

BRANCH
1

(CLASSIFICATION)

~~RESTRICTED~~ AF583307

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK) AF 583307
----------------	------------	----------------------------

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects FLYOBRPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Rapid City, So. Dakota, Bismark, No. Dak.	FROM (Agency) 740th AC&W Sqdn, EAFB, Rapid City, So. Dak.	
DATE OF REPORT 8 August 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 6 August 1953	EVALUATION A-1 (Pilots) B-1 (GOC) A-1 (740th)
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOHN W. BRISTOL, Captain, USAF	SOURCE GOC Personnel, 54th FIS Pilots & 740th AC&W Personnel	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		

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 2005 MST, Mrs. Phyllis Killian of Black Hawk, South Dakota, see inclosure six, was manning a post of the Rapid City Filter Center when she sighted an object which was bright red and very low at approximately four miles north east of Black Hawk. The object then made a pass over Rapid City at a very high rate of speed and then returned back over Rapid City to approximately seven miles from where it was first sighted and continued to hover in one position. Two men from the control room of this AC&W squadron were then instructed to take a look outside to see if they could find anything on this report. They gave the same reply of seeing the object. (See inclosures three and four.) The object was round, changing colors, from bright red to greenish silver depending on the speed. There was no sound that could be heard although they stated it looked like a "V" shaped vapor trail was following the object.

The maneuverability of the object was very abrupt in all directions, such as up and down and sideways.

Lieutenant John W. Stockham, see inclosure one, of the 54th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was vectored by this organization in the direction the object was last sighted. Approximately fifteen miles north east of Black Hawk, Lt. Stockham made a sighting of the object. Upon trying to close in, the object took off in a north west direction on a heading of about 320° at a high rate of speed. Lt. Stockham stated the object was a bright color when last sighted. From the time the first object was sighted until the object faded was about thirty five minutes. At 2124 MST, Lt. David K. Needham, see inclosure two, was scrambled for CAP when report came from Mrs. Killian of Black Hawk that an object was about seven miles from where the other sighting was and at a medium altitude with the same color and actions. There were approximately fifteen blips of objects on a heading of 360° which Lt. Needham was trying to intercept out to eighty five miles. Lt. Needham exposed forty feet of gun camera film while chasing the object but the film turned out blank so is not being included in the report as an inclosure. Thirteen pictures were taken on the scope but none came out due to a breakdown in the camera mechanism.

At 0023 MST, Bismark Filter Center gave a report of sighting the object west of Bismark at a very low altitude with the same discription as the other sightings.

At 2346 MST, EB 2558, the object looked to be ten miles north east of Bismark Filter Center at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 feet, object looked like a very bright star. The object was first sighted at EB 1649 to EB 1749. Object was moving from north west to north east. There was no sound or smoke. The speed at first was slow then very fast.

(Cancelled)

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

DECLASSIFIER

Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 20 52

~~RESTRICTED~~
(CLASSIFICATION)

~~RESTRICTED~~

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 740th AC&W Squadron EAFB, Rapid City, So. Dakota	REPORT NO.	PAGE two OF two PAGES
--	------------	-----------------------

At 0024 MST, Mrs. Gertrude Dahl at Bismark Filter Center reported the object was doing maneuvers upward and to the east and west. The tail exhaust color was blue green similar to a blow torch.

At 0045 MST, a third object was sighted in this area, green color, moving south at a slow rate of speed on a steady course at estimated 15,000 feet, position EB 2545.

At 0047 MST, a fourth object was sighted, estimated at 2,000 feet with the direction of north west similar to other objects sighted around Bismark. The object was fading fast at 0116 MST. It was heading to the north east on a straight course with the color beginning to turn red. The estimated position was EB 2545.

At 0101 MST, Lt. Koontz, Bismark Controller, sighted the object and stated the color as brilliant red. The object was an estimated altitude of 12,000 feet moving toward Bismark.

Comments of Preparing Officer:

All of the evidence presented here and in the statements attached coincide to such an extent so as to present an excellent case for the actual existence of a flying object. The fact that a radar pickup was made both by the F-84D and by the radar at this installation confirms the existence of something solid. The fact that these radar plots were in the same geographical position as the visual sightings seems to further confirm the claim that an object was there.

Undoubtedly all of these persons saw something and the similarity of the statements tends to irrefutably confirm the assumption.

John W. Bristol
JOHN W. BRISTOL
Captain, USAF
Operations Officer

DECLASSIFIED
USAF memo 7/21/78
By W.B.L. NARS. Date 4/12/79

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Lt. Col. G. 29 Air Div (L) 15 Sept 53

At 1035 I took off for CAP. I spent approximately 15 minutes running a practice intercept on a RB-36 flying in the local area. I broke off the intercept at the 36's request and continued flying locally. At 2005 the GCI controller notified me of a report of an object hovering 7 miles West of Rapid City and asked me to investigate.

I proceeded to a point approximately 7 miles due West of Rapid City, S.D. and started a port orbit for search. I continued searching until 2020 with the controller giving me all the information that had been phoned in by the GOC. I made no contact during this time.

After searching the area West of Rapid City extensively, I flew South on a heading of 220. The controller advised me that he had something on his scope 46 miles away on the heading that I was flying. I investigated and saw nothing. I then flew to a point 5 miles South of Rapid City for the purpose of starting a letdown to enter the traffic pattern, when the GCI again called and advised me of an object over Blackhawk, S.D. I was flying on a heading of 350 and at approximately 11 o'clock to 1130 o'clock high from my position, I made visual contact with a bright light. (It appeared to be over Piedmont, S.D.). I added full power to pounce the light. I was indicating 350 MPH accelerating. The light was moving on a North-westerly heading of approximately 310 degrees at a rate of at least twice as fast as I was flying. It was considerable higher than I was. I was at an altitude of 15,000 feet and the object approximately (it appeared to be at least) 15,000 feet above me or at an altitude of 30,000 feet.

I had visual contact for about 20 or 30 seconds, and as I gave chase the light just disappeared. At this time I requested permission to break off and land as I was low on fuel.

I would describe the object as a bright light varying in intensity, white in color. I would judge its speed to be at least 800 MPH, but probably faster as it was pulling away from me at a terrific rate of speed.

James W. Stockham

JAMES W. STOCKHAM
2/Lt., USAF
AO 2223304

DECLASSIFIED
USAF MEMO 7/5/79
By W.F.L. 4/19/99

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 Sept 53
(Date)

~~SECRET~~
James W. Stockham
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~

4

S T A T E M E N T

At 2115 MST, on 5 August 1953, I took off in an F-84 to accomplish a Combat Air Patrol. Approximately three minutes later, I contacted Grady Control by radio. Grady informed me that the Ground Observer Corps had spotted a flying object (a light) in the air north east of Black Hawk, South Dakota. Grady requested that I investigate the object but was unable to give information concerning the objects speed, heading or altitude. After making three requests to Grady for a vector to the vicinity of Black Hawk, I finally saw what was apparently the object. At the time of detection, I was on a course of 330° from Ellsworth AFB at 15,000 feet. The object was approximately 30° to the right of my course, and appeared to be paralleling my course at a lower altitude. The object was a light of varying intensity and alternated from white to green in color. From previous experiences with hallucinations during night flying, my first impression was that the object was an especially brilliant star or planet. However, after watching the object for several seconds, it moved spasmodically up and down and then appeared to continue on its previous course. By this time, I had passed several cloud layers in the vicinity and the sky to the north seemed to be entirely clear. During the pursuit, I had climbed from 15,000 feet and turned to a course of 360°. While turning to 360°, I had turned on the A-4 gunsight. After being steady on 360° for a short time, the radar "lock-on" light of the gunsight came on and remained on. On 360°, the object was directly ahead of my aircraft but at a slightly greater altitude than the 26,000 feet at which I was flying. The object then appeared to move rapidly to a much greater altitude and the light decreased rapidly in intensity as I continued pursuit. Finally when I felt that I was losing ground, I discontinued the chase and was given a vector to the base by Grady Control.

When turning away from the object, the radar "lock-on" light began to blink off and on which gave me the impression of a radar malfunction. I removed the light bulb to prevent being blinded.

After setting course for the base, I made alternate right and left turns to improve rearward visibility so that I could continue to watch the object. The light then appeared to increase in intensity although no more vertical movement was noted.

When approximately fifty miles from the base, Grady Control called that another object had been spotted in the vicinity of the base. By this time I had let down to 17,000 feet to go under a cloud layer and was flying a course of 180°. Within a very short time after Grady's call, I saw an alternating white and red light a few miles west of the base. The light disappeared, re-appeared and the disappeared completely.

(Cancelled)

Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~

By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 18 Sept 53

(Date)

W. E. Lewis *Staff Sergeant*

(Name)

(Grade)

(Branch)

UNCLASSIFIED
 USRF Memo 7/31/78
 W. E. Lewis NARS, Date 4/12/79

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

AF 583307

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

5

Approximately five minutes later, I reached the field and began an orbit to the left around the field at 10,000 feet to receive landing instructions. When east of the base and on a heading of 330°, Grady called to request that I attempt to take gun camera pictures of the original object if I could locate it again. After a short search to my right, I located what appeared to be the original object. I then made a turn of unknown magnitude to the right and expended about forty feet of film in an attempt to photograph the object. At this time, the object appeared to be only slightly above my altitude of 12,000 feet.

Having insufficient fuel for further pursuit, I returned to the base and landed.

In the opinion of this pilot, the original object could have been a planet or star. The changes in intensity and color and the apparent movements could possibly be explained by refraction and spherical aberration caused by varying air densities and various cloud layers. This pilot can think of no plausible explanation for the second object sighted.

David K. Needham
DAVID K. NEEDHAM
1st Lt., USAF
AO 701137

U.S.A.F. MEMO 7/31/78
W.B. Lewis, Date 4/14/78

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth DG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 Sep 58
(Date)

2

Marie Campbell

(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

AF583307

~~SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

6

S T A T E M E N T

As well as I can recall, the hour was between 2000 and 2100 MST on 5 August 1953.

The exact size of this craft would be a little hard to explain but considering the altitude it seemed to be at, judging that from its' apparent relations to the contours of the surrounding earth, I would say it was between twenty and thirty feet in diameter, five to ten thousand feet high.

It was very definitely shaped, perfectly round, looking very much like a mommouth discus.

The crafts' color was a very light blue-green like that given off by an intense flame, white heat.

I would say the speed of the craft was approaching that of sound. I say this because of the few seconds that I saw this craft. I saw it's wake or path as well. It went out all at once, as if a light had been clicked off. This craft was flying a true course from north east to south west, almost parallel to the earths surface, dropping slightly, no more than three degrees at the most. The nearest point to me was about four and one half miles.

USAF memo 7/31/78
WFL 4/12/79

Ernest S. McDonald
ERNEST S. MCDONALD
S/Sgt., USAF
AF 14 303 136

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 Sept 53
(Date)
Marie ...
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~

AF583307

9/13

~~██████████~~
S T A T E M E N T

~~RESTRICTED~~ 7

At about 0400Z, 6 August 1953, I saw an object about 20 miles West of the base. It was round and had a tail tapering off from it like a vapor trail. It was about 8,000 feet high traveling very fast to the Southwest. At 0430Z I saw another object that moved from almost directly over me to the extreme Southwest where it disappeared. It has almost the same characteristics as the first one except it was smaller and very high, (estimated over 40,000 feet).

Bobby J. Burgess

BOBBY J. BURGESS
S/Sgt., USAF
AF 24505907

USAF
W.F. Lewis memo 7/21/78
4/13/79

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) *15 Sept 53*
(Date)

~~██████████~~

W.F. Lewis
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~ AF583307

~~SECRET~~
S T A T E M E N T

~~RESTRICTED~~ 8

On the evening of 6 August 1953 at approximately 2005, I noticed a bright red light over in the south east. It was stationary at this time. As it moved further south, it turned green. At first, I thought it was a plane but it went much too fast for a plane and the faster it went, the brighter the light seemed. It came back again to the place where I first saw it, stood still for a short period at which time it was red again, then moved east and disappeared there.

Mrs. Martha Daughenbaugh

MRS. MARTHA DAUGHENBAUGH
Black Hawk, South Dakota

DECLASSIFIED
USAF MEMO 7/31/78
BY W. G. LEWIS DATE 4/12/79

~~SECRET~~
(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) RESTRICTED
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 Sept 53
(Date)
Marie Sappell
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~SECRET~~
AF583307 *Joe*

~~RESTRICTED~~

9

S T A T E M E N T

The first time I noticed the flying object was about 2005 MST on 5 August 1953. It was south east of Black Hawk and glowed a bright red. Upon starting to travel west, it turned green and got greener as it increased its speed. Upon reaching a spot directly south of Black Hawk, it stopped abruptly and returned east and to the approximate position it first begun its flight, then disappeared behind the ridges of hills to the South east of Black Hawk.

About twenty or thirty minutes later, I spotted perhaps the same object directly overhead and by the time I had gotten my binoculars on it, it had disappeared to the north.

About forty five minutes later, I again saw it north east of Black Hawk, just hovering. Each time a jet would be near, it would disappear to the north and then as the jets left the vicinity, it would re-appear at the first location that we had seen it. After re-appearing twice it failed to re-appear until about 2300. While hovering north east of Black Hawk, it would glow brightly, a sort of flaming red color, then diminish in intensity and then glow brightly again.

The speed of this object indicated it was traveling about three or four times as fast as the jet interceptor.

At the time I saw it the second time, it was so high that it was barely visible and was a livid red.

DECLASSIFIED
USAF MEMO 7/3/78
by W G E 4/12/79

Phyllis Killian

PHYLLIS KILLIAN
Black Hawk, South Dakota

AF583307

~~RESTRICTED~~

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 15 Sept 57
(Date)

~~RESTRICTED~~

Phyllis Killian
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~SECRET~~
S T A T E M E N T

~~RESTRICTED~~

18

At 2005, on 6 August 1953, I sighted an object about two miles north east of our farm. It looked like a star except that it glowed red and green and moved. It moved up and down, back and forth in no apparent pattern. We observed it through the binoculars but couldn't distinguish a shape. It was in sight all the time except when the jet took after it. As soon as we could hear the jet back over the base, the object came into sight again. We could tell it moved at a tremendous rate of speed as it disappeared so fast and reappeared just as fast.

Mrs Jim Aldren
MRS. JIM ALDREN
Black Hawk, South Dakota

DECLASSIFIED
USA F. MEMO 7/31/75
By W.B. LEWIS 4/12/79

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) *15 Aug 53*
(Date)
James Russell
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

AF588307

~~RESTRICTED~~

James Russell

~~RESTRICTED~~

S T A T E M E N T

On the night of 5 August 1953 at approximately 2030, my wife called me out to look at an object in the sky which she had been watching for about an hour. It was between nine and ten. It was a light in the sky that turned the different colors of white, red and green. It seemed to be about ten to fifteen miles to the northeast. It would go away and come back at intervals. It disappeared when we heard the jet. It could have just been coincidental. When it moved, it traveled very rapidly in a circular fashion or criss cross in not too big an area and then it would disappear completely.

Jim Aldren

JIM ALDREN
Black Hawk, South Dakota

REPRODUCIBLE
USAF memo 7/31/78
By W.G. Lewis 4/12/79

~~RESTRICTED~~

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) 18 Jun 53
(Date)

AF583307

Walter Lewis

(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~

End

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S T A T E M E N T

At approximately 2030 on the night of 5 August 1953, I noticed a strange object which seemed to be hovering in the sky approximately five to eight miles north east of my home. This object looked somewhat like a star except after a few minutes of hovering, it seemed to move sideways and up and down. This object seemed to change from red to green to white while it was standing still and also seemed to fade away after a few minutes. This object seemed to disappear on the exact spot when a jet came close and then when the jet left the area, it would reappear. At approximately 2200, this object seemed to leave the area altogether.

Richard O. Aldren

RICHARD O. ALDREN
Black Hawk, South Dakota

USAF
W & L
7/31/78
4/12/79

~~SECRET~~

(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) **RESTRICTED**
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) *[Signature]*
(Date)
[Signature]
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

AF583307

~~SECRET~~

[Signature]

~~RESTRICTED~~

S T A T E M E N T

At approximately 2315 MST on 5 August 1953, I noticed an unidentified object northeast of Black Hawk, South Dakota. It appeared six or seven times while I was watching it and through the binoculars it looked like a basketball. It had various colors and a lot of speed. It would appear and disappear and would never appear in the same place. When the last jet appeared in the vicinity, it disappeared and I never saw it again.

Olaf Aldren

OLAF ALDREN
Black Hawk, South Dakota

DECLASSIFIED *7/31/78*
USRE, memo
By *W. G. H. WANS, DWS* *4/12/79*

AF583307

~~RESTRICTED~~
(Cancelled)
Classification (changed to) ~~RESTRICTED~~
By Auth CG, 29 Air Div (D) *4/12/79*
(Date)
W. G. H. WANS
(Name) (Grade) (Branch)

~~RESTRICTED~~

2/2/79