

PROJECT REPORT RECORD CARD

DATE

20 52

LOCATION

LAVALETTE N J

CONCLUSION

1. No Data
2. Primary Source
3. Secondary Source

TYPE OF OBSERVATION

Visual

XMAS-100-V sec

Ground Radar

Search

2-3

Visual

AI Intercept Radar

AI Intercept Radar

Civilian man

2-6 min

2

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CLASSIFICATION

Chemistry professor observed two bright objects moving slowly and circling coastal area. Objects traveled in trail, but did not maintain constant formation.

<p>RETURN TO:</p> <p>Director Aerospace Studies Inst ATTN: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama</p>	<p>K2413.6012-1 20.00 Jul 1952</p>
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[REDACTED]

14

(CLASSIFICATION)
UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. II 48 528	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOBAPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Lavallette, New Jersey	FROM (Agency) Eastern Air Defense Force, Stewart AFB, N. J.	
DATE OF REPORT 5 Aug 52	DATE OF INFORMATION 20 Jul 52	EVALUATION V-5
PREPARED BY (Officer) PETER B VENABLE, Major, USAF	SOURCE [REDACTED] PH.D. Seton Hall University, New Jersey	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

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.)

Appended reports were received from the aviation editor of the Newark News, Newark, New Jersey. Refer to two moving lights seen over Lavallette, New Jersey. The motion of these lights gave impression of directed control; did not resemble any known aircraft.

2

INCL.

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

- 2 - CG, AEC, Ent AFB, Colo.
- 1 - Chief, ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, ATIN: ATIAA-2C

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Incl #7

[REDACTED]

(CLASSIFICATION)

July 29, 1952

City Desk
Newark Evening News
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a report of an observation of two objects ("lights") seen in the sky on the night of July 19-20 over Lavalette, N. J. Since these lights were very similar to those reported over Washington, D.C., the same night, and since they did not resemble any aircraft known to the observers, either in appearance or in manner of motion and disappearance, I am submitting a complete description for possible correlation with other similar reports. I have purposely delayed this report since I have no intention of allowing my name to be associated in "newsprint" with the so-called "flying saucer scare". Therefore, while I am giving my name and position below, I request that they be used only for your files, or be given only to the Air Force should you judge this report worth passing on to them.

The objects described were witnessed by myself and a companion. We have carefully compared our impressions, and the description given consists of those impressions agreed upon by both.

A TRUE COPY:

Sincerely,

PETER B VENABLE
Major, USAF
Asst Chief Combat Intelligence

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ University

Incl #1

Description of Objects Seen In Sky on July 20, 1952, over
Lavalette, N. J.

Time: Approx. 12:20 to 12:25 a.m., Sunday, July 20.

Place: Seen from boardwalk, just east of center of Lavalette, N.J.

Description of Objects:

- a. Two moving lights were seen, each having the same appearance: approximately round, and orange-yellow in color with dull red alternately diffusing over much of the surface. They seemed about five times the apparent-size of Venus or Jupiter, but only two or three times as bright.
- b. The "lights" were first seen towards the south, just off-shore, about in the center of the "milky way", at an approximate elevation-angle of 40°. They moved northward slowly, one behind the other and following nearly the same path. They appeared to be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile apart and moving at less than 100 m.p.h. (assuming their apparent-distance from the observers of five- to ten-miles.). At the point where they passed almost due east of the observers, they appeared to be at least 5000 ft. high, the approx. elevation-angle being 45°. The second, or trailing, light did not keep constant-distance or course with the leading object.
- c. Shortly after passing to the east of the observers, both lights gradually began to turn westward towards land, passing over the coast-line at approx. 60°-elevation north of the observers. Continuing to circle, the lights passed to the west at approx. 50°-elevation, then around to the south, re-crossing the shore-line at about the same angle. During this first circling, both lights grew smaller and fainter, but more yellow in color; the trailing one grew fainter more rapidly, and appeared to drop further behind and to shift course slightly to south of the leading one. At no time did any sound come from the lights.
- d. Out at sea, they continued circling, the radius of turn being much smaller, such that the brighter leading object crossed the shore-line again just south of the observers, at about an 80°-elevation. Both continued to grow much fainter, smaller and more silvery in color, occasionally disappearing and reappearing, as though passing over high, thin clouds. The second light completely disappeared just over the shoreline. The first light continued westward, very faint like a small star; it seemed many miles high, and moving more rapidly. It finally disappeared in the west at about a 50°-elevation. The total elapsed time from first sighting to final disappearance was about five or six minutes.

Incl #2

NOTE: When the objects were first seen, they resembled night-weather-balloons ("pibal-balloons" carrying candle-lantern). However, their reddish color and circular course were not at all like such a balloon. Their motion gave the definite impression of directed control, but the complete silence of the objects and their apparent rapid climbing to very high altitude did not resemble (to the observers) any known plane or dirigible.

A TRUE COPY:

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ph.D.

PETER B VENABLE
Major, USAF
Asst Chief Combat Intelligence

~~RESTRICTED~~ AIR 7C

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 56th Air Base Group, Mohairn Air Force Base, Trenton, N J	REPORT NO. IR-49-52E	PAGE 2	OF 5	PAGES
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Report of Investigation of Unidentified Objects Sighted in the Air at Bay Head, N. J. 20 July 1952 at 0015 hours. Requested by S/Sgt David G. Haskins, Jr.

At 1400 hours I received a report of an unidentified object by Mr. [redacted] of [redacted] Newark, New Jersey, and was instructed by Major Joseph H. King, Operations Officer, 56th Air Base Group, to make a complete investigation of this report. I immediately contacted Mr. [redacted] by telephone and made an appointment for an interview at 1600 hours. Due to poor connections, I was unable to obtain any information whatsoever from a telephone interrogation.

At 1630 hours I interviewed Mr. [redacted] and obtained the following narrative statement from him:

"At approximately 12:15 a. m. Sunday, July 20th I was on board my boat with my wife and two other couples on the Metedeconk River about one mile west of Bay Head, New Jersey. The night was very clear. Wind direction estimated at 3 miles per hour NW. One of the party called attention to what at first appeared to be a bright star moving out of the galaxy of the Milky Way. A second object of the same size and brightness appeared about 135 degrees to the left rear of the first object. It was moving at the same speed and in the same direction. They were first observed about 70-75 degrees above the horizon about 500' of our position moving in a SE to NW direction. Their brightness was slightly greater than the brightest stars then visible or more so than the stars in the Big Dipper. They appeared to be about as far apart as the two stars in the side of the Dipper. They were observed for about 30-60 seconds. Names of other couples are Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] and Mr. and Mrs. [redacted].

/s/ [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] was very definite that the objects were not stars and were not any known type of aircraft. He stated that there were six persons on board his 30-foot cruiser at the time of the sighting; that the object was at a 75 degree angle in a south, southwesterly direction from the cruiser; and was travelling southwest. He believed the objects resembled stars, but were slightly larger and a little brighter. He repeated the fact several times that the objects did not travel in an arc, but in a straight line. At all times during the sighting the objects remained the same distance one from the other. He was unable to make any estimate as to the size of the objects other than the aforementioned statement that they were slightly larger than stars. Their rate of speed was extremely slow and except for the fact that their course followed a straight line, it seemed as if they were drifting rather than using any type of propulsion. At the time of the sighting the weather was very clear with no moon and a slight breeze blowing in a northwesterly direction at a speed of approximately 3 to 5 miles per hour. He was amazed at the fact that the objects did not vary their formation. His statement that the objects were very distinct and in the sight of all members of the party throughout the sighting is verified by his wife, Mrs. [redacted], and Mrs. [redacted]. The six persons he named as being members of the party are: He, his wife, Mr. and Mrs. [redacted], and Mr. and Mrs. [redacted]. The sighting occurred on the Metedeconk River at approximate [redacted].

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DOD DIR 6200.10

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 56th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N J	REPORT NO. IR-49-52E	PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES
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Location of 40 degrees, 3 minutes north, 74 degrees west. Mr. [redacted] stated that he had been alerted by a radio report that 3 unidentified objects were picked up by radar over Washington, D. C. and decided to report this incident to the Air Force because he thought that the two objects he saw might have been part of the group reported over Washington. The object was seen first by one of the women of the party, Mrs. [redacted], who called attention of the rest of the party to "two shooting stars travelling together". As far as all members of the party could determine no trail or exhaust followed the objects, and because of the extreme height were unable to distinguish any other pertinent or unusual features of the objects.

INTERROGATION OF MR. [redacted] BY S/SGT DENNIS G. WASHBURN, JR.

S/Sgt Washburn: Mr. [redacted], what made you first notice these objects?

Mr. [redacted]: One of the girls yelled out to look at the strange shooting stars.

S/Sgt Washburn: Do you believe they were shooting stars?

Mr. [redacted]: No, I don't. For one thing they didn't travel in an arc, but followed a straight course across the sky, and for another, they left no trail whatsoever behind them.

S/Sgt Washburn: How long did you sight the objects?

Mr. [redacted]: We saw them anywhere from one to three minutes.

S/Sgt Washburn: What were you doing out on the river at the time of the sighting?

Mr. [redacted]: We had been to a dance, and as it was extremely hot, we decided to go out for a ride to cool off.

S/Sgt Washburn: How fast were the objects travelling across the sky?

Mr. [redacted]: They weren't going along very fast at all - seemed to be drifting along rather than speeding, and if it hadn't been for the fact that they went in a straight line, I would have thought that they might possibly have been balloons drifting along, blown by the wind.

S/Sgt Washburn: Did the objects make any sound, Mr. [redacted]?

Mr. [redacted]: No, they were completely soundless.

S/Sgt Washburn: How was the weather at the time of the sighting, Mr. [redacted]?

Mr. [redacted]: The weather was very clear with a very slight breeze and no moon.

S/Sgt Washburn: How far above did the objects appear to be?

Mr. [redacted]: They appeared to be about the same distance from each other as the two stars in the side of the Big Dipper.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)- 568th Air Base Group, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N. J.	REPORT NO. IR-49-523	PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES
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S/Sgt Washburn: Are there any other factors concerning this question which might help us in conducting this investigation?

Mr. [redacted] No.

END OF INTERROGATION OF MR. [redacted] BY S/SGT WASHBURN

On 24 July, 1952 I travelled to Bay Head, New Jersey, where I interviewed Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted]. Both of these women gave approximately the same description as Mr. [redacted], with the exception of the length of time observed. Both of the women believed the object to have been observed for approximately two to three minutes, rather than one minute. I will not include transcription of the interrogation of Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted], as it followed exactly the same line as that of Mr. [redacted]. Next item of this report will be copies of the statements of Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted].

STATEMENT OF MRS. [redacted]

I was with my husband and the other persons he mentioned on the night, 19 July 1952, and on the morning of the 20th of July when the entire group witnessed the unidentified object described by Mr. [redacted] in his statement. I have read my husband's statement and concur with it in every respect, except that I believe that we saw the object for approximately two or three minutes rather than one. The two objects that we saw were very distinct and it is my firm belief that the objects were not stars. I base this belief on two very apparent factors;

1. The objects stayed the same distance apart all during the observation.
2. The objects travelled in a straight line throughout the sighting.

The weather was very clear on the night of the sighting with a very slight breeze and few if any clouds.

I was probably the second or third person to sight the object and continued to observe it with the exception of the few times I spoke to someone standing beside me.

I can add nothing else to this statement.

/s/ [redacted]

STATEMENT OF MRS. [redacted]:

On the night of 19 July 1952, I, my husband, [redacted], and Mrs. [redacted], and Mr. and Mrs. [redacted], witnessed two strange unidentified objects in the air while on Mr. [redacted] boat out on the Metedeconk River. We had been to a dance and went for the boatride in order to cool off. I was the first person to notice these objects appear out of the Milky Way. They seemed to be travelling along together and I think that perhaps they were travelling in some sort of a formation. The objects moved along steadily but were not going at an excessive rate of speed. I called everyone's attention to them as soon as I noticed them, and we watched them for approximately two to three minutes. They appeared to be going Southwest toward Washington, D. C. The objects were

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: 55TH AIR BASE GROUP, McGuire Air Force Base, Trenton, N J	REPORT NO. IR-49-528	PAGE 5 OF 5 PAGES
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slightly larger than the ordinary star and possibly a little brighter than the average star. The objects were completely soundless. After they had proceeded on their course for two or three minutes I looked at something else in the boat and when next I looked at the sky the objects weren't there any more. I can add nothing else to this statement.

/s/ [REDACTED]

In conclusion I make a brief summary of all the data reported to me during the course of this investigation.

At 0015 hours 19 July 1952 two unidentified objects were seen streaking across the sky in a southwesterly direction by six observers on a boat located at approximately 40 degrees, 3 minutes north, 74 degrees west. All members of the party observed two objects, and the three witnesses interviewed described the objects as follows: The objects looked very much as stars, possibly slightly larger, and were of a yellow-orange color. They were soundless and seemed to follow a very definite course across the sky. Both objects remained the same distance from each other, and it was this fact that made the observers decide that the objects were not stars. The observers followed the objects with their eyes for as long as they were in sight, and after their disappearance were unable to detect them again.

STATEMENT CONCERNING RELIABILITY OF WITNESSES BY SERGEANT WASHBURN:

From the information I now possess I would adjudge Mr. [REDACTED] to be a fairly reliable witness. He is Vice President of [REDACTED] & Son, Inc., and is a former Major in the U. S. Army Ordnance Corps. He appeared quite sincere in telling his story and gave the same description throughout the interrogation. He is approximately 40 years of age.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is a housewife, the mother of three children, and a very cool and collected person. Although she has not had any experience of this type before, I would judge her to be fairly reliable.

Mrs. [REDACTED] is a woman of about 29 years, with no experience in incidents of this nature before. She seems to be quite self-possessed, and I would also judge her to be fairly reliable. All witnesses appeared very sincere, and gave the impression of having the intent to aid the Air Force in any way possible in the investigation of this sighting. I should judge the report to be possibly true (C-3).

STATEMENT BY MAJOR JOSEPH H. KING:

I have coordinated with Sgt Washburn during all phases of this investigation and concur with his evaluation of the sources and of the report.

Joseph H. King
JOSEPH H. KING
Major, USAF

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