PROJECT 10073 RECORD

317

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 7 April 49 07/1015Z	2. LOCATION Des Moines, Iowa
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Other (UNRELIABLE REPORT)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer saw a light which gave off a light brighter than day. Observer stated that it appeared similar to a sun spot The object was moving North. Interviewer stated that observer appeared to be making statements which he was not sure were correct.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE North	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO.	DATE
5D 24-21N	26 May 1949

REPORT MADE BY
HARRY FYVIE blk

REPORT MADE AT
DO #5, W/PAFB, Dayton, Ohio

PERIOD
26 May 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DO #5, W/PAFB, Dayton, Ohio

STATUS
PENDING

TITLE

PROJECT "GRUDGE"
Incident, Des Moines, Iowa
7 April 1949

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
NONE. This is an initial report.

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by R & R from MCIAXS, Headquarters Air Materiel Command, dated 20 May 1949, to obtain detailed information from witnesses, weather and research agencies concerning the sighting of unidentified aerial phenomena at Des Moines, Iowa on 7 April 1949.

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

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

DISTRIBUTION

CG, AMC	2
Hq. OSI (Incls)	2
DO #13 (Incls)	2
File	2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO
Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXS

APPROVED
JOHN E. MORRIL
WOJG
THOMAS P. DOYLE, JR.
Captain, USAF
Acting DISTRICT COMMANDER

FILE STAMP

5-1

AFOSI FORM 4
23 JULY 48

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED

16-66438-1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

5D 24-21N
PROJECT GRUDGE

DETAILS:

1. Investigation requested by Routing & Record Sheet from MCIAXS, Headquarters Air Materiel Command, dated 20 May 1949, to obtain detailed information from witnesses, weather and research agencies concerning the sighting of unidentified aerial phenomena at Des Moines, Iowa on 7 April 1949.

AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB

2. Files of this office contain a letter, dated 14 May 1949, from [redacted], 2900 Rutland Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa in which the writer states that he sighted an unusual and unidentified aircraft at 0415 hours, 7 April 1949.

INCLOSURES

FOR DO #13, OFFUTT AFB AND HEADQUARTERS OSI

1. Guide to Aerial Phenomena Investigation (in dup)

2. Copy, letter from M. L. AHERN (in dup)

P E N D I N G

CONFIDENTIAL

5D 24-21N
PROJECT CRUDGE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 13, OFFUTT AFB

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

Weather and research agencies will be contacted and witnesses interviewed relative to the sighting of aerial phenomena at Des Moines, Iowa on 7 April 1949. Inclosed guide will be used for reference.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

has left a lasting impression on him but that he had not thought about it until this happened the other night. [redacted] called the local paper and told them about it and that he didn't mind a little publicity if they would report the truth as he saw it and not make it appear that he ([redacted]) had seen a "flying saucer." [redacted] stated that he has read articles about aerial phenomena and that the last article he read had given the address to which correspondence concerning unusual activity should be sent. [redacted] reported the incident to the newspaper before he communicated with Wright Field. [redacted] stated that no one from the newspaper had come to see him. The object was moving north and [redacted] stated he had to get on his knees to see out his window and over the roof of the house next door on the west. [redacted] stated that the shadow on his bedroom floor was moving south and that the light was so intense that it shown through his blinds which are heavy, green, non-transparent blinds.

AGENT's NOTE: [redacted] appeared to be making statements which he was not sure were correct. When the writer remarked about them, [redacted] would counter by asking if his statements were not correct. [redacted]'s grandchild was present and this appeared to make the interview very uncomfortable for [redacted]. The grandchild was asking questions and [redacted] appeared desirous of having the child out of the room.

5. The name files of the Police Department, Des Moines, Iowa, and the Sheriff's Office, Polk County, Des Moines, Iowa, were examined and revealed no derogatory information concerning [redacted].

Inclosures:

FOR DO #5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB

1. Cy of "Guide to Investigation. Unidentified Aerial Objects."

2. Sketch showing salient features of Project "GRUDGE" as viewed by [redacted].

3. Sketch showing [redacted]'s description of aerial phenomena.

FOR HEADQUARTERS OSI

2. Sketch showing salient features of Project "GRUDGE" as viewed by [redacted].

3. Sketch showing [redacted]'s description of aerial phenomena.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

24-32

DETAILS:

UNCLASSIFIED

AT DES MOINES, IOWA

1. Mrs. LOIS M. WALTON, 2910 Rutland, Des Moines, Iowa, housewife and private nurse, was interviewed on 20 June 1949. Mrs. WALTON stated that she has known Mr. M. L. AHERN for three years as a neighbor, and that from her observation of him, he (AHERN) appears and acts odd. Mrs. WALTON also stated that Mr. AHERN has caused trouble in the neighborhood and that she would not put it past AHERN to think up something unusual for a bit of publicity.

2. Miss OSIE TAYLOR, 2906 Rutland, Des Moines, Iowa, saleslady, was interviewed on 20 June 1949. Miss TAYLOR stated that she has known Mr. AHERN for nine years as a neighbor and has found him to be odd and eccentric. Informant also stated that she stays away from AHERN because he has caused trouble in the neighborhood. Informant stated that AHERN has a feeling that some of his property may be taken away from him, as some of the neighbors had their lots surveyed and in the surveying it was determined that the lot stakes were not exactly right. The neighbors were entitled to a few more feet of land. This caused AHERN a great deal of concern as he felt that this would revert down the line until he would be the last and that some of his land would be taken away from him. AHERN is hot headed and is capable of giving information that does not exist.

3. Miss MELISSA TAYLOR, 2906 Rutland, Des Moines, Iowa, accountant, was interviewed on 20 June 1949. Miss TAYLOR stated that she has known Mr. AHERN for eight years as a member of the community, and believes that he is capable of giving information which is not substantiated by facts. AHERN has written letters to the local newspaper which has caused his family great concern because it jeopardized his son's position. AHERN is eccentric and informant stated that she and her sister have stopped having anything to do with him.

4. Mr. [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa, retired, was interviewed on 20 June 1949. Mr. [redacted] stated that he was awakened from a sound sleep by a terrifying light shining through his blinds on 7 April 1949 at 0415 hours. [redacted] stated that he watched the light from his bed and that it gave off a light brighter than day. [redacted] stated that he could see shadows in his back yard, especially the eave from the garage next door, but that it gave or cast no shadow from the telephone pole to the rear of his house. He ([redacted]) then got up and went to the window on the west and watched the light until it disappeared behind the neighbor's house and chimney. [redacted] stated that he awakened no one in the house because they have two roomers who have to go to work early, and also a young grandchild who, if awakened, will not go to sleep again. [redacted] stated that when he was a young boy fourteen years old he looked directly into a sun spot, and that this phenomena in the sky is the closest thing he has seen to the sun spot. [redacted] stated that looking into that sun spot

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

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No._____

1. Date of Observation 7 April 1949 Date of Interview 20 June 1949

2. Exact time of observation (local) 0415 CST

3. Place of Observation: Des Moines, Iowa
(Map Coordinates)

4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details:
Observer was in 2d floor, south-west bedroom, frame house. Object was west south west of him and he observed it from the east.

5. What attracted attention to object: I was awakened by a piercing light shining through non-transparent blinds(green). It was lighter than day.

6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping:
One object(see sketch attached)

7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at arms length): It was twice the size of a full moon.

8. Color of object: Reddish, yellow and purple, that is, the upper 4/5's.

9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object):
It resembled the scoop that is used by grocery men in scooping sugar.

10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon - 0° at horizon, 90° overhead): Angle approximately 30 degrees and 350 feet.

11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from North):
When first seen? West south west When last seen? North north west

12. Distance from observer (Distance to town, bldg, etc., over which object appeared to be): Approximately 200 feet from observer

13. Direction of flight of object (s): North

14. Time in sight: 12 Minutes; went behind chimmney of neighbor's house. I did not go down stairs to follow it.

15. Velocity (time to cover given angular distance):
35 degree angle and took 12 minutes.

16. Sound and odor:
There was no sound or oder

UNCLASSIFIED

Incl 1

17. Trail (color, length, width, persistance, etc.): No trail, no color, length about 4" over 2 feet, width, less than 2 feet.

18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of brilliance): Brightest thing I have ever seen..incandescence.

19. Projections (fins, wings, rods, antennae, canopies, etc.):

No projections--steady flight, perfect control.

20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc. - sketch of flight path):

No maneuvers of any kind--straight flight and disappeared behind neighbor's chimmney.

21. Manner of disappearance:
Around roof on neighbors house and behind the chimmney.

22. Effect on clouds: None--not determinable.

23. Additional information concerning object:

24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
No adverse weather conditions and no light at time of sighting.

Name and address of observer:
Mr. [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa

Occupation and hobbies:
Retired, former, Farmer, Insuranceman Hobbies: Politics
Teacher, RR Mail Service

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer (Check neighbors, police dept., FBI records, employer,etc):
This writer believes this to be publicity stunk which didn't materialize. Subject is fairly intelligent but lacks ambition for doing anything constructive. He is approximately 65 years of age and has no outside interests or within the home. He has read numerous articles on arial phenomena and is more or less intrigued by them. He has much time to do about nothing. He is shabbely dressed and generally unkept. His reasoning has been easily changed to conform to this writers opinion, and would readily change his to conform to what was correct.

Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material? No glasses were used and object was observed through window pane

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Relative to Radar Sightings

1. Re radars now operating on ground

   a. Observations of direction, range, speed, altitude and size of target:

   Not applicable none in area

   b. Did target execute any turns? If so, what angle (180°), etc, and what radius of turn. If radius of turn was not observable, how long did the target stay in the turn and what was its speed?

   Not applicable

   c. Note particularly any separation of distant target into several targets upon approach:

   Not applicable

   d. Was radar blip on cathode ray tube well defined and consistent with size of object; faint; fading, pulsating at regular rate:

   Not applicable

   e. Did radar echo signal disappear suddenly or gradually?

   Not applicable

2. If airbourne, when object was sighted

   Not applicable

   a. Were there any radar indications or extra noise on radio circuits:

   Not applicable

   b. Give estimates of size, speed, maneuvers, etc.:

   Not applicable

GENERAL

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions:

   AT 0409, 7 April 1949, Des Moines, Iowa, U. S. Court House
   Ceiling; 25,000', thin broken clouds, lower thin scattered clouds, 12,000',
   Visibility; 12 miles, surface winds, wsw 03 knots, Barometeric Press: 29.89.

2. Winds aloft report:

   AT 0300, 7 April 1949, Des Moines, Iowa, Airport Weather Station.

Surface	**:**	**from 320**	**at 03 knots**
2000'	**:**	**310**	**11**
3000	**:**	**300**	**15**
4000	**:**	**300**	**19**
5000	**:**	**300**	**24**
6000	**:**	**300**	**28**
7000	**:**	**300**	**27**
8000	**:**	**300**	**32**
9000	**:**	**310**	**35**
10000	**:**	**310**	**38**

UNCLASSIFIED

3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time:
(Check Canadian activity if close to border)

Mid-Continent AirLines—none scheduled and nothing unusual reported

United Air Lines—none scheduled and nothing unusual reported

4. Possible releases of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other; obtain computed or observed trajectory of device (theodolite, radar readings, etc.)

None in vicinity

5. If object contacted earth, obtain soil samples within and without depression or spot where object landed for purposes of making comparison of soils.

Not applicable

6. Obtain photographs (or original negatives) where available; if not, secure sketches of:

a. Object
b. Surrounding terrain where object was observed
c. Place where object contacted earth (if this happened)
d. Maneuvers
e. Formation (if more than two)

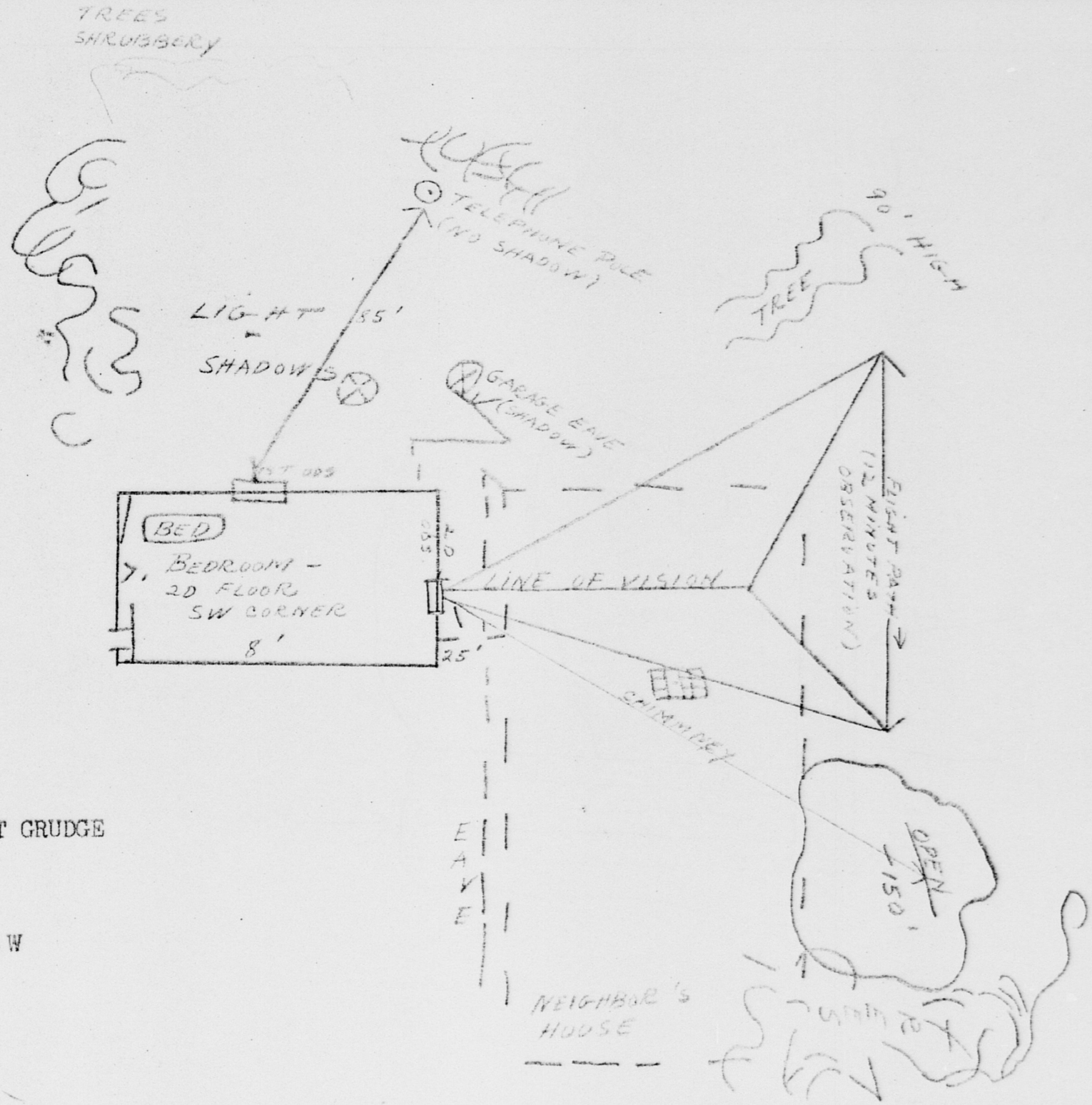
Observation was made from an upstairs bedroom on 2d floor of an average American frame home in an average city neighborhood.

7. Secure signed statements.

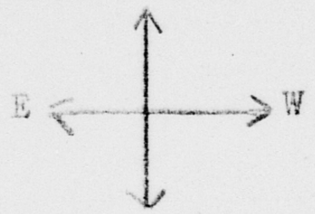
None

8. Obtain fragments or physical evidence where possible.

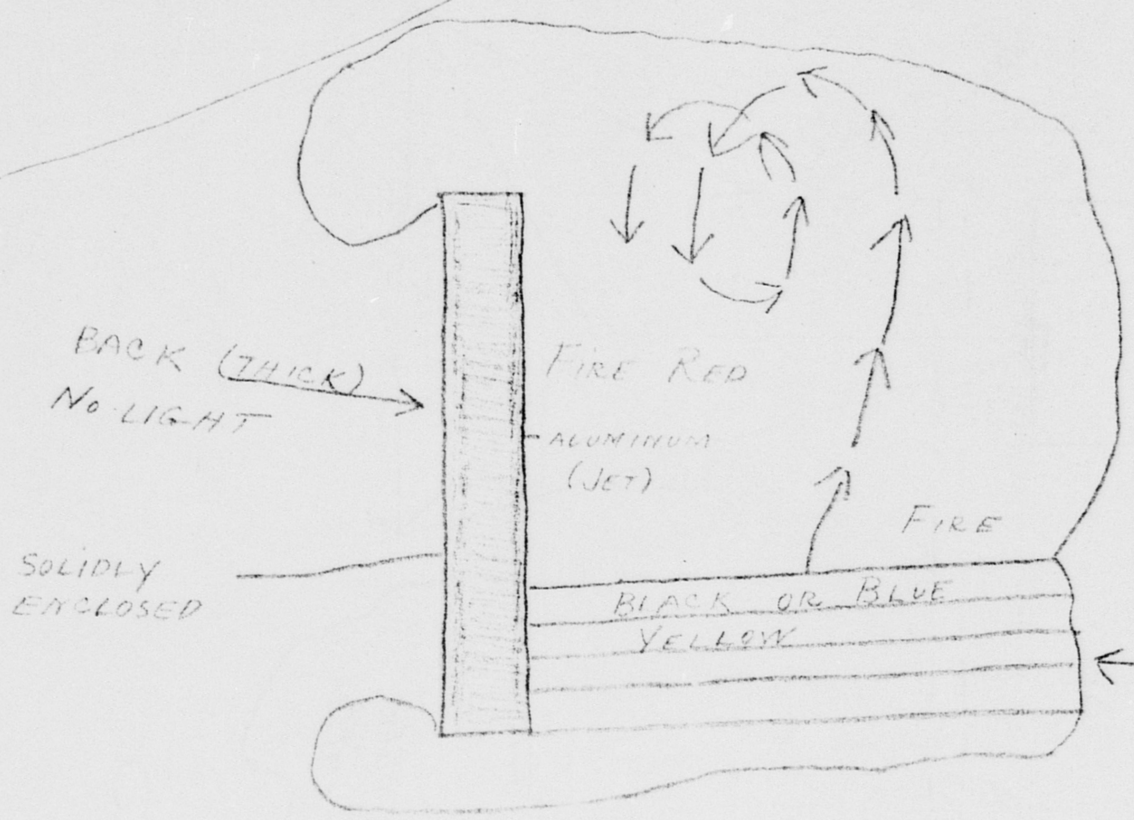
None



Salient features of PROJECT GRUDGE
as viewed by observer.



UP



IT WAS GOING NORTH

NORTH

ONE OF THESE LOWER TWO WAS BRIGHT PURPLE.

VIEWED FROM THE EAST

CONFIDENTIAL

b1b

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.	DATE
24-32	6 July 1949

REPORT MADE BY: FRANK A. GALLAGHER

REPORT MADE AT: DO #13, Offutt AFB

PERIOD: 20, 21 June 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: DO #5, W/PAFB, Dayton, Ohio

STATUS: RUC

TITLE

PROJECT "GRUDGE"
Incident, Des Moines, Iowa
7 April 1949

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Report of S/A HARRY FYVIE, DO #5, File No. 5D 24-21N, dated 26 May 1949

SYNOPSIS

Investigation reveals that Mr. [redacted], [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa, is eccentric, has been a source of trouble in the neighborhood, and is capable of giving information that does not exist. [redacted] stated he first witnessed the phenonema at 0415 hours, 7 April 1949. [redacted] described the object as being twice the size of a full moon, reddish, yellow, and purple in color, resembling a scoop. The object was about four (4) inches over two (2) feet in length and was less than two (2) feet wide.

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

DISTRIBUTION

DO #5 (3 Incls)	4
Hq OSI (2 Incls)	2
File (3 Incls)	2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXS

FILE STAMP

APPROVED

Richard J. Bond

RICHARD J. BOND
Captain, USAF
Deputy *District Commander.*

UNCLASSIFIED

FORM 49 0-208 Replaces AFOSI Form 4, 24 Jul 48, which may be used.

CONFIDENTIAL

16—57744-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted]

10

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

5D-OSI/HF/mrr
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21N

27 July 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Des Moines, Iowa
7 April 1949

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXS

1. Reference is made to R & R, your office, dated 20 May 1949, requesting investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena at Des Moines, Iowa, on 7 April 1949.

2. Forwarded for your information is the final report of Special Agent FRANK A. GALLAGHER, OSI District Office No. 13, dated 6 July 1949.

3. Your attention is invited to Paragraph 11 of Air Force Regulation 205-6, dated 18 May 1949, which prohibits the disclosure of the nature, sources or existence of investigative information to unauthorized persons.

4. The files of the 5th District Office of Special Investigations are being closed in this case.

JEROME M. BRAUN
Acting District Commander

1 Incl: (in dup)
R/I DO#13 dtd 6 Jul 49

Copy to: Hq OSI

UNCLASSIFIED

JUL 25

WP-0-1 OCT 48 1SM

[redacted]

Name and address of observer: Mr. [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa

Occupation and hobbies: None

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Observer is eccentric and a constant source of trouble in neighborhood and capable of dreaming up things which don't exist.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY: . . . 4. Mr. [redacted], Des Moines, Iowa, retired, was interviewed on 20 June 1949. Mr. [redacted] stated that he was awakened from a sound sleep by a terrifying light shining through his blinds on 7 April 1949 at 0415 hours. [redacted] stated that he watched the light from his bed and that it gave off a light brighter than day. [redacted] stated that he could see shadows in his back yard, especially the eave from the garage next door, but that it gave or cast no shadow from the telephone pole to the rear of his house. He ([redacted]) then got up and went to the window on the west and watched the light until it disappeared behind the neighbor's house and chimney. [redacted] stated that he awakened no one in the house because they have two roomers who have t go to work early, and also a young grandchild who, if awakened, will not go to sleep again. [redacted] stated that when he was a young boy fourteen years old he looked directly into a sun spot, and that this phenomena in the sky is the closest thing he has seen to the sun spot. [redacted] stated that looking into that sun spot has left a lasting impression on him but that he had not thought about it until this happened the other night. [redacted] called the local paper and told them about it and that he didn't mind a little publicity if they would report the truth as he saw it and not make it appear that he ([redacted]) had seen a "flying saucer." [redacted] stated that he has read articles about aerial phenomena and that the last article he read had given the address to which correspondence concerning unusual activity should be sent. [redacted] reported the incident to the newspaper before he communicated with Wright Field. [redacted] stated that no one from the newspaper had come to see him. The object was moving north and [redacted] stated he had to get on his knees to see out his window and over the roof of the house next door on the west. [redacted] stated that the shadow on his bedroom floor was moving south and that the light was so intense that it shown through his blinds which are heavy, green, non-transparent blinds.

AGENT'S NOTE: [redacted] appeared to be making statements which he was not sure were correct. When the writer remarked about them, [redacted] would counter by asking if his statements were not correct. [redacted] grandchild was present and this appeared to make the interview very uncomfortable for [redacted] The grandchild was asking questions and [redacted] appeared desirous of having the child out of the room.

INCIDENT NO. 317

1. Date of Observation 7 April 1949 Date of Interview 20 June 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 0415
3. Place of Observation Des Moines, Iowa
4. Position of observer In bed on 2nd floor of home.
5. What attracted attention to object Terrifying light shining through window.
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size Twice full moon
8. Color of object Top four-fifths Reddish, yellow and purple.
9. Shape Resembled grocery sugar scoop.
10. Altitude 30° 350'
11. Direction from observer First seen WSW, last seen NNE
12. Distance from observer 200 Feet
13. Direction of flight of object(s) North
14. Time in sight 12 Minutes
15. Speed Very slow, traveled 35° in 12 minutes.
16. Sound and odor None.
17. Trail
18. Luminosity Brighter than day.
19. Projections None
20. Maneuvers Straight flight
21. Manner of disappearance Behind obstacle
22. Effect on Clouds None noticed
23. Additional information concerning object See Agent's note on 2nd Page.
24. Weather Conditions No adverse weather conditions or light.

(over)

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

MCIAXS file

SPOSI

Project "Grudge" 517

50 OSI
ATTN: Mr. Morrill

MCIAR3 20 May 49 1

1. It is requested your office initiate an investigation of the unidentified aerial phenomena reported by inclosed letter.

2. As an aid to the investigating officer in recording the desired data 2 copies of our "Guide to Investigation are also forwarded.

3 Incls
1. Ltr fr Mr. [redacted] (1 cy)
2. Ltr fr Mr. [redacted] (1 cy)
3. Guide to Investigation (2 cys)

N. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

Cm/mr
60598
Bldg 262
Post 2190

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

MCIAXS/GWT/mr

MCIAXS

Mr. M. L. Ahern
2900 Rutland Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Sir:

Receipt of your letter dated 14 May 1949 is respectfully acknowledged by this Headquarters.

The unidentified aerial phenomena reported by your letters has been made a matter of record and will be incorporated into the present study on this subject.

Should additional information regarding this incident be desired correspondence with you will be directed to the above address.

Your action in reporting this incident to the proper authorities is appreciated.

Yours very truly,

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

HQC FILE COPY

5/19/49

UNCLASSIFIED

Des Moines, Iowa
May 14, 1949

UNCLASSIFIED

Technical Intelligence Division,
Air Materiel Command Headquarters,
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
Dayton, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

About 4:15 a. m. Thursday, April 7th, I was awakened by the brightest light I have ever seen.

It was not a ball of fire racing through the sky. It was moving so slow it appeared to be standing still. The only way that I could tell it was moving was to note the space between it and the roof of my neighbor's house, 25' west of me. It passed west of that roof, going north.

There was a straight line on the back of the thing. It was divided into two apartments. The upper apartment was three times as large as the lower apartment. They were separated by a straight line. The lower apartment was divided into several different apartments, all the same size, all a different color, and all had straight sides. The whole thing was inclosed in something like glass. I did not see any opening nor did I hear any noise.

The upper apartment was a raging fire. The fire seemed to start at the point where I started the arrow, race up to the ceiling, then turn around and around. When the fire hit the celing it always turned toward the back and then down.

The moment I saw it I was satesfied it was man made. It was the most heinous looking thing I have ever seen. I don't think it was more than 200 feet from me. Please find enclosed a rough sketch of the thing. This thing did not resemble the "saucers".(I saw three saucers last October about 2:30 P.M. The day was perfect. They were north east, a little east of overhead, the sun was south west. The sun was shining on them. They were going north, not very fast.

At first glance they seemed to be bobing along, but I noticed they seemed to have rhythm. Then I could see that they were fastened together,by a stout crooked axis, about two feet apart. The axis was traveling end ways. They seemed to be rotateing, with th e axis, at a terrific speed. This speed, plus the position of the saucers on the axis, seemed to hold it up and move it forward. It seemed to bore through space just like an auger. I saw no tail, no wings no light.)

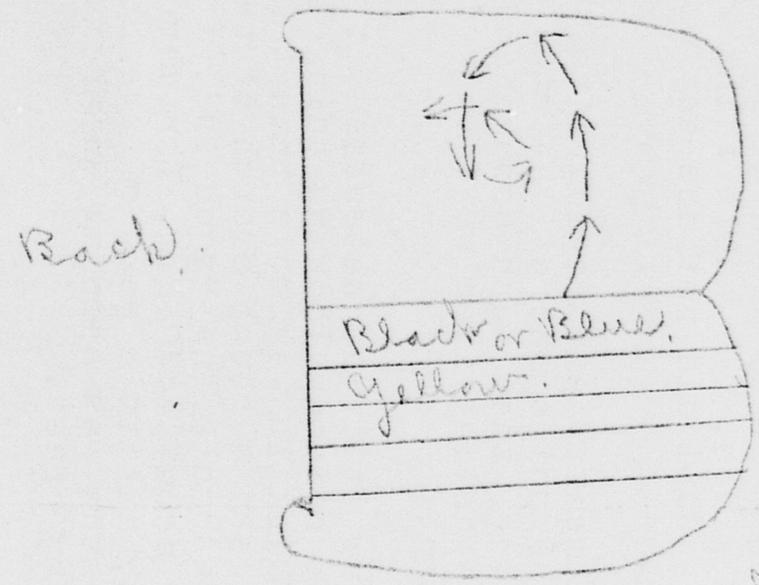
This thing that I saw, April 7, moved straight, steady and very slow. It had a very thick back made of something like iron. Yours very Truly,

M. L. Ahern 2900 Rutland Ave

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

5-17



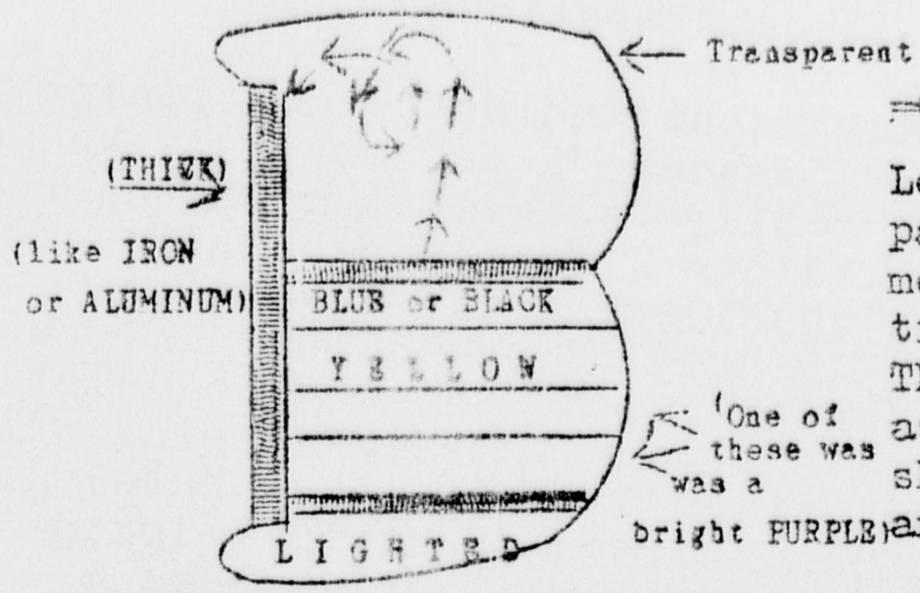
lower two, one of those was a bright purple, but I don't know which one.

DESCRIPTION OF A "FIREBALL"

by Dr. William Nothdurft.

In the early morning of April 7, 1949, at about 4:15 - 4:30 a.m., there appeared over Des Moines, Iowa, a strange object. This was two days after the various appearances over Salt Lake City and northward.

The object was evidently first seen by a Mr. [redacted] One of the shades in his room (toward the west) was up about four inches; the light that came through this small opening was so bright that it awakened him, and he went to the window, spent several moments examining the object, then lay down on his bed again to determine by its shadow whether it was moving*. The shadow (or, the light on the floor) was moving southward. Then he went to the window again and watched it as it slowly disappeared behind the house next door. The object was thus travelling north and was west of the observer. "It was the most heinous thing I have ever seen in my life" says Mr. Ahern; and he drew a sketch of the way it looked:



Mr. [redacted] diagram

Left vertical line represents a part that looked "thick, like metal. The upper part seemed transparent and full of fire. The lower part was also lighted as if in compartments, and these showed blue (or black), yellow, and purple respectively.

At about the same time, a Mrs [redacted]ay, [redacted]t., some 40 blocks west of Mr. [redacted] was startled by a brilliant light high in the sky toward the S.SW. Fire "trailed from it like a Roman candle" but the illumination was very brief. Both Mrs. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] seemed to me to be perfectly normal people and not unduly excited by their experiences.

From my interviews with people in Waterloo last fall regarding the discs that were seen here in July 1947, and from newspaper clippings, especially from Iowa, I have learned that similar phenomena are usually seen over a certain kind of terrain, either around a hilly section, or river bottoms where great sink holes are, and always with thick vegetation and undergrowth. In Waterloo, this section of Des Moines, and in Exline, Iowa (where a disc was seen May 5th last), there are rivers. In the light of this, I am wondering if this object seen over DesMoines was not going slowly over this hilly section looking for something, and whether the flash noted by Mrs Bubany might not have been a flare; tho' the Utah stories reported not only explosions that were seen but that were also felt. Always travelling north? Over DesMoines and Exline, Ia. over Utah, and over Oakland, Calif.-all were travelling northward.

(next page)

[redacted]
Zelienople, Pa.

13 July 1949

Project Saucer,
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton,
Ohio

Gentlemen:-

I hope, sincerely, you do not think I am boring you with my occasional and small contributions.

I felt very badly about Shalett's mentioning my little theory regarding the "saucers". He certainly had not asked my permission, and I really believe it gave the reader the impression that one takes his life and reputation in his hands to dare write you in confidence, lest he be held up in absolute public ridicule. My "reply" to Shalett in the Saturday Evening Post's "Letter" section was, due to deletion and butchering, made quite impotent,--perhaps in keeping with the joking attitude the Post's writer Shalett inaugurated in his fiasco entitled "What You Can Believe About the Flying Saucers". Paxton made my "dovetail" into "dovetailing" and made it appear that I had forgotten to begin one sentence with "Then--". Actually, a sticker for accuracy, I had checked and rechecked my letter before I submitted it to the Post.

As things now stand, I am a martyr to my convictions, and only time may vindicate me. Believe you me, I as firmly hold today, as I did when I first wrote you in July 11, 1947, that the "saucers" are extra-terrestrial "ghost-objects" propelled by telekinetic energy and caused to remain stationary in mid-air by levitation. Excuse the title of the magazine (I hate the esoteric) but FATE, 139 N. Clark Street, Chicago 2, Illinois, will print my article "The Mystery of Borley Rectory" tentatively scheduled to appear in the November 1949 issue. I have, in that article, summarized Harry Price's findings relating to the paranormal influence manifested in the Borley Rectory hauntings, and you will see WHY I believe absolutely in the etheric.

You may keep the enclosed material.

Sincerely,

[redacted]