

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 January 1956	2. LOCATION Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 11/2340Z (N)	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Military		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE to E.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One circular object, orange, noticed by control tower operators because it was an unfamiliar object. Control tower called an F-89D in area who made a lockon by radar for approximately two minutes with aircraft indicating an overtake speed of fifty knots. Target then began to climb, went off scope, and lockon was broken.		11. COMMENTS Object characteristic of balloon description and motion as well as duration consistent with this analysis. A/c radar lockon with climb of object also indicates balloon with radar reflector. Balloons frequently not sighted by pilots.	

11/2/50

ACTION

WPG152 YMA159 YYC116BWA040

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPNB RJEDFJ RJEPHO

DE RJEDBW 24

Z 121558Z

FM COMDR 30TH ADIV WRAFS MICH

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATT AFB OHIO

RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB

RJEDFJ/COMDR FLT 3C 4602 AISS SELFRIDGE AFB MICH

RJEPHO/DIRECTOR INTELLIGENCE HEDUSAF WASH DC

BT

1) 4E4
2) }
3) }
4-4x20
JJC

UNCLASSIFIED/DI 245. UFOB 1. SHAPE-CIRCULAR. 2. SIZE-NOT DETERMINABLE. 3. COLOR ORANGE. 4. NO. OF OBJECTS-ONE. 5. FORMATION NEG. 6. DISCRIBIBLE FEATURES-NEG. 7. TAIL, TRAIL OR EXHAUST-NEG. 8. SOUND-NEG. 9. UNUSUAL FEATURES-NEG. 10. WHY NOTICED UNFAMILIAR OBJECT TO CONTROL TOWER OPERATOR. 11. INITIAL ELEV AND AZIMUTH-15 TO 20 DEGREES APPROXIMATELY 240 DEGREES. 12. SAME AS NO. 11. 13. TRACK AND MANEUVERABILITY UNDETERMINABLE SMAE HEADING AWAY FROM CONTROL TOWER OPERATOR CLOMED AWAY FROM RADAR OBSERVER SCOPE. 14. MANNER OF DISAPPEARANCE-FASH CLIMB. 15 LCT OF TIME IN SIGHT-APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES. 16. METHOD OF OBSERVATION-VISUAL AND BY LOCKON BY RADAR

17. OPTICAL AIDS-7X50 FIELD GLASSES. 18.
AIRBORNE SIGHTING-AIRBORNE RADAR ONLY. 19. DATE TIME GROUP-11/2348Z.
20. TIME OF DAY-NIGHT. 21. LOCATION OF OBSERVER-WURTSMITH AFB CONTROL
TOWER AND OBSERVER IN F-89D. 22. OBSERVERS-S SGT COMPLAER 2030
AAC5 SQDN 4YRS SERVICE 3YRS 6MOS CONTROL TOWER. S SGT PORTER
2030 AAC5 SQDN 4YRS SERVICE 3YRS 6MON EXP GCA TEAM TOWER. A/JC
SEGER 2030 AAC5 SQDN 10MON 3MON EXP CONTROL TOWER OPERATOR. LT
CULPEPPER 445FIS PILOT 6YRS SERVICE 2YRS 2 MOS RATED. LT FREELAND 445FIS
RADAR OBSERVER 2YRS SERVICE 6MOS EXP AS RO. 23. ACCOUNT OF WEATHER-
TWO THOUSAND BROKEN TWENTY THOUSAND BROKEN VIS 15. 24. INTERCEPT OR
ACTION TAKEN-TIPTOE EASY WAS COMING TO LAND AND HE CONTACTED CONTROL
TOWER ASKED TOPTOE EASY TO INVESTIGATE OBJECT ON AN AZIMUTH OF 240
DEGREES FROM WURTSMITH TOWER. CONTROL TOWER WAS OBSERVING
BOTH TIPTOE EASY AND OBJECT. CONTROL TOWER TOLD TIPTOE EASY THAT
OBJECT WAS ON EASTERN SIDE OF HIM AND LOW. TIPTOE EASY DROPPED
DOWN TO SEVEN THOUSAND FEET AND THE RADAR OBSERVER LOCKED ON TO A
TARGET AT HIS ALTITUDE AT APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES AND AIRCRAFT
INDICATING FIFTY KNOTS OVERTAKE SPEED THEN TARGET BEGAN TO CLIMB.
TIPTOE EASY CLIMBED TO ELEVEN THOUSAND FEET AND TARGET WENT OFF SCOPE
AND LOCKON WAS BROKEN NO VISUAL OR RADAR CONTACT WAS MADE AFTER THAT.
AIRCRAFTS LANDING TIME WAS 2400 A/C NO. 465.

BT

12/1606Z JAN RJEDBW

REPORT NO. 90-1008-1-56

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AF 118363

U.S.A.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

WFOB

AREA REPORTED ON

Oshtemo, Michigan (OJQR 3827)

FROM (Agency)

Flight 3-C, 4602d AIBS

DATE OF REPORT

17 January 1956

DATE OF INFORMATION

11 January 1956

EVALUATION

PREPARED BY (Name)

PAUL J. FINAZZO, 1/Lt., USAF

SOURCE

S/SGT PAUL D. PORTER and Others

REFERENCES (Control number, director, previous report, etc., as applicable)

TT # D/DI 245, Commander, 30th AD

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 118-Part II.)

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of Sighting by S/Sgt Paul D. Porter.

PART TWO: Description of Radar-contact by 2/Lt William H. Freeland.

PART THREE: Description of Sighting by A/3C Kenneth J. Seger.

PART FOUR: Supplementary Investigative Efforts.

PART FIVE: Comments of Preparing Officer.

II. SUMMARY: Investigation concluded. Investigating Officer unable to determine cause of sighting. ✓

III. INVESTIGATOR: 1/LT PAUL J. FINAZZO AO 3019508

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

5-011Z

1/56

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IN

23 FEB 1956 07 45

Paul J. Finazzo

PAUL J. FINAZZO
1/Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVED:

John M. White Jr

JOHN M. WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

Notes

None

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 30th ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AIBS; OIC, Flt 3-C, 4602d AIBS

11:96057

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO. 30-UFOB-1-56	Part One
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS		PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Paul D. Porter, S/Sgt, USAF

Occupation: Aircraft Landing Control Technician

Organization: 2030th AACS
Wurtsmith AFB
Oscoda, Michigan

Age: 22 years

Education: High School Graduate

Qualifications: Tech School - 50 weeks
(Control Tower and GCA)

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE has worked in the GCA and Control Tower field for over three years. Was emphatic in stating that object could not have been a star, and seemed positive of all times and descriptions. SOURCE is due for discharge from service in one month.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was on standby duty in GCA on the night of 11 January 1956 when Sgt Compean called my attention to an object hovering off the approach end of runway 06 at approximately 1840 EST (120010Z). As he told me to keep an eye on it he called Papardoll (754th ACSI Sq, Fort Austin, Michigan). I picked up the binoculars and continued to watch the object. In appearance it was a reddish-orange ball similar to a jet aircraft flying directly away from me. The object wasn't perfectly round; I believe it was higher than it was wide. It was approximately the size of a nickel held at arm's length away. There was no apparent motion although it did grow dim as if it was going in a straight line away from me. Papardoll sent Tip-Toe-Easy (Wurtsmith based F-89, aircraft #465) down for a look. Tip-Toe-Easy came over on tower frequency and we told him the object was below him and to his left. He then reported a temporary radar lock-on. A few moments later he reported he had lost the target and would come in to land. He touched down at 1910 EST (120010Z). We later called the pilot in the alert hanger; he reported he had had a temporary radar lock-on 12 o'clock from his position, 11 miles out. The object suddenly climbed in a 40° degree angle to his position and the Radar Observer lost it. I would estimate the object's altitude to be between 6500 and 7000 feet. At one time I had both Tip-Toe-Easy and the object in sight, so they could not have been one and the same. I compared the object with a nearby star at the time and it seemed much duller than the star. The object looked more like a dim fire and when it began climbing I knew it was going too fast to be a star."

(CLASSIFICATION)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FORM (Agency)

REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-1-56

Part Two

Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS

PAGE 3 OF 6 PAGES

I. SOURCE: William H. Freeland, 2/Lt., USAF

Occupation: Radar Observer (F-89 Aircraft)

Organization: 445th Fighter Interceptor Squadron
 Wurtsmith Air Force Base
 Oscoda, Michigan

Age: 21 years

Education: 2 Years College

Qualifications: Radar Observer Training

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seemed quite sure of himself in his ability as a Radar Observer. He stated that before this incident occurred he always believed that UFOBs were only called in by "pranksters". SOURCE is married and plans to make the Air Force his career.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF RADAR CONTACT: "Upon returning from a scramble we were told by Paperdoll that the Wurtsmith tower had an unidentified object in sight. We contacted the tower and they told us the object was heading approximately 240° degrees. We rolled out on a heading of 230° degrees and the tower informed us that they had us in sight and the object was to our left and slightly lower. We leveled off at 7000 feet and I obtained a contact 5° degrees starboard, level and 11 miles in range. A lock-on was obtained and we had approximately a 50 knot over-take speed, time was approximately 1850 EST (122000Z). We flew for about two minutes and then the target started to gain altitude as indicated by the elevation dot on the radar scope indicator. We started a climb at 450 knots IAS but were unable to keep the target within the elevation limits of the radar. The target was climbing much faster than we were. The automatic gain control cut out at this time which led me to believe that I no longer had a lock-on. I immediately went to hand control but could not make contact. We then returned to the field and landed at approximately 1910 EST (120010Z)."

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flt 3-C, 4602d AESS	REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-1-56	Part Three PAGE 4 OF 6 PAGES
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I. SOURCE: Kenneth James Seger, A/3C, USAF

Occupations: Control Tower Operator

Organization: 2030th AACS
 Wurtsmith Air Force Base
 Oscoda, Michigan

Age: 19 Years

Education: High School Graduate

Qualifications: Tech School - 14 weeks
 (Control Tower)

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE didn't seem too certain of himself. Tried to make his statements coincide with those of Sgt. Porter.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "On the evening of 11 January 1956, at 1840 HST, the personnel in the Control Tower, S/Sgt Porter, S/Sgt Compean and myself spotted an object off the approach end of runway 06 at about 7000 feet. The object looked like an aircraft that had just departed and we were looking at it from the rear. We observed it through the binoculars and it didn't seem to move. We called Paperdoll to see if they had an aircraft under their control and they stated that Tip-Toe-Easy was returning from a B-47 intercept. A few minutes later Tip-Toe-Easy called us and asked if we still had the object in sight. We said we did. We then had the object and aircraft in sight and told Tip-Toe-Easy the position of the object from his present position. He then began approaching the object. He said he had a temporary lock-on, but had no visual contact. He stated its position as 11 miles ahead but then said he had lost the object due to its rapid climb. I saw the object gain altitude rapidly and then disappear. We later talked to the pilot and he stated no other facts. We had lost sight of the object approximately the same time Tip-Toe-Easy lost radar contact and didn't observe it after that."

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FORM (Army)

REPORT NO. 30-UFOB-1-56

Part Four

Fit 3-G, 4602d AISS

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check with the Wurtsmith Weather Station revealed no significant meteorological data which could be related to the UFOB sighting.

2. Lt Finazzo contacted the 754th ACEN Squadron at Port Austin, Michigan who investigated the possibility of other aircraft being in the Oscoda area during the UFOB sighting. No aircraft were known to be in the area.

3. Contact was later made with Dr. Everett R. Phelps, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Phelps stated that the planet Venus was in one of its brighter stages during the time of the UFOB observation. He also stated that the position of Venus during the UFOB sighting was 30° degrees above the horizon in the south-western portion of the sky.

4. The pilot of the F-89 aircraft, 1/Lt Calpepper, could not be contacted during the course of the investigation due to his participation in a cross country flight. S/Sgt. Coopers was on pass and could not be reached either.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-1-56	Part Five PAGE 6 OF 6 PAGES
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COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

1. It is the opinion of the Preparing Officer that although the planet Venus was located in the same area of sky as the UFOB on the night of the observation, there can be no correlation between the two because of the following reasons:

a. Sgt. Porter compared the UFOB to a nearby star (which could have been Venus) and stated that the UFOB was not as bright as the star.

b. Sgt. Porter also stated the color as being reddish-orange; the colors normally associated with stars are white, blue and yellow.

c. A radar-equipped F-89 aircraft cannot make radar contact with Venus or any other celestial body when flying straight and level at 7000 feet.

d. The UFOB made a steep angle climb which was observed both visually from the tower and with the F-89 radar indicator.

Paul J. Finazzo
PAUL J. FINAZZO
1/Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

1. A comprehensive analysis of weather conditions existing in the Wurtsmith AFB area at the time of the sighting revealed the presence of a strong, moving tropopause (temperature inversion), the top of which was at an altitude of 4,500 feet. The above mentioned meteorological phenomenon creates a bending of radar waves (anomalous propagation) toward the earth's surface and thus a ground target can appear to be in the air. A radar lock-on can be made on a ground target in this situation.

2. Astronomical bodies viewed from the ground through this temperature inversion would appear to be distorted and could appear to move, bounce, and/or take on various colors of the spectrum.

3. After consideration of the statements of the SOURCES, the location of the planet Venus, and the existence of a pronounced inversion, it is the opinion of this headquarters that the sighting was probably caused by an electronic and optical reflection due to meteorological conditions.

J. J. [Signature]