

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 July 1954		2. LOCATION (IN OCEAN) 15 Mi SE Ocean City, Maryland		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>SMOKE POT</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1500</u> GMT <u>27/2000Z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 Minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Red ball of fire entered to water.				11. COMMENTS Extensive Naval activity in area. Identified as Smoke Pot.	

Multi

77/1500
OCEAN CITY
MARYLAND *13*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

14 September 1954

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21-155

UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
Sighted 15 Miles Southeast of Ocean
City, Maryland, 1500 hours, 27 Jul 54
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

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

1. Transmitted herewith for your information is one (1) copy of Report of Investigation of Special Agent WILLIAM W. DENNIS, JR., District Office No. 21, dated 3 August 1954, file 53-(24)-11, subject as above.

2. Subsequent to writing the attached report, the District Commander, DO #21, was advised by the District Intelligence Officer, 5th Naval District, that investigation by his office revealed a witness who approached near enough to the object in question to identify it as a smoke pot. The District Intelligence Officer is of the opinion that the reported movement of the object can be accounted for by reason of smoke being blown away from the object by the wind. The District Intelligence Officer advised that there was extensive naval activity in the area of subject sighting and that a helicopter operating in the vicinity observed considerable dunnage in the area. The District Intelligence Officer believes that the smoke pot was used during some naval exercise in which no attempt was made to recover the pot, and the dunnage may well be parts of unrecovered experimental models.

3. No further investigative action is contemplated and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed.

4. Your attention is invited to the provisions of AFR 124-1, which prohibit the release of investigative information to unauthorized persons.

UNCLASSIFIED

1 Incl
ROI fr DO #21, dtd 3 Aug 54

cc: Dir OSI (24-185-21-11)

Roberts P. Johnson, Jr.

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.
Colonel, USAF

District Commander

54-24-1270-22

[REDACTED]

File No: 53-(24)-11

DETAILS:

UNCLASSIFIED

1. This investigation was initiated on 30 July 1954 by the District Commander upon information received from and at the telephonic request of Captain WILLIAM L. MESSMER, District Intelligence Officer (DIO), 5th Naval District, Norfolk, Va. The DIO advised that his Office had received information from their Baltimore Office to the effect that at 1500 hours, 27 July 1954, individuals aboard two fishing vessels located southeast of Ocean City, Md., observed an object variously described as a red ball or a ball of red flame, which entered the water approximately 15 miles southeast of Ocean City. The witnesses stated that they observed the object for approximately 15 minutes and variously estimated the speed to be from 8 to 24 knots. One witness observed the object through binoculars. Some of the witnesses stated that the object traveled submerged part of the time, others that it traveled on the surface. The DIO further advised that the water in the area in question is too shallow to permit the operation of a submarine at Snorkel depth and no Naval craft of that type were in the vicinity at the time of sighting. The DIO requested OSI to determine whether any Langley AFB activity or the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics could account for subject sighting.

2. Special Agent DWIGHT J. SCOVILL assisted in this investigation.

AT LANGLEY AFB, VA.

INTERVALS;
DOWNGRADED
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

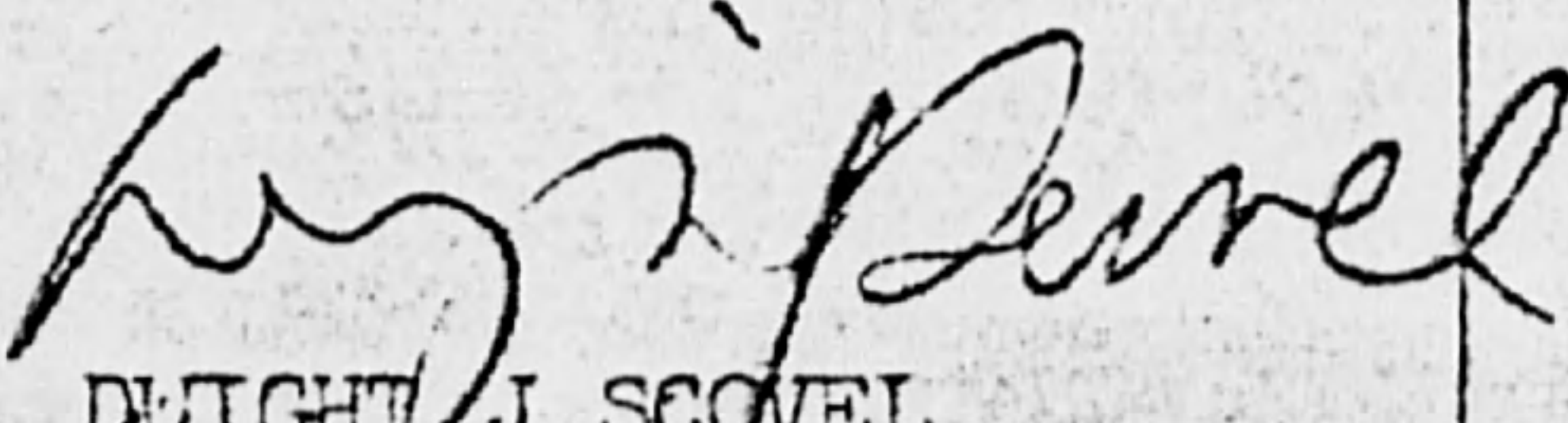
3. On 30 July 1954 DALE SCHEFEL, 1st Lt, US.F, IO 2094381, Base Operations, was telephonically contacted and after reviewing his records, advised that Langley AFB had not lost any aircraft on 27 July 1954; that there had been no reported loss of aircraft wing tip tanks on 27 July 1954 and further that Langley AFB aircraft do not conduct firing or bombing practice over the area in question.

4. On 30 July 1954, Mr. [REDACTED] Acting Engineer-in-Charge, Pilotless Aircraft Research Station, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Temperanceville, Va. (Wallops Island, Va.), was telephonically contacted by [REDACTED] and stated in effect that on 27 July 1954 his organization fired a 2-1/2" rocket and a Research Model. The missiles were tracked by radar. The 2-1/2" rocket struck the water approximately 5500 yards from the point of launching. The Research Model struck the water approximately 5000 yards from the point of launching. The points of impact of the missiles were approximately 30 miles from Subject sighting. [REDACTED] advised that no attempt is made to recover such missiles. [REDACTED] further advised that during the past three months his organization has not launched any missiles which have a fuel expectancy of more than three (3) seconds and that the missiles cited above landed within an area of two hundred yards from the impact points indicated above.

CLOSED

[REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 53-(24)-11	DATE 3 August 1954 js
TITLE (Confidential) Unidentified Object sighted 15 miles Southeast of Ocean City, Md., 1500 hours, 27 July 1954		REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM W. DENNIS, JR, S/A	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #21, Langley AFB, Va.	
		PERIOD 30 July 1954	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #21, Langley AFB, Va.	
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER RECIPROCAL INVESTIGATIONS			
REFERENCE INITIAL REPORT			
SYNOPSIS DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS, DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10 Investigation requested by District Intelligence Officer, 5th Naval District, to determine if any Langley AFB activity was responsible for an unidentified object observed approximately 15 miles southeast of Ocean City, Md. 27 July 1954. Investigation revealed no Air Force activity at LAFB which could account for the sighting. NACA Station, Wallops Island, Va., advised that they fired a rocket and a Research Model on 27 July 1954, but that the points of impact of these missiles as checked by radar were approximately 30 miles from Subject sighting. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF AFR 205-1 AND AFR 205-6.			
DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
DIO 5 ND 4		 DWIGHT J. SCOVEL Lt Colonel, USAF District Commander.	UNCLASSIFIED
Dir OSI 2			
Comdr, TAC (Info) 1			
File 2			