

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 Dec 52	2. LOCATION SOUTHERN JAPAN	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 14/0355 GMT 13/10553	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE S
10. SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Star-like object observed at 3000' altitude traveling at an estimated speed of 300 knots. Object disappeared below horizon on heading of 200°. Color of object was yellow intermittently turning orange.		11. COMMENTS ASTEROID CANOPUS

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S. K. 10

Southern Japan

14 December 1952

I. Description of Incident

From 0355Z to 0410Z an object was observed from an AFB in Southern Japan. Object appeared very similar to an evening star, was first yellow in color, but then intermittently turned orange. It was located low on the horizon at a 200° azimuth from the point of observation and appeared to be sinking slowly to the south. However, when it finally disappeared below the horizon, it again assumed the 200° bearing.

Weather in the locality was excellent. Radar attempted to pick the object up, but with no success.

II. Discussion of Incident

Several factors in this sighting are significant. Primarily, the object was described by the observers themselves as "starlike". Secondly, the initial observation as well as the final observation placed the unknown at a 200° azimuth. This indicates that the object probably was a star setting in a straight downward line in the SW. The changing color is a well-known phenomena caused by seeing at great distances.

III. Conclusion

Probably astronomical.

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C-1 OPERATIONAL IMMAD [REDACTED]
FM 527 AC AND WGP ITAZUKE AB FUKUOKA JAPAN
TO CS USAF WASHDC /D/I/
CG AMC WP AFB OHIO /CO ATIC ATTN ATIAA-2C/
ENT AFB COLO
JAPAN AIR DEFENSE FORCE
FEAF JAPAN

SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

CITE INT-354-M.

STARLIKE OBJECT WAS SIGHTED FM DET 21 TSUTSU KAKI, GOOREF RPT GOOREF
COORD CM WJKE 1006CM OF SOUTHERN AREA AND AT 140355I, FOR PERIOD OF
15 MINUTES. SIZE OF OBJECT COMPARED WITH THAT OF AN EVENING STAR,
YELLOW IN COLOR INTERMITTENTLY TURNING ORANGE. FIRST OBSRVD 5 MILES
FROM DET 211 AZIMUTH OF 200 DEGREES AT ALT OF 3000 FEET. OBSERVERS
ESTD SPEED TO BE 300 KNOTS. OBJECT MOVED IN GENERAL DIR OF SOUTH,
VARYING FROM 7 TO 10 DEGREES VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY. SIGHTING
WAS VISUAL. NO RADAR CONTACT WAS MADE. OBJECT DISAPPEARED BELOW
HOIZON ON HEADING OF 200 DEGREES AT 140410I. WEATHER IN LOCALITY WAS
VFR FOR PERIOD OF SIGHTING. FOLLOW-UP RPT WILL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN
72 HOURS.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Description of Object: A star like bright object that changed from a yellow to an orange color intermittently. Object had no visible propulsion system, trail or exhaust and moved in an erratic manner. Movements took place in what was estimated as a 7 to 10 degree area, first moving vertically, then horizontally, each time returning to its original point of departure. There was no evidence of sound, and speed was estimated to be 300 knots. Object cast a beam of light on the water below it.

2. Time of Sighting: Object was sighted at 0350I and remained in view at intervals until 0415I. Time of sighting totaled 25 minutes.

3. Manner of Observation: Visual. Binoculars (7x50) were used, but due to the brightness of the object they were of no great value.

4. Location of Observers: Three airmen observed object at TsuTsu Saki (WJKE 1006). Object was at an azimuth of 200° relative to the observers and ranging from 10 to 25 miles distant during a 25 minute observation period. Altitude was estimated to be at 2000 feet, when first observed, rising to 20,000 feet, then last seen descending below the horizon.

5. Identifying Information on Observers: Observers were two radar operators and one radar mechanic. Airmen Pentek and Edwards have been stationed at TsuTsu Saki for at least 5 months, while Airmen Ellis is a new arrival. All three airmen are considered to be steady, reliable and alert. There is also a high degree of coincidence in their statements.

6. Weather: Sky clear, surface visibility 6 to 10 miles with haze and smoke, surface winds were east at 9 knots, as reported by 20-6 Weather Detachment, Itazuke Air Force Base.

7. Other Activity: None.

8. Physical Evidence: None.

9. Interception or Identification: None attempted.

10. Air Traffic: No air traffic observed on radar scope or visually during the period of report.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER: This is the 2nd report of a similar phenomenon observed on 20 Sep 52 (see IR-4-52, 11 Oct 52, 527th AC&W Gp) over the same area by three different airmen. In addition details of phenomenon observed at Moji (WJLD 5755) and Seburu Yema (WJLD 2226) (see IR-6-52, 27 Oct 52, 527th AC&W Gp) also indicate similarity of observation. These incidents indicate the characteristic of phenomenon observed are being accurately described.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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D/I FEAF COMMENT:

Reference IR-6-52, 527th AC & W Gp, dtd 3 Nov 52. This sighting is similar and possible explanations are as follows:

- Searchlights from surface vessels in the Tsushima Straits or from the islands off the east coast of Kyushu.
- Refracted images of stars as seen through the surface haze and smoke.

for *Roman D. Hastings*
GEORGE D. HASTINGS
Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence Requirements

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	APC 929	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
I/O 527th AC&W Group,		IR-7-52			

STATEMENT

At approximately 0350I on the morning of 14 December 1952 I was asked by A/2C Pentek to observe an area to the SW of our station at about 10 miles on an approximate heading of 200 degrees. I was told that he had made a visual sighting on an unusual airborne object. All that was visible on the radar scope was two (2) locally harbored fishing boats. These craft were observed by this operator heading for the positions that they were at, at a speed of approximately 10 knots. I was further told that this object was changing position very rapidly. It was not observed on the radar by this operator.

At approximately 0354I I made a visual sighting and observed the same object. It was yellow in color and very bright. Its movement was very erratic. It moved first vertically and then horizontally seemingly returning to its original position each time. After observing this, I was forced to disregard my first opinion that it was a star. I had never seen a celestial body move in the previously described manner.

While I was making my observation A/2C Pentek called this information into Hannah controller.

A/3C Ellis our radar maintenance man on duty also observed this object.

At approximately 0410I further observation by this operator showed the object to be from about twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) miles to the SW of our station. Its coloration had now become a dull orange.

During all of this time the altitude of this object varied from medium to very high.

Theodore M. Edwards Jr.
THEODORE M. EDWARDS JR, AF12292488
A/2C., USAF

On the day of 14 December 1952 between the time 0356I and 0415I I saw the ball of light, which was very bright, varying in color from orange to yellow, which could have been taken as being a star, except it had very erratic movement. When I first saw it, it was about twenty (20) or twenty-five (25) miles with a heading of about 200 degrees, away from our station. It was moving up and down, and then from side to side with seemingly high speed. There was a beam of light, such as that of a spot light, coming from it and striking the water. The object, light or whatever it was, was only in view, for a few moments and then there was nothing. It disappeared very abruptly beyond the horizon.

Rollin M. Ellis Jr.
ROLLIN M. ELLIS JR, AF14393829
A/3C., USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
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S T A T E M E N T

On the morning of 14 December 1952 at 0350I I opened one of the windows of operations to get a breath of fresh air. It was at this time that I noticed a brilliantly yellow, glowing object hovering in the sky about 10 miles SW of where I faced, at approximately 200 degrees, and I estimate between 2 and 3 thousand feet. It appeared to be round, but due to its brightness it was hard to be sure. There was no noise or trail from this object and at first I thought it to be a star, until it began to move in a very erratic manner. First from right to left, and then up and down, varying as much as 7 to 10 degrees, all the time moving away from this station. I notified the scope operator, (A/2C Edwards), and he reported nothing on the radar scope in this area. He also took a visual on the object and confirmed my sighting.

At 0345I I notified Hannah controller and passed this information on to him. While this was being done, our maintenance man, A/3C Ellis, also took a sighting and pointed out that this object was casting a beam, similar to a stage spot light, on the water below. I hadn't noticed this before as I was so intent on watching the object itself. As we watched the object, it moved away on a heading of approximately 200 degrees at an estimate speed of 300 knots, rising in altitude to approximately 20,000 feet and changing to a dull orange color as it neared the horizon.

At 0415I almost due south of this station, this object moved below the horizon and was lost to our view.

Fredric B. Pentek

FREDRIC B. PENTEK, AF19414682
A/2C., USAF

Incl #2

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