

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 13 May 52		2. LOCATION Greenville, S. Carolina		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other <u>POSS GEESE</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2233 GMT 14/0233 <u>2</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE 3 amateur astronomers			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 4		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Glowing brownish orange color. Oval shape. Straight and level. No definite conclusions. Similar sightings have been geese or ducks.				11. COMMENTS Objects were in tight diamond formation. Seemed to oscillate slightly. One source seemed to indicate he thought they were geese. Size of half-dollar at arm's length.	

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
6TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, ROBINS FIELD, GEORGIA

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

28 MAY 1952

FILE NO: 24-0

SUBJECT: UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT SIGHTED IN GREENVILLE,
SOUTH CAROLINA AREA - 13 MAY 1952
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Director of Special Investigation,
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

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

I. SYNOPSIS: 1st Lt ARTHUR S. PALMER, 375th Troop Carrier Wing Intelligence Officer, Donaldson AFB, South Carolina, received information from the Officer of the Day, 13 May 1952, that unidentified objects had been sighted by members of a group of amateur astronomers at approximately 2233 hours, EST, 13 May 1952.

II. DETAILS: (1) Mr. [REDACTED], Greenville, South Carolina, was interviewed by Lt. PALMER and made the following written statement:

"On the night of May 13, 1952, at approximately 2233 EST, a group of amateur astronomers of whom I was one gathered on the Campus of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, for an evening of observing. As we were preparing to leave, I noticed four (4) objects, modified cylinder or obloid in shape, flying at an unknown altitude on a heading of about 300 degrees. These objects were brownish orange in color and rather dull glowing in appearance.

"These objects were in a diamond formation, almost directly overhead, going on a straight course, oscillating slightly, first one side would tip up then the other. They were in sight for about five (5) seconds."

(2) Mr. [REDACTED], Greenville, South Carolina, was interviewed by Lt. PALMER and made the following written statement:

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File 24-0, subj: "Unconventional Aircraft Sighted in Greenville, S. C.
Area - 13 May 1952

"On the night of May 13, 1952, at approximately 2233 EST., a group of amateur astronomers of which I was one, were preparing to return home after an evening of observing from the Furman Campus located in Greenville, South Carolina. At this time, [REDACTED], one of the group, called our attention to what I would say were four objects, each the shape of the goose without neck or tail. They were a luminous brown or orange color, possibly translucent and flying in a diamond formation. Distance between each object was about five (5) times the width of each object.

"They were flying about ten (10) to fifteen (15) degrees from directly overhead, on a level course heading about 330 degrees. Altitude I would say was below 1000 feet if they were about the size of geese. They were visible for about ten (10) seconds."

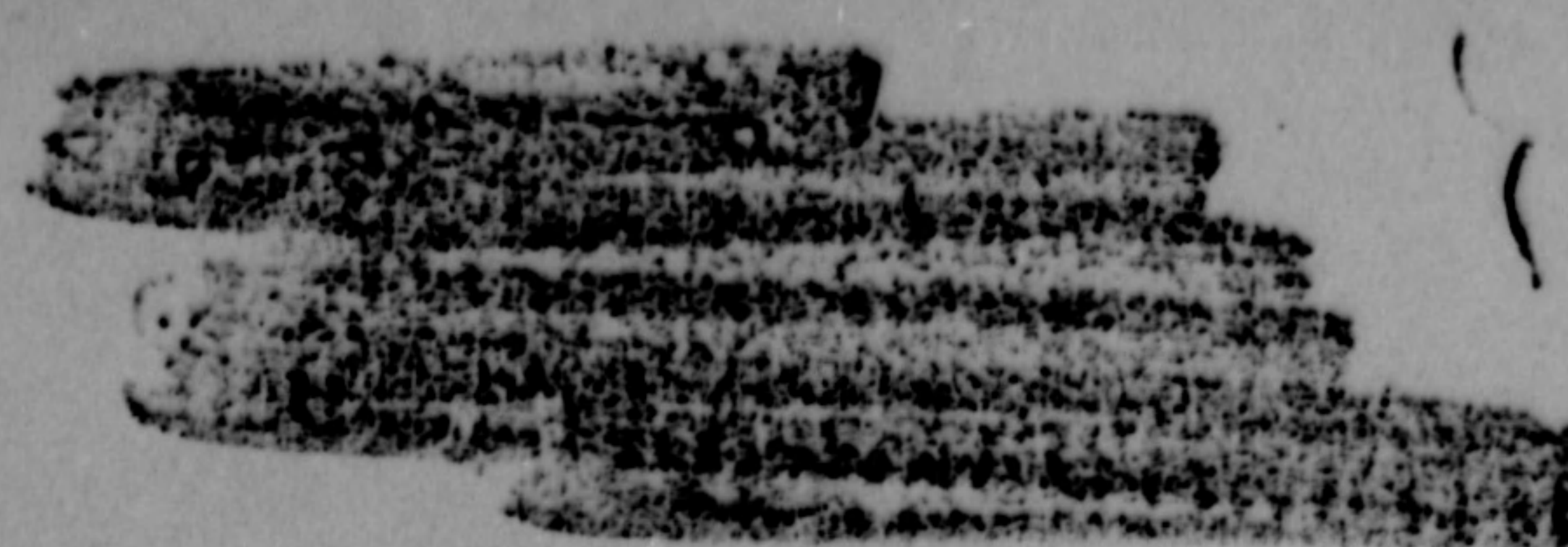
"Their flight was oscillating in nature, first five (5) degrees up on one side and at the same time down on the other."

(3) Mr. [REDACTED], Greenville, South Carolina, was interviewed by Lt. PALMER and made the following written statement:

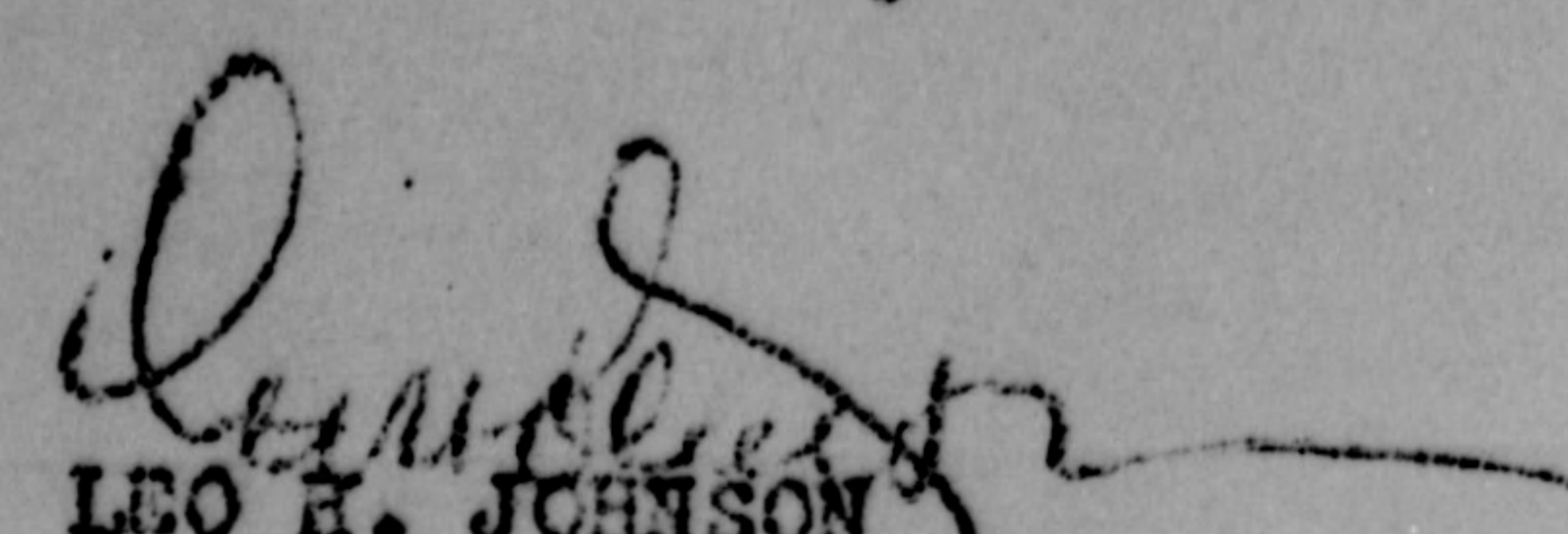
"On the night of May 13, 1952, at approximately 2233 EST, a group of amateur astronomers, of which I was one, gathered on the campus of Furman University located in Greenville, South Carolina. We were getting ready to call it an evening when James Richardson, one of the group, called our attention to four (4) obloid, self-illuminated, brownish yellow objects traveling in a diamond formation. These objects were in sight for about three (3) seconds traveling on a level course slightly arced to the left on a heading of about 300 degrees.

"I was unable to estimate the altitude or speed of these objects. They traveled directly overhead, making no sound, and rather wobbling in flight. Motion was similar to heavy winged birds in flight. It was a clear, quiet night, excellent for astronomy. There was a slight ground haze over the city, however, this did not extend to the Furman campus where it was perfectly clear.

"By way of further description, I would say the objects were similar to the 'Lubbock Lights' as reported in Life magazine. Approximate size would be that of a half dollar held at arms length and slightly turned."


File 24-0, subj: "Unconventional Aircraft Sighted in Greenville, S. C.
Area - 13 May 1952

III. ACTION: No action is contemplated at present by 6th District OSI (IG) in reference to this matter. Lt. PALMER has advised that Air Intelligence Information Report, Form 112, Part I, concerning this incident was forwarded Headquarters USAF on 16 May 1952.


LEO H. JOHNSON
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

✓ cc: CG, AHC
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
ATTN: NCIS

(CLASSIFICATION)

af 450977

COUNTRY United States	REPORT NO. 1	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Sighting of Unidentified Flying Objects		
AREA REPORTED ON Greenville, South Carolina	FROM (Agency) 375th T. C. Wing Intelligence	
DATE OF REPORT 16 May 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 14 May 1952	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) Arthur S. Palmer	SOURCE Local Citizens	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		

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 112—Part II.)

Inclosed are four (4) statements from local citizens concerning an unusual sighting made in Greenville, South Carolina, on 13 May 1952 at 22:33 EST.

The sightings were not made by military personnel, but by a group of Greenville people. Two of these, Mr. [REDACTED], a local attorney, and Mr. [REDACTED] are responsible adult citizens, and [REDACTED], a level-headed Senior High School student. These reports give a concise summary of the incident.

Mr. [REDACTED] has also furnished a more complete statement in addition to the original certified to by the Wing Intelligence Officer.

As far as is known, this constitutes the first local sighting of this nature by any creditable sources.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Arthur S. Palmer
ARTHUR S. PALMER
1st Lt, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

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DOD DIR 5200.10

1/R
2nd [unclear] 11/3/54
1 [unclear] 2
(4- [unclear])

ATIC
62620

4 INCLS.

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USAF

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

SECURITY INFORMATION
(CLASSIFICATION)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

UNCLASSIFIED

I, Mr. [REDACTED], make the following statement concerning an unusual sighting which is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

On the night of May 13, 1952, at approximately 2235 EST, a group of amateur astronomers, of which I was one, gathered on the campus of Furman University located in Greenville, South Carolina. We were getting ready to call it an evening when [REDACTED] one of the group, called our attention to four (4) oblong, self illuminated brownish yellow objects traveling in a diamond formation. These objects were in sight for about three (3) seconds traveling on a level course slightly arced to the left on a heading of about 300 degrees.

I was unable to estimate the altitude or speed of these objects. They traveled directly overhead, making no sound, and rather wobbling in flight. Motion was similar to heavy winged birds in flight. It was a clear, quiet night, excellent for astronomy. There was a slight ground haze over the city, however, this did not extend to the Furman campus where it was perfectly clear.

By way of further description, I would say the objects were similar to the "Lubbock Lights" as reported in Life magazine. Approximate size would be that of a half dollar held at arm's length and slightly turned.

WITNESS:

Arthur S. Palmer

ARTHUR S. PALMER
1st Lt, USAF

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Greenville, S. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY 304 YEAR INTERVIEW
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DATE 03/01/2019

AF450972

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~
~~DATE 11-11-2011 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP~~ R7C

On the night of May 13, 1952, at approximately 2233 EST, a group of amateur astronomers of which I was one were preparing to return home after an evening of observing from the Furman Campus located in Greenville, South Carolina. At this time

They were flying about ten (10) to fifteen (15) degrees from directly overhead, on a level course heading about 330 degrees. Altitude I would say was below 1000 feet. They were visible for about ten (10) seconds.

WITNESS:

ARTHUR S. PALMER
1st Lt, USAF

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Greenville, S. C.

AF450977

R7C

REC

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

UNCLASSIFIED

I, [REDACTED], make the following statement concerning an unusual sighting which is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

On the night of May 13, 1962, at approximately 2235 EST, a group of amateur astronomers of whom I was one gathered on the Campus of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, for an evening of observing. As we were preparing to leave, I noticed four (4) objects, modified cylinder or obloid in shape, flying at an unknown altitude on a heading of about 300 degrees. These objects were brownish-orange in color and rather dull glowing in appearance.

These objects were in a diamond formation, almost directly overhead, going on a straight course, oscillating slightly. First one side would tip up then the other. They were in sight for about five (5) seconds.

WITNESSES:

Arthur S. Palmer

ARTHUR S. PALMER
1st Lt, USAF

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Greenville, S. C.

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AR450927

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Palmer

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On May 13, 1952 I was one of a group of five individuals attending a meeting of an Astronomy Club at Fordham University. We were on the Campus between Main and the Science Building with all the ground lights extinguished observing certain constellations, including that of Mingo, Vega, Bores and Rigelus. We had completed our study of splitting nebulae, double stars and were amusing ourselves by scanning the telescope through the coma boomerangs and observing the rings of Saturn. We found the atmosphere to be unusually clear of atmospheric haze and clouds and commented on the clearness of Saturn and the rings. It was the first time in several weeks that we had been able to separate the rings from the planet.

At approximately 10:30 P. M. one of the group, [REDACTED] called our attention to something that was passing through the zenith.

This turned out to be four colored objects, [REDACTED] illuminated of the color of [REDACTED] most closely resembling [REDACTED] heat. These objects were [REDACTED] formation, one in advance, [REDACTED] rather closely grouped. The formation [REDACTED] anything seen, such as military [REDACTED] deal of deviation. The objects appeared to [REDACTED] oblate, appeared to be [REDACTED] approximately that of a half dollar, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] length from one's eye. It was not possible to estimate height or speed. From the time they were first observed, at overhead [REDACTED] some [REDACTED] approximately 30 [REDACTED] 150 to 200 feet away from our point of observation. [REDACTED] roughly three seconds. They disappeared in [REDACTED] direction a degree or two [REDACTED] Rigelus. There was no [REDACTED] other than the glow of the objects themselves. [REDACTED] were such that it appeared physically impossible that the objects to have been illuminated from [REDACTED] sources.

While there was a [REDACTED] from the City of [REDACTED] University Campus [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] of light. [REDACTED] over [REDACTED] in other words, [REDACTED] clear portion of the sky.

In addition to [REDACTED] objects were [REDACTED]

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CHIEF OF POLICE

1. The first of these is the fact that the
2. Commission has not yet received any information
3. from the Government of the United States
4. regarding the results of its investigation
5. into the activities of the American
6. Communist Party in the United States.
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11. into the activities of the American
12. Communist Party in the United States.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Status Letter 8

UNCLASSIFIED

13 May 1952

• Greenville, South Carolina

Description of Incident

On the night of 13 May 1952 at 2233 EST, four amateur astronomers observed a diamond formation of four oval-shaped objects. The objects were observed visually from the ground. The objects were sighted nearly overhead and disappeared at an angle of about 12° in three seconds. They were described as being reddish-yellow or reddish-brown in color. They were relative in size to a half dollar, quarter turned, at arm's length. The objects appeared to wobble in their flight and being oval-shaped appeared to be flying sideways.

The night was extremely clear. The sources stated that there was haze and ground illumination near the city, but that they were on the Furman University campus and that there were no ground lights near nor haze.

Two → One observer was inclined to believe these were geese.

Comments

The description of this incident is very similiar to others from drive-in theaters and one from Fargo, North Dakota, on 25 April 1952, that were ducks. In this case, however, there were no ground lights in the area to reflect from a bird. This is borne out by the fact that these people had set up their telescopes in a dark area, which is essential for good astronomical observing.

It is not known how much light a bird will reflect, but it seems logical that a relatively bright ground source of light would be needed.

As was stated, one source was sure they were geese but the other three were just as sure they were not.

The possibility of aircraft is nil since they passed directly overhead with no sound.

Conclusion

Unknown

Why?

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MAY 13, 1952 GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA (KEYHOE-1953 P 148) 4 WITNESSES00
FOUR ASTROMERS REPORTED SEEING FOUR SAUCER-SHAPED OBJECTS FLYING IN A 01
DIAMOND-SHAPED FORMATION. GLOWING A DEEPC H YELLO W. THE OBJECTS PASSED 02
SILENTLY OVERHEAD, WOBBLING SE/ERAL TIMES BEFORE THEY WENT OUT OF SIGHT. ALL 03
FOUR OBJECTS, THE ASTROMERS AGPEED, HAD AN OVAL SHAPE, LIKE THAT OF A DISC 04
FLYING ON ITS SIDE. 05