

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 11 Feb 53 2045Z	2. LOCATION Tunis, Libya
3. SOURCE C-119 a/c crew	10. CONCLUSION Possibly Astro (VENUS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 - 55 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Very bright light with halo of diffused light encircling it appeared off right wing of a/c and was visually observed to rise and descend. Length of observation by individual persons varies from 5-55 min. Object was observed from C-119 a/c traveling at an approx speed of 170 knots at an alt of 7500'.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: 1. 4 out of the 6 observers maintain that the object was not a star, the other two will not commit themselves. All are experienced airmen. 2. Object remained stationary off right wing and was seen for 55 minutes. The planet Venus offers a possible explanation in that it is in the approx position of the object.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

Multiple

UNCLASSIFIED

1953 FEB 17

13:17

ACTION

*Extra
3. att
4. C. files*

C1 PRIORITY [REDACTED]
FROM 1623RD ATW WHEELUS FLD TRIPOLI LIBYA
TO CS USAR WASH DC TO DIR OF INTELLIGENCE
TO AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER WPAFB OHIO ATTN AIIAA-LWO CORA
CO ENT AFB COLO
CINCUSAFE WIESBADEN GER

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING *H.S.*

WFCLNIN RPT WFQLNIN 282.
FLYOB RPT PT. UNIDENTIFIED FLY OBJ SIGHTED AT 2045 HRS, 11 FEB 53
BY C-119 CREW ENROUTE FR TUNIS TO TRIPOLI, LIBYA. OBJ DESCRIBED
BY 6 PERS ABOARD AS VERY BRIGHT LIGHT WITH HALO OF DIFFUSED LIGHT
ENCIRCLING OBJ. NO SHAPE OTHER THAN THIS DESCRIBED. NO AERODYNAMIC
FEATURES, TRAIL OR EXHAUST, PROPULSION SYS OR SOUND OBSRD. NEW PARA
C-119 WAS ON HEADING OF 154 DEGREES, ALT 7500 FT, INDICATING A TRUE
AIR SPEED OF 170 KNOTS. PLANE WAS PSND AT APRX 39 DEGREES-40
MINUTES NORTH, 11 DEGREES WEST 30 MINUTES EAST WHEN OBJ WAS FIRST
OBSRD. OBJ APPEARED OFF RIGHT WG AND WAS VISUALLY OBSRD TO RISE
AND DECEND, ADV SWSFWLLKACK, APPROACH AND RETREAT, BY VARIOUS MEMBERS
OF CREW. OTHER MEMBERS SIGHTED OBJ REMAINED STATIONARY. OBJ
APPARENTLY TRAILED PLANE FOR APRX 55 MINUTES. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
BY INDIV PERSONS VARIES FR 5 MINUTES TO 55 MINUTES. NEW PARA.
PLT AND CO-PLT HAVE 15 YEARS AND 13 YRS FLY EXPERIENCE
RESPECTIVELY OF CREW MEMBERS AND PSGRS FLY EXPERIENCE VARIES FR
1 TO 6 YRS. 4 PERSONS ABOARD STATE OBJ WAS DEFINITELY NOT A STAR
OR ANY OTHER OBJ EVER SEEN BY THEM WHILE FLY. OTHER 2 PERSONS WILL
NOT MAKE DEFINITE STATEMENT. NEW PARA. WINDS ALOFT AT TIME OF SIGHTING
WERE FR 270 DEGREES AT 35 MPH. VISIBILITY AT TIME WAS GOOD WITH LIGHT
SCUD CLOUDS IN VICINITY. NO PHY EVIDENCE AND NO INTCP OR IDENTIFYING
ACTION TAKEN. NO TRAF IN IMMED AREA AT TIME OF SIGHTING. WRITTEN
REPORT FOLS

RELEASED SUBJ CORR UPON REQUEST

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10
9

[REDACTED]

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TSB-2049-1

183	154
132	135
<u>51</u>	<u>19</u>

360°

~~180°~~

Winds aloft

X ALC

90°

18

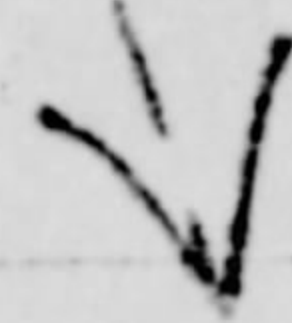
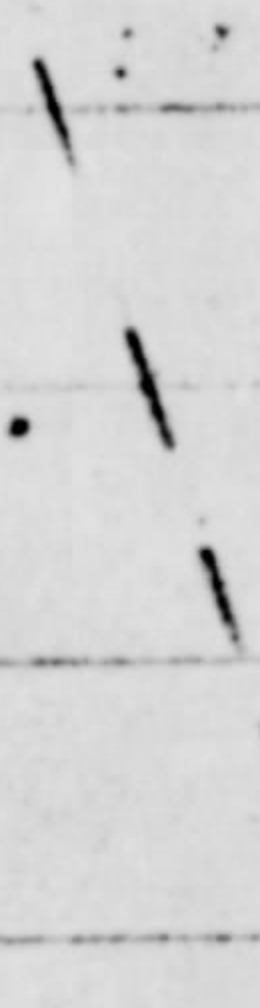
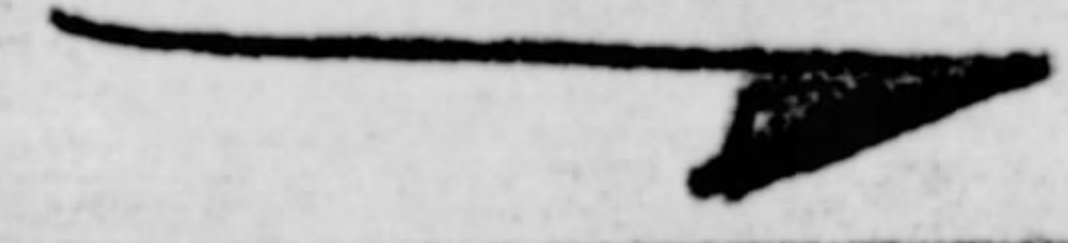
object

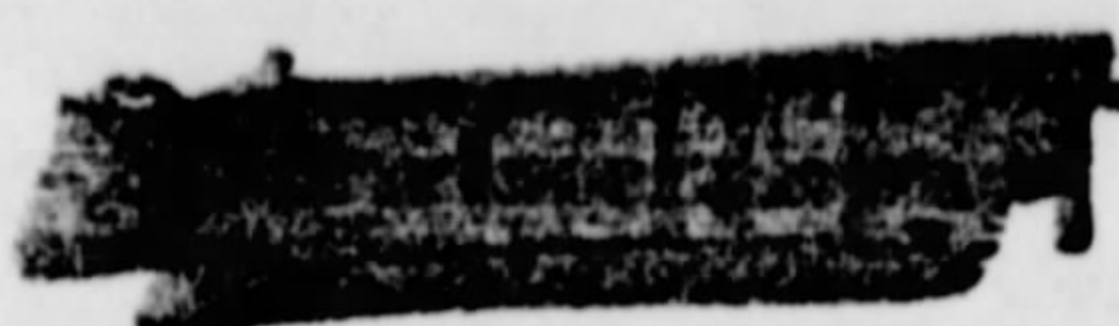


Venus

135°

150°




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Tunis, Libya

11 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

An unidentified object was observed by the crew of a C-119 aircraft while enroute to Tripoli from Tunis. The object appeared very bright with a halo of diffused light surrounding it and was observed off the right wing of the aircraft flying at 7,000' on a 170° heading making I.A.S. of 170 knots. Length of observation varied from 5 to 55 minutes by assorted members of the crew some of whom stated that it appeared to ascend and then descend slowly.

II. Discussion of Incident

Four out of six of the crew stated that, in their opinion, the object was not a star, whereas the remaining observers would not commit themselves on a conclusion. Since the sighting seemed to be astronomical in nature, Project Blue Book submitted it to its contract astronomer, standard operating procedure in such cases. It was determined that Venus was probably responsible for the observation in that it appears at an approximate 200° azimuth in Libya on this date, and under fair weather conditions would appear very bright. The fact that it remained almost stationary and was observed for a long period of time would support this conclusion.

III. Conclusion

Probably Venus.

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T53-3695

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16. On 11 February 1953 in the area of Tunis and Libya an aircrew witnessed an object for 55 minutes during a flight into Tunis. The object of this sighting was determined to be the planet Venus.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Approved H.C. 16 May 62

EDWARD H. WEIN
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

1 Atch
Ltr fm B. Sedawan.