PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 February 1956	2. LOCATION Orly AF France	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Venus ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☒ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local GMT 18/2020Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE VISUAL Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 hrs radar 30 mins visual	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE RADAR → - - - VISUAL

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Round dot (like a star) size of star. Color changed from white to red to green and back to white. Color changed required 30 seconds for each. Definitely not confused with a/c navigation lights. At first sighting, pilot thought object to be other a/c. Disappeared by moving away and burning out.

11. COMMENTS

1) Visual object at 10° elevation 350° azimuth disappeared at 10° elevation 270° azimuth. Venus at 22'56 or about 10° elevation at initial sighting. Witness probably saw a/c on takeoff and viewed Venus for duration of sighting. " was setting at end of obsvation. 2) Radar rpt unofficial(newspaper article). All other stations in area failed to pick up target indicating that target due to radar malfunction. 3) Rpt of Air France pilot in DC-3 prob (Venus).

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

(2)

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1. Description of the object:

a. A round dot (like a star in the sky).

b. Size of an ordinary star in the sky.

c. The color changed from white to red to green and back to white. Observers could not recall the exact sequence of these color changes, but stated that the light changes slowly merged from one to another, taking about 30 seconds for each change. The observers further stated that it definately could not be confused with aircraft navigational lights.

d. One

e. N/A

f. None

g. N/A

h. None

i. None

2. Description of course of object:

a. It was sighted by the pilot at 2000 ft MSL as he climbed out of Marseille, France on a 358° Magnetic Heading.

b. The object was 10° above the horizon at 350°. The distance of the object from the aircraft was estimated at 10 to 50 miles.

c. The object was 10° above the horizon at 270°. The distance was as mentioned above.

d. When first sighted, on the climb out, the object was as described in b above and the pilot thought it was another aircraft, however, when it was sighted again at 8500 ft MSL, it was as described in c above.

e. The object started to move away from the observers as if slowly burning out. The moving away and burning out process took about three seconds. At this time the observers were just north of Montelimar, France, at 8500 ft MSL.

f. 30 minutes.

3. Manner of observation:

a. Air - Visual

b. None

c. C-119, 512602, 8500 ft MSL, 358 degrees, 195K (true), 165 (ground), Evreux-Fauville Air Base, France.

4. Time and date of sighting:

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18/2020Z

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION) (SECURITY INFORMATION when filled in)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	REPORT NO.	(Leave blank)
France Multi	IR 2-56	AF 12416

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

D412688

AREA REPORT CONCERNS
France

AGENCY OF ORIGIN	DATE OF REPORT
465th Troop Carrier Group, Medium APO 253, N.Y., N.Y.	23 Feb 1956
SOURCE OF INFORMATION	**DATE OF INFORMATION**
See paragraph 6(b) in report	18 Feb 1956
PREPARING OFFICER	**EVALUATION**
Captain Alvin R. Herzog, AO 705020	A-1

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
AFR 200-2, 12 Aug 54 USAF (ICI) June 54
AFR 200-7, 9 June 54

SUBJECT
UFOB

SUMMARY (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112a.)

The attached report covers the sighting of an unidentified object by three aircrew members.

The observers did not consider this incident worthy of a report until they read about an unidentified blip appearing on the Orly Air Traffic Control radar scope. This article appeared in the New York Hearld Tribune (European Edition) on 20 February 1956.

Approved:

Alvin R. Herzog

ALVIN R HERZOG
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

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a. 2020Z, 18 Feb 1956 until 2110Z, 18 Feb 1956.

b. Night

5. All observers in the same aircraft, enroute from Marseille, France to Montelimar, France.

6. Identifying information of all observers:

a. N/A

b. Hahn, Stanford G., 1/Lt, AO 3014450, 780th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, APO 253, N.Y., N.Y., pilot; reliability, A-1.

Moise, Robeson S., 1/Lt, AO 3014450, 780th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, APO 253, N.Y., N.Y., co-pilot; reliability, A-1.

Starkey, Allen L., A/1c, AF 15495727, 780th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, APO 253, N.Y., N.Y., engineer; reliability, A-1.

7. Weather and winds aloft at time and place of sighting:

a. VFR

b. 340° at 30 knots at 8500 ft MSL.

c. None

d. Unlimited

e. Scattered (1/10 coverage)

f. None

8. None

9. None

10. Unknown

11. Intelligence Officer, 465th Troop Carrier Group, Medium, APO 253, N.Y., N.Y. No analysis was feasible in this instance.

12. None.

Prepared by:

ALVIN R HERZOG
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

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1956

CLAIMS WEATHER BALLOON CAN EXCEED 1,500 MILES PER HOUR!:
The following is quoted from the New York Times of Feb. 20th: "Paris, Feb. 19- Aviation circles were speculating today on the identity of a strange object, alternately hovering and flying at speeds in excess of 1,500 miles per hour, picked up Friday night by radar operators at Orly International Airport. The object made a "blip" on the radar screen approximately twice as large as that of the average airliner, according to technicians. It appeared to be at an altitude of about 5,000 feet and was seen to follow aircraft taking off or coming in for a landing at Orly. A radio beacon station southwest of Paris also reported the object, but neither the radar at Le Bourget Airport nor the Paris Observatory reported contact. A spokesman at the Observatory suggested that it might have been a United States weather balloon launched in Germany and blown west by the 'jet stream' air currents." (Italics mine - Editor.)

On February 18, the Soviets warned the U.S. that they can now deliver bombs all over the world# by either plane or rocket.

On this same date, Paris reported a mystery object in the skies. Described as twice as large as an ordinary commercial air liner, it was tracked on radar screens by Orly ######## Airport officials. "Traveling at an estimated 1,500 miles an hour, the object appeared over the Paris region ###### late last evening and seemed to hover for a few minutes before disappearing at high speed."

[redacted] ########## reporter writing from Paris ########## on February 20 said that some radars had caught the blip, others hadn't. He also wrote that an incoming pilot, alerted to the UFO, saw only a winking red fire. The pilot said that he had never seen anything like it.

Multi

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PARIS, FEB. 21--(UP)--THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SOUGHT TODAY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE "PHANTOM OF ORLY," A GIGANTIC FLYING-SAUCER-LIKE OBJECT WHICH WHIRLED ACROSS THE AIRPORT'S RADAR SCREEN AT SUPERSONIC SPEED LAST FRIDAY.

IT WAS THE THIRD TIME IN LESS THAN A YEAR THAT THE "PHANTOM" HAS BEEN CHARTED ON RADARSCOPES AT THE BUSY INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD OUTSIDE OF PARIS. THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS ABOUT TWICE THE SIZE OF THE LARGEST KNOWN PLANE, MOVED AT TIMES AT AN ESTIMATED 2,000 MILES AN HOUR, AND HOVERED AROUND THE AIRPORT FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS.

THE MYSTERY WAS FURTHER COMPOUNDED WHEN A DETAILED CHECK DISCLOSED THAT THE RADAR EQUIPMENT WAS IN EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITION.

A VETERAN AIR FRANCE PILOT REPORTED SPOTTING FLASHING RED LIGHTS IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE RADAR PLACED THE "PHANTOM" AFTER TAKING OFF FOR LONDON.

THE REPORTS HAVE SPURRED AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

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6

SUN... MIRROR - MARCH ... 56

...Object

...unidentified flying object described as twice as large as a normal commercial airliner, has been tracked on radar screens here, Orly Airport officials reported recently.

Traveling at an estimated 1,500 miles an hour, the object appeared over the Paris region in the late evening and seemed to hover a few moments before disappearing at high speed.

The object was also sighted by an Air France pilot flying to London, who reported seeing an intermittent red flame in the sky above...

Mystery Object Seen in Paris Sky

PARIS, ...

...described as twice as large ... an ordinary commercial ...

...

...objects appeared over the Paris region late last ev... and seemed to hover a few moments before disappearing at high speed.

N.Y. H.T.
Feb 19, 1956

21 FEB 1956

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, TUESDAY, FEBR

Or a Flying Saucer?

Mystery of Paris Sky: Flying Cognac Bottle?

By Frank Kelley

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
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PARIS, Feb. 20. — Several dozen experts are at work trying to find out what was going on above, near or at Orly Airport on the outskirts of Paris late Friday night when radar technicians said they sighted and watched for four hours on their screen a mysterious object twice the size of a four-engine airliner. They said the object hovered at 4,500 feet and at times put on jet-like bursts of speed up to 1,500 miles an hour.

Some say it may have been another one, or several, of those American meteorological balloons that the Russians are now objecting to, caught in an air pocket and occasionally whizzing about, in the West-to-East air stream at high altitudes.

Kelly

Others believe that the Orly radar apparatus, which had an eight-week vacation during the technicians' strike last fall, may have gone awry through crossed wires, blurred waves, or just plain gremlins. The apparatus has been examined, however, and pronounced fit for normal civilian use.

Some were tempted to put it all down to a flying bottle of cognac. The military radar spotters near Orly saw nothing on their screens. The civilian radar spotters at Le Bourget Field, north of Paris, saw nothing on their screens. The French National Assembly was not in session at the time (11 p. m. Friday to 3 a. m. Saturday), so it could not have been a flying desk lid tossed in a riotous Assembly debate.

But the pilot of an Air France DC-3 freight plane, who had just taken off on a nightly round-trip to London from Orly and has to [illegible] that, alerted by the Orly control tower, he had seen a winking red light in the Parisian sky.

The pilot, Michel Desavoye, thirty-six, has flown all over the world for Air France in the last five years. He said he left Orly at 11:55 p. m. for London last Friday.

"A few minutes after takeoff," he said, "the Orly control tower signaled me that an unidentified object appeared by radar to be heading for Orly on my route. My radio operator and I then saw a little to the right and about the same height a winking red fire. We were about 4,500 feet above Orgival (west of Paris). [illegible] avoid the obstacle, [illegible] course. [illegible] abruptly. I regained my original route and the Orly radar announced that the 'machine' was then above me. But this time I saw nothing.

"I cannot explain this phenomenon, but I've never seen anything like it. All I can tell you is that it was not an airplane, because we would have seen its position-lights. It could not have been a light from land, as there was a fog-bank beneath us. The night was very black, and I could not see where this light came from. In any case, it seemed to be twice as large as the normal position lights of a plane."

During the week end the Orly apparatus was inspected thoroughly and nothing amiss was found, it was stated today. The twenty-one-foot parabolic reflector, atop a forty-five-foot tower, was functioning normally at its speed of six revolutions a minute.