

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 30 March 53 31/0305Z	2. LOCATION Lyle, Washington
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON Moby Dick balloon was released at Chehalis, Wash., 114 miles NW of place of observation. Winds aloft were 280 deg, 25 knots at 10,000 ft., 300 deg, 30 knots at 20,000 ft., 320 deg, 50 knots at 30,000 ft.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One XXXXXXXXXXXX	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N - S	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Bright object with a red trail moved N-S disappearing behind some clouds.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

ACTION

31 MAR 1953 1331 1515Z 00 052

hr

ATIC

1. Attn
2. Attn
3. C. files

RA037

WPA118E

YDB102

UNCLASSIFIED

XYA159

XDB157

JWPDM 159

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPRS JEPFF 555

DE JWPDM 04B

P 310545Z ZNJ

FM MCCHORD FLT SV CEN MCCHORD AFB WASH

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE-HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

JEDWP/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO

INFO JEPRS/COMDR FS WASH 25 DC

JEPFF/COMDR MATS WASH 25 DC

/R [REDACTED] ATTN ATIAA-2C ATTN INTELLIGENCE DIV PD

FSC 30-C-2 PD FLYOBRPT

- A. 1 OBJ SCML SHAPE AND SIZE UNKN SCML BRIGHT COLOR SCML OBSERVED
OBJECT UNKN SCML NO OBSERVED PROPULSION SYSTEM CMA EXHAUST TRAIL CMA
RED SCML SPEED AND SOUND UNKN SCML NO MANEUVERS OBSERVED SCML MOVED
FROM NORTHEAST OF LYLE CMA WASH PD TO A POSITION OVER ROWENA CMA ORE PD
OBJ VANISHED DID NOT GO BEHIND CLOUDS PD
- B. OBJT SIGHTED 1905 PST 30 MAR 53 PERIODS OF TIME UNKN PD
- C. OBJ WAS OBSERVED VISUALLY FROM THE GROUND PD WITH 8 POWER GLASSES PD
- D. OBSERVER SIGHTED OBJ AT LYLE CMA WASH PD 45 DEG 40 MIN NORTH 121 DEG

UNCLASSIFIED

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

PAGE TWO JWPDM 04B

16 MIN WEST PD

UNCLASSIFIED

RED SCML SPEED AND SOUND UNKN SCML NO MANEUVERS OBSERVED SCML MOVED
FROM NORTHEAST OF LYLE CMA WASH PD TO A POSITION OVER ROWENA CMA ORE PD
OBJ VANISHED DID NOT GO BEHIND CLOUDS PD
B. OBJT SIGHTED 1905 PST 30 MAR 53 PERIODS OF TIME UNKN PD
C. OBJ WAS OBSERVED VISUALLY FROM THE GROUND PD WITH 8 POWER GLASSES PD
D. OBSERVER SIGHTED OBJ AT LYLE CMA WASH PD 45 DEG 40 MIN NORTH 121 DEG

UNCLASSIFIED

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

PAGE TWO JWPDM 04B

UNCLASSIFIED

16 MIN WEST PD

E. OBJ OBSERVED PASSED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AT AN AZIMUTH ELEV OF 40
DEG PD

F. MR [REDACTED] CMA WAS PD RELIABILITY OF INFO SUBMITTED CANNOT
BE JUDGED PD

G. WEATHER IN GENERAL AREA SCAT CLDS BASES APPROX 4000 FEET VSBY
UNRESTRICTED SCML WINDS ALOFT SCML 280 DEG 25K 10000 FEET SCML 300 DEG
30K 20000 SCML 320 DEG 50K 30000 SCML FEET PD

H. MOBY DICK WEATHER BALLOON MQ DA BEING PLOTTED IN GENERAL
VICINITY AT 1900 PST PD

I. NO PHOTOGRAPHS OR FRAGMENTS AVAILABLE PD

J. INTERCEPTION ACTION ATTEMPTED UNKN PD

K. AIR TRAFFIC SCML TWO CIVIL AIRCRAFT SOUTH AND WEST BOUND FROM
YAKIMA CMA WASH PD TO PORTLAND CMA ORE CMA SCML ON JET INTERCEPTER
ON PATROL IN VICINITY OF THE DALLES CMA ORE PD AT 1845 PST 35000 FEET.

L. INFO WAS RECD FROM THE DALLES INSAC VIA TELETYPE AND FROM SEATTLE
ARTC VIA INTERPHONE PD

31/0648Z MAR JWPDM

UNCLASSIFIED

*Wade note + check
when we get
the plots*

*Pass up in serial
bulletin*

ajl

USA-MATS

Witness

UNCLASSIFIED
IR-238-53

SECRET		
by Authority of Flight Service		
12 Apr 53	JA	D/ops
Date	Initials	Office

(Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Object Near Lyle, Washington 30 March 1953

States of Washington and Oregon, USA

Flight Service, MATS, 3800 Newark
Street, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.

2 April 1953

30 March 1953

F-2

Frank M. Allen, Lt Colonel, USAF

Mr. [REDACTED], Lyle, Washington

Teletype FLYOBAPT 310618Z March by BeChord Flight Service Center

An observer at Lyle, Washington sighted a bright colored object, at 1905 PST
30 March 1953. Object moved southward from Northeast of Lyle to the vicinity of
Rowena, Oregon, then vanished.

FRANK M. ALLEN
Lt Colonel, USAF
Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED

Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTH: ATTAA-2c

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

753-4383

274

Flight Service, MAFS
3800 Newark Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED

IR-235-53

2

3

The following teletype report was received from McChord Flight Service Center, McChord AF Base, Tacoma, Washington:

FSC 30-C-2

a. One object; shape and size unknown; bright color; observed object unknown; no observed propulsion system, exhaust trail, red; speed and sound unknown; no maneuvers observed; moved from Northeast of Lyle, Washington to a position over Rowena, Oregon. Object vanished did not go behind clouds.

b. Object sighted 1905 PST 30 March 1953, periods of time unknown.

c. Object was observed visually from the ground, with eight power glasses.

d. Observer sighted object at Lyle, Washington. 45° 40' North 120° 15' West.

e. Object observed passed from North to South at an azimuth elevation of 40°.

f. Mr. [REDACTED], Lyle, Washington. Reliability of information submitted cannot be judged.

g. Weather in general area scattered clouds bases approximately 4000 feet visibility unrestricted; winds aloft 280° 25 knots at 10,000 feet; 300° 30 knots at 20,000 feet; 320° 50 knots at 30,000 feet.

h. Moby Dick weather balloon MQ DA being plotted in general vicinity at 1900 PST.

i. No photographs or fragments available.

j. Interception action attempted unknown.

k. Air traffic; two civil aircraft South and West bound from Yakima, Washington to Portland, Oregon; one jet interceptor on patrol in vicinity of The Dalles, Oregon, at 1845 PST 35,000 feet.

l. Information was received from The Dalles Interstate Airways Communications station via teletype and from Seattle Air Route Traffic Control center via interphone.

Comments of Preparing Officer:

1. Lyle, Washington is located on the North side of the Columbia River, approximately six and one half miles Northwest (330° true bearing) of The Dalles, Oregon. Rowena, Oregon is located across the Columbia River from Lyle (1.5 miles, true bearing 190°).

2. There is a Moby Dick balloon launching site at Chehalis, Washington, which is 11 1/2 miles Northwest (true bearing 310°) of Lyle. A balloon launched from this site, affected by the winds aloft indicated in the message, would have passed near the Lyle area, as indicated by the message. Balloon would have been at an altitude which would render an estimate of its course by a ground observer at least unreliable. Experience has proven that a balloon at altitude can be easily lost when using glasses in a manner which leads to a belief that it has burst or disappeared.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

753-4383

274

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Flight Service, MATS
3800 Newark Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

IR-238-53

3

3

3. The area in which sighting occurred is in an Air Defense Identification Zone, and any aircraft or flying objects should have been under radar surveillance. Positive statement that radar sites had not observed the incident is not included. The presence of an interceptor patrol in the area, however, indicates that radar surveillance in this area is inadequate.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

TO VLM 1023 OF 20 X

[REDACTED]

753-4383

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HOWARD L. BEVIS, President

COLUMBUS 10

EMERSON McMILLIN OBSERVATORY

19 May 53

1st Lt. Robert Olsson
Wright-Patterson AFB.

Dear Lt. Olsson;

This is a belated report on the last batch which I received at the end of April.

Just as soon as our plans for employing Miss Gluck officially go through, I shall be able to send you a sheet with comments on each individual case, so that you will have my comments on each folder. The letter method ~~is~~ has obvious drawbacks. But until that time comes and she can handle my typing and completion of forms, I had better stick to this letter method.

In this latest batch we have only 4 really interesting cases. I might mention a 5th, 28 March 53, Scott AFB, which is the 1st report I've seen of an honest to goodness mirage. 6 Cases have only one observer and I'm following my usual rule of discounting those.

8 April was a meteor.

The Great Falls 3 April case was Venus if reported times was in error.

28 March Albrook AFB was probably Venus.

31 March Honshu, and 30 March Lyle, Wash., are puzzling but could possibly have been balloons.

~~The 8 April~~ Greenland case was an obvious meteor.

This brings us to the interesting cases:

25 March San Antonio could hardly have been a mirage and I'm surprised there was no radar pickup. Was there any aircraft like helicopters that might explain this. Anything more come in on this one? Don't think this is good enough for a pinch-bottle but it should be listed as Nocturnal meandering light.

29 March Spooner, Wisc: Duration times needs checking here. Hard to believe that object could have done all that in 15 seconds. An interesting case and one of the regular questionnaires should be sent to Mr. Gilette.

Next is the 12 April Stead AFB. I think this is the most interesting case of the batch, and I hope you receive more dope on it. Questionnaires should be sent. I'd like to see Menzel explain this one! Is there any possibility that these could have been aircraft? Apparently ducks have been eliminated.

As for the 26 March, Equasseur AFB although NML, the data are contradictory and insufficient. Perhaps this was a helicopter? We ought to ~~have~~ have much more information on this one. Has this been received?

Sincerely,
Allen Hyatt