

RG 341  
Entry 265  
Finding Aid NM-15

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AF 5325820 SECURITY INFORMATION CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~ ~~RESTRICTED~~

AF Form 112 Box 1715  
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

SECURITY INFORMATION (CLASSIFICATION)  
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~~RESTRICTED~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY United States	REPORT NO. (LEAVE BLANK) 41582892
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### AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Visual sightings of four (4) unidentified Flying Objects
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AREA REPORTED ON 15-mile radius at Bismark, N. Dak.	FROM (Agency) Detachment #5, 4773d Grd Obsr Squadron
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DATE OF REPORT 6 August 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 6 August 1953	EVALUATION B-2
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PREPARED BY (Officer) 2/Lt Charles W. Koontz	SOURCE Visual Sightings
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REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) IAW AFL 200-5, 29 Apr 52, and CADF Reg 200-5, 12 Sep 52.
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SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

1. First object sighted 8-10 miles West of Bismark, N. Dak., at approximately 0545Z; round or could have been slightly oblong; altitude of 2,000 to 6,000 feet; erratic motion, with spurts of movement; bright colors, varying from white, to orange, to red, to green. The object had the general appearance of a bright star, but by lining it up with stationary objects, the erratic movement of the object was definitely ascertained. Disappeared 0715Z.

2. Second object was sighted 6-12 miles NNW of Bismark, N. Dak., at approximately 0611Z; round and star-like in appearance; altitude of 1,000 to 4,000 feet; erratic motion, but not extremely so; moved in spurts; color was bright, varying from white, to orange, to red, to green. Except for its erratic movement and varying colors, the object could have been a star. The distance away of the object eliminated any possibility of ascertaining other physical characteristics. Object disappeared at 0850Z.

3. Third object was sighted 10-12 miles NE of Bismark, N. Dak., at approximately 0745Z; round or slightly oblong in shape; altitude varied from 2,000 to 6,000 feet; in size, smaller than first two objects; stationary, with some lateral and vertical movement; object was very bright, but varied in color from red, to green, to bluish white, thought its primary color was red. This predominant red color was one outstanding feature of the object. Another outstanding feature was that with the approach of a C-124, this object, along with the ones reported in 2. and 4., seemed to emit some sort of signal flashes. Nothing was reported from the C-124, however, as they were unable to sight the object. This object also disappeared at 0850Z.

4. Fourth object was sighted 6-8 miles NE of Bismark, N. Dak., at approximately 0747Z; object was round; only occasional motion was observed, though the observed movement was erratic, both vertically and laterally; its altitude was estimated at between 6,000 and 10,000 feet; bright in color, varying from white, to orange, to red, to green. The only outstanding feature of the object was the flashing it seemed to emit when a C-124 approached the area. This flashing appeared to be signals directed at the objects mentioned in 2. and 3. Object faded at approximately 0850Z.

7. This report approved by:

- INCL. Four (4) reports. (PART of AF Form 112)
- Seven (7) statements.

*Mario Cappelli*

MARIO CAPPELLI  
Captain USAF  
Director of Intelligence  
29th Air Division (Defense)

*IR*  
*(Mando)*  
*109*

USAF memo 3/2/77  
W. Koontz  
4/12/77

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(CLASSIFICATION)  
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

5

FROM (Agency) Detachment #5, 4773d Grd Obsr Sq	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 109 PAGES
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FIRST REPORT

At approximately 06/0542Z an unidentified object was seen approximately 10 miles west of Bismark, North Dakota. The object was first sighted by S/Sgt Wesley Harry and was verified by six other observers whose statements accompany this report. Object was large, seemed round to oblong, and changed colors from white, to orange, to red, to green. Object seemed to send out short flashes of light when maneuvering. Speed was slow with occasional sudden spurts. No sound was audible. Object approached from southwest very fast, seemed to hover, move up, down, and laterally, in spurts. Object finally disappeared over horizon to the north. At approximately 0715Z it disappeared, and one observer reported it seemed to leave a trail somewhat similar to a "skyrocket." Object was observed from top of building housing the Bismark Filter Center, Detachment #5, 4773d Ground Observer Squadron, located in Burleigh County, as well as from the CAA tower located at Bismark Municipal Airport. Motion was detected by lining object up with stationary objects. Motion was too great to be completely in error in this respect. The sky was clear; surface winds light from the northwest; winds aloft reported by CAA to be from 330° at 25 knots. We were unable to obtain any photos as requested by the 29th Air Division (Defense) Air Defense Direction Center at Rapid City, South Dakota, which was notified of the sighting at 0543Z. The grid location of the sighting was approximately EB 0248. The object was observed by the following:

2/Lt C. W. Koontz  
S/Sgt W. N. Harry  
A/IC Richard Haugen  
Mrs. Gertrude Dahl

Mrs. Mike Owens  
Mr. Charles Mandigo  
Mr. Jack Wilhelm

SECOND REPORT

At approximately 0611Z, on 6 August 1953, an unidentified object was seen 6-12 miles NNW of Bismark, North Dakota. Object was first sighted by S/Sgt Wesley Harry and 2/Lt Charles W. Koontz, and was verified by four other observers, whose statements accompany this report. Object was round and changed colors from white, to orange, to red, to green. Object seemed to send out short flashes of light when maneuvering. Speed was slow with steady movement, both vertically and laterally. No sound was audible. The direction the object approached from is unknown. The object disappeared at approximately 0850Z. The object was observed from the top of the building housing the Bismark Filter Center, and from the CAA tower at Bismark Municipal Airport, both located in Burleigh County, North Dakota. Motion was detected by lining object up with stationary objects. Sky was clear; surface winds light from northwest; winds aloft reported by CAA to be from 330° at 25 knots. We were unable to obtain any photos as requested by the ADDC at Rapid City, South Dakota, which was first notified of the sighting at approximately 0615Z. The grid location of the original sighting was EB 1754. The object moved easterly and was last reported at EB 2356. This unidentified object was observed by the following:

2/Lt C. W. Koontz  
S/Sgt W. N. Harry  
Mrs. Gertrude Dahl

Mrs. Mike Owens  
Mr. Charles Mandigo  
Mr. Jack Wilhelm

DECLASSIFIED  
USAF memo 7/31/78  
By W. G. Low 4/12/79

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**SECURITY INFORMATION**  
**AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT**

6

FROM (Agency) <b>Detachment #5, 4773d Grd Obsr Sq</b>	REPORT NO.	PAGE <b>3</b> OF <b>10</b> PAGES
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THIRD REPORT

At approximately 06/0745Z an unidentified object was seen 10-12 miles east and slightly north of Bismark, North Dakota. The object was first sighted by S/Sgt Wesley Harry and Mrs. Mike Owens. Verified by three other observers whose statements accompany this report. Object was smaller than first two, was round to oblong, and changed colors from white, to orange, to red, to green. The object seemed to send out short flashes almost as if it were signaling, particularly when a C-124 aircraft approached the area. Speed was slow when detectable, but upon occasion it moved both vertically and laterally by spurts. No sound was audible. The object faded from view at 0850Z. The object was observed from the top of the building housing the Bismark Filter Center and from the CAA tower at Bismark Municipal Airport, both in Burleigh County, North Dakota. The sky was clear, and winds were the same as reported in the first two reports. The grid location of the object was approximately EB 2549. The two outstanding features of this object were its predominant red color and its increased movement upon the approach of the C-124 type aircraft. The object was observed by the following persons:

2/Lt C. W. Koontz  
S/Sgt W. N. Harry  
Mrs. Mike Owens.

Mrs. Gertrude Dahl  
Mr. Jack Wilhelm

FOURTH REPORT

This object was seen 6-8 miles northeast of Bismark, North Dakota, at approximately 0747Z on 6 August 1953. The object was first sighted by S/Sgt Wesley Harry and Mrs. Mike Owens, and was verified by two other observers whose statements accompany this report. The object was round and changed colors from white, to orange, to red, to green. The object was the smallest of the four reported. Its altitude was from 6,000 to 10,000 feet. Its speed was slow when detectable, but it did have some vertical and lateral movement. This object also seemed to send out short flashes, as though it was signaling, particularly when a C-124 type aircraft approached the area. No sound was audible. The object faded from view at approximately 0850Z. The object was observed from the top of the Bismark Filter Center and from the CAA tower at Bismark Municipal Airport, both in Burleigh County, North Dakota. The sky was clear, and winds were the same as reported in the first three reports. The grid location of the object was approximately EB 2050. The outstanding feature of this object was the increased movement and the flashes emitted upon being approached by the C-124 type aircraft. As reported in the third report, the object was not visible to the C-124. This object was observed by the following persons:

2/Lt C.W. Koontz  
S/Sgt W.N. Harry  
Mrs. Mike Owens  
Mrs. Gertrude Dahl

DECLASSIFIED  
USAF MEMO 7/21/77  
By W. G. Lewis  
Date 4/17/77

This report prepared by:

s/ CHARLES W. KOONTZ  
CHARLES W. KOONTZ  
2nd Lt USAF

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

This is to certify that on the night of August 6, 1953, between the hours of 0500 and 0850Z time I witnessed what I thought were four unidentified objects. The first I saw, west of Bismarck at approximately 0542Z. It was round, approximately 2000 to 6000 feet and moving quite erratically. It moved in all directions, left, right, up and down with no apparent order to its movement. It was constantly changing colors. These colors were white, yellow and red. To me it seemed to have somewhat of a mist or glow surrounding it.

The other three objects were seen north and east of Bismarck. One at approximately 0615Z and the other two at approximately 0750Z. These objects had the same characteristics, approximately the same altitudes as the first object sighted, except for one that appeared to be primarily red in color.

In general these objects had the appearance of bright stars and could have easily been mistaken for such except for their movement. Being a clear night it was quite easy to line them up and by sighting along a stationary object to see that they were actually moving.

*Charles W. Koontz*  
CHARLES W. KOONTZ  
2d Lt., USAF

AF582892 - /

843

CADF-4375 - 53

*Inc 1  
fact # 2 - 1*

S-T-A-T-I-M-E-N-T

At 0535z, 6 August 1953, I was at the Bismarck Filter Center to assist in alerting observer posts on unidentified objects. I monitored a call from GRADY at 0538Z which stated that objects were at present in Delta Bravo area. I decided to go out on the roof of the adjoining building to the filter center and observe what I could. At 0542Z, while scanning from back of building I saw a well lighted object moving at what seemed a high rate of speed towards Bismarck and approaching from the west-southwest. I immediately marked my position on the roof and sighted between power line poles and wires trying to calculate distance, altitude, speed and direction. Objects color changed from red-green to bluish white in this interval. I didn't believe my eyes so marking my position I called to Lt. C. W. Koontz, Acting Detachment Commander, who came out, studied object and agreed as to its erratic movement, color, altitude, etc. At this same time Mrs. Gertrude Dahl, a filter center volunteer came from the front of the building and told us of sighting same object, from her position a half block away. It disappeared from her view at that time. We pointed out the object to her and almost immediately A/IC Richard Haugen, Mrs. Mike Owens, and Mr. Charles Mandigo called to us from the Operations Room that they had spotted the object through open windows. All verified its position, colors, etc. I called Government Weather Bureau and was told that no balloons were in the air at this time. Theirs had been sent up at 0401Z and had been accounted for by 0423Z. I called Mr. Jack Wilhelm, CAA Control Tower Operator and requested information on any aircraft or objects in the area. There were no aircraft in immediate area either so I asked him to look out for any strange objects. A few minutes later he called me back, stating he had an object in view west-northwest of his position which is 5 miles east-southeast of us at Municipal Airport.

I returned to the roof and found object had moved considerably. West-northwest in short but frequent moves and sometimes very steadily. I saw it move vertically and horizontally in an erratic manner for over 40 minutes. It faded away very low flying north at 0715Z.

At 0611Z, while watching No. 1 object I spotted another (No. 2) object moving and lighted object at EB 1653 about 4 to 6 miles north-northeast of me at about 8,000 feet. I called Lt. Koontz who confirmed the sighting. Mrs. Dahl and Mrs. Owens also sighted it a few minutes later. It hovered somewhat and had changing colors and quite a bright light such as an exhaust from the bottom as it climbed in altitude or changed direction. The other observers verified this as did Mr. Wilhelm, the CAA operator by telephone call to us. Observed this object till 0850Z.

~~At 0745Z, Mrs. Mike Owens and I observed another moving airborne object, (No. 3) about 6 to 8 miles east-northeast of us and about 2000 to 3000 feet. At 0747Z another brighter red object (No. 4) appeared straight east of us about 8 to 10 miles. This position was borne out~~

AF582892 - 2

CADE-4375 - 58

1001 # 2

Statement of S/Sgt Wesley N. Harry (Contd)

again by Mr. Wilhelm who called us and said it was north of him 2 miles and about 5 miles east. Verified again by Lt. Koontz and Mrs. Dahl. These 3 objects were observed moving about some and especially the No. 4 object which constantly changed colors from red-green-bluish-white.

At 0759Z, I called CAA and Mr. Wilhelm said a C-124 was due over Bismarck in 10 minutes. At this time No. 4 object seemed to send constant static like signals in red and green. The C-124 flew south of here at 0809Z and Mr. Wilhelm reported back to me stating that the pilot and crew had sighted nothing. However, a light cloud formation had been slowly moving in at this point. Three objects were kept under surveillance by us and faded somewhat rapidly into clouds at 0840Z. They did show up at short intervals, glowing at times in brilliant colors until 0850Z when they disappeared.

*Wesley N. Harry*  
S/Sgt WESLEY N. HARRY

582892  
3

S-T-R-I-K-E-O-U-T

I was on duty at the Bismarck Filter Center the night of August 6th. When at 0515 Z 6 August 1953 we were notified that there were unidentified objects in our area at approximately 1530 E. S/Sgt. Wesley H. Barry first noticed the object that is when I noticed it too. It was north west of Bismarck approximately 10 miles at about 2,000 feet and almost looked like a bright star, except that it moved around constantly, and it changed colors. It seemed to be red in color when hovering and greenish in color when moving. It would move in spurts. I watched this object until 0630 Z when at that time I was off duty, and I went home.

SIGNED

*Richard B. J. Haugen*  
A/IC Richard B. J. Haugen

AF582892 *4*

*Inc/ # 3*

CADF-4375 - 53

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

At 060620Z Bismarck Filter Center called me while on duty at the CAA Communications station advising that they were observing unidentified objects in the vicinity of Bismarck. At first after scanning the sky nothing unusual was observed, until the approximate position in the sky was given. Then the first object at approximately 285 degrees from my position was observed with the naked eye. At first appearance it had resemblance of a bright star, but after observing object with 7X50 binoculars the object had a very definite color of bright green changing to yellow with occasional flashes of red. A few minutes later another object at about 75 degrees from my position was observed, and appeared identical with the first. The second object was kept under constant surveillance for about 15 minutes during which time it moved once to right of me or which would be south. But for the most time it was in a stationary position.

After watching the second object I turned back to the first one at about 285 degrees which had changed position somewhat. I watched this until it gradually disappeared from my sight beyond the horizon and slightly to right or further north from where I had first observed it.

I then turned back to the second object at about 75 degrees and kept watch on it with the binoculars. I noticed it change position once during time I was watching it and when any change was noticed the object seemed to leave a light trail similar to a vapor trail on an aircraft. It was impossible to keep a constant watch after about 060740Z due to conflicting duties. One of which was a radio contact with an Air Force Globemaster passing over Bismarck. I asked the pilot on request of Bismarck Filter Center to check for unidentified objects. However, pilot advised he never did see objects. During the time I was talking to pilot I tried to keep the object in the east under watch with binoculars, and while doing so I noticed the object flashing a light from the top which seemed to be a signal light. This occurred about the same time the Globemaster passed parallel and straight south of the object.

After this time of about 060800Z I didn't get a chance to watch the object much more due to other radio contacts and routine station duties. But observed the object intermittently until 060840Z at which time a low overcast began moving into the Bismarck area from north.

In conclusion I would say the objects I observed took on resemblance to a star at first but after looking at them for awhile with the naked eye and then with binoculars they were very distinguishable from a star in that they had very bright changing colors. I compared them with some of the brightest stars through the binoculars, and they were definitely different.

*Jack B. Wilhelm*  
JACK B. WILHELM

Airways Operations Specialist  
CAA Municipal Airport  
Bismarck, North Dakota

AF582892

1001 # 4  
CADE-4375 - 53

S-T-A-T-I-S-T-I-C-N-E

At 0542 Zebra time 6 August 1959, several people including myself sighted an unidentified object in the sky, west of the Bismarck Filter Center. The movements were very erratic. This object finally disappeared in the north at 0715 Z.

At 1611 Z another object was seen with the same erratic movements. This was north north east of the Filter Center. It would rise, fall, then move left and right, disappearing in the west at 0850 Z.

At 0745 Z and 0747 Z two more were seen east and north east respectively with the same movements but with more definite changes in color going from white to red then green. With less movement and color changes, one could and perhaps would have taken these objects for very bright stars. These objects faded at 0850 Zebra time.

SIGNED

Mrs. Clarence Dahl (Gertrude)

*Mrs Clarence Dahl (Gertrude)*

AF582892 -6

*1st #5*

S-T-R-I-K-E-R-E-N-T

I observed an unidentified object flying high west by northwest at 280 degrees. The object resembled a star. It flashed the colors, white, blue-green, and red. This object moved sharply and in a swerving movement most of the time. It moved steadily from 280 degrees west by northwest to 360 degrees. There were periods when it appeared to have stopped moving.

During this time I observed many sharp maneuvers which distinguished it clearly from the stationary objects in the sky. When it reached 360 degrees, it was very high and at least three times farther away than when I first observed it, then it disappeared in a northerly direction. This object was almost constantly under my observation during this time.

Shortly after the first object, I observed a similar object in the sky to the northeast of the Filter Center. This second object maneuvered in the same abrupt movements and was similar in appearance as the first. The second object remained approximately in the same position, very high to the northeast except for many square shaped movements.

Some 30 minutes after sighting the second object, I observed a third and fourth object coming into view in line with the second and slanting to the horizon in an eastern direction. After the appearance of the third and fourth object, these three began to change color rapidly in the order of red, blue-green, and white. This color change continued for at least 10 minutes. Shortly after this a cloud bank interfered and they appeared to be getting farther away.

When I left the Filter Center at 0900 Zebra time, I could see only the second object clearly. The second, third, and fourth object were not under my observation continuously, but at least one-half of the time I watched them.

INCL #6

AF582892

SIGNED

Mrs. Mike Owens

Mrs. Mike Owens

CADF-4375 - 53

S-E-C-R-E-T

Two unidentified objects were sighted about 0542 and 0611 Zebra time. One northeast and the other west northwest of Bismarck. Both seemed to be alike in actions and color. All that was discernible was a strong light which at times faded and changed color from yellowish to greenish. Actions were not steady, and at times the objects moved up and down or sidewise suddenly but all the time seemed to be drawing farther away.

SIGNED

*Charles D. Mandigo*  
Charles Mandigo

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incl #7

CADE-4375 - 53