

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 March 49 02/21/49Z	2. LOCATION Manitou Springs, Colorado
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Object wa a balloon shape and silver in color. It seemed to stay in one spot. It made no maneuvers. No lights, odor, sound, or exhaust were observed. The possibility that a balloon from the US weather bureau in Denver was in the area at that time is very good.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Stationary	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	FILE NO. 24-36	DATE 16 August 1949
TITLE INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN VICINITY OF CAMERON'S CONE, MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO	REPORT MADE BY JOHN H. KRALB, S/A dm	
	REPORT MADE AT DO #14, Lowry AFB	
	PERIOD 8, 10, 12 August 1949	
	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #14, Lowry AFB	
STATUS CLOSED		

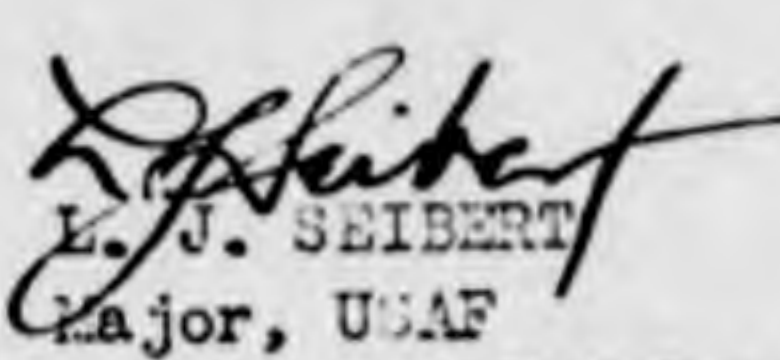
CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
Telephone call, FIO Office, Hq, 15th Air Force, 8 August 1949

SYNOPSIS
 Investigation initiated upon receipt of information from Mr. Frank R. Waddell, FIO Section, Hq 15AF, that he had been telephonically advised by a Mr. [redacted] Road, Manitou Springs, Colorado, of the observation of an unidentified aerial object approximately 200 feet over a ridge between Cameron's Cone and Mt Arthur (approximately 10-15 miles west southwest of Colorado Springs, Colorado). He sighted the object at 0758 on 8 August 1949. He was able to observe the object for approximately three minutes. He lost sight of it when he turned to call his wife. The object is described as being balloon shaped and silver in color. It appeared to be one and one half feet in diameter. Mr. [redacted] was unable to determine the material from which the object was made. There were no maneuvers-- the object seeming to stay in one spot. Extensive investigation in the immediate area of sighting and the surrounding area failed to reveal the object or anyone else who had seen it. Dr. GEORGE E. VADLEY, Jr., of Project GRUDGE (formerly SIGN) at Mt Evans, near Idaho Springs, Colorado, telephonically advised at 0815 hours, 8 August 1949.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DDI DIR 6200.10

balloon

DISTRIBUTION CG, AHC, Wright-Patterson AFB 4 ✓ CG, 15th AF 1 Director of Intelligence, USAF 1 OSI HQ 1 FILE 1	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO CG, AHC, Wright-Patterson AIR FORCE BASE DAYTON, OHIO	FILE STAMP UNCLASSIFIED
APPROVED  L. J. SEIBERT Major, USAF <i>District Commander.</i>		

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

DETAILS:

1. This investigation was initiated upon the receipt of information from Mr. Frank R. Waddell, PIO Office, Ent Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, who at approximately 0845 hours, 8 August 1949, informed the writer that he had received a telephone call from a Mr. [REDACTED] Road, Manitou Springs, Colorado, that he had observed an unidentified aerial object in the vicinity of Cameron's Cone at approximately 0758 hours 8 August 1949, at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

AT MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO

2. At approximately 0915 hours 8 August 1949, Mr. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Road, Manitou Springs, Colorado, was contacted reference his sighting an unidentified aerial object. Mr. [REDACTED] informed the writer that he sighted the object at 0758 hours (MST) (0258Z). He explained that he had been wiping off the clothesline prior to hanging out clothes, and because they were over his head, it was necessary for him to look up directly at the ridge between Cameron's Cone and Mt. Arthur. It was at this time that he noticed a light silver colored object approximately 200 feet above the ridge connecting the aforementioned peaks. The object seemed to hang in the air in one spot. He estimated its size to be one and one-half feet in diameter. He was able to observe the object for approximately three minutes, and during the time of his observation, he turned away to call his wife three different times. The object remained in the same spot during this action. He turned to call his wife a fourth time and when he looked for the object again, it had disappeared completely. He was unable to determine from where it had come. Also he could not tell the material from which the object was constructed. However, he stated that he felt it was a balloon. There was no smoke, odor, sound, lights, means of propulsion, means of support (other than it being a balloon), fins, stabilizers or openings on the object. The reason he was unable to determine any of these factors was due to the distance of the object from the observer. He was unable to tell how the object disappeared because he was not looking at it at the time of its disappearance.

AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

3. A check of the weather conditions revealed that ceiling and visibility were unlimited between the hours of 0730 and 0830 on 8 August 1949. The winds aloft were as follows: At 10,000 feet, 10 knots per hour from a northerly direction; 12,000 feet, same; 14,000 feet, 12 to 15 knots per hour from a north northeasterly direction; 16,000 feet, same from a northeasterly direction; 20,000 feet, 15 knots from an easterly direction. There were no observable celestial phenomena or planets in the vicinity at that time according to Captain Earl L. Kuehnest, Weather Officer for Ent Air Force Base.

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

4. Description of Terrain. The place of sighting was approximately one quarter of a mile south of US Highway 24 on the [REDACTED] Highway, Manitou Springs, Colorado. The map coordinates of this location are approximately 38° 47' north latitude and 104° 59' west longitude. The terrain is extremely mountainous, being in the foothills of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The altitude at the place of sighting is approximately 6,500 feet and the region over which the object was sighted is approximately 10,500 feet. The writer was able to observe the ridge between Cameron's Cone and Mt. Arthur from the same point from which the object was sighted by Mr. [REDACTED]. Despite the fact that this is extremely mountainous country, a clear view was had of this ridge.

5. The altitude of the object would be approximately 10,700 feet above sea level and the observer sighted it at an approximate 50 to 60° horizontal angle. His position was facing the object at the time of sighting.

6. Concerning the observer. Mr. [REDACTED] is presently unemployed, having been released from Civil Service on 30 June 1949, due to reduction in force. He was a pipe fitter at Camp Carson, Colorado. Prior to this employment, he was working for the Midland Railroad Company as a track employee. This employment was terminated due to the closing down of the railroad. Mr. [REDACTED] is 57 years old. It is necessary for him to wear bi-focal glasses, and he claims to be far sighted, hence the glasses. He claims that he has never had any trouble with his ability to discern colors and objects. Interviews were held with friends, former employers and former fellow employees of Mr. [REDACTED], and they could throw no further light on his abilities for observation. The writer was unable to observe Mr. [REDACTED] to formulate any opinions of his own. In talking with his friends, it was ascertained that Mr. [REDACTED] is considered to be a very reliable person. However, it is known that he is a very talkative individual.

7. An extensive investigation was conducted by the writer in an attempt to locate other individuals who might have observed this object; however, these attempts met with negative results. Further, the writer personally observed the terrain and talked to individuals who had opportunity to observe this terrain in their everyday work with the thought in mind that the object could have possibly been weather equipment and could have gone down in this vicinity. This also met with negative results. It is known that the US Weather Bureau in Denver very frequently sends up various types of weather balloons, and inasmuch as the winds aloft at this time were from the north and northeast, the possibilities of one of those balloons entering this area are very good.

8. A check of operations at Peterson Field revealed that there were no aircraft, to their knowledge, in flight at the time of this sighting.

CLOSED

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[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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5D-OSI/JEM/fmn

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

UNCLASSIFIED

31 August 1949

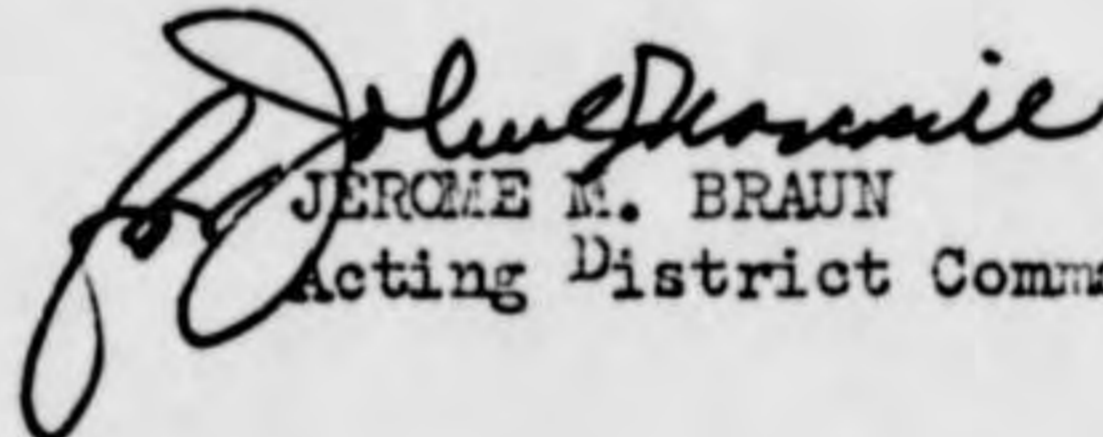
IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

SUBJECT: PROJECT GHUDGE
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. The attached report of investigation from DO #14, dated 16 August 1949, is forwarded for your information.
2. This investigation was not requested by or through this office.

1 Incl
R/I dtd 16 Aug 49
(in dup)


JEROME M. BRAUN
Acting District Commander

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