PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE : 8 June 1954	Sardis Lake.	Mississippi	12. CONCLUSIONS D Was Balloon Probably Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local Between 0900-1000 S/1500 SMT 5. PHOTOS D Y. PHYSICAL SPECING	4 TYPE OF OBSERVATIO		D Probably Astronomical D Possibly Astronomical DEVIC	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	IL NUMBER OF OBJECTS	N/A	Other RADIO TRANSMITTING	
SEE CASE FILE		Object was a Signal Corps Radio Transmitting Device.		

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 BEP 52)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION ATR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE

SUSPENSE DATE

DATE RIC'D 2660 59

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Wednesday A. M. 22 Sept 1954

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THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL, MEMPHIS.

Strange Object May Be Portion Of Data Balloon

Special to The Commercial Appeal SARDIS, Miss., Sept. 21.-Officials of the Air Force and U.S. Engineers opened an investigation here Tuesday to determine the identity of a mysterious object which plummeted from the skies into Lake Sardis three months ago.

U.S. Engineer Jack Stewart, chief of dams and reservoirs at Sardis, announced that U.S. Engineers recovered the object Monhay when receding waters in the huge reservoir left it exposed to view.

Engineers had inspected the lake once very week for evidence of the strange object which feel near J. P. Phillips, a Como. Miss., fisherman, some six months ago.

Mr. Stewart said the recovered article, which was taken to the Sardis field engineers office, was "a plastic case, measuring 4 by 10 by 8 inches with parachute harness and containing metal radio tube and wires." He said the number LU-2450-AN-AL was found inscribed on the case.

Capt. Virgil Kuns, assistant flying safety officer at Greenville Air Force Base, was called into the investigation late Tuesday explained, though, that it couldn't with the Air Force.

Air Force officials at Green-he declared. ville base said they feel the object may be the data transmitter off a weather balloon. They

afternoon on the assumption that have come from Greenville bethe object might be connected cause the base doesn't release weather balloons.

"We don't have any idea as to As to when positive identity of the identity of the apparatus," the object will be made. Mr. Mr. Stewart said. "The thing Stewart said he couldn't tell. doesn't look too complicated but "Investigation may end Wednesyou can't teil," he added. day or it may go on for days."

SARDIS MYSTERY BOX IS AIR FORCE RADIO

Greenville Base Identifies It As Lost Transmitter

From The Commercial Appeal

A mysterious object which dropped from the sky into Lake Sardis three months ago was identified by Greenville Air Force Base officials Wednesday as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device.

Dam and Reservoir officials af sardie had kept up a wekly surveilance of the lake after J. P. Phillips, a Como, Miss., fisherman, reported seeing a strange object fall near his boat three months ago.

Capt. Virgil Kuns, Assistant flying safety officer at the Green-ville base, was called to identify the object ater receding waters in Sardis Reservoir Monday uncovered a "plastic case, measuring 8 by 10 by 4 inches, and containing metal radio tubes and wires."

Captain Kuns and other Greenville Air Fore Base officials agreed the case was a paradrop signal transmitter which is dropped from troop carrier planes to mark the spot where parachuters are to bail out.

The apparatus transmits a weak radio signal which is picked up by the troop carrying aircraft. Air Force officials said the transmitter probably fell by accident from a passing plane.

EUDJLCT: Fallen Object - Lardis Lake, Mississippi

6. The apparatus was taken to the Greenville Air Force Base by Capt. Virgil Kuns.

JACK B. STEWART Chief, Dams & Reservoir Branch

Greenwood Area

Incl.

Hewspaper Article dtd 21 Sept. 154 Newspaper Article dtd 22 Sept. 154

RS. U. S. ARMY

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

ENGINEER IN CHARGE SARDIS DAM FIELD OFFICE CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROUTE 3, BOX 171 SARDIS, MISSISSIPPI

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHARGE

GREENWOOD AREA

SARDIS DAM FIELD OFFICE

SARDIS, MISS.

SARDIS DAM ARKABUTLA DAM ENID DAM GRENADA DAM

REFER TO FILE NO.

27 Sentember 1954

SUNIECT: Fallen Object - Sardis Lake, Mississippi

IERU: The Area Engineer, Greenwood Area Office, CE, Greenwood, Miss.

To: The District Engineer, Vicksburg District, Co., Vicksburg, Miss.

- 1. On 8 June 1954, between 9:30 and 10:00 A. M., Mr. Which is located on Sardia Lake about six miles northeast of Sardis Dam.
- 2. Lr. Common noticed an object approximately one mile high and descending strat ht down. The object was lescribed by Lr. Phillips as being small and round and seemed to be emitting a blue flame from a series of holes. The object hit the water about three hendred feet from his boat, creating a splash about three or four feet high. If. Phillips stated that after the splash, the object floated on the surface for almost a shade with steem rising from the water, it then disappeared in the water which was about nine feet deep.
- 3. Mr. The and reservoir personnel visited the site on the afternoon of LL came 1954. A search was made by probing when Mr. pointed out the location where he thought the object had fallen. Probing continued on 14 June by the Larias Reservoir Manager and Rangers. An inspection was made of the area once or twice each week after the object was reported fallen.
- 4. The object was found at 3:30 P. M. on 20 September 1954 by Sardis reservoir personnel. Reservoir stages had fallen sufficiently by this time to expose the apparatus. The object was a plastic case approximately 4 X LO X 8 inches, with parachute harness, and containing metal, radio tubes and wires. The apparatus was taken to Sardis Dam Field Office where Captain Virgil Kuns, assistant flying safety officer, Greenville Air Force Base, examined it. At this time, the Air Force Officer identified the object to be a weather data transmitter off a weather balloon. A newspaper account in the Commercial Appeal dated 21 September, regarding discovery of the object is inclosed.
- 5. According to a newspaper article in the Commercial Appeal dated 22 September, Greenville Air Force Base officials identified the object as a Lignal Corps ratio transmitting device. It is understood that the apparatus transmits a weak ratio of nal which is placed up by the troop corrying aircraft. Air Force officials said the transmitter probably full by accident from a passin plane. A copy of the 12 westember navarable article is inclosed.

TP PHILLIS 19 OCT 1954

Colonel Thomas B. Simpson District Engineer, Corps of Engineer, USA Vicksburg District Vicksburg, Mississippi

Dear Colonel Simpson:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 5th containing a complete report of the fallen object at Sardis Lake, Mississippi.

As you are probably aware, for the past several years the Air Force has had a major active program in this area and reports such as yours, which involve considerable time on your part, are greatly appreciated.

For your convenience I am attaching a copy of the "U. S. Air Force Summary of Events and Information Concerning the Unidentified Flying Object Program," which compiles all of the latest facts which have been established by the Air Force in its program in this area.

Thank you again for your interest in keeping the Air Force informed.

Very truly yours,

1 incl USAF Sumry on Flying Objs, undtd JOSEPH A. BLOOMER
Lt Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Intelligence

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER

VICKSBURG DISTRICT

U. S. PHIST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE BLDG. VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

REFER TO FILE NO. LMKVE

ADDRESS REPLY TO

P. O. BOX 60

DISTRICT ENGINEER

VICKSBURG DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

6 October 1954.

SUBJECT: Fallen Object - Sardis Lake, Mississippi.

To: Intelligence Officer, U. S. Air Force, Washington, D. C.

On 8 June 1954, Mr. Miss., stated that he saw a strange object fall near where he was fishing in Sardis Lake, near Sardis, Miss. Since Sardis Lake is a Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, lake and dam, it was decided to contact Mrt and make an effort to locate the object. Mr. was contacted and he gave the general location where the object supposedly fell. It was determined at that time that the object was in several feet of water and could not be located. Since the normal plan of operation of our reservoir called for the reserveir to be gradually lowered during the summer months, it was felt that the object would be exposed within a couple of months and perhaps could be recovered. Close observation was maintained and the object was recovered on 20 September 1954. Air Force personnel from the Greenville Air Base were contacted and identified the object as a Signal Corps radio transmitting device. A copy of the report pertaining to this object is attached hereto, as Inclosure 1, for your information.

2. In view of the frequent reports that are made in the papers concerning unidentified objects, it is believed that this information would be of value in your office for clearing up at least one unconfirmed report.

Inclosure:

No. 1 - Report w/2

THOMAS B. SIMPSON

Colonel, CE

newspaper clippings. District Engineer