

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 4 March, 1960	2. LOCATION Dubuque, Iowa		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local: 1755 GMT: _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS three	9. COURSE NNE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown UNIDENTIFIED
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Elliptical objects, size of a quarter at arm's length, bright like a star first seen in the East travelling at approximately 200 mph at a distance of 5 miles. Climbing slightly, and just disappeared. The strip of film was given a thorough examination and nothing of an unusual nature nor anything such as described by the witness appeared in any of the frames. A check was made to determine the possibility of the objects being B-52 A/C and there were none in the area at the time. Witness location was three miles from a large river and the objects were on the other side of the river. There was a main highway between him and the river. Temperature was a cold 14° and the wind 14 kts. Possible that the witness saw a mirage, however this would have appeared on the film.		11. COMMENTS	

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA



29 SEP 1960

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DOOPF

SUBJECT: Flights in the Dubuque, Iowa Area

TO: Air Technical Intelligence Center (AFICIN-1E2x)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

1. Reference your letter, Subject: Request for Information, dated 2 September 1960; the following information is submitted:

a. Number and type aircraft: Three (3) B-52 aircraft, using route cell tactics.

b. Altitude: 31,000 to 32,000 feet.

c. Route and times: From a point 145NM south - southeast of Dubuque to a point 60NM north - northeast of Dubuque (4008N 9015W to 4318N 9008W).

(1) 1842Z to 1914Z - TC 360°, TH 353°
GS 370, TAS 425
WV 315/075

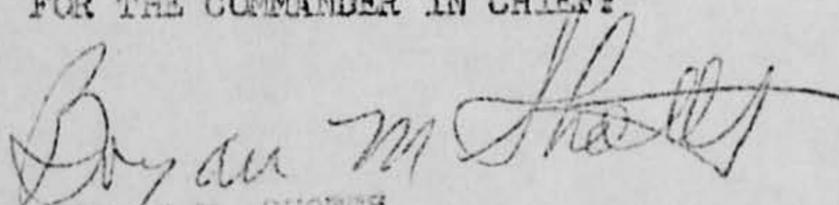
(2) 2327Z to 2358Z - TC 001°, TH 352°
GS 370, TAS 430
WV 320/080

(3) 0508Z to 0540Z - TC 360°, TH 352°
GS 370, TAS 425
WV 310/090

2. No other aircraft of this command were flying in the Dubuque, Iowa area on 4 March 1960.

3. Notification of appropriate Air Defense Sectors is a routine function of Air Route Traffic Control for flights involving penetration of an ADIZ.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


BRYAN M. SHOTT
Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Operations

At 0900 EST 11 March 1960 , Waverly AFS, Iowa, was contacted regarding possible Acft flights over Dubuque. The operations officer, Lt Waddle, reported that they had no record of B-52s flying around Dubuque on 4 or 10 March 60. Through the efforts of Lt Waddle, several other radar stations in the area were contacted, with negative results.

According to Lt Waddle B-52s normally fly at 30,000 to 35,000 feet altitude.

On March 4 at Dubuque, Iowa three silver, saucer-shaped objects were captured on movie films by Pilot XXXXXXXXXX

**Authorities Grab Photos;
Hoop Urges Vigilance
On Part of Members**

Two instances in which private individuals succeeded in obtaining photographs of UAOs within the last few weeks have come to the attention of the APRO staff.

On the fourth of March, Charles Morris, 31, an airplane instructor, obtained 19 feet of moving picture film of a formation of three disc-shaped objects over Dubuque, Iowa. Morris estimated their altitude as 20,000 feet, their speed at about 200 miles per hour. The objects were saucer-shaped, silvery in color. Morris gave the film to the Federal government "for processing and study," the UPI report stated.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

22 AUG 1960

AFCIN-4E2x

Comments on Mr [REDACTED] Letter

SAFOI-3d (L/Col Tacker)

1. The attached letter and report from Mr [REDACTED] has been reviewed by ATIC. It is believed no further comment or action is merited.
2. In reply to your query regarding contact with Strategic Air Command Headquarters, it was not considered necessary to make this contact. ATIC did contact several radar stations in the midwest, as well as the Chicago Air Defense Sector Headquarters, and was informed that they had no record of B-52's flying in the Dubuque, Iowa area on 4 or 10 March 1960.
3. If Mr [REDACTED] received information to the effect that there were SAC aircraft in the Dubuque area, these aircraft were there without the knowledge of area radar stations and the Chicago Air Defense Sector Headquarters. It is not understood by ATIC how such flights could be made without the Chicago Air Defense Sector's knowledge.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Philip G. Evans 22 Aug 60

PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science and Components

1 Atch:
Cy ltr, no date, fr Dave
[REDACTED] w/Atch

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E2x *James R. Lee* Date *18 Aug 60*
 AFCIN-4E2 *M. Stearns* Date *19 Aug 60*

LTC

15 AUG 1960

15 AUG 1960

CIVILIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH

Chicago 1, Illinois

* * COMPLETION OF STUDY * *

Date of sighting: 4 March 1960

Location: Dubuque, Iowa

Time: Approximately 1750 hours
(5:50 p.m.)

Study Commenced: 28 March 1960

Study Terminated: 7 August 1960

Conclusion subject to
further consideration? Yes

Report edited by:

Date issued: AUG 9 1960

I. Introductory Comments:

This is probably the most confusing sighting that CUFOR shall have the opportunity to investigate for quite a while. Just about the time it is decided what the objects were, and the conclusion is started, a letter arrives that throws everything up for grabs again. Even now, you director is not certain what they were. Some of the inquiry letters have not yet been answered. If answers are received later that change the picture again, a supplementary report will be issued.

On July 9, 1960, CUFOR's director wrote to Lt. Col. (formerly Major) L.J. Tacker, Air Force Pentagon spokesman for UFOs, and told him that we had definitely concluded that the objects were UFOs. Then, on the 29th, we received Mr. ████████ detailed report that threw the whole thing open again. The letter from SAC on August 4th seemed to be the clincher.

II. Details of Sighting:

At approximately 5:55 p.m., March 4, 1960, Charles Morris and his wife were at their home in Dubuque, Iowa, watching a T-6 airplane (a single-engine USAAF trainer of WW II vintage) perform at an altitude of roughly 2,000 feet when their attention was caught by three luminous objects, elliptical in shape, traveling NNE at about 200 mph. The objects, which he further described as being about the size of a quarter at arm's length and about 25° degrees above the eastern horizon, were in view for about four minutes. He went on to say, in his report to CUFOR, that "the objects did not give off smoke or any vapor trail, drop anything, change brightness, shape or color, did not explode, speed up or stand still at any time...the objects were sharply outlined and were like a bright stars-- between the brightness of the moon and of Venus." He also estimated the size of the objects to be 200 feet long and 60 feet thick; however, since the distance to the objects could only be guessed, it is the same with the size of the objects themselves.

Mr. Morris exposed some footage of 8 mm color film, but it failed to show anything and the film has been returned to him by the Air Force.

Another witness was Mrs. H.V. Ludovissy, who saw them with her son and husband. Her report, also on file with CUFOR, is similar to Mr. Morris', with some exceptions (minor or major, depending on your point of view): "I looked, and going toward the NW in the sky, were three bright metallic objects; they were travelling VERY slowly, almost floating, THEY WERE NOT PLANES...We watched for almost ten minutes, and, as we watched, one of them, the one in the middle, gave a flash, or white glow, and at the same time a puff of white smoke came from the back of it. The sun was setting in the west at the time, and I figured if it was the sun that made the flash, all three would have it; because they were so close together; but only the middle one had the glow."

On the "other side of the fence" are the observers who believe the objects were aircraft.

One is Ferdinand Nealer, of Dubuque, who saw them through a pair of 7 x 50 binoculars. His report read, in part: "I saw a group of three large aircraft, which appeared to be flying one behind the other at lower than usual jet altitude and at just medium speed. They were flying NNW (in a later, more-detailed report, he said that, after consideration, they may have been going due north or even a little east of north - Ed.), time 5:50 p.m. I saw them not once, but three times within about 15 or 20 days always at the same time and place."

Mr. Nealer also put their elevation at approximately 25° above the horizon; however, he said they were about as large as a pinhead held at arm's length. He also saw a "slight vapor at one time toward end of sighting." He remarked, "I saw the planes clearly with the sun on them. No painting was visible, but the high tails and side windows were." He is of the opinion that they were either Convair 440's, Boeing 707's, or Douglas DC-8's.

Mr. Nealer has strong support in the person of Mr. Allan A. Jones, of Dubuque, who saw them through 10 x 50 power binoculars. Said Mr. Jones, "They were flying in a rather loose formation on a course of SE to NW. Their speed (slow) was the most unusual part of the whole affair. I could not determine the type, but aircraft they definitely were. I saw them several times after that (on different dates - Ed.), and they were following about the same routine." He also saw contrails and a tail "like B-52".

Mr. Jones differs with Mr. Morris as to altitude and elevation. He gives them as 40,000 feet and 75° respectively.

A third witness also saw the contrails and feels they were conventional aircraft (propeller-type), mostly because of the slow speed.

We therefore have five witnesses with five slightly different accounts.

III. CUFOR's Conclusion:

The conclusion of Civilian UFO Research regarding the three objects seen over Dubuque, Iowa, March 4, 1960, at approximately 5:50 p.m., is as follows:

The greater amount of data tends to show that the objects were three aircraft, possibly of the USAF Strategic Air Command. We, however, do not rule out the possibility that the objects seen by Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Ludovissy were unidentifiable objects of unknown origin, purpose, or destination.

In announcing this conclusion, we wish to emphasize the following points:

- (A) Civilian UFO Research spent over four months investigating this sighting. The primary witnesses were contacted and their reports are on file. Aircraft companies manufacturing jet transports for civilian use were questioned as to the possibility of training flights that could account for the reports.

- (B) The very nature of the observations rules out objects of astronomical origin (stars, meteors, etc.).
- (C) The nature of the sighting also rules out "light phenomena", "birds", and "clouds, dust, etc.".
- (D) The direction of the objects' flight compared with wind directions at the time exclude balloons from being considered as the correct identification.
- (E) The rather widely separated points of observation rule out "psychological manifestations".
- (F) The character of the witnesses discount the possibility of a hoax.

IV. Arguments for Unidentifiable Objects (UFOs):

Charles Morris is a commercial pilot and has logged 5,000 hours in 14 years of commercial flying; he is familiar with aircraft of most types. He apparently saw the objects at rather close range and is certain of what he saw.

He told Ralph Ingerson, staff writer for the Dubuque Telegraph Herald, "They were thin on the leading edge, thick in the middle, and thin in back - just like you'd expect them to be. I was seeing them from the side, and they looked exactly like you'd taken two platters and put them face to face - very large elliptical objects.

"Just to give you an idea of their size, they seemed to be about one-eighth the size of the moon. They had a brightness like I've never seen before - no 'fuzz' around them, but bright and sharply defined. They were like silent ghosts moving through the sky.

"They couldn't have been jets; they weren't fast enough, for one thing - a jet would have been gone before I could get the camera, at that altitude - they were only 20° to 25° above the horizon (true, a jet probably would disappear that rapidly - Ed.).... if it had been the sun shining off military aircraft, the reflected light would have changed intensity as the objects crossed the sky. These didn't - they were a constant brightness. And there wasn't a cloud in the sky - it was perfectly clear." (Quoted from Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, March 6, 1960, p.8)

This side of the "argument" gets support in the fact that a check with Traux AFB, Madison, Wisconsin, by the Telegraph-Herald brought a reply from the operations officer that no military planes from that base had been reported in the area. "Negative - we had nothing in that area - no operations scheduled at that time," the operations officer said.

Queries sent out by CUFOR brought these replies:

- (A) Robert Hoffman, Airport Manager, Dubuque Municipal Airport: "I have checked and to my knowledge there were no aircraft in the area at the above specified time (time of the sightings - Ed.)."
- (B) Michael Gladuch, Public Relations, Boeing Airplane Company: "Our records have been checked most carefully.....The records show that no formation of three Boeing 707's flew on a northerly course over Dubuque, Iowa, on March 4, 1960. Nor were there any 707 formation flights over that area during the fifteen - twenty days following that date."
- (C) C.W. Greaves, Convair Division, General Dynamics Corp.: "As far as we know there were no 880's flying over Dubuque, Iowa on March 4, 1960. Our test aircraft were operating from the municipal airport here in San Diego. We have delivered a few 880's to Delta Air Lines, but they are in scheduled service."
- (D) A letter to Douglas Aircraft Company is, as yet, unanswered.

In closing, let us say that one cannot simply discount the opinions of a trained pilot and other witnesses, who state, positively, that the objects were not aircraft and who have the backing of statements that tend to show that there were no aircraft in the area.

V. Arguments for Aircraft:

This "side" has some obvious advantages: two witnesses (Mr. Nesler and Mr. Jones) saw the objects through binoculars. They both saw definite physical characteristics of aircraft. Mr. Nesler saw the tail (vertical stabilizer) and windows; Mr. Jones saw the tail and the wings.

Mr. Jones (who, like Mr. Morris, has had pilot's training; however, I do not know how much) said the tail was similar to that of a B-52. This and the fact that Air Force SAC (Strategic Air Command) flies B-52's and has a triangle radar test course in the area with its northern leg ending at Lancaster, Wisc., about 20 miles north of Dubuque, was sufficient to warrant a letter to SAC Headquarters, at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska.

The reply, from Capt. Edwin C. Derryberry, Directorate of Information, read, in part:

"In vestigation here with our flight scheduling branch revealed that Strategic Air Command did have some 2-cells and 3-cells flights operating over Dubuque, Iowa for a 25 hour period which included 5:50 p.m. on 4 March 1960. While we can not say definitely, it's highly possible that the sighting at that time could have been KC-135's or B-52's of this command."

Again, we cannot discount the observations of reliable witnesses.

VI. Comparison of Arguments:

There are some points of disagreements that cannot be disregarded, nor treated lightly: Charles Morris saw large, luminous, sharply outlined objects 25° above the horizon; Ferdinand Nesler saw small, sharply outlined objects that reflected sunlight and flew 25° above the horizon. Allan Jones saw small, Blurred ("due to distance"), sun-reflecting objects at 75° above the horizon.

Mr. Morris put the objects at approximately 2,000 feet; Mr. Nesler didn't give a figure, but said they were low; Mr. Jones, however, put them at 40,000 feet or above. We are not contradicting our earlier statement that the altitudes can only be guessed since the objects' size was unknown, we are merely pointing out the difference in altitude, i.e., low vs. high.

There is some discrepancy in time (Mr. Morris: 5:55 p.m.; Mrs. Ludovissy: 5:50; Mr. Nesler: 5:50; Mr. Jones: about 6:00); however, it is not believed that this is a major point, since they are estimated times.

VII. Closing Comments:

Now, perhaps, it is apparent why our investigation has jumped back and forth, up and down, practically every ten minutes.

Your director cannot help but wonder why the Air Force officially carries this incident as "Insufficient Evidence" (per Lt. Col. Tacker's correspondence with CUFOR, 6 July 1960), when a simple check with SAC would have brought the same reply given to CUFOR - and a possible identification. We do not say that the objects were SAC aircraft, but the possibility is strong.

There is one slim possibility that must be considered, especially in view of the discrepancies listed above.

Supposing Mr. Morris and Mrs. Ludovissy saw three UFOs at low altitude, while Mr. Jones, either at the same time, or a few minutes later, saw three aircraft at high altitude, emitting contrails? "Then", one may ask, and rightfully so, "what about the contrail that Mrs. Ludovissy saw and the three aircraft that Mr. Nesler saw at low altitude?"

The truth is: We don't know! Perhaps, by way of a partial answer, Mr. Nesler is not too familiar with angular elevations and miscalculated.

Any additional information, comments, or suggestions that a reader might have would be appreciated by Civilian UFO Research.

In closing, your director would like to extend his thanks to all whose names appear in this report for the help they gave in this study. A special thanks goes to CUFOR member Shirley Walker, of Spencer, Iowa, who furnished him with clippings, addresses, and the original incentive to investigate this particular sighting.

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

AFCIN-4D4a/[REDACTED]z/74295

SUBJECT:

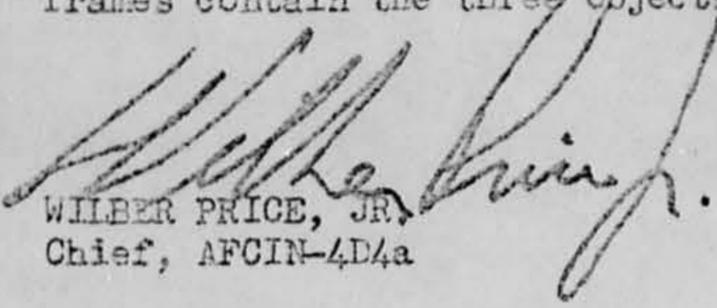
UFO Film

19 April 1960

TO:

AFCIN-4E2 (Col R.R. Shoop)

1. Analysis of the film revealed nothing of an unusual nature nor anything such as described by Mr. [REDACTED] in his letter dated April 3, 1960.
2. It is suggested that Mr. [REDACTED] recheck his film and indicate which frames contain the three objects he refers to in his letter.


WILBER PRICE, JR.
Chief, AFCIN-4D4a

2 Atch:

1. Roll 8mm film
2. Cy ltr 9 Apr 60 fr
[REDACTED]

Flying Objects Filmed by Pilot

DUBUQUE, Iowa, March 5 (UPD)—An airplane instructor says he saw "flying saucers" over Iowa last night. And he says he has proof.

Charles Morris, 31, said he was watching a stunt plane perform over the Mississippi river at sundown when he spotted three silver, saucer-shaped objects whirling along

at 200 miles an hour, about 20,000 feet up.

The objects didn't look like planes or weather balloons and left no vapor trails, Morris, a pilot for 14 years, said.

Morris shot 10 feet of movie film of the mysterious objects.

He gave the film to the Federal Government for processing and study.

[REDACTED]
September 6, 1961

Major William T. Coleman
Department of the Air Force
Office of the Secretary
Public Information Division
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Major Coleman,

Thank you for your letter and the press release of August 28.

I was wondering if your office knew about a man by the name of [REDACTED] of Dubuque, Iowa. On March 6, 1960, the United Press International sent a story about this man to the different news media. According to the story, Mr. [REDACTED] had "spotted three silver, saucer-shaped objects whirring along at 200 miles an hour, about 20,000 feet up." Mr. [REDACTED] then exposed 19 feet of motion picture film as he aimed his camera at the objects. The story went on, "He gave the film to the federal government for processing and study. Three other persons confirmed Morris' report, but the final proof, he said, is on the film."

In the news release that you sent me, it said that Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University acted as Scientific Consultant to the Air Force. I sent Dr. Hynek a letter, asking him if he had ever heard of the above story and whether or not he had ever seen the film. In his reply, he said that he had never seen the film, but "I will be anxious to do so". He then asked me if I knew where the film could be obtained.

Now, I am asking you if you ever saw the film, where is that film now, and why wasn't your Scientific Consultant allowed to see the film which, coupled together with the three confirming witnesses, seems to me to make up a pretty good report. Anxious to receive your reply, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

13 September 1961

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of September 6th concerning the film allegedly made by Mr. [REDACTED] of Dubuque, Iowa.

In answer to your questions: 1) we do not know where such film is. We telephoned Mr. [REDACTED] and requested that he send the film for evaluation. We then wrote Mr. [REDACTED] requesting the film which he earlier had promised. This was several months ago. We have not received the film as of this date. 2) the above answers your other questions.

Our position is the same as that of Dr. Rynak. We would be most anxious to see this film.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.
Major, USAF
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

[REDACTED]
Wichita 13, Kansas

TAB

A Correspondence with [REDACTED] regarding sighting

1. Observation Data
2. Photos
3. Photo Analysis
4. Return of Photos

B Aircraft Investigative Data

C Weather Data

D [REDACTED] Report and Letter

SMC

[REDACTED]
Dubuque, Iowa
April 3, 1960

Major Robert Friend
Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major Friend:

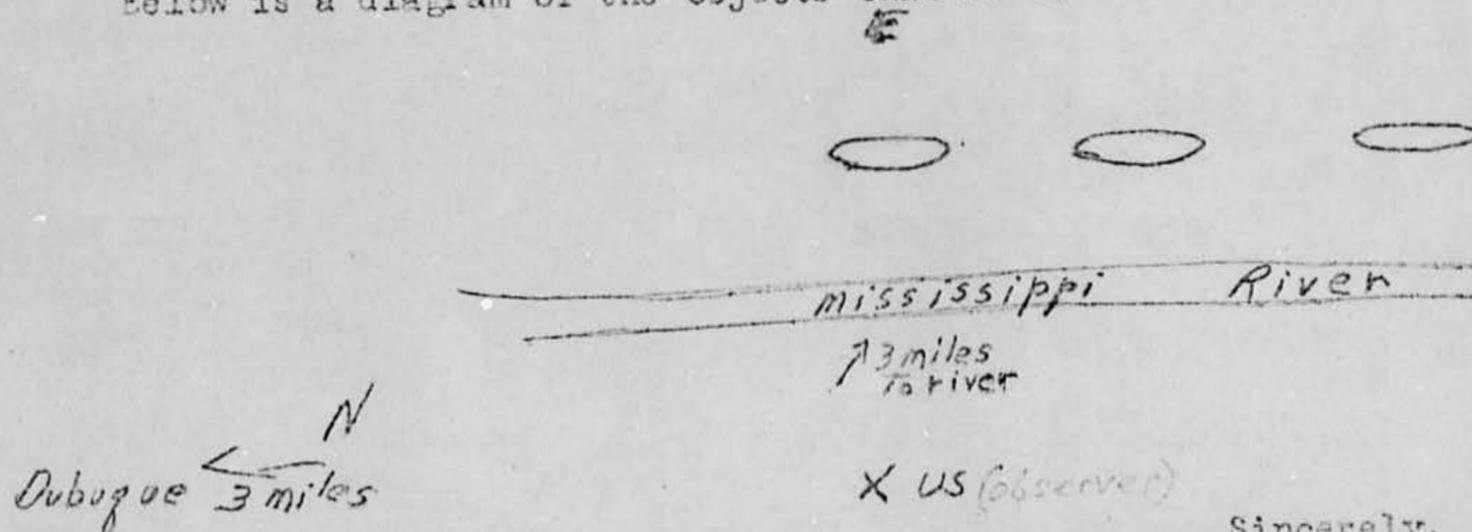
Under separate cover I am sending you the film and find that I took six feet of film instead of the nineteen feet which I previously thought I had taken. Also enclosed is the weather report.

On Friday March 4, 1960 at approximately 5:55 P.M. my wife and I at our home were watching a T36 aircraft performing at approximately 2,000 feet when we saw three brightly, colored solid objects in line appear in the sky, traveling NNE. We saw them for approximately four minutes, and as they disappeared, seemed to be climbing very slightly.

The objects were about the size of a quarter, approximately 200 feet long, 60 feet thick, elliptical in shape, traveling approximately 300 miles an hour, and were about five miles from us. The objects were about 25 degrees above the horizon.

The objects did not give off smoke or any vapor trail, drop anything, change brightness, shape or color, did not explode, speed up or stand still at any time. The objects were sharply outlined and were like a bright star--between the brightness of the moon and of Venus.

Below is a diagram of the objects that we saw.



Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Enclosure

[REDACTED]

AFCIN-4E2

Request for Photo Analysis

13 April 1960

AFCIN-4D4

1. The attached 8mm film is forwarded to your office for analysis.
2. Attached is a copy of the UFO report as a possible aid in your analysis of the film

RICHARD R. SHOOP
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E2

- 2 Atch:
1. Roll 8mm film
 2. Cy ltr 8 Apr 60 fr

[REDACTED]

CO
[REDACTED]

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFGIN-LE2

SUBJECT: UFO Report and Film

27 APR 1960

TO: SAFOI-3d (Maj Tacker)

1. Attached is the short strip of 8mm film and a copy of the letter sent in by Mr. [REDACTED]
2. The film was given a thorough examination, and nothing of an unusual nature, nor anything such as described by Mr. [REDACTED] could be seen in any of the frames.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Philip G. Evans
PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Sciences and Components

1 Atch:
Cy ltr 3 Apr 60, fr [REDACTED]
w/attached film

*But
send the letter
you to the
please*

oi-3d/maj tacker/am/72291

16 May 1960

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 3 April 1960 and the film received under separate cover which you thought contained evidence of an unidentified flying object.

We have examined the film thoroughly and nothing of an unusual nature appears thereon. Therefore we are returning the film to you herewith.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Public Information Division
Office of Information

[REDACTED]
Dubuque, Iowa

oi-3d core bck
oi-1 rader

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

AFCIN-4E2x

2 SEP 1960

Request for Information

SAC, Offutt AFB, Nebraska

1. The Air Force has been receiving queries concerning the possibility of SAC aircraft flying in the Dubuque, Iowa area on the evening of 4 March 1960. Request all available information concerning such flights be forwarded to AFIC as soon as possible; i.e., number and type aircraft, altitude, time and direction of flight.

2. In connection with the flight of SAC aircraft, is it a policy to notify the local radar units and the Air Defense Sector when such flights are being made? AFIC contact with the Chicago Air Defense Sector revealed that they had no information concerning flights in the Dubuque area on 4 March 1960. Contact was also made with Waverly Air Force Station, Iowa with negative results.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J. K. Post
PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science and Components

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E2x *Robert (Hick) King* Date 30 Aug 60

AFCIN-4E2 *RMS* Date 31 Aug 60