

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 1 March 53 01/1945Z	2. LOCATION Princeton, New Jersey
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astronomical (VENUS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Determined to be caused by Venus by the intelligence Officer concerned.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Circular, silver, stationary object was observed in the West. Object was still in sight 3 hours after initial observation.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Stationary	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

COORDINATION

INSERT
ORGNL CODE AND
FULL SIGNATURER. Class -
14 ATIAE-5In reply refer to
APOIN-ATIAE-5

SUBJECT: (UNCLASSIFIED) Letter of Commendation

RMO/jos/65365

24 MAR 1953

23 Mar 53

H. Johnson
14.6 ATIAE
23 Mar 53Joseph A. Callahan
14.6 ATIAE
24 Mar 53Commanding Officer
Detachment #3
4670th Ground Observer Sq
Tranton, New Jersey

1. The Air Technical Intelligence Center recently received your report of an unidentified aerial object seen by GOC personnel at 1045H, 1 March 1953. It wishes to commend the prompt action taken by 1/Lt Richard F. Watson and A/2C Raymond J. Swallow, Jr., in going to the scene of the sighting and identifying the unknown object as the planet Venus, thereby saving the ATIC considerable cost and effort in determining the object's identity.

2. It is hoped that more personnel responsible for reporting unidentified objects Air Force-wide will show equal initiative and enthusiasm in determining the nature of many so-called "flying saucer" reports.

3. The Air Technical Intelligence Center has received about twenty reports from the East Coast in the past month which have been analyzed as being the planet Venus. Therefore, your report and conclusion fall into this recent trend.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

ROBERT C. BROWN
Major, USAF
Air Adj. Gen.

DESIGNATE AUTHD OFFICE OF RECORD

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

COUNTRY United States		REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Report of Unidentified Aerial Object			
AREA REPORTED ON Princeton, New Jersey		FROM (Agency) Det #3, 4670th Grd Obsr Sq, Trenton, N.J.	
DATE OF REPORT 3 March 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 1 March 1953	EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) RICHARD F. WATSON, 1st Lt, USAF		SOURCE	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952 Intelligence			

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.)

At 1945Z, 1 March 1953, the Trenton Filter Center received a report of an unidentified object over Observation Post at Princeton, New Jersey. The observer, Mr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], Princeton, New Jersey, reported a circular, silver, stationary object, location: Alfa-Lima 2120 at 40,000 plus feet. His report relayed immediately to ADC. At 2000Z, A/2c Raymond Swallow was dispatched to Princeton. At 2045Z, he reported the object still visible but in a different position. At 2100Z, relieved of duty, 1st Lt Richard F. Watson departed for Princeton. Examination of this object with the naked eye revealed a star or planet-like object at approximately 250° with approximately 70° elevation. Through binoculars the object appeared to change shape and brilliance; at times resembling a first quarter moon. Experimentation with the focus of the binoculars, however, indicated that movement and change of shape were actually the result of refracted light in the lens. Returning to Trenton at 2300Z, Lt. Watson was able to locate this object at approximately 260° and elevation 70° est. This fact leads observer (Lt. Watson) to the conclusion that the object in question was actually Venus or some other celestial body.

Good! Weather: Visibility unlimited
Ceiling unlimited
Cloud coverage 0%
Wind at 40,000 ft. 125 knots from 300°

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

Richard F. Watson
RICHARD F. WATSON
1st Lt. USAF

Raymond J. Swallow, Jr.
RAYMOND J. SWALLOW, JR.
A/2c USAF

INCL.

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- 1 Dir. of Intell., Hq, USAF
- 1 Chief ATIC, Ohio
- 1 4670th GCS, ATTN: M/Sgt Caughman