

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 31 May 1949 31/1110(I)	2. LOCATION Honshu Island, Japan
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Astro (VENUS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Reporting officials reported object as being the Planet VENUS.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer reported what appeared to him to have been the reflection of sunlight off an aircraft in flight. The amount of light reflected appeared to him to be that equal to a B-2 Object was a flickering silver.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	
7. COURSE Northerly	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM

STD 100-10-200 (705)

MESSAGE

COMING MESSAGE

12 JUL 49

TO COMBAT COMMAND
INFO AND OPREP-3

WHE

OP-3
CELESTIAL SKETCH OBJECT REPORTEDLY 1000 FT
40 DEGREES W. LONGITUDE 141 DEGREES E. ALTITUDE
20,000 FEET, WINDY 100 KTS AT 1410 HOURS. IT
APPEARED TO BE SIZE OF 12, AND 1-2 OF 12
LAST OBSERVATION WAS WINDCAST AT 30,000 FEET
(T-6), MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW

END OF TRANSMISSION

INFORMATION COPY

20 June 1949

JAPAN

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Sighting of Unidentified Object

REPORTED ON

Honshu Island, Japan

FROM (Agency)

Headquarters, Far East Air Forces, APO 925

DATE OF REPORT

20 June 1949

DATE OF INFORMATION

31 May 1949

EVALUATION

B-6

PREPARED BY (Officer)

S. F. Hepford, Capt, USAF

SOURCE

J. J. Giles, 1st Lt, USAF (Pilot)

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

Air Intell Req. Memo 4, USAF, 15 FEB 49; Previous Comm. (Radio) Cite AX 5003, 1 Jun 49

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112--Part II)

On 31 May 1949 at 1110 hours the pilot of an F-80 aircraft, while on a routine mission, at an altitude of 20,000 feet over Misawa Air Force Base (40°43'N/141°22'E), reports that he observed what appeared to him to have been the reflection of sunlight off an aircraft in flight. The amount of light reflected appeared to him to be that equal to a B-29. The object appeared to the pilot to have been 20 to 30 miles distant, above 30,000 feet, moving at a high rate of speed in a northerly direction for a distance of from 7 to 10 miles and then disappear into the overcast.

COMMENTS OF APPROVING OFFICER: Operational units have been contacted and it has been determined that neither weather, tactical, civil nor special classified aircraft were in the area at the time of the sighting. In addition the observer stated that he had the other F-80 aircraft in sight at the time of seeing the object and that it could not have been the shadow of either aircraft.

It is believed that this object may have been the planet Venus or a foreign aircraft on reconnaissance.

APPROVED:

GERALD R. HOLSCLOW

Lt Colonel, USAF

Air Intelligence Requirement Sec

Astro(Venus)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS;
DOD DUE 6200-10

1

Pilots statement

7-3712-20

8 June 1949

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Headquarters, Far East Air
Forces, APO 925

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SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT

Report of the sighting of an unidentified object 31 May, Misawa AFB, in accordance with AIR Memorandum No. 4 dated 15 February 1949.

GENERAL

1. Sighted 31 May 1949.
2. 1110 hours.
3. (1) Object appeared to be traveling at high speed. North heading above 30,000 feet.
(2) 25 to 30 miles East of Misawa Air Force Base.
(3) 1000. (Clock position of object from observer's viewpoint.)
4. Number of objects - 1.
5. Consultation with navigators assigned to Flight B, 3rd Rescue Squadron indicates that the planet Venus which can often times be observed in the day time would have an azimuth of 97 degrees, with an altitude of approximately 44°26 min., the Sun 112 to 115 degrees azimuth. At this time Venus is the morning star.
6. Object appeared to be 20 to 30 miles east of the observer at an angle of approximately 30 degrees from the horizon. Estimated altitude 30,000 feet.
7. Time of sight 1110 hours.
8. Impression of observer was, that of reflection of sunlight off of an airplane in flight. Shape could not be determined but the amount of reflected light appeared to equal that of B-29 aircraft. The object seemed to be following the overcast that lay 20 to 30 miles off shore.
9. North heading.
10. No tactics or maneuvers observed.
11. No evidence of exhaust.
12. No effect on clouds.
13. No lights.
14. No support (wings) observed.
15. Not observed.
16. Not observed.
17. Not observed.
18. Could not estimate except to say that object appeared to be travelling

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

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: 112-11

Headquarters, Far East Air
Forces, APO 925

139-49

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3 OF 4

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20. Appeared to have flown into overcast.

INFORMATION AS TO OBSERVER

1. 1st Lt. James J. Giles, A)-732222.
2. Misawa Air Force Base, APO 919.
3. 49th Fighter Group Communications Officer, Misawa Air Force Base.
4. USAF, Misawa Air Force Base, APO 919.
5. Pertinent hobbies:
 - a. Pilot, reading and sports.
 - b. Very interested in sports from childhood.
6. a. Is not color blind.

b. Subject has been flying fighters for 7 years and has been successful in estimating speeds very satisfactorily. Flying experience: 300 hours F-80 time and 1900 hours total in all types of aircraft.

c. Judgement of subject considered to be average.

7. Consensus of opinion of subjects immediate Commanding Officer and other officers in his squadron is that he is reliable, conscientious and trustworthy. He has successfully fulfilled the requirements of an officer in several key positions.

8. a. Subject has never reported sighting before.
 - b. Flickering silver object.
 - c. Subject had been in flight ten (10) minutes.
9. No witnesses.

RELATIVE TO RADAR SIGHTINGS

1. Not applicable.
2. a. No radar inductions or extra noise in radio.
- b. Unknown.

GENERAL

1. Local weather at time of incident:
 - a. Clear, no ceiling.
 - b. Visibility - 20 miles

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (400000)

Headquarters, Far East Air
Forces, APO 925

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OF

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- e. Wind was calm.
- f. Altimeter - 30.05.
- g. Wind 20,000 feet - 360 degrees due North - 15 knots.
- h. Wind 30,000 feet - 360 degrees due North - 22 knots.
- i. Scattered low cloudiness 45 to 50 miles offshore.

S. F. HEPFORD
S. F. HEPFORD
Capt, USAF

DOWNGRADED AT
DECLASSIFIED

AND RECEIPT
FROM: MCHIT-1 DATE 3/30/49 HOUR 1420 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 3-6892-1
INCOMING INTER-OFFICE OUTGOING COMPLETE FILE COPY INCOMPL. FILE COPY NO. COPY X
FROM: TO: 03, AND

REG. NO.
DESCRIPTION, DATES AND SUBJECT: Rot. Hq. TMA/IR/139/49; (1-4p)
Dtd. 31 May 1949 AF81533 Sub: Sighting of Unidenti-
fied Object

INCLOSURES: (1- 1p)

2

TO: (OFFICE SYMBOL)	COPY NO.	REC'D BY (FULL SIGNATURE)	DATE REC'D	HOUR
1 AX5		Michael L. Long	7/1	
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RESTRICTED

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INCLOSURES: (1- 1p)
Dtd. 31 May 1949 AF81533 Sub: Sighting of Unidenti-
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INCLOSURES: 1, 03, 1-20 (1-20) (3-6892-1)
Dtd. 31 May 1949 AF81533 Sub: Sighting of Unidenti-
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[Handwritten signature]

FOI b7 - D
FOI b7 - C

554

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT NO. 338

1. Date of Observation 31 May 1949 Date of Interview _____
2. Exact Time (local) 1110
3. Place of Observation 25 to 30 Miles E Misawa AFB, Japan 40° 43' North 141° 22' East
4. Position of observer F 80 at 20,000 ft.
5. What attracted attention to object Reflection of light
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size
8. Color of object
9. Shape Circular
10. Altitude Above 30,000' (30° Elevation)
11. Direction from observer NW (1100 o'clock)
12. Distance from observer 20-30 Miles
13. Direction of flight of object(s) Northerly
14. Time in sight
15. Speed High rate of speed
16. Sound and odor None noticed
17. Trail None noticed
18. Luminosity
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers
21. Manner of disappearance
22. Effect on Clouds
23. Additional information concerning object Believed to have been planet Venus or foreign aircraft
24. Weather Conditions Visibility 20 Miles, 22 knot wind at 30,000

(over)

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Page 2

Incident 338

Name and address of observer: 1st Lt James J. Giles, APO 919, Misawa AFB

Occupation and hobbies:

Communication Officer
Hobby Sports

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):
Considered reliable

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

Certificate

I, 1st Lt. James J. Giles, AO-732222, certify that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

On 31 May 1949 at around 1110 hours I was flying an F-80 on a check ride with Lt. Nelson. Lt. Nelson had taken off a few minutes with instructions to meet me over the field at 20,000 feet. When I got to 20,000 feet I started a slow orbit around the field trying to spot the other F-80. My attention was caught by a reflection out to sea at an altitude higher than mine. I continued to turn while watching the object. It was twenty to thirty (20-30) miles from shore, above 30,000 feet and moving at a high rate of speed at the base of a cirrus overcast. The object moved in a Northerly heading for seven to ten (7-10) miles and then disappeared into the overcast.

I continued on the mission and reported the incident to my operations officer after the office opened in the afternoon.

/s/ James J. Giles
JAMES J. GILES
1st Lt., USAF

A true copy:

/s/ Samuel F. Hepford
SAMUEL F. HEPFORD
Capt, USAF

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