

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 08/02/96

[redacted], Riverhead, New York 11901, [redacted] was interviewed at WINDSWEPT MARINA, 215 Atlantic Avenue, East Moriches, New York 11940, was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, he provided the following information:

On July 17, 1996, at approximately 7:30 PM - 7:45 PM, [redacted] and his friend, [redacted], East Moriches, New York, [redacted] were on a sixteen (16) foot boat, bass fishing, south east of Dredge Island, in the east cut of the waterway, just prior to the Moriches Inlet. [redacted] stated that he saw a suspicious looking red work-boat with a white name on its bow, which he could not read, approximately forty-fifty (40-50) feet in length. He advised that the work-boat had a large cabin area with a large flat roof. The work boat's front deck was cluttered with items that he could not identify, but believed that it would be the perfect place to hide things. On the starboard side of the boat were five or six (5 or 6) tires hanging off the deck. The work-boat was approximately a distance of 50 yards away from his boat and it was heading south towards the Moriches Inlet. In addition, the work-boat was making a loud and clanky diesel engine sound.

[redacted] stated that approximately 8:45 PM, after [redacted] calls out to him, he sees two red pink columns in the sky, originating from a line of sight approximately 110 degrees east southeast (true north reading) with an estimated degree to the top of column(s) at 50 degrees from horizon, which he initially believed were rising, but in retrospect, with a light wind coming from the southeast direction, combined with looking from the horizon up towards the columns, may have given him a false upward impression. [redacted] advised that the red pink columns quickly turned into what appeared to be black smoke and then quickly turned into white smoke in the sunlight and dissipated. [redacted] stated that the sun was shining on the columns as it was setting. Approximately five to ten (5 to 10) seconds later, [redacted] heard a low rolling rumble, which sounded like distant thunder, coming from the direction of what use to be the red pink columns.

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Investigation on 07/28/96 at Riverhead, New York

File # 265A-NY-259028

by SA JOHN HUI
SA PAUL HIGGINS/hrg

Date dictated 07/29/1996

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In addition, [REDACTED] advised that he wore red tinted sunglasses and that at the time of the explosion, believed that the red work-boat was involved in that explosion, and that the boat was sending up flares. To date, [REDACTED] has not seen that red work-boat since, he believes that the work boat may have been associated with the dredge operation in the Atlantic Ocean during the week of July 14, 1996.

[REDACTED] also provided a map with his location on July 17, 1996, and handwritten notes on the back of the map pertaining to the explosion and suspicious boat. He provided no further information.