

4602D AISS UFOB LOG

REPORT NO.	DATE/TIME OF SIGHTING	RECD HQ 4602D
AISS-UFOB-330-55	23/1730Z Sep 55	24 Sep 55
LOCATION OF SIGHTING	LOGGED BY	
West Chester, Pennsylvania	A/IC DeRudder	
MEANS RECD	ACTION	
TT Msg	Investigation authorized	
INVES UNIT	DATE INVES ASSIGNED	ASSIGNING OFFICER
Flt 3-H	26 Sep 55	Lt McEntee
DATE IR RECD HQ	DATE IR APPROVED	DATE IR TO ATIC
DATE OF FORM 5		
27 Sep 55		
COMMENTS		
Investigation of this sighting assigned to Flt 3-H on 26 Sep 55. Results of investigation as indicated below:		
CONCLUSIONS		

Follow directed

26 Sept 3-H

Lt. Berrier & Lt. McEntee phonecon

O

1002/29
OPST
TY0001MENB 048 YD0030 TY4024 TM8020 TTB114NEA063
PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPNY RJEPHQ
DC RJEPNL 39A

PL232100Z

FM COMDR 62ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WILM DEL
TO: RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO
RJEPNY/COMDR 26TH AIRDIVDEF ROSLUN AFS NY
RJEDWP/COMDR AIRTECH INTEL CEN WPAFB OHIO
RJEPHQ/COMDR DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASHDC
BT

/UCNALSSIFIED/GPOT 2968. REPORT OF UFOB

/1/DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS

A CHILD'S TOP

B SIZE OF BASEBALL

C DARK

D ONE 1/1

E N/A

F RUDDER UNDERNEATH OBJECT

G N/A

H N/A

4602D AISS UFOB REPT
DATE-TIME GROUP 23/1730Z Sep 55

330

Leased

Inves to 3-H, 26 Sep 55

West Chester, Pa.

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I N/A

/2/DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

A LIGHT AIRCRAFT (PIPER CUB)

B

C

D DISAPPEARED

E UNKNOWN

F THREE 1/3 TO FIVE 1/5 MINUTES

/3/ MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

A GROUND-VISUAL

B BINOCULARS

C N/A

/4 TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

A 1030 EDST = 23/1730Z Sep 55

B DAY

/5 LOCATION OF OBSERVER:

A RD NRP 5 LEONAPE PA. (PA ROUTE 100-52)

/6 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

A AGE 33, [REDACTED]

B PA. HOUSEWIFE

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 = 23/1730Z Sep 65
B DAY

/5/ LOCATION OF OBSERVER:

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

/6/ IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS

[REDACTED], AGE 33, MAILING ADDRESS [REDACTED]
HOUSEWIFE

PAGE THREE RJEPNL 39A

/7/ WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT

A FAIR

B IIG 2500 SCD, 4000 SCD, 10000 BKN, 25200 BKN, 15 MILE VIS, WINDS EAST 9

C PHL 14000 CGST, VIS 8 RW--WINDS SE 9

D 6000' 280 - 10K

12000' 290 - 20K

16000' 300 - 25K

20000' 300 - 30K

32000' 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 FIGHTER GROUP, AIR DEFENSE.

NO COMMENT

/12/ NEGATIVE

BT

23/2112Z SEP RJEPNL

AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. 34-UFOB-9-55	(LEAVE BLANK)
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT UFOB	FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	
AREA REPORTED ON WEST CHESTER, PA.		
DATE OF REPORT 4 October 1955	DATE OF INFORMATION 23 September 1955	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) CHESTER B. HANSON, Captain, USAF	SOURCE	

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, 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 [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] at 23/1630 September 1955 near [REDACTED] 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 3019614

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

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO. 3-H-UFOB-9-55	Part One
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS		PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

I. SOURCE:

Address: [REDACTED]

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.

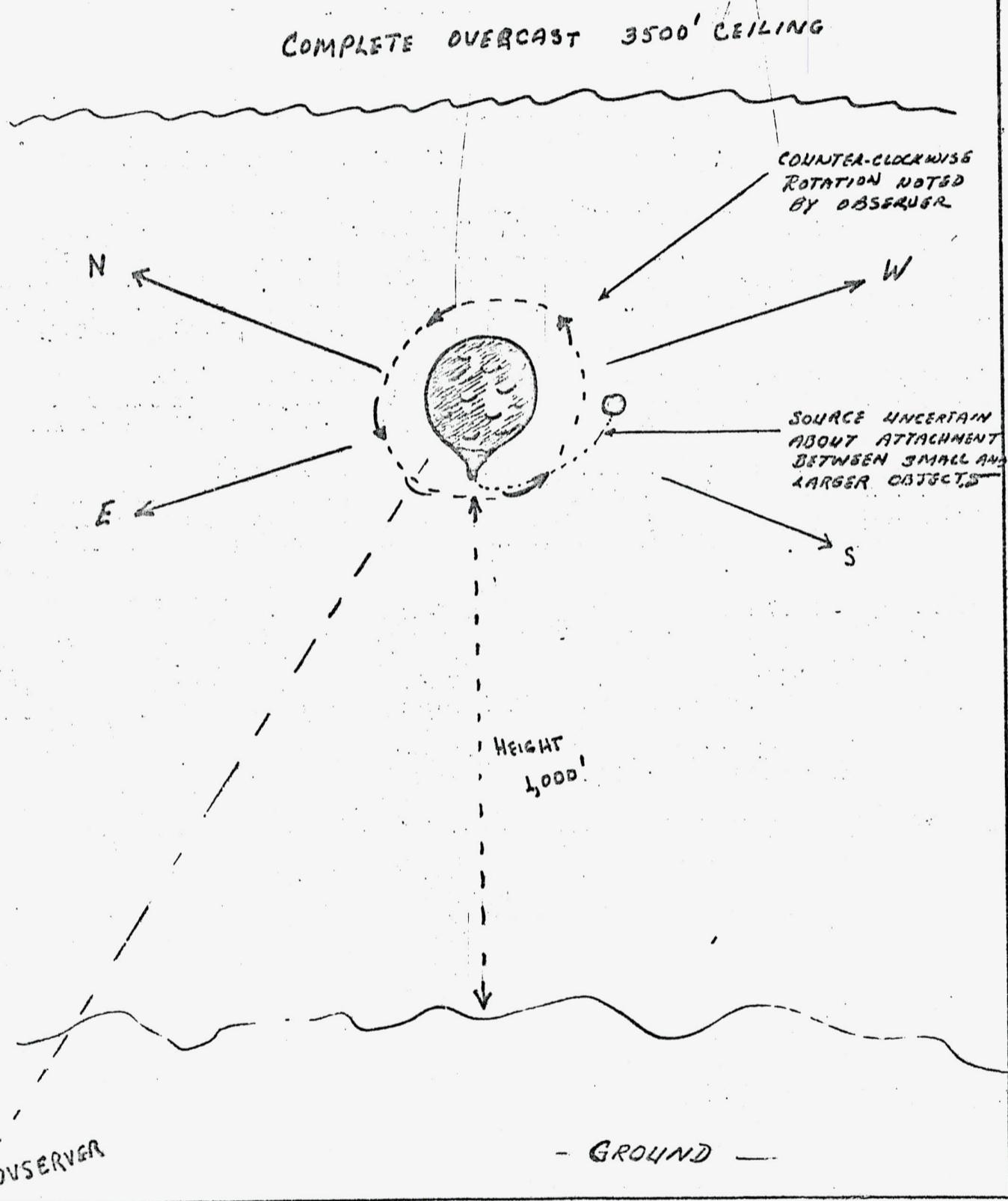
No photographs were taken of the UFOB.

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



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APPROVED: JUNE 1944

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-9-55	PAGE 4 OF 8 PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

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.

2. The US Weather Bureau at Philadelphia International Airport (GeoRef GJQK 4653) was telephoned and queried about balloon releases on 23 September. The forecaster on duty stated that no balloons had been released by them on the 23rd of September. This agency referred the AISS investigator to the field unit which supplies them with raw weather data, this being the 24th AA Gp.

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 inflates, 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.

4. A further check with the 24th AA Gp Ground Meteorological Section near Swarthmore, Pa., (GeoRef GJQK 3758) disclosed the following data obtained from the balloon which was released at 10:16 EDT on 23 September 1955:

Time After Release	Azimuth of Balloon
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

This balloon may have burst shortly after the last reading was made or it may have risen higher and drifted into winds which could have carried it toward the vicinity of West Chester, Pa., however this isn't definitely known. From the wind data above, the indication is that this balloon drifted toward Southern New Jersey in the Chesapeake Area.

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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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

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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 radiosonde equipment. They are released at 0400EST, 1600 EST, and 2200 EST and remain aloft seldom over an hour.

7. A check with the US Weather Bureau at Greater Pittsburgh 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:

Altitude (ft)	Wind Direction	Wind Velocity (knots)
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	320	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.

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3h-UFOB-9-55	6 of 8 PAGES

Incl. #2, PART TWO
 TT MSG GPOT 2968 FM CCMDR 82ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WIIM DEL

PQT
 PP RJEPNB RJEPJR
 DE RJEPNY 11
 B 240315Z
 FM CCMDR 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 MC GUIRE AFB NJ

P 232100Z
 FM CCMDR 82ND FTR GP DEF NCCA WIIM DEL
 TO RJESEN/CCMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO
 RJEPNY/CCMDR 26TH AIR DIV DEF ROSLYN AFS NY
 RJEDWP/CCMDR AIRTECH INTEL CEN WPAFB OHIO
 RJEPHQ/CCMDR 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. DORTHEA MILLER CARTY, AGE 33, MAILING ADDRESS WEST CHESTER
 RD NER 5 LEONAPE RD, PA. HOUSEWIFE

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REF ID: A6570-1

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
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Incl. #2, PART TWO
 TT MSG GPCT 2968 FM CCMR 82ND FTR GP DEF NOCA WILM DEL

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/7/ WEATHER AND WINDS ALQFT

A FAIR

B ILG 2500 SC, 4000 SC, 10000 BKN, 25000 BKN, 15 MILE VIS, WINDS EAST 9

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

9 6000' 230 - 10K

10000' 230 - 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

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-9-55	Part Three
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS		PAGE 8 OF 8 PAGES

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 Pittsburg 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
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.

J.W.

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