

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 April 1956	2. LOCATION Rome, New York & A/V Sightings		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Venus ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 10/0320Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military (AF)		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION twenty-three minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE faded over horizon	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One round light larger than known star, orange-white changed to orange with red light. Seen at an azimuth of 330 dgrs & an elevation of "4000" feet (evidently low off horizon). Seen through binoculars and was also seen by two aircraft.		11. COMMENTS Concur with the opinion of the reporting officer that this sighting was generated by the planet Venus. The same object which had been reported in this same area on the previous night.	

Analysts' Comments:

Subject: UFO Sighting Reported by Griffis AFB, 10 April 1956

1. A check with astro charts (emphasizes) and astro almanacs show the planet Venus almost on the horizon (as observed from the ground) at 0320 Zone Time (1020 Local Time), and located at approximately 325 degrees (NW by N) azimuth. In vicinity of constellation Taurus.
as observed from that locality.
2. This coincides very well with information given by all principals involved. The reported size (size of a pea) also supports conclusions that it was Venus.
3. Venus prominent and very bright during this time of the year, and as stated in report, brighter than surrounding stars.
4. Note: object was observed for almost one-half hour with apparent little or no movement.
5. Observing stars or planets through binoculars has often been a source of inconsistent data in that it gives the object an illusion of movement, high speed and odd maneuvers, a fact not often known to many. (An attempt to keep a star fixed in the center of a binoculars' field of view will demonstrate this.)
6. Certain atmospheric conditions can make an astronomical body seem much larger, brighter and nearer when near the horizon. Example: Under such conditions the moon often appears 5 times larger than when viewed overhead. This effect is emphasized when observed in the air and against a dark sky, and have resulted in some weird effects being reported by pilots having their gaze fixed on the object while flying. A few UFO reports disclose that pilots have reported that the object is moving away or towards their aircraft.
7. This has often been found to be confusing, even to old, experienced pilots, and the explanation is generally unacceptable to them. Any phenomena encountered for the first time and without advance notice, such as Aurora borealis, sundogs, fireballs, meteoric showers, lighted balloons in jet streams, as shown from our files, can be very confusing.
8. Conclusions: Misinterpretation of a known object, Venus, by virtue of fact observed under conditions producing unconventional appearance.

G.T.G.
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00155

0010 15 23 30

TC

WPB175 YDA110 TYB154 TMB154SNA042SND004

PE RJEDEN RJEPNB RJEDWP RJEPHQ

DE RJEPSN 4D

E 101330Z

FM VMBG /99TH ACMRON WATERTOWN NY

TO RJEDEN/CMDR ABC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPNB/CMDR EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

RJEPSN/CMDR 32D ADIV (D) SYRACUSE NY

RJEDWP/CMDR AIR TECH INT CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INT HQ USAF WASHINGTON 25 D C

BT

UNCL E-OPS 00026 PD FLYOBRET CEN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT CMM

AFR 200-2 PD

A. ROUND LIGHT LARGER THAN KNOWN STAR

B. LARGER THAN KNOWN STAR

C. ORANGE-WHITE CHANGED TO ORANGE WITH RED TINT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. NONE

G. NONE

H. NONE

*56194
mtf
1156
JH*

*4E4
3*

4 A-1A

(No)

1. I. UNUSUAL TO EVERYDAY LIFE
2. A. HAPPEN TO LOOK UP
B. NORTHWEST OF FIELD 330 DEGREES, 3,000 TO 4,000 FEET
C. OVER HORIZON
D. NO FLIGHT PATH OR MANEUVERS
E. DISAPPEARED OVER HORIZON
F. 23 MINUTES
3. A. GROUND-VISUAL
B. BINOCULARS
C. ESQUIRE 50, ONE KC-97 FROM WESTOVER
4. A. 0320Z - 0343Z 10 APR 56
B. NIGHT
5. ROME TOWER
6. A. N/A
B. A/1C GEORGE HENERY LOWMAN, 219 AACS, SHIFT SUPERVISOR CONTROL
TOWER A/3C JOHN D. COMMINS CROSS TRAINING FROM APPROACH CONTROL
7. A. GOOD
B. NOT AVAILABLE
C. NONE
D. 15 MILES

*In Sight for
e-11 1/2 hr*

PAGE THREE RJEPSN 40

E. 1/10 TO 3/10

F. NONE

8. NONE

9. NONE

10. SCRAMBLED JUMPING JACE ABLE ONE AT 0348Z, AIRBORNE 0352Z, JUDY AT 0413Z, ON A BOAT. HE BELIEVES IT COULD BE A PLANET WHICH APPEARS THIS TIME OF YEAR

11. ENQUIRE 50, DC-97 AND 10730, C-45 ALSO SAW OBJECT. THEY BELIVED IT TO BE A PLANET

12. NONE

BT

10/135Z APR RJEPSN

yes, V. 10/135Z
at 3 03
3 15
but I don't know

12 APR 1955 11 53

APR 12 11 50 55

AF4
44ra
(M)

RE101

WPG112 YDA092 TYB110 TMB138 TTB079GFA132

RR RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPSN

DE RJEPGF 30SY

R 111300Z

FM COMDR 201STH AACS SQ GRIFFISS AFB NY

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC AFB COLO

RJEPSN/COMDR 32ND AIR DIV SYRACUSE AFS NY

INFO RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON

AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/COMDR DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH D C

BT

201ST-11-D-3 PD UNCL PD UFOB (1) DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJ CEN A OBJ
WAS ROUND IN SHAPE B OBJ APPEARED TO BE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A PEA HELD
AT ARMS LENGTH C THE OBJECT WAS WHITE WITH A ORANGE TINT WHEN FIRST
SIGHTED & AFTER ABOUT TEN MIN APPEARED TO BE ORANGE WITH A RED TINT
D ONE OBJ E N/A F NONE G NONE H NONE I THE OBJ WAS LARGER THAN
ANY STAR (2) DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJ A THE BRILLIANCE OF THE OBJ
COMPARED TO THE STARS CAUGHT MY EYE B THE OBJ APPEARED TO BE ABOUT
350 DEGREES FROM THE ELD AT THREE OR FOUR THOUSAND FT C THE OBJ AP-
PEARED DESCEND OVER THE HORIZON ABOUT TEN DEGREES LEFT OF WHEN FIRST
SPOTTED TWENTY THREE MIN AFTER FIRST BEING SPOTTED D NONE E THE OBJ

20th A

Object descended - or appeared
to do so - as pilot descended.
Changing altitude at
night while keeping your
eye fixed on object - you
lose the illusion.

PAGE TWO RJEPC 309Y

OBJECT DISAPPEARED OVER THE HORIZON ABOUT 330 DEGREES E THE OBJ WAS IN
SIGHT FOR TWENTY THREE MIN (3) MANNER OF OBSERVATION CLN A GROUND
VISUAL (B) BINOCULARS WERE USED IN OBSERVING THE OBJ C N/A (4) TIME
& DATE OF SIGHTING CLN A 100320 2 APR 56 E NIGHT (5) LOCATIONS OF
OBSERVER WAS IN THE CONTROL TOWER AT GAFB NY (6) IDENTIFYING INFOR-
MATION OF ALL OBSERVER CLN A N/A B GEORGE H LOWMAN A41C 2019TH
AACS SQ GAFB NY PD SHIFT SUPERVISOR ON DUTY IN THE TWR DASH VERY
RELIABLE (7) WEATHER & WINDS ALOFT CONDITIONS TIME & PLACE OF SIGHT-
INGS PD A SEVEN TO EIGHT THOUSAND SCATTERED VISABILITY FIFTEEN E WINDS
GRIFFISS SURFACE 270/3 6000 355/18 10000 330/20 16000 340/40 20000
330/40 30000 330/45 44000 340/15-20 C NONE D 15 E ONE TO THREE
TENTHS F NONE (8) THE PLANET VENUS WAS SCHEDULED TO SET AT ABOUT THE
SAME TIME THE OBJECT DISAPPEARED (9) ONE LOCAL C-45 NOTIFIED &
ASKED TO CHECK & ONE F94 WAS SCRAMBLED BY NIGHT CAP (10) ESQUIRE 50
KC-97 WEST BOUND TO ROCHESTER OBSERVED THE OBJECT AND ALSO AT 10730
C-45 ON LOCAL FLT OBJ WAS CALLED TO MY ATTENTION BY THE PILOT AFTER
OBSERVATION OF THE OBJECT WHILE TURNING FLYING LEVEL WESTBOUND NORTH-
BOUND & SOUTHBOUND I WAS CONVINCED THE OBJ WAS A PLANET PD I LANDED
& CUT ENGINES AT 1050E THEN CHECKED WITH THE WEA STA & FOUND THE
THE PLANET WAS DUE TO SET AT ABOUT 1032E THE 11TH OF APRIL PD I

Check
to be
checked
above
the
clouds
the

Garret (63" in the ecliptic)

Direct

PAGE THREE RJEPGE 309Y

BELIEVE THE COLOR CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HAZE CMA SMOKE & THIN SCATTERED CLOUDS AT ABOUT 7000 FT PD THE OBJ DID APPEAR TO PARALLEL MY COURSE ON A NORTH & SOUTH READING BUT DID NOT MOVE IN RELATION TO THE STARS VISIBLE ABOVE IT PD THIS REPORT MAY HAVE SOME BEARING ON PREVIOUS SIGHTING PD (12) NONE PD

BT

1142117Z APR RJEPGE

All indications from data and computer Venus is off by 1/2 hr. (Almost 1/2 hr.)

- ① Venus very sharp and prominent at the time
- ② Venus low on horizon at NW by N. at the precise time of sighting. (When Castellan observed.)
- ③ Atmospheric refraction and meteor conditions can give it a seemingly larger appearance. (Similar to moon when observed near horizon and when obscured. Appears 4 times larger in former case - particularly if conditions right. Against black sky and high altitude this would be exaggerated.)
- ④ Has many people know what happens when trying to see stars or planet. These people say that Venus is not as bright as it appears.