

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 20 Jul 49 21/0830Z	2. LOCATION Honolulu, Hawaii
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Two	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS First object was a balloon like object traveling in a westerly direction. The second balloon-like object traveled from the South reaching a position above the first. It then circled the first and both proceeded in a Westerly direction and disappeared from view.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Westerly	Fleet Weather Central released a radiosonde at 1025L. The radiosonde was composed of a balloon to which is attached a box (approx 5"X8") by an eight ft wire.
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

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DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
Old Naval Station
Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, T. H.

CX./w

27 July 1949

AF 96182

Memo for: WIC-1141D

Subj: Flying Saucers over Oahu; Report Concerning

Encl: (A) Honolulu Star-Bulletin Article of 21 July 1949

1. It was ascertained from a confidential source at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin that the housewife mentioned in enclosure (A) is Mrs. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Street, Honolulu. Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed regarding the alleged "saucers" on 22 July 1949 and gave the following description of what she saw:

"Some time between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 July 1949, I was doing the laundry behind my house when I saw a balloon-like object high in the sky north of where I was standing. The 'balloon' was traveling in a westerly direction. I could not estimate its speed; it appeared to be high in the sky. It was a cloudless morning, and I watched the object for a few seconds when I noticed a second balloon-like object appear. The second object traveled from the south until reaching a position above the first balloon, which it appeared to circle. After circling the first balloon, the second changed course and both then proceeded together in a westerly direction and disappeared from my view which was blocked by my house. I did not go around to the front of the house for further observation. I have never before observed a similar occurrence."

2. Mr. [REDACTED], in charge of the U.S. Weather Bureau, Honolulu Airport, interviewed on 22 July 1949, reported that, due to the elements of time and position, Mrs. [REDACTED] could not have seen one of the Weather Bureau's radiosondes (weather balloons).

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3. Major Claude H. HALL, USAF, 31st Weather Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Oahu, stated on 22 July 1949 that no radiosondes have been released by the Air Force locally for some time.

4. LCDR T. D. KEEGAN, USN, Officer-in-Charge, Fleet Weather Central, Pearl Harbor, T.H., interviewed on 22 July 1949, disclosed that his organization had released a radiosonde at 1025 on 20 July 1949 for training purposes from the PCD-900 at dock Sail-20, Pearl Harbor. This balloon was 5'-6' in diameter at sea level, rose about a mile every five minutes, and in the opinion of personnel at Fleet Weather Central could have been seen from the area in which Mrs. [REDACTED] resides some time between 1030 and 1100.

5. It was ascertained at Fleet Weather Central that the radiosonde is composed of a balloon to which is attached a box (approximately 5"x8") by an eight-foot wire. The balloon is greyish and the box silver. Both could reflect the sun. The box is apt to swing in a circular manner beneath the balloon. No other official agency other than those interviewed is known to release balloons of any kind in the territory of Hawaii.

6. A description of the radiosonde was furnished Mrs. [REDACTED] and she was asked if she could not have mistaken the swinging box for another "balloon-like object." She was adamant in denying this possibility, stating that she definitely saw two balloon-like objects further apart than eight feet. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the reporting agent that Mrs. [REDACTED] could not have seen the radiosonde released from Pearl Harbor since it ascended from Pearl Harbor proceeding in a westerly direction. The [REDACTED] house lies about five miles east of Pearl Harbor and since Mrs. [REDACTED] was behind her house the view toward the west was blocked to her.

8. Fleet Weather Central statistics show that on the morning of Wednesday, 20 July 1949 wind conditions above Oahu were as follows:

0 - 6,000 feet, east wind, 20 knots
 6,000 - 8,000 feet, relatively no wind
 8,000 - 10,000 feet, south wind, 10 knots
 10,000 - 12,000 feet, east wind, 5 knots
 12,000 - 14,000 feet, relatively no wind
 14,000 - 20,000 feet, southwest wind, 15 knots
 25,000 - 40,000 feet, west wind, 15-40 knots

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From the above statistics it may be deduced that a balloon at an altitude up to 6,000 feet would be traveling in a westerly direction at a speed of 20 knots. Another balloon at an altitude of 6,000-10,000 feet would obviously be above the first and would approach the first balloon from the south. If the second balloon had a leak and was descending, it could conceivably hover over the first in the 6,000-6,000-foot level giving the effect of circling the first, and then upon descending to the 6,000-foot level take off toward the west. No explanation for the origin of the "balloons" sighted by Mrs. [REDACTED] could be obtained from official sources.

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The following was copied from Info Doc No 10-249, AF 00152

28 July 1949

From: District Intelligence Officer, 14th Naval District
To: Director of Naval Intelligence
Subj: Flying Saucers over Oahu; Report Concerning
Encl: (A) Copy of conf memo for DIO-14th, dtd 27 July 1949,
1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith for your information.

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