4602D AISS UFOB LOG

REPORT NUMBER AISS-UFOB's	DATE/TIME OF SIGHTING	RECD AISOP			
85-87-88-90-92	27 March thru 1 Apr	27 Mar——1 Apr			
LOCATION OF SIGHTING		LOGGED BY			
Lake Leelanza, Michi	S/Sgt De ^H udder				
MEANS RECD	ACTION TAKEN				
TT Msgs	Investigation authorized				
INVES UNIT	DATE INVES ASSIGNED	ASSIGNING OFFICER Req by D/I, 37th AI			
Flt 3-0	1 Apr 56	Req by D/I, 37th Al S/Sgt DeRudder			
DATE IR RECD HQ	DATE IR APPROVED	DATE IR TO ATIC			
17 Apr 56	17 Apr 56	17 Apr 56			
DATE FORM 5					
17 Apr 56					
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03/1615Z APR 56

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UFOB MSG DTD 01/1630Z APR 56 PD REQ REASON FOR CLASSIFYING ABOVE CITED MSGS PD END

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GREGORY ALEXANDER 1/LT USAF

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COMDR ATIC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

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GREGORY ALEXANDER 1/LT USAF

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BENRY C BOBER CAPT USAF
ASS'T ADJUTANT

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JOSEPH J MCENTEE JR 1/LT USAF

AICOC

4498

HENRY C BOBER CAPT USAF

ASS'T ADJUTANT

AISOP

Long Distance Telephone Call

Comdr, 4602d AISS

AISOP

3 Apr 56 1615 hours AISS Log #34 S/Sgt DeRudder/4498

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

- 1. Telephone conversation between S/Sgt DeRudder, this headquarters, and T/Sgt Pierschalla, Flight 3-C. (Contacted at home)
- 2. The undersigned called Sgt Pierschalla to assign an investigation of UFOB's in the Traverse City, Michigan area. It was requested that Sgt Pierschalla or S/Sgt Beilfuss travel to the 752d ACWRON at Empire, Michigan, ascertain the names and addresses of the UFOB observers, and to then question the observers. It was suggested that the astronomical theory be checked out first with particular attention directed to the planets Venus and Jupiter. AF Form 112 is to be submitted.

Ronald D. DeRudder, S/Sgt, USAF AIC, UFOB Program

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948 (CLASSIFICATION)
REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-2-56 (LEAVE BLANK)
U.S.A. AISS-UFOB-85-87-88-90-92 AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT
SUBLECT SUBLECT
UFOB AREA REPORTED ON FROM (Agency)
Leelanau County, Mich. (Vic GJEO 1758) USA Flight 3-C, 4602d AISS
10 April 1956 27 March 1956 PREPARED BY (Opher) Source
PHILIP W. BEILFUSS, S/SGT, USAF
REFERENCES (Control mimber, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Telephone Conversation with S/Sgt Ronald DeRudder, Hq, 4602d AISS on 3 April 1956
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 119—Part II.)
I. CONTENTS:
PART ONE: Description of Sighting by
PART TWO: Description of Sighting by
PART THREE: Description of Sighting by
PART FOUR: Description of Sighting by
PART FIVE: Description of Sighting by
PART SIX: Description of Sighting by
PART SEVEN: Description of Sighting by Mr. and Mrs.
PART EIGHT: Description of Sighting by
PART NINE: Description of Sighting by
PART TEN: Description of Sighting by S/Sgt Beilfuss and 1/Lt Balko.
FART ELEVEN: Supplementary Investigative Efforts.
PART TWELVE: Comments of Preparing Officer.
II. SUMMARY: Investigation concluded. Probable astronomical body, the planet Venus.
III. INVESTIGATOR: S/SGT PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16 416 246
Pin W. Seilfuso
PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16 416 246
S/SCT, FLT 3-C, 4602D AISS
D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 37th ADiv; D/I, 30th ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Fit 3-C,
1602d AISS

AF FORM 112—PART II

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT F1t 3-C, 4602d AISS 3C-UFOB-2-56 APPROVED Colonel, USAF Commander

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

3C-UFOB-2-56 Part One	
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	OF JA PAGES

I. SOURCE:

Address: Leland, Michigan (GKEA 1401)

Age: 23 years

Occupation: Metal Worker

Education: High School Graduate

Qualifications: Coastal Artillery for two years.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seemed to be quite serious in his belief that the object in question was not an aircraft or a star and did not seem to be trying to "put one over on the Air Force". A conversation with as to SOURCE's reliability terminated in the understanding that SOURCE is

on March 26 (1956), I was driving from Lake Leelanau (GJEQ 1758) to Leland, Michigan (GKEA 1401). Upon getting out of my car at home, I noticed a bright object at about 40° elevation and 300° azimuth. I watched it for about five minutes and then drove back to Lake Leelanau to get my three buddies.

We returned to my house at about 11:00 PM (0400Z) and looked at the object for another five minutes, both visually and through 4x binoculars. The object seemed to be a crescent with a red-orange stem. It was about the size of a dime at arm's length. It seemed to hold still for a while, but after looking at it for about two or three minutes, it moved away from us and up and down very quickly. It finally just faded out. I didn't hear any sounds."

1 Incl. SOURCE'S Memory Sketch (retouched).

AF FORM 112—PART II

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

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	LIGENCE INFORMATION	ON REPORT	
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS	3C-UFOB-2-56	PAGE 3	OF 1/4 PAGES
Inclosure 1 to Part One:			
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UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56 Part Two

PAGE 4 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE:

Address: Leland, Michigan

Age: 22 years

Occupation: Student

Education: 3 years college

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: When interviewed by this investigator,

In an interview with the SOURCE, it was noticed that he had a his perception as to depth and size of objects near and far away was unreliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was in the Dairy Bar at Lake Leelanau playing pool, when came in and said he could see a Flying Saucer. Two of the other guys and I went with to his house. We all watched the object for about 10 minutes and then it disappeared. It didn't look like an airplane, but it changed colors from red to green to white. After we had been watching for another 10 minutes it just went out. We used a pair of binoculars to look at the object and made a drawing of it. That's the way it looked to me too."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FICH (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56

Part Three

PAGE 5 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE:

Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 19 years

Occupation: Student

Education: Presently a college freshman.

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE was a very likable adolescent. He seemed to be quite sincere in his story of the sighting and was eager to help as much as possible.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was at the Dairy Bar in Lake Lee-lanau at about 10:50 (0350Z) on March 26 when came running in to report that he had seen a Flying Saucer near his house. Naturally we all went out to house to take a look. There was a very bright light in the sky, like a very bright star. The only difference was that it changed colors and seemed to be moving erractically through the sky. We watched it for about five minutes after we got there through binoculars (4x) and then it just seemed to fade out. We heard no sound and the object was about the size of a pea at arm's length. Said it was crescent shaped with a red-orange stem, but I couldn't see the stem."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FIT 3-C, 4602d AISS

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56

Part Four
PAGES

PAGES

I. SOURCE:

Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 17 years

Occupation: Student

Education: High School Senior

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: The SOURCE was quite excited over the possibility that the object might be something from outer space. was not familiar with the SOURCE.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: came into the Dairy Bar in Lake Leelanau at about 10:45 PM (0345Z) March 26 saying he had seen a flying saucer. I went with him to his house where we watched a bright star-like object for about five or ten minutes. The object seemed to be crescent-shaped and changed color from red to green to white. We looked at it through binoculars (4x) and drew a skatch of what it looked like. The object was in the west and seemed to jump up and down rapidly before it just seemed to fade away."

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56

Part Five
PAGE 7 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Mrs.

Address: Rural Route One (Box 130), Cedar, Michigan

Age: 66 years

Occupation: Farmer

Education: Grammer School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: Most of those interviewed, when asked about the reliability of the SOURCE, gave the impression that she was

She was very sure of what she had seen and remarked that it terrified her.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I was sitting in the house sewing last saturday evening at about 10:30 PM (010330Z April 56) when my three dogs started howling and carrying on out in the yard. I went to the back door to see what was the matter. When I opened the door, all three dogs nearly knocked me down trying to get into the house. Their faces were snow white and all their hair was standing on end. I stepped out into the yard and saw a huge reddish-orange object, big as a bushel basket at arm's length, hovering over the trees and Lake Leelanau. I rushed back into the house and reported it to the radar base. When I got back to the window it disappeared behind some clouds."

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-2-56 Par t Six
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS PAGE 8 OF 14

I. SOURCE:



Address: 752nd AC&W Squadron, Empire AF Station, Michigan

Age: 30 years

Occupation: Philco Technical Representative

Education: College Graduate

Qualifications: Graduate Engineer, five years with Philco.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE is considered by all concerned as an excellent source of information. Talks with personnel at the radar site disclosed that he is considered as one of "the best". Mr. Dobrasko was very sincere in his opinions and eager to help as much as possible.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "Before I say anything else, let me make it clear to you that I'm almost certain that the object I've seen is a star. My wife and I have seen this object quite often in the last few days, in fact on every clear night. We usually see it at about 9;00 to 10:30 in the evening while driving from Traverse City (GJEQ 2245) back to Empire (GJDQ 5049). It stands out and our attention is always attracted due to its unusual brilliance. At times, however, it seems to go out (the light) and then reappear. In color it ranges from a bright blue-white to orange. I haven't heard any noise along with the sightings. The object is about the size of a pea at arm's length and is seen in the west. It doesn't seem to move fast enough so that you can visually observe it, but in the course of an evening or an hour's time you can tell that it has dropped toward the horizon. The only reason I even mentioned that I had seen it was that I'd heard so much about "flying objects" being seen around here. I feel almost certain that the object is a star."

CANCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56

Part Seven

PAGE 9 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Mr. and Mrs.

Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Ages: 30 and 29 years, respectively.

Occupation: Farmers

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: Both seemed sincere in their belief that it wasn't an aircraft or a star. As far as could be determined, they are both solid citizens of the area and are respected by other members of the community.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "We were driving from Traverse City to Lake Leelanau, when we noticed this bright, round object in the west. It was red-orange in color and seemed to be moving. We stopped the car and watched it for about 20 minutes. It seemed tobe at an angle of about 30° from us and was receding into the west and away from us. There wasn't any sound or other strange features about it. It was about 10:25 (0325Z) when we first spotted it and it disappeared at about 10:45 (010345Z April 1956) either behind some hills or choude, or the horizon."

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 3C-UFOB-2-56

Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS

Part Eight

I. SOURCE:



Address: Lake Leelanau, Michigan

Age: 30 years

Occupation: Farmer

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seems to be very sincere in his account of the sighting. During the interview, he stated that he had seen this object for a period of about 4 nights, but had been reticent in reporting it due to a fear of being labeled a "crackpot".

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "On the 26th of March I observed this circular, bright object at about 300 elevation in the west. It was about the size of a fifty cent piece at arm's length and was reddish with yellow or white edges. It changed colors while I was watching it. It also seemed to have legs or rays projecting from it. I could hear a faint sound like a hissing or a motor. It receded and faded away from me, disappearing in the west about 11:00 PM (0400Z), about 40 minutes after I had first seen it. It seemed to disappear below the horizon. I was observing the object with a pair of 6x binoculars. The sky was clear, without any noticeable clouds. The legs and colors, as well as the brightness of the object were the reasons I noticed it in the first place. I did'nt want to be called a crackpot, so I waited a couple of nights to be sure of what I saw."

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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I. SOURCE:

Address:

Hazel Park, Michigan (GJGN 5228)

Age: 28 years

Occupation: Engineer with Continental Aircraft

Education: College Graduate

Qualifications: Pilot in WW II, still flies light aircraft.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE is considered very reliable by all persons interviewed, as well as this investigator. Probably one of the most reliable persons to have sighted the object.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "I had seen this bright object in the sky previously and was watching for it at about 11 PM (0400Z) on the night of 31 March 1956. The object was about the size of a dime, white with a greenish cast. When I listened closely, I could hear a sound like that of a jet thrust pump. It was at an elevation of 30° - 40° and an azimuth of approximately 290°. It appeared to move and then stop intermittently in a northwesterly direction. I watched it for quite a while and it appeared to fade occasionally into the horizon and finally faded out entirely. The night was quite clear and I had no optical aids through which to view the object. I happened to be visiting my folks in Lake Leelanau at the time which accounts for the disparity in the address and the place of sighting."

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

3C-UFOB-2-56 Part Ten

PAGE 12 OF 14 PAGES

I. SOURCE: Philip W. Beilfuss, S/Sgt, USAF

Occupation: Operational Intelligence Specialist

Organization: Flight 3-C, 4602d AISS Selfridge AFB Michigan

Age: 24 years

Education: 3 years of college, Technical Intelligence School at ATIC.

II. RELIABILITY: As the investigator as well as the SOURCE in this part, I find it rather difficult to give an estimate of my own reliability. My eyesight and hearing are normal and I will give as clear a picture as possible as to the various events concerning my sighting.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: "Upon my arrival in Traverse City, Michigan, I immediately drove to the Empire AF Station to interview those at the sitetwho had seen the object. 1/Lt Eldon Balko volunteered to accompany me on a trip to the section of the county where the object had been sighted. At 04 2345Z April 1956, 1/Lt Balko and I began the drive to Sutton's Bay from Traverse City. We first interviewed the proprietor of a general store, but met with negative results. We next stopped at a gas station with the same effect. However, as we were leaving, tentered. After a short talk and interview (see Part One) we received directions to the Dairy Bar in Lake Leelanau, where three others who had seen the object were at present. Upon arriving at the Dairy Bar, Lt Balko and I noticed a brightly shining star in the west and commented on the possibility of it being the UFOB. We entered and questioned the three boys.

and questioned the three boys,

with the results detailed in parts 3, 4, and 5. While we were
still at the Dairy Bar, one of the boys stepped outside for a moment and came
back in announcing "It's up there right now!". Lt Balko and I rushed outdoors
to view the object. As soon as it was pointed out to us, we both thought it
was a star and wondered how anyone could mistake it for anything else. There
was some disagreement on the part of the boys as to whether or not it was the
UFOB. While we were watching, the object disappeared behind a cloud and most
of those present thought it had "just faded out". It Balko and I then went to
Leland (GKEA 1401) to interview the Leelanan County

Leland (GKEA 1401) to interview the Leelanau County
was, according to
However, when interviewed,
stated that the only object he had ever
seen was the brightly shining star visible from his office window. This was
also determined to be the same object as the others in Lake Leelanau had seen.

scene and stated that he had never seen anything more suspicious than the planet Venus, which was at its brightest at this time of the year. During the course of the interview, a check was made with the radar site to see if there had been any further sightings. It was discovered that and his companions had seen what they considered to be the object low in the west. It Balko, Editor Sordon, and I rushed to the Lake Michigan shore and from there observed a faint light in the western sky at an elevation of about 15°. The light seemed to change color from red to gold-red to green and occasionally seemed almost grey-white. This object seemed to be the planet Venus, much lower in the sky at 11:30 PM (0430Z) than before. While we were watching, the haze or coulds near the horizon completely obscured the object."

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part F	Eleven				
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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

- 1. A check with the 752nd AC&W Sqdn weather log and Traverse City Airport revealed no significant meteorological data which could be related to the UFOB sightings.
- 2. S/Sgt Beilfuss contacted personnel of the 752nd AC&W Sqdn and it was determined that there were no radar fixes made during the period covered by these reports.
- 3. Extensive informal questioning of personnel of the 752nd AC&W Sqdn revealed that the majority of all personnel who had seen any unusual object thought that it was merely a bright star and nothing in the UFOB line at all.
- 4. S/Sgt Beilfuss and 1/Lt Balko of the radar site spent from 04 2400Z April 1956 until 05 0600Z April 1956 interviewing persons in the area (see Part Ten) in an effort to determine the cause of the sightings.
- 5. of Leelanau County was interviewed in an effort to determine reliability of the persons questioned. Results are included in the individual report parts, where applicable.
- 6. There were no known aircraft operating in the vicinity at the time of sightings.
- 7. On 9 April 1956, S/Sgt Beilfuss interviewed Professor of the Wayne University (Detroit) Astronomy Department. The following facts and comments were received from Dr.
 - a. In relation to the sighting by Mrs. (See Part Five), the moon was full at the time of her sighting. It was determined that the back door of her house faced east and that the moon would be rising at the approximate time of her sighting. Although this does not explain the dogs turning white and their hair standing on end, it is reasonable to assume that was viewing the moonrise.
 - b. Possible explanations for the color-changing of the object:
 - (1) Ordinary binoculars have no chromatic correction.
 - (2) There is a slight varying of refraction due to unequal heating of the atmosphere near the horizon.
 - c. In relation to the sketch by the planet Venus at this time is in a state or stage whereby, when viewed through binoculars or a telescope, it would appear as a crescent-shaped object. There is no explanation for the stem or tail, astronomically speaking.
- 8. 1/Lt Schiele, who had been mentioned as a possible SOURCE by Sgt DeRudder was on leave at the time of the investigation and could not be contacted.

AF FORM 112—PART II

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO. 3C-UFOB-2-56	Part Twelve			
Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS		PAGE 14	OP	14	PAGES

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

- 1. It is the opinion of the preparing investigator that the UFOB described in this report probably was the planet Venus for the following reasons:
 - a. When interviewed SOURCES and companions pointed to a brightly shining object and said "That looks like it". The object was, in this investigators opinion, the planet Venus.
 - b. Most of the other SOURCES stated that the object was observed in a position corresponding to that of Venus at this time of year.
 - c. Comments of Sheriff Bob White on the reliability of those concerned was
 - Speaking of and his companions, he stated that "one of that group probably was told that he saw it, and then did."
 - d. Those individuals who were considered as reliable, as a rule, thought that "It could be a bright star".
 - e. From his own observation of the object, this investigator concluded that the object in question was an unusually brilliant astronomical body. No sounds were heard at any time and the object never attained a size of anything larger than a pea at arm's length. This investigator would tend to attribute these inconsistencies in size, shape, and color to individual variations in perceptiveness. One person interviewed while actually observing the object was later asked to describe it as to size. The answer was "Oh, about the size of a baseball (at arm's length)" And then after being taken outside to interview the object again, "My, it's only the size of a small pea!", which it was.
 - f. Mr. Stanley Dobrasko, considered a very reliable SOURCE, stated that he had thought it was a star all along, but that upon hearing so much about "flying objects" reported his sightings to the Commander, 752nd AC&W Sqdn.

PHILIP W. BEILFUSS AF 16416246 S/Sgt, Flt 3-C, 4602d AISS

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the investigator that this sighting was astronomical in nature. It is the opinion of this headquarters that the information contained in this report substantiates a conclusion of "WAS ASTRONOMICAL".