

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 May 59		2. LOCATION Philadelphia, Pa.		12. CONCLUSIONS	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 15/0130Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>probably flares</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 mins		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE E to W	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Obj shaped like an inverted dish with structure on top like a diving bell, size of an egg, bright orange color. obj was pulsating, glowed for approx 4 mins, then faded completely.				11. COMMENTS It was determined that a Navy a/c was dropping flares in the area on the night of the sighting. Public had been alerted in an attempt to prevent unnecessary rpts. However, it is believed these flares were the cause for this sighting.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION
UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE
INCOMING

ZCHQC123ZCYJC400

PP RJEZHQ

DE RJEDJR 62

P 152000Z ZEX

FM CCMDR NY AIR DEF SECT MCGUIRE AFB NJ

TO RJEZSN/CCMDR 26ADIV

RJEDSQ/CCMDR AIR TECH INTEL CEN

RJEZHQ/ASST CHIEF OF STAFF INTEL

RJEZHQ/OFFICE OF INFO SERVICES

INFO RUEPBL/1006 AISS

AF GRNC

BT

/UNCLAS/NYADS 05209 NYOIN. ATTN: DIR OF INTELLIGENCE 26AD. SUBJ:

"UFO REPORT." IAW AFR 200-2, THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED:

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:

(1) INVERTED DISH WITH STRUCTURE ON TOP LIKE A DIVING BELL.

(2) EGG HELD AT ARM'S LENGTH.

(3) BRIGHT ORANGE

(4) ONE

(5) NOT APPLICABLE

(6) NONE - PULSATING, THEN FADED OUT COMPLETELY

(7) NONE

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SAFS

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(8) NONE

(9) GLOW FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES THEN FADED COMPLETELY.

REAPPEARED AGAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES, THEN FADED COMPLETELY.

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

(1) OBJECT JUST POPPED UP AND HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF IT.

(2) 20 - 30 DEGREES ABOVE THE HORIZON.

(3) MOVED UP TO ABOUT 40 DEGREES AND DOWN TO ABOUT 15 DEGREES ABOVE THE HORIZON, THEN JUST FADED OUT COMPLETELY.

(4) MOVED PARALLEL TO EARTH'S HORIZON. FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.

(5) DISAPPEARED INSTANTANEOUSLY.

(6) SAW TWICE FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES OVER A PERIOD OF ONE AND A HALF HOURS.

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

(1) GROUND VISUAL.

(2) NAKED EYE FOR FIRST OBSERVATION, THEN WITH A TELESCOPE WHICH HAD A FOUR AND ONE HALF INCH REFLECTOR.

(3) NOT APPLICABLE.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

(1) 15/0130Z TO 15/0300Z

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(2) NIGHT

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVER

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. OBSERVER WAS IN FRONT OF [REDACTED] PHILADELPHIA, PA., FACING A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION TOWARDS THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE BRIDGE OVER THE DELAWARE RIVER BETWEEN NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA.

F. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON OBSERVER:

(1) CIVILIAN: [REDACTED] 30, [REDACTED], PHILADELPHIA, PA. WORKS FOR ELECTRONICS FIRM (GENERAL SOUND) AND IS AN AMATEUR ASTRONOMER.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS-ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING:

(1) OBSERVER SAYS IT WAS CLEAR THEN SLIGHTLY CLOUDY.

(2) WINDS: 6000° - 290/25K

10000° - 250/45K

15000° - 230/60K

20000° - 230/60K

30000° - 250/65K

50000° - 250/40K

60000° - 250/20K

(3) CEILING: 6000 SCATTERED, 9000 SCATTERED

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INCOMING

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(4) VISIBILITY: 15 MILES

(5) CLOUD COVER: 2 TENTHS

(6) THUNDERSTORMS IN AREA: NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. FORT DIX, NJ TO BRISTOL, PA. AREA, EAST TO WEST AND WEST TO EAST, US NAVY F8U PHOTO ACFT DROPPING FLASH FLARES FOR A PHOTO MISSION.

K. WILLIAM S. BARNETT, 1/LT, USAF, ASST INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, NY AIR DEFENSE SECTOR, MCGUIRE AFB, NJ. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS: PHONE CALLS TO CONTROL TOWER, NORTH PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT AND TO THE OPERATIONS OFFICER, JOHNSVILLE NAVAL AIR STATION, WILLOW GROVE, PA.

INDICATES A POSSIBLE CORRELATION WITH A U.S. NAVY F8U AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE SIGHTING AT THE SAME TIMES REPORTED. THIS ACFT WAS DROPPING 250 MILLION CANDLEPOWER PHOTO FLASH FLARES IN ORDER TO PERFORM ITS MISSION. FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED INDICATES AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE OVER THE COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. THAT SUCH A PHOTO MISSION WAS TO BE FLOWN DURING THE TIMES IN QUESTION.

BT

15/2050Z MAY RJEDJR

ACTION: CIN

INFO : OOP, SAFS

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T/dfc

HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK AIR DEFENSE SECTOR
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
MC GUIRE AIR FORCE BASE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NYOIN

21 MAY 1959

SUBJECT: UFO Report

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. Reference message from this headquarters, UNCLASSIFIED, NYADS 05209, NYOIN, subject: "UFO Report", dated 15 May 1959, in accordance with AFR 200-2, the following report was submitted:

"A. Description of object:

- (1) Inverted dish with structure on top like a diving bell.
- (2) Egg held at Arm's length.
- (3) Bright orange.
- (4) One
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) None - pulsating, then faded out completely.
- (7) None
- (8) None
- (9) Glow for approximately 4 minutes then faded completely. Reappeared again for approximately 4 minutes, then faded completely.

B. Description of course of object:

- (1) Object just popped up and he caught sight of it.
- (2) 20 - 30 degrees above the horizon.
- (3) Moved up to about 40 degrees and down to about 15 degrees above the horizon, then just faded out completely.

(4) Moved parallel to earth's horizon. From right to left and from left to right.

(5) Disappeared instantaneously.

(6) Saw twice for approximately 4 minutes over a period of one and a half hours.

C. Manner of observation:

(1) Ground visual.

(2) Naked eye for first observation, then with a telescope which had a four and one-half inch reflector.

(3) Not applicable.

D. Time and date of sighting:

(1) 15/0130Z to 15/0300Z

(2) Night

E. Location of observer:

(1) Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Observer was in front of 2852 Norcum Road, Philadelphia, Pa., facing a northeasterly direction towards the Pennsylvania Turnpike Bridge over the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

F. Identifying information on Observer:

(1) Civilian: [REDACTED], Philadelphia, Pa. Works for electronics firm (General Sound) and is an amateur astronomer.

G. Weather and winds-aloft conditions at time and place of sighting:

(1) Observer says it was clear, then slightly cloudy.

(2) Winds: 6000' - 290/25K

10000' - 250/45K

16000' - 230/60K

20000' - 230/60K

30000' - 250/65K

50000' - 250/40K

60000' - 250/20K

(3) Ceiling: 6000 scattered, 9000 scattered.

(4) Visibility: 15 miles

(5) Cloud cover: 2 tenths

(6) Thunderstorms in area: None

H. None

I. None

J. Fort Dix, New Jersey to Bristol, Penna. area, east to west and west to east, US Navy F8U Photo Aircraft dropping flash flares for a photo mission.

K. William S. Barnett, 1/Lt, USAF, Ass't Intelligence Officer, NY Air Defense Sector, McGuire AFB, NJ. Preliminary analysis: Phone calls to Control Tower, North Philadelphia Airport and to the Operations Officer, Johnsville Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pa. indicates a possible correlation with a U.S. Navy F8U aircraft flying in the general area of the sighting at the same times reported. This aircraft was dropping 250 million candlepower photo-flash flares in order to perform its mission. Further mission received indicates an announcement was made over the commercial radio stations in Philadelphia, Pa. that such a photo mission was to be flown during the times in question.

2. Mr. [REDACTED], civilian referred to in paragraph 1F(1) above forwarded to this headquarters on 18 May 1959 a letter concerning his sighting and inclosed four color transparencies which he claimed had been taken at the time of the sighting. This letter and color transparencies are being forwarded as attachments. Mr. [REDACTED] further requested that said transparencies be returned to him upon completion of any analysis by the United States Air Force.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


Karl W. Fischer
1st Lt. USAF
Asst. Dir. of Admin. Services

1 Atch
Ltr, Mr. [REDACTED],
w/4 color transparencies
(1 unmounted)

11-2 [redacted]

28 [redacted]

Philadelphia 14, Pa.

May 15, 1959

Dear Sir: —

Here are the pictures of the object which I took on Tuesday night, May 14, 1959, which we saw in the East over near the Penna. Turnpike Bridge. I hope you may be able to make something out of them if you should blow them up. As I have not a Telephoto lens for my camera, and had no time to get my telescope out the first night I saw it when I took the pictures.

You will notice that the object appears to be very small and will only show up under enlargement or projection, with the proper focusing of the lens on the projection instrument.

Also you will notice that three

of the pictures are mounted in slide holders. The others are on strip 35 mm film.

It seems that the place which developed the film, did not think there was anything on the 35 mm part of the film.

If you look at these closely you will find one of the best pictures of the group. In one of the photos there may appear to be more than one object on the film. This photo was taken at $\frac{1}{25}$ of a second. at this speed the object flashed more than once. So that more than one object appears. But it is only one which was pulsating at the time.

The films were developed by "Camera Corner" at Broad Street and Erie Avenue in Philadelphia, and were not touched-up or changed in any way.

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Philadelphia 14, Pa.

If you find out anything or
get any good prints from these
slides, I would appreciate it
if you would please send me
a copy, and also kindly return
my slides and negatives when
you are through with them.

Thank you for your kind
consideration in this matter,
and I also hope I have helped
you in anyway I could.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Phila. 14, Pa.

[REDACTED]

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: AFICIN-4E4g

15 June 1959

SUBJECT: Photographs of UFO (Mr. [REDACTED])

TO: SAFIS-3 (Maj. Tacker)

1. Attached are slides and negatives forwarded to the Air Force by Mr. [REDACTED] with his report of an UFO sighted on 14 May 1959. Mr. [REDACTED] requested that these slides and negatives be returned to him.
2. The ATIC determined that a Navy aircraft was dropping flares in the area on the night of the sighting. The public was alerted by radio stations in the area in an attempt to prevent unnecessary reports of the event.
3. All evidence in this case indicates that the objects of this sighting were probably flares.
4. A copy of Mr. [REDACTED] letter is attached for information.

Nicholas Post

NICHOLAS POST
Assistant Deputy
Science and Components

2 Atch

1. Slides & Negatives
2. Cy Ltr dtd 15 May 59
fr [REDACTED]

10 June 59
24 June 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of 15 May 1959 concerning unidentified flying objects you photographed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the night of 14 May. All evidence in this case indicates that the objects photographed were flares.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center has determined that Navy aircraft were dropping flares in the Philadelphia area on the night of the sighting. The public was alerted by radio stations in the area in an attempt to prevent reports of this nature. However, we have received a few such reports.

The slides and negatives forwarded with your letter are returned herewith.

Sincerely,

Incl
a/s/

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Philadelphia 14, Pennsylvania