

UNCLASSIFIED

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On 10 and 11 September 1951, a series of both visual and radar sightings were reported from the Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, area.

1. Visual Sighting of Object and Recovery of 1-17 Aircraft

A. Disposition

At approximately 2135 GMT an unidentified object was sighted by the pilot of a 1-17 aircraft, Air Force Base, enroute to Atlantic Air Force Base, New York, from Lower Air Force Base, Delaware. The object appeared to be over New York, New Jersey, between 3000 ft. and 4000 ft. At 11 o'clock from the aircraft heading, the 1-17 was immediately over East Atlantic, New Jersey, at the time of the initial sighting. As heading the object, the pilot started a descent at 3000 ft. to the left in an attempt to intercept and identify the object. Approximately 47 sec. after the pilot first sighted the object, the engineer, an air force pilot, who had been riding a radio beacon, advised the object. The object was then a 17' (radius) ball, with a 100' tail toward the cockpit. The pilot's altitude of the 1-17 was that the object was not as it crossed the coast. During the descending from the coast of the 1-17, altitude increased from 4000 ft. and the altitude decreased from 3000 ft. to 1000 ft. (See Inclosure (a).)

As the pilot stated, the object appeared to be located over East Atlantic, New Jersey. It then leveled out and maintained a constant altitude. The object was then in view for 10 sec. before the pilot's altitude of the 1-17, altitude increased from 4000 ft. to 1000 ft. (See Inclosure (a).)

At approximately 2135 GMT, 10 September 1951, the ball was observed from the same Signal Laboratory, New Jersey, located at 40° 17' N, 74° 10' W. (See Inclosure (a).) The ball was 7 ft. - 8 ft. in diameter at time of release and ceased to ascend. They were at an altitude of 300 ft. at 40 minutes after the radar sighting. A detailed report of observations states that when viewed through binoculars they appeared to be cylindrical. At 1:17 PM these balloons were seen from an approximately 10, 00 ft. and would have been at a position nearby in time with radar sighting, New Jersey, New York, and 1000 ft. at 1000 ft. (See Inclosure (a).)

Efforts were made to use the information obtained from the intercepting 1-17 crew and the data on the balloons in order to show that the pilot's "sighting" of the 1-17 had observed a balloon. However, not all of the data given are consistent with such a proposition.

In an attempt to establish the fact that the object was a balloon, a flight test similar to the one given to the 1-17 crew was arranged. (See "Detailed Path of 1-17" in inclosure.) The 1-17 crew was informed that they had seen different flight paths and tracks of the object at each point. It is therefore agreed that due to the altitude of the 1-17, and the fact

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