

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 8 April 53 08/2300Z	2. LOCATION Sondrestrom AB, Greenland
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Astronomical (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One 3 Meteors	It was believed by the Intelligence Officer of Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland that object was a celestial phenomenon.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS White light was observed by 2 pilots of F4U a/c at an altitude of 15,000 ft. Object traveled a steady course which seemed to be in a shallow descending turn.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	
7. COURSE Descending	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

UNCLASSIFIED

8 APR 1953
SK 11

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Sondrestromfjord Air Base, Greenland

8 April 1953

I. DESCRIPTION

At 2300Z two observers flying a MATS aircraft reported sighting an unidentified white light 110 miles SW of Sondrestrom Air Base, Greenland. The estimated speed of this light was 1000 mph, altitude estimated to be 15,000 ft. and direction of travel 0° . The object maintained a steady course, but seemed to be in a shallow descending turn. The observing aircraft was at 9000 ft. with an airspeed of 165 knots and a true heading of 30° . The white light was observed on the starboard side at 50° , fading out at approximately 20° to the right. Total time of the observation was approximately three seconds at a distance of 50 to 100 miles.

II. DISCUSSION

Flight plans were checked with Sondrestrom AFB, Narsarssuak AFB and the Iceland Defense Force with negative results. It was the opinion of the Director of Intelligence, NEAC, that this sighting was caused by a celestial phenomenon. The description of this light fits that of a meteor, except that a meteor very seldom appears white. However, Project Blue Book concurred with the NEAC evaluation when its contract astronomer also was of the opinion that the phenomenon was astronomical in nature.

III. CONCLUSION

Probably astronomical (Meteor).

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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1. ATIAA 17
2. ATIA
3. C. J. Ellis

20 APR 1953 100525Z 57Z

Multiple

WPD188

TYD201

JEX B397

PP JEDWP

DE JEXC 142

P 092000Z

FM CG NEC PEPPERRELL AFB NF

TO CG ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

NEOCOC-I-00024 ATTN: ATIAA-2C RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM CO
SONDRESTROM AB GREENLAND 09034Z APR 53 " ONE UNIDENTIFIED WHITE
LIGHT OBSERVED 6600N/5330W 110 MILES SW OF SONDRESTROM AB
GREENLAND ESTIMATED SPEED 1000 MP/DIRECTION OF TRAVEL 0 DEGREES
ALTITUDE 15000 FT SIGHTED BY CAPT FREDERIC SWENSEN AND LT
EDWARD N DICKS AT 2300Z 8 APR 53 INFOR RECEIVED THIS HQS 0100Z 9
APR 53 LOW CLOUDS APPROX 5000 FT TRUE HEADING OF ACFT 30
DEGREE, APPROX TRUE BEARING TO OBJECT 50 DEGREES TO RIGHT, OBJECT
FADED OUT AT APPROX 20 DEGREES TO RIGHT, ALTITUDE OF OBJECT 10 TO
15 THOUSAND FT, OBJECT STEADY ON COURSE SEEMED TO BE IN SHALLOW

*08/2300Z
SONDRESTROM AB
GREENLAND*

ATIC

952 APR 10

07:5

INFOR

Prob Astro

DESCENDING TURN APPROX DISTANCE TO OBJECT 50 TO 100 MILES OBJECT
VIEWED FOR APPROX 3 SECONDS FROM MATS ACFT 455 <3 ALTITUDE AT
9000 FT AIR SPEED 165" PRELIMINARY EVALUATION THIS HEADQUARTERS
CELESTIAL PHENOMINON

09/2038Z APR JEXC

Cy-1

COMBINATION OF GREEN AND RED LIGHTS WAS SEEN IN ONE UNIDENTIFIED PHASE

REOCOC-I-00137 VLM: VLIWV-SC RECEIVED LOGGERS MESSAGE FROM CO

10 CC VLIC REICHT BALLEKSON WAS OHIO

11 CC REC REEBERST VAS HE

12 000000

DE JEXC JWS

BB JEDMB

JEX 022A

LADSBY

ALDIRE

200000
11/20/44
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UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY Greenland	REPORT NO. IR-19-53	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Aerial Object (FLYOVERPT)		
AREA REPORTED ON Sondrestrom Air Base, Greenland	FROM (Agency) Dir/Intell, NEAC	EVALUATION C-6
DATE OF REPORT 13 April 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 8 April 1953	SOURCE GO, Sondrestrom AB
PREPARED BY (Official) NATHAN J. MEYERSON, Captain, USAF		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significant background information in first paragraph. List references at bottom left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112, Part II.)

At 2300Z, 8 April 1953, two observers, Captain Frederic Swensen and Lieutenant Edward N. Dicks flying MATS aircraft 45543, reported sighting an unidentified white light at 6600N/5330W, 110 miles SW of Sondrestrom Air Base, Greenland (6701N/5044W).

Estimated speed of the white light was 1000 miles per hour; altitude estimated to be 15,000 feet; direction of travel 0 degrees. The object maintained a steady course but seemed to be in a shallow descending turn.

The observing aircraft was at 9000 feet with an airspeed of 165 knots and a true heading of 30 degrees. The white light was viewed on the starboard side at 50 degrees, fading out at approximately 20 degrees to the right. Total time of the observation was approximately 3 seconds at a distance of 50 to 100 miles from the object.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

Negative information was received concerning flight plans from Marsarsssuek Air Base, Greenland and from the Iceland Defense Force.

The estimated speed of the light, being 1000 miles per hour, would indicate that the cause was not associated with an aircraft.

It is the opinion of the Director of Intelligence, NEAC, that this incident was caused by a celestial phenomenon.

Nathan J. Meyerson
NATHAN J. MEYERSON
Captain, USAF
Chief, Current Intelligence Division

APPROVED:

Fred W. Siefert
FRED W. SIEFERT
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

CO, All NEAC Bases	CG, SAC	CANAIIRDEF
CG, ADC	CG, 64th Air Div	CANAIIRNW
CG, AAC	CG, ATIC	COMICRDEFOR

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HOWARD L. BEVIS, President

COLUMBUS 10

EMERSON McMILLIN OBSERVATORY

19 May 53

1st Lt. Robert Olsson
Wright-Patterson AFB.

Dear Lt. Olsson;

This is a belated report on the last batch which I received at the end of April.

Just as soon as our plans for employing Miss [redacted] officially go through, I shall be able to send you a sheet with comments on each individual case, so that you will have my comments on each folder. The letter method ~~is~~ has obvious drawbacks. But until that time comes and she can handle my typing and completion of forms, I had better stick to this letter method.

In this latest batch we have only 4 really interesting cases. I might mention a 5th, 28 March 53, Scott AFB, which is the 1st report I've seen of an honest to goodness mirage. 6 Cases have only one observer and I'm following my usual rule of discounting those.

8 April was a meteor.

The Great Falls 3 April case was Venus if reported time^s was in error.

28 March Albroom AFB was probably Venus.

31 March Honshu, and 30 March Lyle, Wash., are puzzling but could possibly have been balloons.

The ~~8 April~~ Greenland case was an obvious meteor.

This brings us to the interesting cases:

25 March San Antonio could hardly have been a mirage and I'm surprised there was no radar pickup. Was there any aircraft like helicopters that might explain this. Anything more come in on this one? Don't think this is good enough for a pinch-bottle but it should be listed as Nocturnal meandering light.

29 March Spooner, Wisc: Duration times needs checking here. Hard to believe that object could have done all that in 15 seconds. An interesting case and one of the regular questionnaires should be sent to Mr. Gillette.

Next is the 12 April Stead AFB. I think this is the most interesting case of the batch, and I hope you receive more dope on it. Questionnaires should be sent. I'd like to see Menzel explain this one! Is there any possibility that these could have been aircraft? Apparently ducks have been eliminated.

As for the 26 March, Equasseur AFB although NML, the data are contradictory and insufficient. Perhaps this was a helicopter? We ought to have much more information on this one. Has this been received?

Sincerely,
Allen Hyatt