

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 25 July 1954		2. LOCATION Lake Erie		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1912 GMT 26/0012Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Cylindrical, 20' long and 20" diameter. Object was traveling at high rate of speed on water at Lake Erie. Object was black. Observed 300 ft in front of his boat. Made arc and passed 50 ft stern of boat.				11. COMMENTS Investigation proved negative.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
3TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

10 January 1955

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21-162

SUBJECT: (Unclassified)
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
Report of Unidentified Object
Made by the Erie Ordnance Depot,
La Carne, Ohio

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATIAA-2C

1. Transmitted herewith for your information is one (1) photo-static copy of Report of Investigation by Special Agent RICHARD W. SHIMER, Cleveland Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, file 62-1204, dated 4 November 1954, concerning subject matter.

2. Attention is invited to the fact that the information contained herein has been derived from sources other than the Department of the Air Force. Dissemination of the information contained herein will not be made outside Department of the Air Force channels without prior approval of the Office of Special Investigations, IG.

1 Incl
FBI Rpt dtd 4 Nov 54
file 62-1204

Kenneth L. Blackstone
KENNETH L. BLACKSTONE
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

cc: Dir OSI (AFCSI-6D 24-185-413)
w/o Incl

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10
UNCLASSIFIED

5-10-55
F 565

CV 62-1264

DETAILS:

Investigation in this matter was predicated upon information received from Confidential Informant T-1, another Government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, which indicated that on July 26, 1954, a telephone call was received at the Erie Ordnance Depot from a Mr. [REDACTED] Huron, Ohio, who stated that he had sighted a strange unidentified object while cruising in his motor launch on Lake Erie at approximately 1912 hours on July 25, 1954. According to Mr. TUSSENG, the object appeared to be cylindrical in shape, twenty feet in length and twenty inches in diameter, black, and was travelling at a high rate of speed on the surface of the water. Mr. [REDACTED] reported that his position at the time as being approximately one and one half miles east of Middle Sister Island while travelling on a course of 145 degrees, which would take him north of Green Island to the middle of South Bass Island. (Middle Sister Island lies approximately twenty miles north of Erie Ordnance Depot.) According to Mr. TUSSENG, the object was first sighted approximately 300 feet ahead of his boat from which point it travelled in an arc to pass approximately fifty feet to the stern. Since this incident occurred in the vicinity of restricted waters employed as danger area for artillery firing, Mr. TUSSENG felt that he should report the matter.

T-1 could furnish no additional information as to the reliability of Mr. [REDACTED] report nor as to the identity of the object reported. Firing activities were not in progress either at the Erie Ordnance Depot or at the Locust Point AA Range and no aerial activity was scheduled at the time.

On September 21, 1954, Mr. [REDACTED] was interviewed at his law office in Huron, Ohio, and he verified the information he previously reported regarding the matter on July 26, 1954. He said that he still did not

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS REPORT ORIGINATED AT **CLEVELAND**

REPORT MADE AT CLEVELAND	DATE WHEN MADE 9/21/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/21, 20/1, 25/54	REPORT MADE BY SA RICHARD W. THOMAS
TITLE REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED SPACER MADE BY THE ERIC ORDNANCE DEPOT, LA CAGE, OHIO			CHARACTER OF CASE MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On 7/26/54 Mr. [REDACTED] Ohio, reported seeing a strange unidentified object while cruising in his motor launch on Lake Erie. This object appeared to be cylindrical, 20 feet long and 20 inches in diameter, black, and was travelling at a high rate of speed on the surface of the water. His position at the time was 10 miles east of Middle Sister Island. The object was sighted 300 feet ahead of his boat and travelled in an arc to pass the stern of the boat. Personnel at Erie Ordnance Depot can not identify the object and state it is not one of their radio guided targets. U. S. Coast Guard, Marblehead, Ohio, can not identify object and have never received similar reports. Unidentified object was in Canadian waters and 20 miles from the Erie Ordnance Depot when alleged to have been seen by Mr. [REDACTED]

- 6 -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: 5 - Bureau (65-62917) 2 - G-2, Columbus 1 - OKI, Philadelphia 2 - Cleveland (62-1264)	This is an FBI investigation report and makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval. NOV 16 1954 RECEIVED

CF 62-1204

KING. He stated that he never saw or heard of an object as described by Mr. [REDACTED]

ROBERT HANSEN, Assistant Chief Range Operations Officer, Erie Ordnance Depot, advised on October 1, 1954, that when he heard of Mr. [REDACTED] report he checked the location and found that [REDACTED] boat was 20 1/2 miles from the Erie Ordnance Depot at the time of the incident and further that Middle Sister Island is in Canadian waters. He said that their targets do not go further than ten miles from Erie Ordnance Depot as long as they are controlled and that he does not know what kind of an object Mr. [REDACTED] is alleged to have seen. He said that it is possible that some small form of tidal wave develops in the lake which would resemble a dark object travelling on the surface, however, he did not see the object reported by Mr. [REDACTED] and is therefore unable to classify it. He said that he never saw an object as described by Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Erie Ordnance Depot, advised on October 1, 1954, that he operates one of the boats and retrieves the radio controlled targets used at the Depot and has never heard of or seen an object as described by Mr. [REDACTED]. He said that the targets they use could not operate on the surface of the water and he was at a loss to understand what kind of an object Mr. [REDACTED] reported.

EDWARD J. MERRA, Officer in Charge, and J. E. HERBERT, Group Commander, United States Coast Guard Station, Marblehead, Ohio, advised on October 1, 1954, that they never heard of an object as described by Mr. [REDACTED] and were at a loss to know what it might have been. They checked their weather charts and advised that on July 25, 1954, there was a clear blue sky with visibility to eight miles and a wind of less than three miles per hour. They said that they cover the area adjacent to the Erie Ordnance Depot and that nothing was ever reported to them which could be in any way connected with the object reported by Mr. [REDACTED], nor did they ever see any such object.

CV 62-1204

know what the object could have been and that he had talked it over with several fishermen in Huron, but none could offer any suggestions.

On October 1, 1954, Colonel GRUBBS, Erie Ordnance Depot, advised he was familiar with the report relating to instant object but stated he had not heard any other reports concerning this incident, nor had he ever heard of such an object either before or after the report furnished by Mr. [REDACTED]. He said that the Erie Ordnance Depot maintains boats to retrieve the radio guided airplane type targets they use as once in a while these targets are hit and fall into the water. He described these targets as Radio Controlled Aerial Targets driven by a four cylinder gasoline engine and are radio controlled. They are twelve feet long and have a twelve foot wing spread. The body of this target plane is about twelve inches in diameter. They are painted red and the wings are painted red on the bottom and white on the top. The propeller is of wood and is about three feet long. These targets are landed by parachute and travel at a fixed speed of about 220 miles per hour. Colonel GRUBBS advised that the men assigned to the boats retrieving these targets have never reported seeing anything as described by Mr. [REDACTED] and he is at a loss to know what type of object it was that Mr. [REDACTED] alleged he saw.

Lieutenant L. E. KING, Officer in Charge, 68th AAA Detachment, ANGAT, Erie Ordnance Depot, advised on October 1, 1954, that the object Mr. [REDACTED] reported could not have been one of their targets because their targets could not travel on the surface of the water inasmuch as they are propeller driven and would sink upon hitting the water. These targets are landed by a parachute and even if the target would not sink on hitting the water it could not move although it might be held up by the parachute. Lieutenant KING further pointed out the fact that Mr. [REDACTED] said that he saw the object at seven o'clock at night and at this time all the firing done by the Erie Ordnance Depot is completed and the targets are all returned. There are no targets unaccounted for, according to Lieutenant