

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 22 Feb 53 23/0200Z	2. LOCATION Dover AFB, Del.
3. SOURCE Varied	10. CONCLUSION Astro (VENUS or JUPITER)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 40 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS White object changing colors hovered for 30 min then disappeared slowly over horizon. Object appeared to be hovering in a haze layer. Two a/c made unsuccessful attempts to close in on object.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual Air-Visual	
7. COURSE "	COMMENTS: The planet "Jupiter" is in the approx position in the sky at this date & time although higher from the horizon than the reported unknown. Factors pointing toward astro solution. 1. Object remained in approx same position 40 min as observed from ground & air. 2. Began sinking in the W (Venus would do this). 3. Presence of haze layer would make the light change in intensity & give apparent movement N to S, both of which were attributed to object. 4. Astronomer: Was Venus.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Intelligence Division, ATLD-WATS
Westover AF Base, Mass.

IR-171-53

2

2

1. "Approximately 2100 hours 22 February 1953, 2nd Lt Leland E. Maines Jr., AO 1854262, Officer-of-the-Day, this base, received telephone call from a Mr. Oscar A. Nichols, civilian, of R.D. #2, Milford, Delaware, who had a strange object in the sky under scrutiny. Nichols could not describe the size of this "disc-shaped" object but stated that it had a predominantly yellowish color with a "red, then a very bright white light turning not too fast, but steady, under the yellow glow." From his position at Milford (Thompsonville) Delaware (approximately 75°24'E by 38°58'N), placed the object over the town of Frederica, proceeding from a southerly course to north.

2. "Maines, at the Base Theater (approximately 75°27'E by 39°07'N), after receiving information from Nichols, observed an object fitting reported description at an estimated altitude of 1000' due West of the Base, over the city of Dover, but at an undetermined distance. Maines summoned Airman Second Class Pasquale A. Candido, AF 12294106, Assistant Theater Manager, to verify his observances. Maines and Candido substantially agreed that the object appeared approximately 4° to 6° above the horizon, appeared to revolve with alternating colors from red, green, blue to white, in a manner similar to the brilliance reflected from the facets of a diamond. Their period of observation was over a half-hour, beginning at 2100 hours.

3. "When Maines directed attention of Control Tower personnel to the location of the object he was informed by Airman Basic Leonard G. Whitney, AF 11188104, that he and another operator had noticed the object since 1800 hours and jointly agreed that it was "probably the 'Evening Star'." About 2130 hours, when Dover Tower was contacted by pilot of military aircraft of the 96th FIS, New Castle County Airport, Delaware, Whitney observed said object gradually fading from view in a northwesterly direction.

4. "In response to alert from Maines, two aircraft from the 96th FIS, New Castle County Airport, Delaware, on Combat Air Patrol were assigned to close with the object. Plane number one had to land because his fuel was low. Plane number two piloted by 1st Lt Notly Maddox pursued the object on a Westerly heading after climbing to 15,000 feet. At this altitude the object appeared level with him but at an undetermined distance. Maddox climbed to 25,000 feet on the same heading and found the object slightly beneath him and in a haze layer. Object was described as predominantly white in color and did not appear to be moving. Maddox flew as far as Baltimore vicinity without closing on the object and considered further efforts fruitless. Radar Operator reported no scope sight. Negative traffic in area of original and subsequent object sighting.

5. "Existing weather at time of observation was clear sky, no haze, no clouds, visibility seven (7) miles, sea level pressure 288, temperature 30°, dew point 23, surface winds calm, altimeter reading 3037. Washington, D.C. 1600 hour forecast 22 February 1953 revealed winds aloft at 12,000 feet from 240° at 50 knots, 16,000 feet from 240° at 70 knots, 20,000 feet from 240° at 110 knots.

6. "All witnesses appeared as sincere and creditable persons and it is believed that "estimates" as to altitude, and other data contained in their statements which might appear implausible or incongruous to the trained technician, would constitute an honest error in judgment rather than an intended hoax or deception for purposes of notoriety or other."

PREPARED BY:

P. K. MEAD
Major, USAF
Chief, Current Intelligence Branch

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.1

I again contacted New Castle "hot line" seeking a further report. My informant reported only what he had been able to hear over his radio. He stated that the pilot had seen the object, but had been unable to close with it, and had eventually lost it altogether.

No further information was forthcoming until the next morning when a full report was obtained from the Intelligence Officer of the 96th at New Castle. The information in his report is contained in other sections of this report.

Leland E. Maines Jr.
2d LT USAF
AO 1854262
80th Air Base Squadron
Dover Air Force Base, Delaware

I again contacted the tower and, following my directions, the tower personnel were also able to observe the object. However, they informed me that the object had been there "all evening".

My next efforts were directed to scrambling an aircraft for a closer look. The 46TH Ftr Interceptor Sqdn at Dover was off alert and was being covered by the 96TH at New Castle AFB. I contacted the "hot room" at New Castle and supplied the necessary information. I was informed that two (2) aircraft were on CAP in the area and that they would be contacted immediately.

I then went to the tower and put the glasses on the object. Time now was approximately 2120. The object appeared to be red in color when observed through the glasses. It was diminishing in size, giving the impression of movement away from my viewpoint.

While in the tower a New Castle jet called in and asked for our location of this object. The tower operator estimated the object to be due West of the field and seven miles. The pilot of the aircraft stated that it was further away than seven miles inasmuch as he could see it from New Castle. No further word from this aircraft was heard at Dover tower.

I continued to observe the object through the glasses. It veered neither right or left, but was rapidly diminishing in size. At approximately 2140 it disappeared entirely. I then left the tower.

[REDACTED]

PHONE



[REDACTED]

To Dover Air Force Base
Dover Del.

In request for statement from Lt. Blair
for my observance on the night of Feb.
22, 1953.

My wife and I first saw what we thought
was a bright star about 8:30 P.M. as we watched
the object was getting closer. At 9:00 P.M.
we could make out very clear a disc
shaped and very bright yellow glow
of light spinning in a clockwise direction.
The disc seemed to be from 600 to 800 feet
up and about a mile from us. As we
watched under the spinning bright
yellow light there was a red then a
very bright white light turning not
to fast but steady under the yellow
glow. The object stayed in one place
for a while and would move straight
up for a hundred feet or so very sudden
then it would move down. At 8:45 P.M.
the object started to move off in a
north west direction from our home.

It kept on moving off in a horizontal
direction until it disappeared over the
horizon, it seemed to go down over the
horizon just as a ship on the ocean does.

File # 2-IP-171-53 (over)

sky. I set its position by using the telephone pole to the right of the theater. Then returned inside to tell the O.D. He asked me to keep an eye on it. By 2131 the object had drop down to the horizon, about a minute or so later it had dropped behind a few buildings here on the base, and could not be seen. I called the O.D. who was at the base tower. Told him of the object, and that I could not be seen from my position. He stated he still had it in the glasses.



Incl "3" - IP-171-53

11 Feb. 53

Dover Air Force Base
Delaware

At 2100 hrs, on the 22nd of Feb. 53.

The O. D. reviewed a call at the base theater.

I called him to the phone, I am the Asst

Man'g here. I was about to leave the office.

when he asked me to look outside at a

Northerly direction about 4 to 6 degrees above

the horizon, and to note if any object

was to be seen there. I took a check,

and there was. It was about, from my

position, about N. by N.W., some 6 degrees

above the horizon. I could not make out

its shape, it looked like a spot of

light in the air changing color, which

was Red, Green, Blue, Green, White. It

was too slow to be a star, or one of

the planets in our solar system. And

no other has ever shown green in the

3 - to IR - 171-53

Dover Air Force Base
24 February 1953

On the 1700-2400 shift in the Control Tower at Dover A.F.B. Delaware, the night of February 25, 1953, I received a telephone call from the Officer of the Day asking me to look to the South of the Base to see if I observed any unusual objects on the horizon. I advised him I saw nothing on the horizon but stars. This call was between 2030E and 2100E. At approximately 2115E the Officer of the Day came to the tower, and stated that there was an unusual object to the West of the Base. He told me that he had watched this object for some time and that it seemed to be rotating, and color from yellow to orange. I told him that the operator on duty with me and myself had agreed earlier that it was a large star. We noticed this object and agreed that it was probably The Evening Star. This was shortly after dark, about 1800E. At about 2130E a military aircraft from New Castle County Airport called Dover Tower and advised that it had attempted to fly to this object, and had flown as far as Baltimore, and was unable to reach it. The pilot did not tell the Tower what he himself thought it was. Shortly after the call from the aircraft, the object began to fade from view, and it seemed to be slowly moving to the North-West.

It is my opinion that subject object was a star. In a discussion with other Tower Operators I learned that they had seen a large star in approximately the same position in the sky as I had, and I believe this star could possibly be the Evening Star.

Incl 4 - to I.R. 171-53

A/B Leonard B. Whitney
AF 11138124
1912-3 AFCS DET.

3 FEB 24

13:37

53114

ACTION

1. ATIA
2. ATI
3. C. files

WPE 33

JEPOD 36

PP JEPHQ JEPFF JEPEO JEDWP JEDEN 555

DE JEPOD 09A

P 231805Z

FM CO 80TH ABS ATLD MATS DOVER AFB DEL

TO JEPHQ/DIR/INTELL HQ USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTELL CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO

JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

JEPFF/INTEL DIV COMATS ANDREWS AFB MD

JEPEO/INTEL DIV COMDR ATLD MATS WESTOVER AFB MASS

114
1953 FEB 24
07:47
INFOR

23 FEB 53
R 75
162

mail Recd to
Capt H. W. 15:40P
23 Feb

26 FEB 53 16 40z

ACTION

PA194 W

YDA107L

TYA217

TDA167

CBE084

TMB116JET

JEPNL 53

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPNB JEPNY 555

DE JEPNL 38-P

P 251300Z ZNJ

FM CO 96TH FTR INTCP, SQDN NCCA WILM DEL

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDAP/AIR TECH INTELL CENTER WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPNB/CG EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY

JEPNY/CG 26TH AD ROSLYN NY

INFO ZEN/CO 4710TH DW NCCA WILM DEL

[REDACTED] FSCO 0063 FLYOBRPT PD ATTN: DIRECTOR OF INTELL PD

ATTNAATT 200-5 THE FOLLREPORT IS SUBMITTED:

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WAS INITIALLY SIGHTED AT APPROX 2105Z 22 FEB 53 PD

PILOT WAS ON APPROACH TO LANDING AND NOTED A VERY BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT

WHICH APPEARED TO BE AT 1000 FT AND APPROX 2 MI DISTANCE MOVING FROM

SOUTH TO NORTH PD OBJECT THEN STOPPED PD INTENSITY OF LIGHT APPEARED TO

KEEP CHANGING PD PILOT DECIDED AGAINST INVESTIGATING OBJECT AS HE HAD

ONLY 150 GALS OF FUEL REMAINING AND SINCE ANOTHER F94B ACFT WAS IN TAKE

OFF POSITION PD PAREN ORIGINALLY THIS UNIT WAS ALERTED BY THE OD AT DOVER

AFB THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED BRIGHT OBJECT WAS HEADING TOWARD NEW CASTLE

UNCLASSIFIED

2:15
1953 FEB 27

10:17

1. Atia
2. Ati
3. C. files

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

UNCLASSIFIED

AT 2500B PD ATTN /ATIAA-2C /FLYOB RPT PD SINGLE INITIALLY WHITE GLOW OF
UNDERMINATE SHAPE AND SIZE LATER BECOMING YELLOW TO ORANGE CMA LARGER
THAN STAR PD LOWEST LIGHT ON HORIZON BY GRND OBSERVATION EST 1000 TO
2000 FT ALTITUDE CMA INDETERMINATE DISTANCE CMA NO SOUND PD INITIAL

Y

OBSVD FIXED TO HOVERING POSITION APPROX HALF HOUR GRADUALLY BECOMING
LOWER ON HORIZON CMA COLOR CHGD TO RED AS OBJECT WITHDREW PD TIME OF
SIGHTING 2100 EST TO APPROX 2140 EST 22 FEB 53 INCL PD VISUAL GRND OBSV
BY FOUR PERS CMA ONE FRM MILFORD DEL CMA THREE AT DOVER AFB DEL CMA
ALL PLACED OBJ DUE WEST OF DOVER AFB PD TWO F-94 PILOTS AIRBORNE FROM
NEW CASTLE COUNTY AIRPORT DEL SIGHTED WHITE OBJ AT EST 1000 FT PD

PAGE TWO JEPOD 09A

PLANE NUMBER ONE LOW ON FUEL AND HAD TO LAND PD PLANE NUMBER TWO CLIMBED
TO 15 THOUSAND FT ON WESTERLY HEADING CMA FOUND OBJ LEVEL WITH HIM AT
UNDETERMINED DISTANCE PD PILOT MAINTAINED HEADING AND CLIMBED TO 25
THOUSAND FT WHERE OBJ APPEARED SLIGHTLY LOWER AND HOVERING IN HAZE LAYER
PD PILOT PROCEEDED TO BALTIMORE MD IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CLOSE
WITH OBJ PD RADAR OBSV OF PLANE TWO RPTD NO RPT NO SCOPE SIGHT PD
EXISTING WEATHER AT TIME OF OBSV WAS CLEAR SKY CMA NO HAZE CMA NO CLOUDS
CMA VIS 7 MILES CMA SEA LEVEL PRESS 288 CMA TEMP 30 DEG CMA DEW PT 23
CMA SURF WIND CALM CMA ALT READING 3037 PD 1600 EST WASH DC FORECAST
CLN WINDS ALOFT AT 12 THOUSAND FT FR 240 DEG AT 50 K CMA 16 THOUSAND
FT FR 240 DEG AT 70 K CMA 20 THOUSAND FTSFR 240 DEG AT 110 K PD
NEGATIVE TRAFFIC IN GENERAL AREA Poss. STAR - "RIGEL" cy /
23/1912Z FEB JEPOD

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. UNCLASSIFIED	DATE 102000Z APR 53
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Report of Unidentified Flying Object (FLYCRPT)			
AREA REPORTED ON EADF		FROM (Agency)	
DATE OF REPORT 3 March 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 22 February 1953	EVALUATION A-1	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Leslie C. Tripp, 1st Lt		SOURCE Lt Cid, Lt Moneymaker, Lt Maddox, Lt Starkey	

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

96th Fighter Interceptor Squadron Teletype FSC0 0063 dated 25/1800Z Feb 53

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.)

The unidentified bright light reported in part II of AF Form 112 is considered by the undersigned and the observer, after further consideration, to be the planet Jupiter.

Leslie C Tripp
LESLIE C. TRIPP
1st Lt, USAF
Intelligence Officer

INCL 3

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

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

← + H/C 2200 heading

PAGE TWO JEPNL 38-P

PAREN PD THE SECOND PILOT THAT OBSERVED THE UNIDENTIFIED LIGHT WAS AIRBORNE AT 22/2115 AND CLIMBED TO 15000 FT ON A HEADING OF 270 DEGREES PD AT THIS TIME THE LIGHT APPEARED TO BE APPROX LEVEL WITH THE INTERCEPTOR AND 15 TO 20 DEGREES TO STARBOARD PD THE PILOT COULD NOT ESTIMATE THE OBJECTS DISTANCE FROM THE ACFT BUT FELT THAT IT WAS VERY GREAT PD PILOT CON'T TO CLIMB ON A WESTERLY HEADING TO 25000 FT PD THE LIGHT THEN APPEARED AT A SLIGHTLY LOWER ALTITUDE THAN THE ACFT AND STILL 15 TO 20 DEGREES STARBOARD PD PILOT STILL COULD NOT ESTIMATE THE DISTANCE OF THE LIGHT PD PILOT FLEW ON A WESTERLY HEADING TOWARD THE LIGHT AT 25000 FT FOR APPROX 15 MIN BUT DID NOT CLOSE ON THE OBJECT THE OBJECT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE MOVING PD THE RADAR OBSERVER WAAS UNABLE TO PICK UP ANYTHING ON THE APG-33 RADAR SET PD IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE DISTANCES AT NIGHT BUT THE LIGHT APPEARED TO BE AT A VERY GREAT DISTANCE AND IN A HAZE LAYER PD THE INTERCEPTOR WAS UNABLE TO SEE ANY SHAPE CMA AERODYNAMIC FEATURES CMA EXHAUST PATTERN OR HEAR ANY SOUND PD WEATHER DURING SIGHTING WAS CLEAR CMA UNLIMITED VISIBILITY WITH A VERY LIGHT THIN HAZE LAYER AT 20000 FT. THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE FOLLOWED BY A WRITTEN REPORT ON AF FORM 112 UNLESS DIRECTED SINCE NO EXPANSION ON THE ABOVE CAN BE GIVEN PD END

26/1532Z FEB JEPNL

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

UNCLASSIFIED

cy1

UNCLASSIFIED

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Object

Delaware

Intelligence Division, ATLD-MATS
Westover AF Base, Mass.

27 February 1953

22 February 1953

F-6

P. K. MEAD, Major, USAF

Statements from 80th ABS, Dover, Del.

IR-805-52, dtd 21 Nov 52

The inclosed information was received from the 80th Air Base Squadron, ATLD-MATS, Dover AF Base, Dover, Delaware. The date of the information is 22 February 1953.

APPROVED BY:

MADISON C. THOMAS
Major, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Division
Directorate of Plans

- 1-Statement of Lt Maines
- 2-Statement of Mr & Mrs. Nichols
- 3-Statement of A/2C Canillo
- 4-Statement of A/3 Whitney

ATIC ✓

Inclosures sent to ATIC only.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 96th Ftr Intep Sqdn New Castle County Airport Wilmington, Delaware	REPORT NO.	PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
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1. In accordance with AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952, the following report is submitted:

a. This unit was alerted by the OD of Dover AFB at approximately 0200Z 23 February 1953 that a very bright white light was heading toward New Castle. One F-94B aircraft with pilot 1st Lt Joseph Cid and radar observer 2nd Lt John R. Money-maker was in the air at this time and was alerted by the New Castle Tower to be on the look-out for this reported object. The above pilot and radar observer what they believed to be the reported object while on the final approach to the runway 27. The object appeared straight ahead off the opposite end of runway 27 as a very brilliant white light moving from south to north at an estimated 2 miles distance and at an altitude of 1000 feet. The intensity of the light kept changing. Pilot ~~decided~~ decided against investigating the light as he had only 50 gallons of fuel remaining and another F-94B aircraft was in take off position. The aircraft in take off position on runway 27 (pilot 1st Lt Ectely J. Maddox and radar observer 2nd Lt Leonard A. Levy) was airborne at 23/0215 and observed the light immediately after take off at approximately 15-20 degrees to the starboard. The pilot could not estimate the objects distance but reported that it was extremely great. Aircraft continued climbing on a heading of 270 degrees keeping the light under surveillance. Upon reaching 15000 feet the light appeared to be at the same altitude as the aircraft and still approximately 15-20 degrees starboard. Pilot continued climbing leveled off at 25000 feet. The light then appeared slightly lower than the aircraft, still at approximately 15-20 degrees starboard. The aircraft flew on a westerly heading for approximately 15 minutes but did not close on the light. The unidentified light did not move. On the preliminary teletype report (FSCG 0063) the above same information was given but after further investigation the pilot, who was previously a navigator, states that after checking an almanac he definitely believes the light to be the planet jupiter. The New Castle Tower operator, who also observed this light, called the local newspaper with the thought that perhaps others had seen this light and called the newspaper office to report same. The local newspaper stated that they had seen the light in question and believed it to be the planet mercury.

b. Pilot 1st Lt Maddox has been a navigator for 6 years and a pilot for 3 years with a total of 1200 flying hours. The radar observer, 2nd Lt Leonard A. Levy has been flying as a radar observer for 11 months and has 109 hours of observer time.

c. The weather during sighting was clear, unlimited visibility with a very light haze layer at 20000 feet.

Dover Air Force Base, Delaware

22 February 1952

At approximately 2100 hours, 22 February, acting in my capacity as O.D., I accepted a call from a Mr. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Miford, Delaware - Phone [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he had observed and was observing a strange object in the sky. He estimated the object to be 4-5° above the horizon from his viewpoint, moving South to North and approximately over the town of Frederica, Delaware.

He further stated that the object appeared to be spinning and that it was predominantly yellowish in color. However, it also appeared to be slowly changing colors, turning white, green, and red at various times.

I next contacted the Dover AFB tower to see if the tower personnel were able to observe this object. I was informed that they could not see any object of the above description in the direction I gave them.

I then stepped outside of the Base Theatre and was able to see this object due West of the base. I estimated this object to be about 1000 feet and over the town of West Dover. Mr. [REDACTED] had further stated that the object best resembled the light thrown off by an electric arc welder. My impressions of the object tallied with those of Mr. [REDACTED]. I, too, observed the gradual change of colors. It was much the same as the myriad of colors thrown off by a cut diamond when