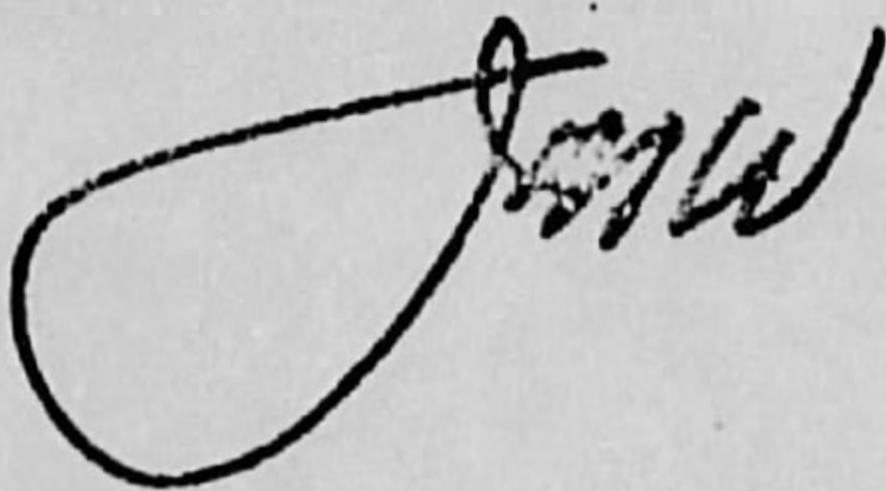
d. The near coincidence in time that the Swarthmore balloon was released and the changing winds which it encountered during its ascent does not preclude the possibility of its having drifted toward the vicinity of West Chester at the approximate time that the UFOB was sighted.

2. The absence of sound associated with the object seems to negate the chance of its having been self-propelled, simultaneously increasing the chance that it was probably a friendly object.


CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the Preparing Officer that this sighting was probably caused by a radiosonde type weather balloon.



AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Flight 3-H, 46021 ATSS

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Incl. #2, PART TWO

TT MSG GPCT 2968 PM COMDR 82ND FTR GP DEF MOCA WILM DEL

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/7/ WEATHER AND WINDS ALGFT

A FAIR

B ILG 2500 SCD, 4000 SCD, 10000 BKN, 25000 BKN, 15 MILE VIS, WINDS

EAST 9

C PHL 4000 OCST, VIS 8 RW--WINDS SE 9

9 6000' 280 - 10K

10000' 290 - 20K

16000' 300 - 25K

20000' 300 - 30K

30000' 300 - 55K

50000' 330 - 70K

80000' N/A

E 1/10 SC - 2500 2/10 SC - 4000 2/10- AC - EST 10000 2/10 CIRUS 25000

/8/ NEGATIVE

/9/ NEGATIVE REPORT FROM CGI STATIONS

/10/ ONE AIRLINER UNKNOWN IDENTIFICATION

/11/ GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER 82ND FTR GROUP, AIR DEFENSE.

NO COMMENT

/12/ NEGATIVE

BT

23/2112Z SEP RJEPNL

TRUE COPY:

Chester B. Hanson

CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF