PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 20 October 65	2. LOCATION Snow Hill, Maryland (File copy w/ Dover AFB) Eastern United States
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Balloon was identified by NASA Operatiins, Wallops Islands Station, Va.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	The object was observed over the Eastern States by many observers. A direct report of the balloon observation was not made to the USAF. Only reports received was by radio and newspapers only. On 21 oct 65 a call from Dover AFB, that the object landed in a field behind a hatchery. The object resembled aluminum but was plastic with five valves. Four of these appeared designed to inflate it. Balloon was identified by Wallops Island Station, Va.
7. COURSE Landed	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes XX No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes XX No Yes	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

October 26, 1965

The Langley Research Center is conducting a research project with experimental balloons at Wallops. The manufacturer of these balloons is the G. T. Schjeldahl Company, Northfield, Minn. A series of six of these balloons are being launched in the current tests.

The balloon is shaped like a blimp 13.7 to 16.5 feet long and about 4 feet in diameter. It has 3 fins off the tail which are also inflated. It is made of metalized mylar plastic.

One was launched October 19, two were launched October 20, one on October 25, and the other two in the series may be launched today.

One of these balloons launched last week landed inland about 25 miles (air miles) from Wallops Island and generated a flurry of public interest.

The Air Force UFO Information Office at the Pentagon called this morning and they had been interrogated about a balloon which struck a power line in Bero Beach, Florida, and exploded. They wondered if it might have been launched at Wallops. The project people said it was most unlikely that any balloon launched at Wallops would drift that far, but not impossible. They also felt that the Bero Beach balloon was probably one launched at the Cape in connection with the Gemini 6 mission. The Schjeldahl Company representative said they have supplied about 1500 2-meter metallized mylar plastic balloons to Huntsville for launch at the Cape, and the Bero Beach balloon may have been one of these. However, the Air Force UFO Office said they understood the Bero Beach balloon was shaped like a light bulb.

The project people here feel that persons finding balloons should, if they want to find out where they came from, write the company, giving the serial number and the Design Release Number on the balloon.

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MEMO FOR THE RECORD

BALLOON:

1. Wallops Island, NASA, is conducting a series of tests, using blimp-like balloons in an experimental project. Balloons are manufactured by the G.T. Schjeldahl Co (Schell-dahl) of Northfield, Minnesota. The balloons are blimp shaped, 13.7 to 16.5 feet long, four inches in diameter, metalized mylar plastic, and the balloon has 3 inflated fins off the tail. Balloon can drift for several hundred miles, depending on winds. Balloons have serial numbers, and DR= Design Release Numbers.

2. The G.T. Schjeldahl Co also manufactures another type balloon. This balloon is approximately two meters in diameter(sphere), megalized mylar plastic, and has 3" high projection horns, spikes, reflectors for radar tracking. Used to measure wind velocity before a launch. Have supplied 1500 of these balloons to the Marshall Space Center.

No Case
(Information Only)

20 OCT Dover

HEADQUARTERS
1607TH AIR TRANSPORT WING (MATS)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DELAWARE, 19901

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ODOTI

SUBJECT: UFO Recovered at Dover AFB, Delaware 27 October 1965

TO: FTD (TDEW) (UFO)

1. Reference Telecon between Sgt Moody and MSgt Fernandez on 25 October 1965 in which FTD requested further information on the identification and return of balloon to NASA.

2. After notifying FTD (UFO) on 21 October 1965 that the object would be sent to them for identification, we received a phone call from Mr. Robert Ladd, Washington representative of the G.T. Schjeldahl Co. of Northfield Minn. From our description, Mr. Ladd identified the object as a test balloon manufactured by the Schjeldahl Co. He requested we retain the balloon until Mr. Kenneth Witt, company engineer, arrived to make positive identification.

3. On 22 October we received a call from Mr. Bob Long of NASA Operations, Wallops Island Station, Va. Mr. Long heard of the balloon through the news media and stated NASA had launched similar ones manufactured by the Schjeldahl Co. He said a check of the winds for 20 October indicated the balloon could possibly be one launched by NASA from Wallops Island. When we informed Mr. Long that a representative from the Washington office of the Schjeldahl Co. was coming to Dover to identify the balloon, he requested we have Mr. Witt call him when he arrives. Mr. Witt arrived at Dover on the 22nd of October and positively identified the balloon as one manufactured by the Schjeldahl Co. for NASA. He called Mr. Long at NASA Operations, Wallops Island Station, Va. and coordinated the return of the balloon which was to be delivered to NASA on Monday or Tuesday of the following week.

4. Further information on the return and ownership of the balloon can be obtained by calling Mr. Bob Long at NASA, Wallops Island Station, Va. phone 703 (824-3411 ext 2354).

FOR THE COMMANDER

Charles R. Gant

CHARLES R. GANT
Major, USAF
Chief of Airlift Training

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Press Releases on UFO

THE WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON, DC
City and State News Section
22 October 1965
Page B-3

UFO Reclaimed

Two attaches of the Air Force base at Dover, Del., came and got the mysterious "thing" that glided last Wednesday to a several-pot landing near a hatchery operated at Snow Hill, Mrs. George Hop-

Mrs. Hopkins said it appeared to be made of plastic with a wingspread of about 18 feet and what looked like valves of some sort, several of them 12 to 14 feet long. Anyway, it scared her chickens and the men from Dover mumbled something about it looking like a tow target and acted like it sort of scared them a little bit, too.

Martian Saucer?

AFB Officials Claim Unidentified Object

An unidentified inflatable, winged object claimed by Dover Air Force Base officials from a Snow Hill, Md., resident last Thursday will be sent to Wright-Patterson Ohio, for investigation.

The valved object resembles aluminum but is plastic. It landed Wednesday in a field behind the hatchery of Mrs. George Hopkins of Snow Hill.

The object is 12 to 14 feet long and has a wingspan of 10 feet. The only marking is SN7 and the firm name of G. T. Schjeldahl Co.

Mrs. Hopkins doesn't know what it is, but suggestions made include a gunnery target or a device for training radar operators.

Maj. Robert Steele, Dover Air Force Base information officer, said it appears to be some type of test vehicle. When identification is made by Wright-Patterson officials, the information will be released, he said.

Dover officers and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency installation at Wallops Island, Va., both say it doesn't belong to them.

Two men from Dover AFB claimed the object yesterday.

Capt. Richard Young of the Office of Safety at the base said he was "not sure" of the object's origin. He said it was "some kind of tow target, I'm not sure what."

Morning News, Wilmington, Del.
16 — Fri., Oct. 22, 1965

Strange object called balloon

Md. mystery deflated

SNOW HILL, Md. — The object which fell from the sky behind a Snow Hill, Md., hatchery Wednesday afternoon may be a weather balloon, a spokesman for the manufacturer said last night.

Robert Ladd, manager of the Washington office of the G. T. Schjeldahl Co. of Northfield, Minn., said he based his theory on a description of the find—an inflatable, winged object 12 to 14 feet long, with a wingspan of 10 feet. Ladd said he would begin an investigation at once.

MRS. George Hopkins, owner of the hatchery, said the object landed in a field behind the hatchery building. The only markings were SN7 and the name of the company.

It was equipped with five valves, Mrs. Hopkins said. Four of these appeared designed to inflate it.

Mrs. Hopkins said heat appeared automatically to cause the thing to expand and when it was carried into the hatchery office it quickly floated to the ceiling.

A team from the Dover Air Force Base picked up the object and returned it to the base. A base spokesman said it will be taken to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio for positive identification.

Representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Wallops Island, Va., said it did not originate there.

Schjeldahl was the firm that produced the Echo I satellite which cut a brilliant trail through the skies in 1960.

LADD said Schjeldahl balloons are used in tests at Wallops Island and also are used by the Army in tests in the Washington-Virginia area.

"It's entirely possible one of them got loose," Ladd said. "Balloons of various types are flying around the country all the time in various test projects."

Ladd said many of the balloons are made of aluminized plastic.

MRS. HOPKINS said the object resembled aluminum.

Throughout Wednesday afternoon and night scores of persons flocked to the scene to view the object before it was removed.

Mrs. Hopkins said many theories were expressed about its origin and use, the most prevalent being that it was a gunnery target or a device for training radar operators.

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