

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 21 August 1957		2. LOCATION Uzundzhovo, Bulgaria		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2000 - 2030 local GMT 21/1900Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☒ Other Prob Mil Night Opr ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Foreign Military Officer			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE gen orbit	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Observer saw a lighted object moving slowly at night near a military area being tracked by AA searchlights to and fro. The searchlights would be turned off then later turned on. The light object moved in a horizontal course. One jet was observed to take off, pass the object then turn to the airfield.				11. COMMENTS Although difficult to check from the ZI, this appears to be a night AA-A/C tracking (simulated) training exercise of some sort. Obj used as target could have been a balloon w/a light attached; an illuminated drome A/C such as used in the U.S.; lighted sleeve target, etc. The fact that a jet went up, passed it, & returned indicates that pilot knew what the object was.	

TURKEY

IR-734-57
UNCLASSIFIED

4E4 (Capt. [Signature])

UZUNDZHOVO AIRFIELD (4158N - 2535E), BULGARIA

Air Attache, Turkey

5 Sep 1957

Turkish Officer—while on trip
through Bulgaria

21 Aug 1957

JOSEPH A. BURT, Lt Colonel, USAF

B-2

BAIR 4605

(UNCLASSIFIED) UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. Information in this report concerns an unidentified flying object over UZUNDZHOVO Airfield near KHASKOVO, Bulgaria. The information was obtained from Major Hajat [redacted], an officer in the Turkish Army. [redacted] observed this phenomenon at 2000 hours (local) on 21 August 1957 while driving by automobile across Bulgaria into Turkey.

2. [redacted] has served as Assistant Turkish Army Attache in London for one and a half years, and as Military Attache in Warsaw, Poland Feb-Aug 1957. He is an artillery officer in the Turkish Army and has 20 years of service. [redacted] impressed the reporting officer with his keen intelligence. He speaks excellent English and his powers of observation and memory are far above average.

3. CONTENTS:

- a. General background.
- b. Pin point location of unidentified object.
- c. Description of observed unidentified object.

APPROVED:

JOE R. DANIEL
Colonel, USAF
Air Attache

USAF; ATIC

hour. After two minutes of flight on a horizontal course (by the watch) the object's light was extinguished at which time the searchlights would be turned off. No motor noise of any type accompanied the movement of the object. Source could not tell what happened to the object after the light was turned off. During the object's movement the same altitude was maintained. There was no exhaust flame from the object that could have been made by a conventional or jet motor mechanism. *← Pretty broad statement*

- (4) During one of the eight observations made, a jet aircraft took off from UZUNDZHCHOV Airfield, climbed toward the moving object, passed the moving object still in a climb, came directly around into the field traffic pattern and landed utilizing the field's runway lights. This was the only time during the eight observations which were made that an aircraft was seen or heard flying in the area.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

4. Source stated that he had had a great deal of experience as an artillery officer with AA searchlight batteries, etc. He went on to say that he was unable to offer any explanation for the event described in this report. *[This indicates that the pilot apparently was aware of, or knew the identity of, the object]*

5. In future debriefings of Bulgarian escapees and legal travelers, this subject will be given special attention in an effort to obtain further information which might help explain this incident.

JOSEPH A. BURT
Lt Colonel, USAF
Assistant Air Attache

This appears to be simulated AA - ~~after~~ tracking training operation of some sort. Object used is target could have been a balloon with a light attached, a small target drone, a/c such as is used in the U.S. - a lighted sleeve target, etc.

DOWNGRADED AT 10 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AT 20 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

IR-734-57

(Other)

Cannot check for ZI, but believed to be night AA operations

UNCLASSIFIED

Air Attache, Turkey

IR-734-57

2

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a. General Background. Between 2000-2030 hours (local) on 21 August 1957 source observed an unidentified flying object over UZUNDZHOVO Airfield, Bulgaria. Observation was made while ~~source~~ was traveling by automobile across Bulgaria from SOFIA to EDIRNE. Source was on his way to Turkey from his previous duty station as Turkish Army Attache in Warsaw, Poland.

b. Pia Point Location of Observation. Appearing on page 4 is an overlay to USAF Pilotage Chart (322C) EDIRNE, dated April 1953. The exact location of both the position of the source and the unidentified flying object which he observed is indicated.

c. Description of Unidentified Object. At approximately 2000 hours on 21 August source was approaching by automobile the City of KHASKOVO, Bulgaria. He was traveling from SOFIA to EDIRNE, Turkey. The weather was clear but the night was very dark. Source observed to his left a lighted, moving object in the sky being traced by AA searchlights. Suddenly this lighted, moving object either disappeared or its light was extinguished at which time the searchlights went off. Soon thereafter, another light appeared at the same position at which the first had been observed and remained suspended above the ground at what appeared to be approximately 1000-1500 feet. After remaining stationary for approximately five or ten seconds, the object started moving on a horizontal course. The AA searchlight batteries were turned upon the moving object as it continued on a horizontal course, traveling at the same altitude for approximately two minutes and then either disappeared or its light was extinguished. Source said that upon first observing this phenomenon he stopped his automobile and got out so that he could observe more closely. He said he checked his time very carefully and made these observations between 2000-2030 hours. During this period he observed this procedure repeated eight times. On each occasion the order was as follows:

- (1) The UZUNDZHOVO Airfield would be completely blacked out. No aircraft could be heard flying at altitude or in the vicinity.
- (2) Suddenly a light would appear over and slightly to the side of UZUNDZHOVO Airfield, its altitude appearing to be 1000-1500 feet. The light upon appearing was completely stationary. It did not illuminate the area in the sense of a flare or some photoradiation. Source said that the best way he could describe this light was just as though a single light bulb was turned on by the flick of the switch. The light remained stationary for five or ten seconds. *note*
- (3) After this five-ten second interval the object started moving on a horizontal course at which time AA searchlights in position around the field would be turned on and one by one would pick up the object within their beam. Source said that there were 3-4 batteries with 3-4 searchlights at each battery location. When the object was in the searchlight's beam there was no reflection from the object. There was no indicated configuration given by the fact that the object was within the strong beams of the searchlights. According to source, the light of the unidentified object could still be observed while the beams were directly upon it. The object appeared to travel at a speed of 100-150 knots per

SUPPLEMENT TO AF FORM 112

ORIGINATING AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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Air Attache, Turkey

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Pin Point Location of
Unidentified object
over Uzundzhovo
AF BULGARIA

2530E

4130N

(OVERLAY to USAF Pilotage
Chart (322C) Edirne
dtd April 1953)

DOWNGRADED AT 5-YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED