

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 27 Jan 53 28/0300Z		LOCATION Davenport, Iowa	
3. SOURCE Civilian		10. CONCLUSION Astro (VENUS) Venus	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One			
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 44 Min.		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Lighted Piball scheduled release from Moline, Illinois, at 0300Z. A traffic patrolman observed a red and white ball of light W of Davenport. Est size 100' diam, velocity 100 mph - infinite before disappearing. Single source. Attempted to close on object without success.	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION XXXX Ground-Visual			
7. COURSE 270°			
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No			
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No			

More than one

31ST AIR DIVISION
FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA

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WD 319.1

SUBJECT: FLYOBRPT

TO: Commanding General
Central Air Defense Force
Post Office Box 528
Kansas City, Missouri

97/2100 CST
DAVENPORT, Iowa

Forwarded herewith is FLYOBRPT in accordance with AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
FLYOBRPT (trip)

s/t ROBERT L. BOWMAN
Captain USAF
Asst Adjutant
41595

INT 319.1 (10 Feb 53) 1st Ind 16 FEB 1953

HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL AIR DEFENSE FORCE, P. O. Box 528, Kansas City, Mo.

THRU: Commanding General, Air Defense Command, Ent Air Force Base,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

TO: Director of Intelligence, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

Forwarded in accordance with AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
n/c

QUENTIN RAND
Capt, USAF
Asst Adjutant General

INFO: Chief, ATIC
Attn: ATIAA-2c
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

HQ CVDE

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

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DI-129

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COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYORRPT		
AREA REPORTED ON State of Iowa	FROM (Agency) Detachment #8, 4672d Ground Observer Squadron, Des Moines, Iowa	
DATE OF REPORT 2 February 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 27 January 1953	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) FRANCIS C. HALL, 1st Lt, USAF	SOURCE State Patrolman #178 Robert Lutter	
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.)		
1. On 27 January 1953 at about 2100 CST, Iowa State Highway Patrol Headquarters called this Filter Center to say that Patrolman #178, Robert Lutter, had seen an object, both red and white, hovering in the sky west of Davenport, Iowa. This was immediately called to the ADCC but no interception was made. 2. Upon questioning, Patrolman Lutter described the object as a red and white ball of light which hovered west of Davenport and later proceeded west out of sight over the horizon. The ball changed color from white to orange to red and back to white. It seemed to glow a brighter red as it increased in speed. As it neared the horizon, it hovered and bobbed about in one area and then disappeared in the distance. 3. It was estimated to be several hundred feet in size, to travel near 100 MPH for some time, and finally reach inestimable speeds before disappearing.		
INCL.		
APPROVING OFFICER: <i>John Beder</i> JOHN BEDER Captain, USAF Commanding		
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The date of the sighting was 27 January 1953. The object sighted appeared to be a round and spherical ball of light, one in number. It was estimated to be fifteen (15) miles west of first sighting, and appeared to be easily several hundred feet in size. In comparison it appeared to be about six to eight inches in size at arms length. The object made no sound and left no exhaust or trail. It never, at any time changed shape.

2. It was first sighted by Patrolman #178, Robert Lutter, 3103 Arlington Ave, Davenport, Iowa, and Patrolman #201, George Nicholson, 2042 W. 4th, Davenport, Iowa, while riding in the northwest part of Davenport, Iowa, approximately 90° 37' W. Long., 41° 32' N. Lat. at 2022 C.S.T. The preparing Officer questioned Patrolman Lutter by telephone after the sighting. He stated that he stopped the car and got out to be able to see the object better. Since it was west of him he proceeded west of Davenport about three miles in order to be away from town lights and to insure that this was not an illusion caused by a reflection of some kind. This was at approximately 90° 40' W. Long, 41° 33' N. Lat, at 2030 C.S.T. Both Patrolmen got out of the car at a dark spot and turned off all lights. At this time it changed color from white to amber then to red to amber and then white again a number of times.

3. The Patrolmen then proceeded west along Highway US 6, in an attempt to get nearer for a better sighting. It appeared to stay stationary while they traveled four (4) or five (5) miles west but then started to move away from them still towards the west. It was estimated to have been traveling faster than the car about 90 to 100 MPH, since the Patrolmen were going 60 to 65 MPH.

4. Three quarters of a mile west of Wilton Junction, Iowa, at 91° 2' W. Long., 41° 36' N. Lat., the patrolmen stopped at a dark spot and got out of their car to further observe the object. They stopped at this time because the object seemed to be gaining speed and increasing the distance between them and it. Expecting it to go out of sight in a short time, they wanted to be standing still and in darkness to observe it.

5. After they had stopped and gotten out of the car, the object appeared to pick up tremendous speed. The patrolmen said it went faster than anything he had ever seen before. As its speed increased, its color changed to a very bright red. It seemed that the faster it moved, the brighter red it appeared.

6. As it neared the horizon, it appeared to stop and hover over a particular spot, and also appeared to bob up and down like a ball at times. It seemed to be circling a particular spot in these bobbing motions. It changed colors, white - red - amber - red - amber - white in that sequence during this movement. It then disappeared in the distance, still west of the patrolmen at 2114 C.S.T.

7. No optical or electronic sighting equipment was used.

8. The weather was clear with good visibility with about a 15 MPH NW wind.

9. There was no physical evidence such as fragments, photographs or the like of this object.

10. The first report was relayed to the Filter Center's ADDC but no interception was made. The first call was received at this unit at approximately 2100 CST.

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12. Comments of preparing officer. The preparing officer personally questioned Patrolman Lutter at about 2200 C.S.T. He has had military service during WW II and had training in Aircraft identification. Since he is a State Patrolman and took several precautions to be sure this sighting was not an illusion, it is believed that he is a reliable source. The information in his report did not seem to indicate any known type of present day aircraft nor any type of astronomical body.

Preparing Officer

Francis C. Hall
FRANCIS C. HALL
1st Lt, USAF
Security Control Officer

Comments of approving officer.

The information submitted by Patrolman Lutter leads to the furtherance of the belief that "Flying Saucers" are no longer to be regarded as whims of the imagination, but rather a reality.

Approving Officer

JB
JOHN BEDER
Captain, USAF
Detachment Commander

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