

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 10 Feb 53 10/1115Z	2. LOCATION Richmond, Va.
3. SOURCE Civ (6 persons)	10. CONCLUSION SEARCHLIGHT
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Two	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Min	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Circular in shape. 20' in diam which appeared luminous, colored orange in the center and blue on the edges. "Slow speed." Obj.'s hovered over a 75' water tower and looked like puppets on a string. COMMENTS: All witnesses, in same area of sighting gave slightly different versions of the sighting. Items such as color, speed, and performance varied widely. Therefore it is the opinion of Proj. Bluebook that the witnesses were not very reliable as observers. However, this report has been evaluated as poss. searchlight reflection.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SW	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

Multiple

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HEADQUARTERS TACTICAL AIR COMMAND
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

In Reply
Refer To

TCECO 350.05

*10/0 615
Richmond VA*

4 MAR 1953

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Report of Unidentified Flying Object (FLYORPT)

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

*Case
file*

Forwarded herewith is a FLYORPT received from the 21st District
Office of Special Investigations, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
Ltr 21st Dist OSI
file 24-0, 25 Feb 53

GEO. M. MANOUSAKIS
WOJG, USAF
Asst Air Adj Gen

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
R00 DIB 830410

If inclosure(s) (is) (are) withdrawn
(or not attached), the classification of this
correspondence will be downgraded to *Uncl*
in accordance with paragraph 25e, AFR 205-1..

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rel: 18 MAR 1953

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
21ST DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, LANGLEY FIELD, VIRGINIA

File No. 24-0

25 February 1953

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL AERIAL OBJECTS,
Richmond Quartermaster Depot,
Richmond, Virginia, 10 Feb 53
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

TO: Commanding General
Tactical Air Command
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia
ATTN: Director of Intelligence

1. This report pertains to the observation of unusual aerial objects by four (4) persons at the Richmond Quartermaster Depot, Richmond, Va. The time of sighting was approximately 0615 hours, 10 Feb 53.

2. On 10 Feb 53, S/A Walter P. Jacob, Richmond Regional Intelligence Office, 1009th CIC Detachment, Richmond, Va., telephonically advised the Richmond Detachment, 21st District OSI, that four (4) civilian guards at the Richmond Quartermaster Depot at approximately 0600 hours, 10 February 1953.

3. On 11 February 1953, Charles L. Camp, Civilian Guard, Richmond Quartermaster Depot, was interviewed and stated that at approximately 0615 hours, 10 February 1953, he was at the southwest end of Warehouse #31, which is located in the southeast section of the Depot, in his vehicle when he saw approaching from the east, at an altitude of approximately 400 feet, two (2) objects, circular in shape, approximately 20 feet in diameter which appeared luminous, colored orange in the center and blue at the edge, the approximate color of a fluorescent lamp. These objects passed directly over Camp's head, proceeding southwest at a "slow speed". They hovered over a 75 foot water tower located at the southwest end of the depot and Camp described them as "playing like puppets on a string". Shortly thereafter the objects disappeared over the horizon in the vicinity of Warehouse #4 which is located approximately 250 feet south of the water tower. Camp proceeded to 8th Street in the vicinity in which the objects disappeared, at which time the objects reappeared and proceeded in a westerly

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21st Dist OSI (IG)
Subj: Unusual Aerial Objects, etc.

25 Feb 53
UNCLASSIFIED 240

18 MAR 1953

direction, turned north towards Camp and then reversed the n reversed themselves and proceed out of sight toward the south, traveling at a "tremendous rate of speed". Camp stated that the period over which he observed the objects were approximately five (5) minutes. Camp stated that he heard no sounds emitted by the objects during the time he observed them.

4. On 11 Feb 53 Jessie E. Kent, Civilian Guard, Richmond, Quartermaster Depot, was interviewed and stated that at approximately 0615 hours, 10 Feb 53, he was at the dam located approximately two (2) miles northeast of the Richmond Quartermaster Depot. While standing on the dam Kent observed two (2) yellowish colored flat circular objects over the water at an altitude of approximately 150 feet. The objects emitted no sound and were hovering over the water moving around and about each other. Kent stated that he thought that they were going to land in the water. After approximately two (2) minutes the objects went straight up into the air and disappeared from sight moving vertically at an extremely rapid rate of speed. Kent stated that the objects were clearly visible to him; that they were approximately 20-25 feet in diameter and that there were no openings visible on the objects.

5. On 11 Feb 53 Harry L. Derr, Civilian Guard, Richmond Quartermaster Depot, was interviewed and stated that at approximately 0615 hours 10 Feb 53, while at the main gate of the Richmond Quartermaster Depot, he observed two(2) objects or lights approaching him from the northeast at a distance of 1 1/2 miles, at an altitude of approximately one thousand (1000) feet and approximately two hundred (200) feet apart. The objects passed over the Elk Pasture approximately five hundred(500) feet south of the main gate. At this point, the objects passed out of Derr's line of vision. Derr stated that he has spent considerable time in the vicinity of airports and that he is certain that these lights were not navigation lights, landing lights or any other type of light that he has observed on conventional aircraft. Derr stated that the objects or lights were circular in shape, yellowish in color and that the objects did not emit a beam of light. Derr stated that from his vantage point, the lights appeared approximately 18 inches in diameter.

6. On 12 Feb 53, Carlisle E. Fields, Civilian Guard, Richmond Quartermaster Depot, was interviewed and stated that at approximately 0600 hours, 10 Feb 53, he was at the north gate of the Richmond Quartermaster Depot when he observed two (2) objects coming toward him from the north at an altitude of approximately 150 feet. The objects appeared to be circular in shape, approximately 36 inches in diameter and were colored orange in the center with purplish blue edges. The objects passed over Fields' head and proceeded south at approximately

UNCLASSIFIED

21st Dist OSI (IG)
Subj: Unusal Aerial Objects, Etc.

25 Feb 53

24-0

18 MAR 1953

UNCLASSIFIED

thirty-five (35) miles per hour "dancing and darting about". Fields, who was in a vehicle, followed and observed the objects as they proceed south to the water tower mentioned in paragraph 3. Fields met Camp at 8th Street, stopped and observed the objects with Camp. In the vicinity of the Water Tower the objects "darted and danced about" and then "danced out of sight" to the south at a slow rate of speed, approximately 35 miles per hour. Fields stated that at no time was there any noise emitted by the objects.

7. All of the witnesses interviewed stated that the atmosphere was extremely clear at the time of the sighting; that there were no clouds in the sky and that the objects were plainly visible to them all. The witnesses advised that they distinctly saw the shapes and characteristics of the object. No distinct markings or openings or irregularities on the surface of the objects were observed by the witnesses. All of the witnesses appeared to be reliable, intelligent, sober individuals who were well acquainted with conventional aircraft. All of the witnesses stated that they have never previously observed any similar objects and could offer no logical explanation for the sighting.

8. The Base Weather Office, Langley Air Force Base, Va., advised that the weather sequence for Richmond, Va., at 0630 hours, 10 Feb 53, was as follows: Clear; visibility 12 miles; temperature 29 degrees; dewpoint 19°; wind from northwest at 3 knots; no clouds.

9. The U. S. Weather office, Richmond, Virginia, advised that they had released a weather balloon at 0415 hours, 10 Feb 53 which ascended at a rate of 700 feet per minute. The Civil Aeronautics Authority, Meteorological Station, Richmond, Va., advised that they had released no weather balloons on 10 Feb 53.

10. Attention is invited to the following discrepancies reflected in statements of Camp and Fields. Camp who was at the southeast end of the depot stated that he observed the objects approaching him from the east and that they proceeded to the southwest. Camp stated that they disappeared from view at a "tremendous rate of speed". Fields who was at the north end of the depot stated that he observed the objects coming toward him from the north. Field followed the objects as they proceeded to the south end of the base where he met Camp, and thereafter Camp and Fields together observed the objects. Fields stated that the objects disappeared at a slow rate of speed, approximately 35 miles per hour.

21 st Dist OSI (IG)

Subj: Unusual Aerial Objects., UNCLASSIFIED

25 Feb 53
24-0

COPY

18 MAR 1953

11. Additional information concerning the above sightings will be forwarded your Headquarters upon receipt by this office.

S/ DWIGHT J. SCOVEL
Lt Colonel USAF
District Commander

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