PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 10 May 54 1240 (PST) 1°/240°	2. LOCATION Elsinore, California
3. SOURCE military	10. CONCLUSION UNIDENTIFIED Pos Lenticular cloud, however, cloud would probably persist and remain visible, also 22,000 ft rather high for Lenticular cloud therefore, UNIDENTIFIED.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION several seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Dark gun metal hue. Delta winged had a third fin. Object passed between two a/c on exercise of 22,000 ft. speed of object estimated in excess of 240 knots. Pilot in formation observed obj. Others in formation did not see UFO.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION air visual	
7. COURSE Head of 030°	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☐ No	

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

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21-146

28 June 1954

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Object
on 18 May 1954 over Oceanside, California
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Transmitted herewith for your information are two (2) copies of Spot Intelligence Report, dated 10 June 1954, from the 18th OSI District, Cheli Air Force Depot, Maywood, California.

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

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, JR.
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl (in dup)
Spot Intell Rpt, dtd 10 Jun 54

cc: Dir OSI w/o incl

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

5D-F-4712

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

10 June 1954

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Object on 18 May 1954 over Oceanside, California; Special Inquiry, IBD 24-522

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. SYNOPSIS: On 27 May 1954, advice was received by letter from the District Intelligence Officer, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, California, to the effect that DONALD E. HIGGIN, Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force, on duty with the Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron 542, El Toro Marine Base, California, reported sighting an unidentified flying object while flying in the vicinity of Oceanside, California, 1240 hours, 18 May 1954.

2. DETAILS: Squadron Leader HIGGIN, in a signed statement, advised that on 18 May 1954, he was on an AIA exercise as pilot of F3D2, WH20 in conjunction with F3D2, WH18, piloted by Major R. BROWNING. This exercise was carried out at 22,000 feet in the Oceanside, California area, and was for the most part uneventful.

At approximately 1240 hours, HIGGIN took up the right wing position on WH18 and a descent was commenced on a heading of 240 degrees, speed 300 knots indicated. As he closed formation on WH18, HIGGIN observed what appeared to be an aircraft in the eleven o'clock position, just visible over the cockpit of WH18. HIGGIN did not estimate the range, but immediately realized that a head-on collision between the object and the WH18 appeared imminent. Before HIGGIN could make any move to transmit, the object passed just over WH18 and between WH18 and his aircraft. For an instant, HIGGIN observed the object in plain view. He described it as dark gun metal hue with no visible markings. It appeared to measure approximately half the length of the F3D (about 32 feet), and was delta winged. A third fin was visible on the upper half. The wing span was the size of, or a little less than, the total length. The "gun metal glint" was most noticeable, according to HIGGIN. The course of the object was approximately 030 degrees,

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Dir OCI, Subj: Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Object on 18 May 1954 over Oceanside, California; Special Inquiry, 18D 24-322

and it appeared to be descending at an angle of about 24 to 30 degrees. HIGGIN could only state that its speed appeared to be "very high," at least that of the F3D, and probably much higher.

HIGGIN stated that this series of events took place with great rapidity, and by the time he was able to exclaim to his Radar Observer, Flight Lieutenant R. W. DALTON, the object had vanished to his left.

Squadron Leader HIGGIN stated that he was left with the impression that WH18 had been struck, and immediately visually checked and contacted Major BROWNING by UHF.

Neither Major BROWNING's Radar Observer, nor Squadron Leader HIGGIN's Radar Observer, Flight Lieutenant DALTON, had seen the object.

Squadron Leader HIGGIN concluded by stating that the altitude of all three aircraft at the time of this incident was approximately 16,000 feet, the time 1248, and the position as 10 to 15 miles southeast of Lake Elsinore.

In a signed statement, RONALD W. DALTON, Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force, flying as Radar Observer for Squadron Leader HIGGIN at the time of this incident, corroborated the statements of HIGGIN as to time, altitude, and location, and the fact that HIGGIN asked him, "Did you see that?" to which DALTON replied that he did not.

The statements executed by HIGGIN and DALTON, along with a sketch of the object as it appeared to HIGGIN, are attached to this report for the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Attention: ATIAA-2C, as inclosures 1, 2, and 3.

3. ACTION: None

Paul A. Light

PAUL A. LIGHT
Lt. Col., USAF
District Commander

2 copies to:
Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Attn: ATIAA-2C, w/3 Incls

DO #5, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

[redacted]

[redacted]

MARINE ALL WEATHER FIGHTER SQUADRON 542
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 15
Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
El Toro (Santa Ana), California

13 May 1954

STATEMENT OF HIGGIN, Donald R. SqdLdr. RAF

Sighting report---Unusual Object

On Tuesday 18 May 1954, I was scheduled as pilot of F3D2, WH20 for an AIA exercise in conjunction with F3D2, WH18, pilot Major R. Browning. The exercise was carried out at 22,000 feet in the Oceanside area and was uneventful. At approximately 1240 I took up the right wing position on WH18 and a descent towards base was commenced on a heading of 240 degrees, speed 300 knots indicated. As I closed formation on WH18 I observed what appeared to be an aircraft in the eleven o'clock position just visible over the cockpit of WH18. I did not estimate range, but immediately realized that it was approaching head on and that a collision between the object and WH18 was imminent. Before I could make any move to transmit, the object passed just under WH18 and between that aircraft and my own.

For an instant I observed the object in plain view. It was of dark gun metal hue and bore no visible markings. It measured approximately half the length of the F3D (about 22 feet) and was delta winged. A third fin was visible on the upper half. The wing span was the size of, or a little less than, the total length. The "gun metal glint" was most noticable.

The course of the object was approximately 030 degrees and it appeared to be descending at an angle of about 25 degrees to 30 degrees. Its speed can only be assessed as "very high" at least of the F3D and probably much higher. The series of events took place with great rapidity and by the time I had exclaimed to my RO (Flight Lieutenant R. W. Dalton) the object had vanished to my left. I was left with the impression that WH18 had been struck. I immediately visually checked and contacted Major Browning by UHF. Neither he or his RO had seen the object and Flight Lieutenant Dalton was looking out to starboard at the time.

The altitude of all three aircraft was approximately 18,000, the time 1148, and the position was fixed as 10-15 miles Southeast of Lake Elsinore.

D R Higgin

Donald R. HIGGIN
Squadron Leader

ENCLOSURE (1)

[redacted]

[redacted]

STATEMENT OF DALTON, Ronald W. Flt.Lt. RAF 18 May, 1954

I was radar observer to S/Ldr Higgin in WH-20 of VMF(n) 542. We were detailed to carry out an AIA exercise at 22,000 feet with WH-18 piloted by Major BROWNING.

At the conclusion of the exercise we commenced a let down in starboard echelon (loose formation), Major Browning Being in the lead. Our distance from WH-18 was approximately two-hundred-fifty-feet (250).

At approximately 1248 hours, on 240 degrees, magnetic heading and 15,000 feet altitude, S/Ldr. Higgin made an ejaculation to the effect, "did you see that"? I did not. I noted our position as approximately 117deg20W-33deg36N. Lake Elsinore was clearly visible on our starboard side approximately 6-7 miles. I was looking down at the lake when the incident occured. We continued to let down and landed at 1258 hours.

RONALD W. DALTON

Ronald W. Dalton
Flt. Lt.
Royal Air Force.

Dist:
Group S-2 (Orig and 1)
VMF(n)542,S-2 (1)
VMF(n)542,S-3 (1)

ENCLOSURE (2)

[redacted]

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE (2)

[redacted]