

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 2 August 49 03/0130Z		2. LOCATION 44 15.15N 132.57W (Pacific)	
3. SOURCE Military		10. CONCLUSION Other (CLOUD/CONTRAIL)	
6. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One			
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 Minutes			
8. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observers sighted what appeared to be an unusual cloud formation. The formation was made up of streaks which appeared to be clouds. The streaks were white in color and were about 75 miles distance from the observers. No sound was heard and the observers did not see the streaks form. Photographs of the streaks were taken at the time of the sighting.	
7. COURSE N/A			
9. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No			
12. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No			

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-21	DATE 21 September 1949
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT UNUSUAL AERIAL PHENOMENA Near Position No. 6(4415N1325W) Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California "Project Sign"		REPORT MADE BY S/A JOSEPH W. CAGLE	REPORT MADE AT DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif.
		PERIOD 27 August 1949 - 12 September 1949	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif.
		STATUS PENDING	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE None. This is an initial report.			
SYNOPSIS This investigation was requested by Colonel JOHN G. SWOPE, District Commander, DO #19, OSI, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, on 12 August 1949, upon receipt of Intelligence Report from 374th Reconnaissance Squadron (VLR) Weather, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, dated 5 August 1949 which reported the sighting of an unusual aerial phenomena on 2 August 1949 by three (3) crew members of the 'Lark Dog' weather mission while on a scheduled weather flight at approximately position number six (6) 44 degrees 15 minutes North and 132 degrees 57 Minutes West. Photographs were taken at the time of sighting by the Aircraft Commander 1st Lt., GLENN D. MULL AO-936481. Interviews with the three (3) crew members observing the unusual phenomena revealed no identifying information. Information received from the Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet revealed that no Naval Air Operations were conducted in the area 45°15'N X 137°57'W on 2 August 1949.			
DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD FORM 800.10			
DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
DO #5 (Action Copies) (Incl) 4		Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	
Hq OSI (Incl) 2		Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAXO-3	
CG F-S AFB (Info) (Incl) 1			
File 2			
		APPROVED JOHN G. SWOPE Colonel, USAF DISTRICT COMMANDER	UNCLASSIFIED

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DETAILS: (Cont'd)

Aircraft Commander	1st Lt GLEN D. MULL
Pilot,	1st Lt WESTLY HAMILTON
Navigator:	1st Lt JOHN MATT
Weather Observer:	1st Lt PHILIP C. KEMP
Engineer:	T/Sgt CHRISTIAN E. BRUBAKER
Radio Operator:	S/Sgt ELTON GRATHWOHL
Radio Operator:	S/Sgt LEONARD FELDMAN
Radar Observer:	T/Sgt CHESTOR ARNOLD
Scanner:	S/Sgt VICTOR FOULIN

3. On 27 August 1949, 1st Lt JOHN MATT, AO-716496, Navigator, 374th Recon Sq. (VLR) Weather, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, was interviewed and stated in substance: On 2 August 1949 while on the "Lark Dog" weather mission out of Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, at approximately position number six (6) 44 degrees 15 minutes North and 132 degrees and 57 minutes West at 1729 hours he observed an unusual formation of what appeared to be either contrails or clouds at a clock position of 10 o'clock high. When the formation was first sighted, segments of a cloud-like trail were observed coming out of the clouds which formed an undercast of approximately five tenths (5/10) cloud coverage at fifteen hundred (1500) feet. MATT stated that after first observing the formation he had disregarded it but after additional segments of the cloud-like streaks had been formed and had joined together with the first segments, he notified the aircraft commander of the phenomena. The streaks appeared to have been formed out of the tops of clouds forming an undercast at approximately 1500 feet, and ascended at an angle of approximately 35 degrees to an altitude of approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) feet and continued at an angle of approximately 17 degrees to the horizon to approximately seventeen thousand (17,000) feet. The aircraft of "Lark Dog" mission was turned off course and photographs were taken by the aircraft commander. MATT advised that in his opinion the head of the formation was bearing towards the western coast of the United States which was approximately four hundred (400) miles distant. MATT further advised that in his opinion if the aircraft of "Lark Dog" mission had assumed the track of the cloud-like formation, the approximate landfall would have been Eureka, California. MATT stated that the remainder of the crew were back in the waist and were not notified of the formation and that during the period of observation the cloud did not disappear through evaporation but was lost to sight after "Lark Dog" mission continued on the scheduled flight. MATT further stated that there was approximately 1/10th to 2/10ths scattered cloud coverage above fifteen hundred (1500) feet. MATT stated that estimates concerning the altitude, and distance from observation, of the unusual formation were difficult to make because there were no known objects for

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DETAILS: (Cont'd)

comparison. MATT further stated that no object was observed either in the air, nor on the sea.

4. On 12 September 1949, 1st Lt PHILIP G. KEMP, AO-936481, Weather Observer, 374th Recon Sq. (VLR) Weather, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, was interviewed and stated in substance: On Tuesday 2 August 1949, at approximately 1730 hours his attention was directed, by the Navigator, to an unusual formation which appeared at 10 o'clock high, in relation to the track of flight of the "Lark Dog" mission aircraft. KEMP further stated that the formation appeared to have formed out of the tops of the clouds forming an undercast at approximately fifteen hundred (1500) feet and ascended to an altitude of approximately seventeen thousand (17,000) feet. KEMP stated that the formation appeared unusual inasmuch as the cloud coverage at fifteen hundred (1500) feet was approximately eight tenths (8/10s) cirrus clouds and the cloud-like formation observed was almost perpendicular to the line of the undercast clouds. KEMP advised that in his opinion the formation could have been caused by a jet type aircraft although contrails at that altitude were improbable. No type of aircraft was observed and no unusual sounds were heard. KEMP stated that he could not estimate the speed at which the streaks had been formed. KEMP further advised that only three (3) of the crew members observed the unusual formation and that the aircraft of "Lark Dog" mission did not attempt to assume the track of the formation because the pilot did not consider it important enough to turn off the scheduled course. KEMP stated that he did not notice any unusual noises on radio reception and that no object was picked up by the radar equipment of the "Lark Dog" mission aircraft, which was in operation at the time of sighting. KEMP further stated that the formation was approximately four hundred (400) miles off the coast of Eureka, California, and was in sight for approximately fifteen (15) minutes until the course of flight of the "Lark Dog" mission lost it to view.

5. Weather charts maintained at the Base Weather Station, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, list the following weather conditions for the area 44 degrees 15 minutes N 132 degrees 57 minutes West at 1640 hours 2 August 1949.

General

Oclusion approximately 300 nautical miles West Northwest.
High pressure ridge approximately 200 nautical miles southeast:

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was requested by Colonel JOHN G. SNOPE, District Commander, DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, and predicated upon receipt of an Intelligence Report from the 374th Reconnaissance Squadron (VLR) Weather, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, dated 5 August 1949, reporting the sighting of an unusual aerial phenomenon at 1729 hours, 2 August 1949, by 1st Lt GLEN D. MULL, AO-936481, 1st Lt JOHN MATT AO-716496 and 1st Lt PHILIP G. KEMP, AO-748010, all crew members of the "Lark Dog" weather mission, while on a scheduled weather flight at approximately position number six (6) 44 degrees 15 minutes North and 132 degrees 57 minutes West.

AT FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB, CALIFORNIA

2. On 27 August 1949 1st Lt GLEN D. MULL AO-936481, Aircraft Commander, 374th Recon Sq (VLR) Weather, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California, was interviewed and stated in substance: On Tuesday 2 August 1949 "Lark Dog" weather mission took off from Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California at 1330 hours Pacific Standard Time. At 1729 hours while flying at the prescribed course and altitude, a true heading of 300 degrees at fifteen hundred (1500) feet, and near position number six (6) 44 degrees 15 minutes North and 132 degrees 57 minutes West his attention was directed by the Navigator, 1st Lt JOHN MATT, to what appeared to be an unusual cloud formation. The formation was made up of streaks which appeared to be clouds. The streaks appeared to have originated in some low clouds at fifteen hundred (1500) feet and ascended at a shallow angle, approximately 37 degrees to the horizon, to about fifteen thousand (15,000) feet and then continued at an angle of approximately 17-1/2 degrees to an altitude of approximately seventeen thousand (17,000) feet. The formation, white in color, was approximately seventy-five (75) miles distant from the point of observation. No unusual sounds were heard and MULL stated that he did not see the streaks form and that he could not estimate the speed of formation. MULL further stated that his first impression of the unusual formation was that it might have been a contrail, possibly formed by an unseen object. After the second segment had been formed and the two had joined into a continuous streak MULL turned his aircraft off course and took a photograph with a K-20 Aerial Camera. The photograph is attached as inclosure to this report. No object of any type was sighted during the period of observation, approximately 15 minutes, and the formation was lost to view after the "Lark Dog" mission returned to course and continued on the scheduled flight. MULL advised that three members of the crew observed the unusual aerial phenomenon. Crew members participation in the "Lark Dog" weather mission of 2 August 1949 were:

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DETAILS:

Sky Conditions

4/10ths Cirrus Clouds --- Base at 25,000 feet
8/10ths Strata Cumulus Clouds --- Base 1500 feet
Tops 3000 feet

Visibility----Unrestricted

Winds Aloft

10,000 feet 220 degrees at 20 Knots
18,000 feet 220 degrees at 24 Knots

On 1 September 1949, information was received from the Commander, Air Force Pacific Fleet that no Naval Air Operations were conducted in the area 45 degrees 15 minutes North and 137 degrees 57 minutes West on 2 August 1949.

PENDING

INCLOSURES

For District Office #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

1. One photograph, unusual aerial phenomena.

For Headquarters, Office of Special Investigations, Washington, D.C.

2. One photograph, unusual aerial phenomena.

For Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

3. One photograph, unusual aerial phenomena.

For Commanding General, Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California

4. One photograph, unusual aerial phenomena.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE No. 19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB, CALIFORNIA

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

a. Will contact the Civil Aeronautics Authority, San Francisco, for schedule of all flights in the area 44 degrees 15 minutes North 132 degrees 57 minutes West on 2 August 1949 at 1730 hours.

b. Will contact the Intelligence Division 6th Army Area Headquarters, The Presidio of San Francisco, California, to ascertain if any testing devices or missiles were released in the area 44 degrees 15 minutes North 132 degrees 57 minutes West on 2 August 1949 at 1730 hours.

c. Will contact the Intelligence Division, 6th Army Area, Headquarters, The Presidio of San Francisco, California, to ascertain if any Radar (ground) contacts were made with unidentified objects in the area 44 degrees 15 minutes North and 132 degrees 57 minutes West on 2 August 1949 at 1730 hours.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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5D-OSI/JEM/vz

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

4 October 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Inclosed for your information and necessary action is report of investigation of Special Agent JOSEPH W. CAGLE, DO #19, dated 21 September 1949.

2. Investigation is continuing and your office will be forwarded reports of investigation as received in this office.

1 Incl
Rpt dtd 21 Sep 49
(trip)

D. M. Lynch
D. M. LYNCH
Major, USAF
Acting District Commander

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Incident 469