PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 30 Jun 47	2. LOCATION Williams AFB, Arizona
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Probably METEOR
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Two	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer sighted two round objects heading straight down. They were light grey traveling at a very high rate of speed.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Straight down	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, (78), 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

B/Ltr from AMC
dtd 5 Jan 1949
Subj: Project
"SIGN"

AMS D3S 1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

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

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and the location of the nearest weather station making balloon observations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
n/c

On 29 June 1947 at about 0910 MST, [redacted], saw nine bright objects at 25,000 feet over Mount Rainier, Washington. [redacted] Field, Washington, saw the 9 objects going at tremendous speed in straight flight. One of the witnesses clocked the objects and found their speed to be 1,200 miles per hour. He could not only state positively that they were not birds, but also that they were not conventional aircraft of any type. He estimated that the objects were flying parallel to the ground approximately 25 miles south of the South Rim of Mount Rainier, Wash.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: [redacted] gave his permanent address as 1 L A M C, Q., Point Bonita, Fort Baker, Calif.

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CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 75

1. Date 30 June 1947

2. Time 0910 MST

3. Location Near Williams Field, over Mesa Canyon, Arizona

4. Name of observer Lt [redacted], USA

5. Occupation of observer R-20 student, Williams Fld., Chandler, Ariz.

6. Address of observer Williams Fld., Chandler, Ariz.

7. Place of observation plane

8. Number of objects 2

9. Distance of object from observer 3/5

10. Time in sight 3/5

11. Altitude decreasing from 25,000 ft

12. Speed "Incomprehensible"

13. Direction of flight straight down

14. Tactics 3/5

15. Sound 3/5

16. Size 3 ft in dia.

17. Color [illegible]

18. Shape circular

19. Odor detected 3/5

20. Apparent construction 3/5

21. Exhaust trails 3/5

22. Weather conditions 3/5

23. Effect on clouds 3/5

24. Sketches or photographs none

25. Witnesses or photographs [illegible]

26. Remarks (over)

[redacted]

Incident #78 -- Grand Canyon, Arizona -- 30 June 1947

While it seems more probable that the objects sighted in this incident were freely-falling, man-made instruments, perhaps from bursted instrument balloons, the possibility of their being freely-falling meteorites is not completely ruled out. When the mass of an in-coming meteorite is of the proper order of magnitude, the meteor can come in on a non-vertical path, become a bright bolide, or fireball, and have its horizontal speed component reduced essentially to zero. It then falls to earth as a non-luminous, freely-falling body.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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333.5/4/13 1st Ind 4AFDA

HQ FOURTH AIR FORCE, Hamilton Field, California. 22 SEP 1947

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: AC of AS-2

1. The attached report forwarded.

2. This report is inclusive and in addition to the Summary of Information forwarded 27 August 1947, File 4AFDA 333.5/13 (Gen).

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

R. R. HAILE
Major, Air Corps
Acting Asst Adjutant General

Incl:
FBI Rpt re Flying Discs (dup)

RECEIVED
23 JAN 48

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[redacted]

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31 JUNE
MAURY ISLAND

407 U. S. Court House
Seattle 4, Washington
August 18, 1947

13-94 Dec. 47
Tacoma, Wash.

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted],
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
SM - X

Dear Sir:

The following, in general, are the facts regarding the flying disc story that started by [redacted] and [redacted] which subsequently resulted in news stories by the Tacoma Times, the Boise Statesman and the Chicago Times that a B-25 carrying Army Intelligence officers was shot down or sabotaged over Kelso, Washington on August 1, 1947 because it was carrying some flying disc fragments.

The original story, as related by [redacted] and [redacted], was to the effect that [redacted], while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, Washington, sighted six flying discs, one of which fluttered to the earth and disintegrated, showering his boat with fragments which caused some damage to the boat and killed his dog. [redacted]L wrote a letter to [redacted] of Ziff-Davis Company which publishes fantastic adventure magazines in Chicago, sending him fragments of the flying disk and relating the above story. [redacted]R requested Trans-Radio News in Chicago to verify the story as related by [redacted]HL and F[redacted]N telegraphed [redacted] confirming [redacted] story. [redacted]R then engaged K[redacted], Boise, Idaho, who was the first to report sighting the flying disc and whom [redacted]R had previously made a contract for a story regarding the flying disc, to come to Tacoma and check the story as related by [redacted] and [redacted]AHL.

[redacted] came to Tacoma, Washington July 30, 1947 and arranged for a meeting the following day, July 31, with [redacted] and [redacted] in his room 502, Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. [redacted] also called to attend the meeting Captain [redacted]H, United Airlines Pilot who had also reported seeing flying disc fragments, and Army Intelligence to attend

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

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[redacted]

this meeting. [redacted], Captain [redacted], Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] of Army A-2 Intelligence from Hamilton Field, California, all met in [redacted]'s room at various times during the afternoon and evening of July 31, 1947 and discussed the flying disc story as related by [redacted] and [redacted]. The Army Intelligence Officers, Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted], left about 2:00 A.M. the morning of August 1, 1947 to return to Hamilton Field, California for Air Force Day in a B-25 and were carrying some of the reported disc fragments. The left engine on the B-25 burned an exhaust stack which in turn caught the left wing afire, the wing subsequently breaking off and tearing off the tail. The B-25 crashed, killing Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted]. However, the Crew Chief and a hitch-hiker parachuted to safety. Intelligence Officers at McChord Field, Washington advised there was no indication of any sabotage. The plane crashed at Kelso, Washington approximately 2:50 A.M. August 1, 1947.

Five anonymous calls were received by a reporter, Tacoma Times, and the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, between 11:30 A.M., July 31, 1947 and 5:30 P.M., August 2, 1947. The first call was to a Tacoma Times reporter approximately 11:30 A.M., July 31, in which the caller stated that there was a meeting taking place at that time in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel concerning the disc fragments found on Maury Island. The second call was received between 11:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon, August 1, 1947 by the Tacoma Times reporter in which the caller advised that at that moment a big meeting was taking place in [redacted]'s room number 502, Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed was carrying disc fragments and that McChord Field officials had stated it was shot down or sabotaged. The third call was received Friday, August 1, 1947 at 5:30 P.M. by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, in which the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying flying disc fragments and that the dead officers were Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted], A-2 Intelligence Officers at Hamilton Field, California. This call was prior to the release of the dead officers' names by Army authorities and the caller indicated that when the names were released, it would verify the information he was furnishing was correct. The fourth phone call was received at approximately 6:45 P.M., Friday, August 1 by the United Press Wireman in which call the caller stated the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence officers, they would not deny it. The fifth phone call was received by the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, at 5:30 P.M. August 2, 1946 at which time the caller stated the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down and that Captain [redacted] would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning. When the Army authorities released the names of the dead Intelligence officers which verified the information as given by the anonymous caller, the Tacoma Times printed this story on August 2, 1947 and carried several articles thereafter inferring that the B-25 had been shot down or sabotaged because of the fact that it was carrying disc fragments. [redacted] and [redacted] have admitted that the material which they sent to [redacted] had no connection with any flying discs and have given a signed statement to that effect which are being

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[redacted]

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forwarded herein. [redacted] and [redacted] deny, however, that they actually started the flying disc story and their actual part in the story. United Airlines pilot, [redacted], states that [redacted] and [redacted] on July 31, 1947, both related their original flying disc fragment story. Information gathered would indicate that the anonymous phone calls were possibly made by [redacted] in order to build up the flying disc story to the point where they could make a profitable sale of the story to [redacted], Chicago, Illinois. No facts have been developed which would definitely prove that [redacted] made these calls. However, from all facts and information gathered, it appears he is probably the most likely to have made the anonymous calls. The detailed interviews of the persons contacted in regard to this flying disc story are being set out below.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Tacoma, Washington on August 6, 7, 1947:

[redacted], Associated Press Wireman, Tacoma, Washington advised that in the early part of June, 1947 he was requested by the Seattle Post Intelligencer to check on a story which he was informed had been obtained from the Fire Chief at Harper, Washington. The story was supposed to have originated with [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] stated that the story was to the effect that [redacted], while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, saw five or six flying discs, one of which fluttered toward the ground and finally disintegrated. Fragments of the disc were reported to have showered down on the boat of [redacted], causing some damage and killing his dog. Mr. [redacted] stated that he went to the home of [redacted] on [redacted], Tacoma, Washington to check with him on this flying disc story. He stated that as best he could recall, this was just a few days after the first flying disc stories had appeared in the paper and was on a Sunday evening. He believed it was the early part of June. He stated that [redacted] took him in the kitchen and proceeded to talk about this flying disc story in low muffled tones. He stated that [redacted] acted rather suspicious and that shortly his wife came into the kitchen and was in a considerable rage, telling [redacted] to admit that the entire story was a plain fantasy which he had dreamed up. He stated that after his wife told [redacted] to admit the entire story was false, that [redacted] then admitted that there was nothing whatever to the story and it was an entire hoax. [redacted] stated that in view of the enraged condition of [redacted]'s wife, he immediately left and reported to the Seattle Post Intelligencer that the entire story was a hoax and that they should not print it in any way. He further stated that he advised the Seattle Post Intelligencer that [redacted] was a mental case and that nothing which he had reported should be carried as far as a news story. Mr. [redacted] stated that since that time he had received repeated requests from the Boise Statesman requesting information as to the flying disc stories reportedly originating with [redacted] and [redacted]. VOGEL stated that he had never, in his experience, had such pressure brought upon him to release a news story and that he repeatedly advised the Boise Statesman that the story of seeing the flying discs by [redacted] and [redacted] was a complete fabri-

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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cation and should be in no way, carried as a news story and refused to furnish any information regarding these reports. He further stated that he advised the Boise Statesman shortly before, or at the time [redacted] left Boise to come to Tacoma to check on the flying disc stories with [redacted] and [redacted] that [redacted] should not come as the entire story was a hoax.

The following information was obtained from [redacted], 4513 South 7th, Tacoma, Washington, Proctor 8416, a reporter for the Tacoma Times:

It was the Tacoma Times paper which first issued a story on August 2 and subsequent stories intimating that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington on the early morning of August 1, had been sabotaged or shot down because of the fact that it carried flying disc fragments. [redacted] stated that on Thursday, July 31, at approximately 11:30 A.M. he received an anonymous phone call in which the caller stated that [redacted] and Army Intelligence officers were meeting in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel to check on the flying disc story from which fragments were obtained on Maury Island. [redacted] stated he turned around to speak to his editor and when he picked up the phone again the line was dead. He stated that the caller asked for [redacted], a reporter on the Tacoma Times who was out at the time of the call. He stated that [redacted] called [redacted] at room 502 in the Winthrop Hotel and was advised by [redacted] that he could furnish no information as he was there on a Government mission. [redacted] stated that on Friday, August 1, between 11:00 A.M. and noon, he received another phone call for [redacted] in which the anonymous caller stated that he might have some information for him. [redacted] asked the caller if he was not the same party that had called the previous date and he said yes. The caller then related that at that moment there was a big meeting in progress in [redacted]'s room, 502, in the Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed that morning in Kelso was carrying flying disc fragments from California and that McChord Field officials had stated the plane was sabotaged or shot down. The caller then hung up after making some statement to the effect that he was a switchboard operator. [redacted] stated that he went to the Winthrop Hotel on Friday about noon and found that there was no male operator on duty. He stated he then went to room 502 and [redacted] answered the door and that Captain [redacted], United Airlines pilot, was on the phone. [redacted] stated that he heard [redacted] make a statement to the effect that the information must be very strictly confidential. He stated that there were one or two others in the room besides [redacted] and [redacted], but that he could not identify them. He stated that [redacted] told him he could made no statement and that he had attempted to check the story with various people on Maury Island with negative results. He stated that about 3:30 P.M., Friday, he wrote a story regarding the mysterious informant and called [redacted] at his hotel room, stating that he had written this story and that [redacted] had better check it. He stated that he talked to TED MORRELLO, the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, who advised that the story sounded fantastic. LANTZ stated that about 5:30 P.M., Friday, August 1, an anonymous caller called TED MORRELLO, the

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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United Press Wireman, stating that Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] were the Intelligence officers that were killed in the crash of the B-25 and that civilians and the sheriff had been kept away from the wreckage with the Army guarding it. He stated the anonymous caller then said that the names had not been released yet by the Army and that this would verify his statements. [redacted]TZ stated that the following morning, Saturday, August 2, the Army verified that the officers killed were Captain [redacted]N and Lieutenant [redacted] and two days later verified that they were Army Intelligence officers. [redacted] stated that the anonymous caller again later contacted TED MORELLO, calling him by that name, and at this time stated he did not call the Tacoma News Tribune or the Associated Press and denied calling [redacted] or [redacted]. In this call the anonymous caller stated that, "Don't think I'm doing this for you." He then asked if the story had been put on the wire and when MORRELLO said yes, the caller stated, "We want this to get back to New Jersey." The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down by a 20 m.m. cannon and that the marine plane which was recently found wrecked on the side of Mt. Rainier, having been missing for several months, had also been shot down. The caller stated to MORRELLO that he should get in touch with a flyer named [redacted] with United Airlines who, he stated, was with Captain [redacted] when they were shot at over Montana. The caller then stated, "I'll see you Tuesday. I'm going to San Francisco." [redacted] stated that he had checked with Captain [redacted]H of United Airlines who denied knowing any pilot by the name of [redacted]; denied ever having flown over Montana. [redacted]Z stated that [redacted]O received another anonymous call in which the caller stated that [redacted] would be sent to Wright Field on Tuesday and that Saturday one of the men who found fragments of the flying disc was to be flown to Alaska. [redacted]Z stated that in view of the fact that the information as to the Intelligence officers on the B-25 had been as furnished by the anonymous caller, had subsequently been verified by the Army, the story was released that the B-25 was carrying disc fragments returning to Hamilton Field, California, and furnishing the inference that the plane had been sabotaged or shot down. [redacted] stated that about 8:00 P.M. on Sunday, August 3, he contacted Captain [redacted] at his home, 3027 West Laurelhurst Drive, Seattle at which time SMITH stated he had not given any story out to the Post Intelligencer at Seattle; stated that he had gotten a telegram to call a number in Boise and when he called and found out it was the Boise Statesman, he had hung up. He stated that the Boise Statesman then contacted him, at which time he admitted he had seen the disc fragments, but that he did not take any of them. This time [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had been with Major [redacted]S, Public Relations Officer from McChord Field, all afternoon until about 5:45 P.M. [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had told the Army authorities everything that he and [redacted] knew about the flying disc fragments story from the time that [redacted] left Boise, Idaho and he had left Seattle, Washington. This time SMITH admitted that there were some of the supposed disc fragments in [redacted]'s room at the Winthrop Hotel and that [redacted] had been in the room Thursday afternoon. On Monday [redacted]Z stated that he called [redacted] who advised that if this were used in the paper, he and [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] would see him after lunch. [redacted] stated that about noon [redacted] and [redacted] contacted him at which time [redacted] stated that he and his son had been exploring a gravel pit on Maury Island and found some strange rock formations. He stated they picked up some of these samples and that [redacted] later saw them and they went back over to Maury Island at which time additional samples were obtained and that [redacted] sent these to a friend of his at the University of Chicago to have analyzed. They stated that they received a report and that apparently this friend had asked a newspaperman to find out where the rock formations were obtained. [redacted] and [redacted] told [redacted] that sometime after the first flying disc story had appeared, they received a telegram from Trans-Ocean Press from Chicago wanting information on the flying disc fragments. [redacted] stated that they had at no time indicated the rock formations were a part of a flying disc and that Captain [redacted] and [redacted] were not interested in the rock formations and they denied giving them to [redacted].

TED MORRELLO, a United Press Wireman, Tacoma, Washington furnished substantially the same information that was obtained from [redacted], the Tacoma Times reporter, regarding the anonymous phone calls which he had received. He stated further that the first call he received was on Friday, August 1, at around 5:30 P.M. At this time the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying disc fragments and that the two officers killed were Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted], officers with Army A-2 Intelligence at Hamilton Field and that the fragments were top secret material. He stated the caller indicated that when the Army released the names of the dead officers it would verify that the information he was furnishing was correct. MORRELLO stated that the second call he received at approximately 6:45 P.M. Friday, August 1 at which time the caller stated that the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence A-2, the man in charge would not deny it. MORRELLO stated he thought the man said to contact Colonel GUYS, but it was found out it was Colonel GREGG who was in charge of Army Intelligence A-2. The caller further stated that the Sheriff's Office had been kept away from the crash and that no civilians had been allowed near the plane. MORRELLO stated the third call he received at 5:30 P.M., August 2, and that this time the caller stated that one of the men who had been conferring with Captain [redacted] and [redacted] was taken to Alaska that day. The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down; that Captain [redacted] would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning and that a United Airlines pilot by the name of [redacted] flew with Captain [redacted] when they were shot at over Montana. The caller stated he was leaving for San Francisco and would be back Tuesday.

[redacted] and [redacted] both stated that they had made very little effort to question the anonymous caller to obtain his identity as they felt it was useless and that if they started questioning him he would

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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refuse to furnish any further information.

On August 5, 1947 Special Agent DAVID A. MacCULLOCH was contacted in the resident agency office, Tacoma, Washington by [redacted]. At this time [redacted] asked if the Seattle Office was investigation the crash of the B-25 and he was informed that no investigation was being conducted by the Seattle Office. [redacted] at this time related in a rambling story that he had picked up some strange rock formations which he had forwarded to a friend of his in the University of Chicago to have analyzed and that later, in some manner unknown to him, these rock formations had been reported as being fragments of a flying disc.

On August 7, 1947 [redacted] were interviewed at the Tacoma resident agency office. Both [redacted] at first denied any knowledge of how the rock formations which they had picked up to have analyzed became connected with the flying disc stories. Both denied making any statement to anyone that these rock formations were portions of a disc fragment. It was apparent from the start of the interview that [redacted] were not telling their complete and true connection with the flying disc story. They refused to give any definite information as to what they said or had done which caused them to become involved in a flying disc story, but gave evasive answers and repeatedly stated that they had nothing to do with it and were at a loss to understand how they became connected with the flying disc story. After considerable questioning, they stated that in the early part of June they sent to RAY PALMER of the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company which published the Fantasy magazine in Chicago and the Venture magazine in Evanston, Illinois, some rock formations which they had found on Maury Island. They stated they sent these formations, asking PALMER to have them analyzed. They stated that later PALMER wrote and asked for more samples, advising he had failed to analyze the samples. [redacted] stated they have never sent any additional samples and that the next they heard regarding the rock formations which they had sent PALMER was when he called [redacted] and asked if the rock formations could have come from a flying disc. [redacted] stated he made some remark that they possibly could have come from a flying disc and that he immediately sat down and wrote a letter to PALMER, which was in the latter part of June in which he stated the material could have been portions of a flying disc. [redacted] claimed that he thought he told PALMER over the phone something about being in his boat when he obtained these rock formations, but stated he could not recall what he had written to PALMER and claimed that he passed the whole thing off as a joke. [redacted] were questioned at length in an attempt to obtain specific information as to exactly what each one had done with regard to the rock formations. However, each stated that the only thing they had done was tell RAY PALMER the formations could have come from a flying disc in view of the fact it appeared "that's what he wanted them to say". No definite information could be obtained from either [redacted] as to what each specifically had done to start the flying disc story.

The signed statement which was obtained fro[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] and in which they admitted the rock formations had no connection with any flying discs is being forwarded to the Bureau herewith. The statement contains no information of value and therefore is not being set forth herein.

Regarding the meeting which was held in the Winthrop Hotel on Thursday, July 31, [redacted] and [redacted] stated that they both met [redacted] there about 1:00 P.M. They stated that they all left [redacted]'s room about 3:00 P.M. and that [redacted] took [redacted] to Berry's Airport at Tacoma and [redacted] flew his plane to Seattle where he picked up Captain [redacted]. [redacted] stated that he picked up [redacted] at Berry's Airport about 5:00 P.M. and that [redacted] came to [redacted]'s room about 7:00 P.M. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] left about 8:30 P.M. when he drove [redacted] to Seattle to get his car and that [redacted] went home at this time. [redacted] stated they returned about 11:30 P.M. at which time the Army Intelligence officers were in [redacted]'s room and that [redacted] left about midnight. He stated that he returned to ARNOLD's room Friday afternoon for approximately one-half hour from 2:30 to 3:00 P.M., at which time [redacted] and [redacted] were still there and neither seemed to be able to recall if [redacted] was in ARNOLD's room on Friday, August 1. The best that could be obtained from [redacted] and [redacted] as to what took place in [redacted]'s room was to the effect that most of the talk was about flying, that no one seemed very interested in the rock formations and that they had no connection as far as they knew with any flying disc. [redacted] stated that [redacted] wanted to obtain pictures of the place where the rock formations were obtained and that the Army Intelligence Officers did not appear to be interested in any manner whatever.

[redacted] operates the Commercial Lumber Company at 235 Millwater Avenue, Tacoma, Washington and [redacted] has recently been working with him buying timber. They have also been associated with the Harbor Patrol Association at Tacoma, Washington which furnishes patrol and police protection to parts of the harbor area which are not patrolled by Tacoma police or Sheriff's officers. [redacted] resides at 125 Woodland, Tacoma, Washington, Army serial number [redacted]. During the war he was a pilot and it is believed presently holds a Reserve Officer's commission as a Captain.

Regarding the B-25 which crashed, killing Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] of the 4th Air Forces, Captain ROBERT G. BJORNING, A-2 Officer, McChord Field, advised that this investigation of the crash reflected an exhaust stack had burned out on the left engine which in turn caught the left wing afire and that when the left wing broke off, it also broke off the tail. The plane at the time of the crash was carrying Captain [redacted], Lieutenant [redacted], the hitch-hiker and a man as Crew Chief to take care of the airplane. The Crew Chief and the hitch-hiker parachuted to safety, but Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] were killed. He stated that their investigation reflected no indication of any sabotage whatever.

A check of the records of the Winthrop Hotel at Tacoma, Washington, revealed that [redacted] ARNOLD, giving his address as Route [redacted], Boise, Idaho rented room 502 from July 30 at 7:45 P.M. until

[redacted]

August 19, 1947

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August 3. A record of the phone calls made from room 502 during this period was made by Miss SARAH LANGBERG. This record reveals that [redacted] on July 31 called PALMER at An-5200, Evanston, Illinois, collect. On the same date called Lieutenant [redacted] Hamilton Field, California, collect. [redacted] also called 0109-J in Boise, Idaho on July 31. On August [redacted] called Lon-4936, Portland; [redacted] at Dearborn 5200, Chicago; and [redacted] called [redacted] at Dearborn 2323 at Chicago. Both Chicago calls were collect. The remainder of the calls appear to be personal calls and are not being set out. A record of the phone calls made are being retained as an exhibit in the Seattle Office.

The following information was obtained by Special Agent PIERRE H. LEVEC in interview on August 12, 1947 with Captain EMIL J. SMITH, 3027 West Laurehurst Drive, United Airlines pilot: It should be noted that Captain [redacted] has previously received publicity for having supposedly seen flying discs or similar objects on July 4, last while on a routine United Airlines flight out of Boise, Idaho in company with his co-pilot [redacted], concerning this incident. Captain [redacted] states that they took off from Boise, Idaho at 8:12 P.M. and headed Northwest at 300 degrees and while still climbing at 8,000 feet, co-pilot [redacted] called his attention to some objects in the sky ahead of them about ten degrees left which neither one could identify. SMITH states that he called a CAA radio operator at Ontario, Oregon and requested him to step outside his radio shack and see if he could see any of these objects overhead. The CAA radio operator replied in the negative.

Captain [redacted] states that he first met [redacted] on July 5 in the offices of the Seattle Post Intelligencer where both were being interviewed concerning their sighting of flying discs. [redacted] states that he next met [redacted] about three weeks ago in Boise, Idaho at which time he, [redacted] was on another flight through Boise, Idaho and had a ten minute lay-over there. On this occasion [redacted] was in company of Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted], Army Intelligence officers, and a reporter JOHNSON of the Boise Statesman. [redacted] next contact with [redacted] was on Thursday, July 31, last when he received a telephone call from [redacted] calling from Tacoma in the early afternoon at which time he asked [redacted] to come over to Tacoma and join him as he was investigating a flying disc story for "someone back East" and some fragments were involved which [redacted] might be interested in seeing. After some discussion [redacted] agreed to join [redacted] in Tacoma and [redacted] told [redacted] he would fly over and pick him up at Boeing Airport at 4:00 P.M. SMITH met [redacted] at Boeing Field at about 4:00 P.M. and they flew to Berry's Airport at Tacoma, Washington where they were met by [redacted]. The three of them proceeded in [redacted] car to the Winthrop Hotel where [redacted] was occupying room 502. [redacted] ordered something to eat and during this time either [redacted] or [redacted] called a [redacted] and invited him up to the room. By this time SMITH states he had learned from [redacted] that [redacted] and DAHL were the participants in the latest flying disc story and [redacted] states that he had no previous acquaintance with either of these men before meeting them in Tacoma on this date. While in the Hotel Room [redacted] showed [redacted] a letter which he had received from [redacted] of the Venture Press of Chicago requesting that [redacted] investigate

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the [redacted] story in Tacoma. [redacted] inform[redacted]t this time that after receiving this letter he had called [redacted] by telephone in Chicago as a result of which call [redacted]had forwarded him $200.00 expense money for covering the story. Shortly thereafter, at about 7:30 P.M. [redacted] arrived at the Hotel room and the discussion began among the four men present as to what [redacted] had seen on Maury Island. [redacted] professed reluctance to tell the story, claiming that several unfortunate incidents had occurred subsequent to his seeing the flying discs and he believed the entire incident had brought him bad luck. In this connection he stated that four or five days subsequent to his sighting the flying discs, a man called at his home and had a conversation with him the course of wh[redacted] was warned to forget all about everything he had seen on or near Maury Island. In addition to that [redacted] stated that his sixteen year old son had run away from home following the incident and had been picked up by the police somewhere in Montana. After some further discussion [redacted] finally agreed to tell hisstory of the flying disc incident in front of [redacted] after eliciting a promise from SMITH that he would not discuss the matter for at least two weeks. It should be noted that [redacted] had previously told his story to [redacted]AN. At this point [redacted] related the incident which has already been described and which he alleged had taken place on or about June 23 or 24. While relating the incident [redacted] mentioned that he had taken pictures of the flying disc which he had seen but that the printed films were marred with white spots. When [redacted] had concluded his story [redacted] related that he had gone the following day to Maury Island to verify what [redacted] had told him concerning the fragments and had at this time picked up several fragments and taken them with him. At this time [redacted] related that he also saw one of the flying discs hovering over the Island but that it had disappeared into a cloud. When [redacted] and [redacted] had finished telling their stor[redacted] told the group that he had earlier in that evening called Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant BROWN, Army Intelligence officers and that they were on their way to the Hotel room. At this point DAHL protested that he did not wish to tell his story before anyone else and he was advised by [redacted] that if such was the case why didn't he just leave and not be there when they arrived. [redacted] and [redacted] then left the room and went downstairs. [redacted] departed alone. [redacted] drove SMITH back to Boeing Field near Seattle where [redacted] desired to pick up his own personal car, which he did. They then returned to the Hotel where they found Captai[redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] in room 502 with [redacted]OLD. [redacted] met them at the door and seemed excited, explaining to [redacted] that Captain [redacted]N had just drawn a reproduction of a freak disc which had supposedly been seen by a woman in Arizona and that this drawing was an exact reproduction of the flying disc which he, [redacted], had seen several weeks before, nearing Mt. Rainier. [redacted] states that shortly after this [redacted] seemed very anxious to tell his and [redacted]'s story to the Army officers. Before this was done, however, [redacted] had a discussion with Lieutenant [redacted], informing him that they had promised [redacted] not to release the story for two weeks and that if [redacted] were allowed to tell the story at this time, [redacted] and [redacted]N must agree not to release the story for one month. Following this agreement, [redacted] related DAHL's and his story of the flying discs over Maury

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Island to [redacted]ON. Following this recitation, Lieutenant [redacted], in answer to a query from [redacted], said that he and Captain [redacted]N were of the opinion that there might be some truth in the current flying disc stories, but that their immediate superiors (presumably A-2 at Hamilton Field) did not agree with them. [redacted]hen held a brief discussion as to whether they should return that same night to Hamilton Field and they decided that they would. All five of the men then went down to the lobby where [redacted] detached himself from the group and entered a phone booth to call for a car from McChord Field. [redacted]also left the group and met BROWN outside the phone booth where they held a short discussion relative to the credibility of [redacted] and [redacted]'s story. [redacted] indicated to SMITH that he should attempt to find out if the story was on the level and that BROWN would call him the following day regarding this matter. The group then proceeded to the front of the Hotel at which time [redacted] brought his car to the front of the Hotel and took from his trunk a box of the alleged flying disc fragments picked up on Maury Island. He offered them to [redacted] and when the Army car arrived from McChord Field the box of fragments was placed in the car with the officers. [redacted] departed alone and [redacted] went in search of something to eat and later returned to the Hotel for the night.

On Friday morning, August 1, 1947, [redacted]D received a call from [redacted], informing him that a B-25 had crashed during the night and it was believed to be the same plane which [redacted]ON were flying. Following this call [redacted] and [redacted]came to the Hotel room and from the room [redacted] again called McChord Field in an attempt to get information about the crash. [redacted]took the phone from [redacted] and spoke to a Colonel [redacted], identifying himself and asking if the B-25 which crashed was the only one which had taken off from McChord Field the previous night. GREGG told him that it was. Following this call [redacted]called [redacted]R in Chicago and informed him of the previous night's conversations and the fact that [redacted]d [redacted]were believed to have been killed. [redacted] told [redacted] to discontinue his investigation of the incident and that he, [redacted], was no longer interested. [redacted] then took the phone from [redacted] and asked [redacted] if he could shed any light on the situation. [redacted] was unable to say what [redacted]'s reply to [redacted] was. Following these telephone discussions [redacted] says that he called [redacted] whom he identified as a personal friend of his and an aviation editor of the Chicago Times. [redacted] states that he had previously made an agreement with [redacted]n Chicago that should he ever run across any flying disc stories which showed promise of news value, that he would contact [redacted] and this call was a result of that agreement. Shortly afterward, Colonel [redacted] called him from McChord Field stating that Hamilton Field had requested that [redacted] and [redacted] submit their addresses to Hamilton Field for convenience of any Army investigation of the incident which may be forthcoming. After this call the four men went to a restaurant for lunch. During the course of this mean SMITH excused himself from the table and attempted to call SAC BOBBITT of the Portland Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation with whom he claims acquaintance. BOBBITT, however, was unavailable and SMITH was unable to complete the

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call. After returning to the Hotel room, a Tacoma Times reporter called attempting to gain information, but they did not give him any. Later, a Mr. MORRELLO of the United Press called and [redacted] spoke to him on the telephone but refused to give out any information. [redacted] further relates that while the four men were in the room at this time, an envelope was shoved under the door and that he retrieved it from the floor. [redacted] states that the appearance of this envelope seemed to startle [redacted] considerably and that in fact, CRISMAN turned white as a sheet until [redacted] read the note unsigned which was a communication to the Hotel advising that a strike of Hotel employees was eminent and that guests should not expect room and telephone service much longer. Shortly after this incident [redacted] and [redacted] left the Hotel room after promising to take [redacted] and [redacted] to Maury Island the following morning, (Saturday). [redacted] and [redacted] then went out for dinner and on their return, SMITH found a note in the box requesting him to call a certain telephone number. He did this from the Hotel room and was answered by [redacted], Tacoma Times reporter who requested [redacted] to go out and call him from a pay station. SMITH complained and was informed by [redacted] that two anonymous telephone calls had been received by him that a discussion regarding flying discs had been taking place in room 502 at the Winthrop Hotel which involved Army Intelligence officers. From the information which [redacted] had received, [redacted] was convinced that the anonymous caller must have been present at the discussion also, as [redacted] was seemingly in possession of pertinent remarks which had been made in the room. [redacted] states that he did not give [redacted] any further information and that in conclusion of the call, he returned to the Hotel room and he and [redacted] retired for the night.

On Saturday morning, August 2, 1947 [redacted] received a telephone call from [redacted] in Chicago, but was unable to give him any further information. [redacted] advised him, however, that he would call him back at 2:30 that afternoon. [redacted] then called from a coffee shop nearby and [redacted] and [redacted] joined [redacted], [redacted] and an unknown man in the Coffee Shop for breakfast. The unknown person was discussing some lumber business with [redacted] and left after breakfast. On leaving the coffee shop, [redacted] asked [redacted] about the negatives of the photographs which he claimed to have taken of the flying discs. [redacted] said the negatives were in the glove compartment of his car, but a search of the instant glove compartment was fruitless. The four then proceeded in [redacted]'s car to the dock where they were to embark for Maury Island. The boat, however, could not be started and the trip was postponed until later in the day. While at the dock, however, [redacted] asked to be shown the damage to the boat which had allegedly occurred when the fragments showered down on Maury Island. [redacted] pointed out what may have been repairs to the windshield and lights on the boat, but SMITH was not personally satisfied that these repairs were made as a result of any such incident. [redacted] and [redacted] then drove [redacted] and [redacted] back to the Hotel at approximately 10:45 A.M. and [redacted] told them he would call them later on and that they would go to Maury Island. On returning to the Hotel [redacted] called [redacted] at the Tacoma Times as a result of which call he and [redacted] met [redacted] in the Coffee Shop across the street from the

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Winthrop Hotel. [redacted] stated that the purpose of this meeting was to try to find out something more about the anonymous phone calls [redacted] had told him about. He and [redacted] still refused to give out any further information regarding the Thursday evening conference to [redacted] and were informed by [redacted] that the Tacoma Times was afraid of being scooped on the story and was going to print something on that day. [redacted] then returned to the Hotel and shortly thereafter received a phone call from [redacted], but the call was cut off by the switchboard operator since it was not an emergency call. [redacted] and [redacted] then returned to the Hotel lobby where they found a telegram from [redacted] asking them to call him at either Broadway or Proctor 7733, [redacted] not sure of the exchange. [redacted] called this number, but [redacted] was not there. [redacted] states that he went then to the Western Union Telegraph Office and dispatched a collect telegram to [redacted] at the Chicago Times which contained a brief resume of the incidents which had occurred and which requested RODDY to wire [redacted] a telephone number where [redacted] could be reached after 6:00 P.M. [redacted] states that he has never received an answer to that wire. Following this [redacted] states that he and [redacted] what he and [redacted] were sitting in the lobby of the Olympic Hotel when [redacted] entered and gave them each a copy of the latest edition of the Tacoma Times which contained a story hinting at sabotage in the crash of the Army B-25 which killed Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted]. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] continued to occupy seats in the Hotel Lobby most of the afternoon inasmuch as they were unable to receive calls in the Hotel room due to the Hotel employees' strike. He relates that he received a call in the late afternoon from LANTZ advising him to call [redacted] that evening at 8:30 as [redacted] had further information regarding the anonymous calls. [redacted] also received a telegram requesting that he call Boise 6000 which he did and found that it was [redacted] of the Boise Statesman. He refused to give [redacted] any further information at this time. However, shortly thereafter, [redacted] called from Boise and advised [redacted] that the Army had released a story through Brigadier General [redacted] revealing the confidential assignment which [redacted] and [redacted] had been engaged on. In view of this release, [redacted] requested [redacted] to answer one question for him which was, "Were they carrying any alleged disc fragments on the plane?" and SMITH answered, "Yes, they were." Following this SMITH called [redacted] as per his earlier request and was informed that [redacted] of the United Press had received another anonymous phone call at which time "the voice" said that the Army B-25 carrying Captain [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted] had been shot down with 20 m.m. shells and that the Marine plane found on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down with 20 m.m. shells. The voice went on to state that [redacted] would be called back to Wright Field on Tuesday. When MORRELLO asked why he was giving out this information the caller replied that it was not for the benefit of the newspapers, but that he was interested in seeing that the information got back to New Jersey. The voice also informed MORRELLO at this time that one of the two persons who had been talking to [redacted] and [redacted] had now left for Alaska. As a result of this latter bit of information [redacted] decided to find out if [redacted] had left town. He located [redacted] at the Sunset Theatre and [redacted] came to the Hotel and met [redacted]. They were unable to locate [redacted] by phone and [redacted] left saying that he would try to find out where CRISMAN was and that he would call them tomorrow (Sunday) and that they would go out to Maury Island at that time. After [redacted] left,

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] went to the Tacoma Times Office where a reporter met them and took them to MORRELLO in the United Press Office. There they read the latest press releases and had a discussion with MORRELLO regarding the anonymous phone calls. In the course of this discussion MORRELLO mentioned the name of Major [redacted]ERS, Public Relations Officer at McChord Field as being one of the officers interested in the investigation.

Following this discussion with MORRELLO, at which time [redacted] states they still refused to divulge any further information, SMITH and [redacted] returned to the Hotel for the night.

On Sunday morning, August 3, 1947, DAHL appeared at the Hotel room and told them that he had received a letter fro[redacted]N which said in effect, "Take care of my business. I'll be out of town for three or four days." [redacted] had a letter with him but he did not show it to [redacted]. The three men then drove to DAHL's secretary's house in South Tacoma and picked her up and the four of them then went to breakfast on the South Tacoma highway. While the four of them then went to breakfast [redacted] excused himself and called Major SANDERS at McChord Field and arranged an appointment to meet him at the Hotel lobby at 11:00 A.M. They then took [redacted]'s secretary to her home where [redacted] picked up a typewriter and then drove [redacted] and [redacted] back to the Hotel. They asked him if he was going to take them to Maury Island that day and he replied that he wasnot. He further stated that he was sick of the entire business and that if he was ever contacted by the Army or the authorities he was going to deny ever having seen anything and claim to be "the biggest liar that ever lived". Shortly after returning to the Hotel, [redacted] met Major [redacted] in the lobby and they went in [redacted]'s car to a coffee shop in South Tacoma where SMITH proceeded to tell Major SANDERS the entire story of the incidents which had occurred in Tacoma regarding the [redacted] and [redacted] story since Thursday afternoon. Following this, [redacted] took Major [redacted]ERS back to the Hotel and introduced him to [redacted] and suggested to ARNOLD that he also tell Major [redacted] the entire story of what had occurred. [redacted] did so. Major SANDERS after looking at the fragments which were still in the room suggested that they drive out to the Smelter near Tacoma as he believed the slag at the Smelter would bear a distinct resemblance to these fragments. The three men then drove to the Smelter and the slag was noted to be definitely similar to the fragments which [redacted] and [redacted] had left in the Hotel room. They then returned to the Hotel room and Major SANDERS left them. After packing their bags, [redacted] took [redacted] to Berry's Airport where his plane was parked and then [redacted] drove himself back to Seattle.

About an hour after his arrival in Seattle, which was approximately 7:30 P.M. [redacted] of the Tacoma Times appeared at [redacted]'s home with the newspaper containing the Associated Press story which had originated in Boise, Idaho in the Boise Statesman and which was written by [redacted]N following [redacted]'s admission to him that fragments had been carried by Lieutenant BROWN and Captain DAVIDSON on the fatal B-25 flight. [redacted] at this time continued to refuse to give any statements for the Press and told [redacted] that he had placed

[redacted]

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all of his information in the hands of the Army. [redacted] stated that a couple of days later he called Major [redacted] at McChord Field and asked him if there was any recent information concerning the incident. [redacted] states that Major [redacted] informed him that [redacted] had not yet been contacted, but that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was "setting a trap for him" [redacted] further advises that on Friday, August 8, 1947, he appeared before Lawyer JOHN NOLAN at the County-City Building, Seattle and made a deposition of the facts relating to the incidents in Tacoma from Thursday afternoon, July 31, last until Sunday morning, August 3, last.

A copy of this deposition is now in possession of the writer and is being forwarded herewith to the Bureau. It should be noted that this deposition is in no way as complete as the statement taken by the writer above and any setting out of this deposition in this communication would be superfluous.

Copies of this communication are being sent to the Butte, Portland, San Francisco and Chicago Offices for their information only. Unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary, instant investigation is considered closed by this office.

For the information of the Bureau, Captain R. C. BJORNING, Intelligence Officer, McChord Field, Ft. Lewis, Washington advised at the weekly ONI- SID -FBI Intelligence conference that the Public Relations Officer at McChord Field had received a telephone call from an individual at Army Air Forces Headquarters at Washington, D. C. during which call the Public Relations Officer was requested to obtain a signed statement from DAHL and CRISMAN which could be published and thus publicly close the matter. Captain BJORNING further related that he had no additional information in this matter and that he did not handle it.

Very truly yours,

JACK B. WILCOX
Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOSURES
DAM;PHL:MEK
CC - Butte
Portland
San Francisco
Chicago

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

MAURY ISLAND, WASHINGTON
June 1947

The original sighting as given by [redacted] and [redacted] was to the effect that [redacted], while patroling in his boat near Maury Island, Washington, sighted six flying discs, one of which fluttered to the earth and disintegrated, showering his boat with fragments which caused some damage to the boat and killed his dog. [redacted] also stated that he had taken pictures of the discs he had seen but the pictures were marred with white spots.

The following day [redacted] went to Maury Island to verify what [redacted] had told him regarding the disc fragments. At this time, [redacted] picked up several fragments and stated that he also saw one of the discs hovering over the Island but that it disappeared into a cloud.

Sometime during June or July, Ray Palmer of Ziff-Davis Company, which published fantastic adventure magazines, received a letter from [redacted] in which [redacted] related his disc story and also submitted some fragments of the alleged flying disc. Ray Palmer then hired [redacted] to investigate the sighting.

On the evening of July 31, [redacted] tried to arrange a meeting between [redacted], and two Army intelligence officers. [redacted] refused to attend the meeting but [redacted] attended and related the entire event to them. As the two officers were leaving Crisman gave them some fragments of the alleged disc. Unfortunately, as the two officers were returning to Hamilton AFB, the B-25 in which they were flying crashed and both officers were killed.

The following day several newspapers received anonymous calls to the effect that the B-25 had been shot down by a 20 mm cannon so that the disc samples could not be analyzed and these calls were responsible for the news accounts that insinuated that the B-25 had been sabotaged.

Subsequent investigation revealed that:

In early June, at the request of the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the Associated Press Wireman at Tacoma interviewed [redacted] concerning his disc sighting. In the course of the interview, [redacted]s wife stated that the whole thing was a fantasy. [redacted] at this time admitted that the whole thing was a hoax.

There was no recent serious damage, if any, to the boat. Upon request, Dahl was unable to produce the photos which he had mentioned earlier to [redacted]

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The samples of the "flying disc" were very similar to the slag found at a nearby foundry. [redacted] admitted that the sample that was sent to Palmer was not of any disc.

An investigation of the B-25 crash showed that an exhaust stack had burned out on the left engine which caused a fire in the left wing which subsequently broke off the wing and the tail section. The plane at that time was carrying both intelligence officers, a hitch-hiker and a Crew Chief. The Crew Chief and the hitch-hiker parachuted to safety but both intelligence officers were killed.

On August 7 [redacted] were again interviewed by government representatives. Both denied that the fragments were part of a flying disc. They stated that they had sent some rock samples to Palmer for analysis and that Palmer ahd asked them if these samples could have been part of a flying disc. [redacted] said he passed this all off as a joke. They stated that the rock samples were part of a disc because that's what Palmer wanted them to say. [redacted] stated that they mostly talked to Arnold and the intelligence officers about flying and that no one was very interested in the rock samples they had found.

The case is considered a hoax and no other action was deemed necessary.

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AN INCIDENT REPORTED ON CRASHED FLYING SAUCERS

Maury Island
Dec 47

SUMMARY



The investigation of this incident was predicated upon a letter, dated 29 November 1949, to the OSI from the FBI. It was pointed out that Bruce Cabot, a motion picture actor, had reported of hearing a fantastic story told by a Mr. Newton concerning a crash of two flying saucers.

Cabot said that according to Newton, the disks contained men and he had in his possession bits of clothing worn by these men.

The OSI expended considerable efforts attempting to contact the various people concerned to get all possible details. Mr. Newton turned out to be most uncooperative and the case was finally closed concluding that the whole matter was a hoax.

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

[redacted]

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Cabot said that according to Newton, the disks contained men and he had in his possession bits of clothing worn by these men.

The OSI expended considerable efforts attempting to contact the various people concerned to get all possible details. Mr. Newton turned out to be most uncooperative and the case was finally closed concluding that the whole matter was a hoax.

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



UNCLASSIFIED

With an advance of $200 for expenses, Arnold flew to Tacoma and into a nightmare of mystery. The two men were elusive, their story full of discrepancies, their manner evasive. Wondering at first whether the affair was a hoax, Arnold finally attributed the strange behavior of the men to their fear of hostile saucers. Alarmed, he called in the help of Army Intelligence. Two officers arrived from Hamilton Air Force Base, California, and made a careful investigation. They found that [redacted] and [redacted] were not "harbor patrolmen" but salvagers of floating lumber; their boat was scarcely seaworthy and showed no evidence of major repairs; they couldn't remember what they had done with the pictures they mentioned; and although the saucer accident was supposed to have occurred nearly six weeks earlier, they had never notified the authorities or even mentioned it to a reporter. The only evidence offered for the truth of their tale was the collection of "strange" fragments (they were later found to be slag from a local smelter plant and similar fragments could be found by the ton on Maury Island). [20]

The officers concluded that they had wasted their time on a flagrant hoax, but the bewildered Arnold insisted that they take some of the fragments for analysis. Unhappily, on the way back to the base the plane crashed and although two passengers parachuted to safety, both officers were killed. At once fantastic rumors sprang up: that the Tacoma "disks" had been spaceships, and that the beings who operated the craft had been forced to arrange the plane crash so that no one could analyze the fragments of their disabled spaceship. Arnold himself seemed to believe that the crash had resulted from extraplanetary sabotage, but investigation showed a more ordinary cause. A burned exhaust stack had set the left wing afire; the blazing wing had then broken from the fuselage and torn off the plane's tail.

For a time government officials considered placing a charge of fraud against the two men who had started the unhappy chain of events. After further questioning, both had admitted that their "sighting" had been a hoax, planned merely to make their story more salable, but when first Arnold and then Military Intelligence had entered the picture, the hoax had simply gotten out of hand. Since the men obviously had never intended the tragic outcome and were not directly responsible for it, the idea of prosecution was abandon[illegible] 1].

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The Maury Island Mystery, a complex and eventually tragic affair, occurred near Tacoma, Washington, less than 100 miles from the place where Arnold had sighted the nine disks. In this mystery, too, Palmer was involved. According to their story, two harbor patrolmen named [redacted] and [redacted] on June 31 had observed a group of six flying disks that hovered over their boat near Maury Island and had jammed their radio when they tried to notify the authorities. One of the disks had seemed to be disabled, had showered down lavalike metallic fragments that damaged the boat and killed the dog on board; the disks had then disappeared but the fragments remained as proof of the visit. The men also claimed to have taken some pictures that showed the six objects but were fogged as though by radiation. Back on shore, they had not telephoned the newspapers nor had they notified any government officials. Instead, they had mailed a box of the fragments to Ray Palmer, to prove that they had actually seen an accident to a flying saucer [20].

[redacted] was no stranger to *Amazing Stories*. A science-fiction fan, he apparently had accepted the Shaver stories as literal truth. More than a year before the Maury Island episode he had written to [redacted], warning him that the knowledge contained in the Shaver stories was too dangerous to print. Identifying himself as an ex-Air Force pilot who had flown the Hump [redacted] explained that when he was in Burma, he had been exploring a cave when a dero attacked him with a mysterious ray that made a hole the size of a dime in his arm. Palmer had kept up the correspondence [21] and, some months later, received a telephone call from [redacted], then in Texas: for $250, said [redacted], he would descend into a cave and take some actual pictures of the mysterious underground machines that Shaver had described. The result of this offer is not known, but in July 1947 Palmer received another letter from [redacted]; he had witnessed an accident to a flying saucer and was sending a box of the fragments as proof. [22]

Palmer considered buying the story for *Fate*, but first he asked [redacted] living close to the scene, to investigate the tale. Arnold agreed. Thus the first man to report flying saucers became also a victim of the first flying-saucer hoax.

CLETE BALLARD

COPY

[redacted]

1941 ac

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

The Inspector General USAF
19TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

19D OSI 24-0

1 August 1952

SUBJECT: CLEAT H. BALLARD
584 35th St.
Oakland, California
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Air Force Base
California

1. This office has been recently advised by the San Francisco Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, that they received a letter from an individual named Mr. Dengel Sargeant, which letter transmitted a newspaper clipping with regard to Ballard having observed flying saucers.

2. There is attached the original of the letter from Ballard together with its inclosure as well as the mailing envelope.

3. With the submission of the above and in view of the last paragraph contained in the newspaper clipping, which states, "The Air Force at Hamilton Air Force base said it would send an intelligence officer to interview Ballard," no further action is contemplated by this office.

3 Incls.
Letter
Envelope
Clipping
(as stated)

s/t G. T. COLLEY
Major, USAF
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD Dir. 5200.10

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Encl #1

1-3713-1

(COPY OF A HANDWRITTEN LETTER)

July 19, 1952

Dear Sirs;

I use to live in the same house with this fellow & his wife and if I can help answer any questions about him I would be glad too.

You can reach me at Denny's Hot Dog stand 508 Pacific Ave Santa Cruz, California any evenning except Wed. Will be in Oakland, Calif. at this Phone Ol. 2-2335 between 6 P.M. & 8 P.M. Wed. evenning.

(signed) Mr. Denzel Sargeant

Incl #1

(COPY OF CLIPPING)

DECIDES TO TELL

EX-RANCHER SAYS HE SAW
FLYING SAUCERS 4 TIMES

An ex-Lake County turkey rancher said here today that he saw "flying saucers" four times in a period of four years.

Now living at 584 35th Street, Cleat H. Ballard, former Oakland building contractor, said he decided to tell about them after hearing a news broadcast Saturday that the Air Force, which once discounted the saucer stories, is interested.

Ballard had a turkey ranch on Spruce Grove Road, east of Lower Lake, until four months ago.

OBJECT FLUTTERS DOWN

In 1947, he said, he saw a circular object fluttering down from the sky. It landed in a field and he picked it up, he said. It was about 12 inches in diameter and had lines radiating from the center. Between the lines were printed strange characters, similar to Oriental writing, which he could not read.

Ballard said he kept the disc, which was made of heavy paper, for several days, then burned it.

Now he believes that it might be a chart from one of the mysterious flying objects he saw later.

The first "saucer" he saw was in June or July, 1947, Ballard said.

(It was in June, 1947, that Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Ida., flying businessman, reported seeing nine mysterious objects over western Washington and started the "saucer" stories.)

SPOTTED BY TURKEYS

Ballard said his attention was drawn to the flying object by his turkey herd. All the turkeys, which he said notice everything that flies, were looking up as it whizzed by heading due north. His wife, Juanita, also saw the object. It made no sound and left no trail of any kind, Ballard said.

Twice more he saw similar objects, appearing to be round, fly over his ranch. The fourth time was last October, when one of them came plummeting out of the sky from great altitude, then stopped in mid-air for about a minute and shot upward again.

A neighboring Lake County rancher, Fred Topsey, also saw it, Ballard said.

The Air Force at Hamilton Air Force base said it would send an intelligence officer to interview Ballard.

SUBMITTED BY MR. DENGEL SARGEANT
NAME OF NEWSPAPER AND
DATE UNKNOWN

Incl #3

(COPY OF CLIPPING)

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SUBMITTED BY MR. DENGEL SARGEANT
NAME OF NEWSPAPER AND
DATE UNKNOWN

Incl #3

OFFICIAL U.S. AIR

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U.S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes. Your name will *not* be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

____ Summer 1947
Day Month Year

2. Time of day: 2 ____
Hours Minutes

(Circle One): A.M. or (P.M.)

3. Time Zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern
b. Central
c. Mountain
d. Pacific
e. Other ____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

____ Condor Oregon
Nearest Postal Address City or Town State or County

5. How long was object in sight? (Total Duration)

____ (1 or 2) ____
Hours Minutes Seconds

a. Certain
(b. Fairly certain)
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

5.1 How was time in sight determined? ____

5.2 Was object in sight continuously? Yes ✓ No ____

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY	NIGHT
(a. Bright)	a. Bright
b. Cloudy	b. Cloudy

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you
b. In back of you
c. To your right
d. To your left
e. Overhead
(f. Don't remember)

FORM
FTD OCT 62 164 This form supersedes FTD 164, jul 61, which is obsolete.

FORCE UFO FORM

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS *(Circle One)*:

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON *(Circle One)*:

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight—pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

CLOUDS *(Circle One)*:

a. Clear sky
b. Hazy
c. Scattered clouds
d. Thick or heavy clouds

WEATHER *(Circle One)*:

a. Dry
b. Fog, mist, or light rain
c. Moderate or heavy rain
d. Snow
e. Don't remember

10. The object appeared: *(Circle One)*:

a. Solid
b. Transparent
c. Vapor
d. As a light
e. Don't remember

11. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars? *(Circle One)*:

a. Brighter
b. Dimmer
c. About the same
d. Don't know

11.1 Compare brightness to some common object:

_____

12. The edges of the object were:

(Circle One): a. ~~Fuzzy or blurred~~
b. Like a bright star
c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other Like the outline of any Planet

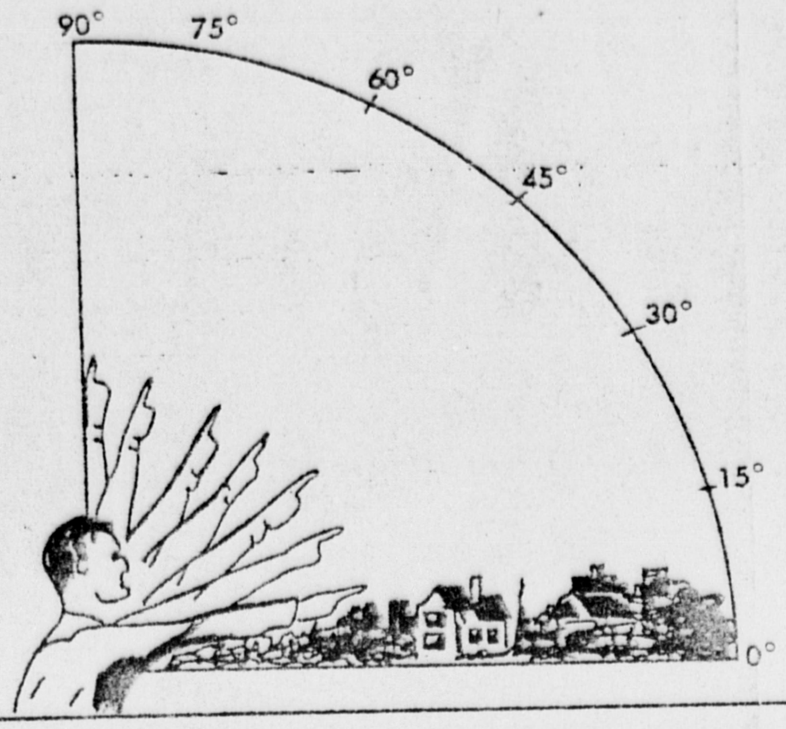
13. Did the object:

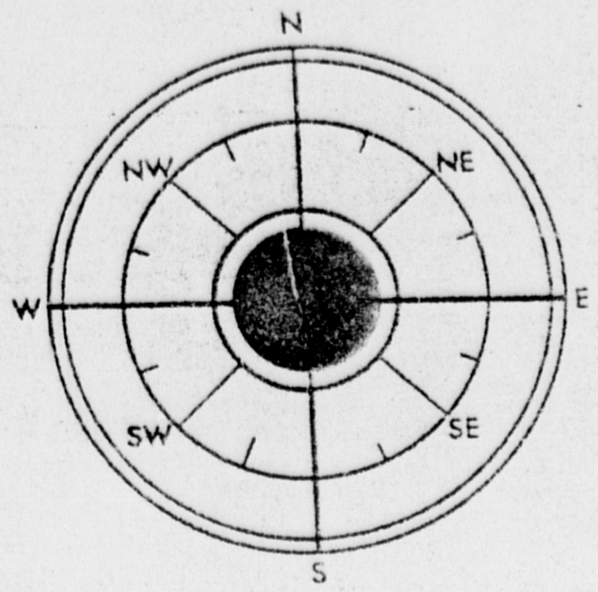
(Circle One for each question)

a. Appear to stand still at any time?	Yes	No	Don't know
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?	Yes	No	Don't know
c. Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	No	Don't know
d. Give off smoke?	Yes	No	Don't know
e. Change brightness?	Yes	No	Don't know
f. Change shape?	Yes	No	Don't know
g. Flash or flicker?	Yes	No	Don't know
h. Disappear and reappear?	Yes	No	Don't know

Official U.S. Air Force

27. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it. Place an "A" on the compass when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the compass when you *last* saw the object.





28. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

It travelled in a straight north Course.

29. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there?_____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

UFO form continued

30. Have you ever seen this, or a similar object before. If so give date or dates and location.

No

31. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object? *(Circle One)* Yes (No)

31.1 If you answered YES, did they see the object too? *(Circle One)* Yes No

31.2 Please list their names and addresses:

32. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS [redacted] Aberdeen [redacted] Wash
Street City Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER Le 3-3579 AGE Legals SEX Female

Indicate any additional information about yourself, including any special experience, which might be pertinent.

33. When and to whom did you report that you had seen the object?

_____ Summer 1947
Day Month Year

My Mother (I reported it to her or the date that same day I saw it.)

Official U.S. Air Force U

34. Date you completed this questionnaire: April (Day) 14 (Month) 1967 (Year)

35. Information which you feel pertinent and which is not adequately covered in the specific points of the questionnaire or a narrative explanation of your sighting.

I was hanging out clothes at the time - I ran into the house and phoned my mother telling her to hurry to the window to get a glimpse of it, but it was gone. She telephoned me that night and said that an object was sighted at Portland, Oregon and Yakima Washington that afternoon as it had just come in over the 10 P.M. radio news. The next day these sightings were published in a Portland, Oregon newspaper so the exact date could be found but not this way. (I hope it was 1947-)

(If not it would be very close to this)

FO form continued

I have always felt that I should have reported this, so am glad to do so at this time. I figured that the Motor had something to do with this Cloud like object.

64

Official U.S. Air Force U

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how? It just dashed across the sky like an airplane only it moved faster

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No (Don't know.) IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

16. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No (Don't know.) IF you answered YES, then tell what in front of: _____

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

a. Sound I heard the sound of a motor which caused me to look up

b. Color white

18. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

It looked just like a Cloud moving almost as if it were made to resemble a cloud with a motor enclosed in it.

O form continued

Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? Faster than an airplane

Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was? It was higher than the average airplane flies.

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? _____

Where were you located when you saw the object?

(Circle One):

a. Inside a building
b. In a car
c. Outdoors
d. In an airplane (type)
e. At sea
f. Other _____

23. Were you (Circle One)

a. In the business section of a city?
b. In the residential section of a city?
c. In open countryside?
d. Near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other _____

IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

24.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

25. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

a. Eyeglasses	Yes	(No)	e. Binoculars	Yes	(No)
b. Sun glasses	Yes	(No)	f. Telescope	Yes	(No)
c. Windshield	Yes	(No)	g. Theodolite	Yes	(No)
d. Window glass	Yes	(No)	h. Other _____		

26. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

It looked just like a cloud traveling at a tremendous rate of speed. (a long rubber one)

JULY 1947 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
July	Tempe, Arizona (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
July	Oak Ridge, Tennessee (FOLDER)*	[redacted] (PHOTOS)	Other (Development F
3	S. Brookville, Maine	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Mt Jefferson, Washington	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon Area	Multiple	Other (Chaff)
4	Portland, Oregon	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Seattle, Washington	[redacted]	Balloon
4	Emmett, Idaho (~~FOLDER~~)	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
4	West Trenton, New Jersey	[redacted]	Astro (Meteor)
6	Fairfield-Suisan AFB, California	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Hollywood, California	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
6,7,8	Warren, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
6	Clay Center, Kansas	[redacted]	Astro (SOLAR REFLECT
6	Birmingham, Alabama	[redacted]	Other (Fireworks)
		(PHOTO)(NOT IN FILE)	Insufficient Data
7	Shreveport, Louisiana	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
7	East Troy, Wisconsin (CASE MISSING)	Mil and Civ	Insufficient Data
7	Lakeland, Florida	[redacted] (MODEL)	Other (Psychological
7	Muroc AFB, California	[redacted]	Balloon
7	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	[redacted]	Balloon
7	Phoenix, Arizona (FOLDER)*	[redacted] (PHOTO)	Other (Hoax)
7	Oakdale, California (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
7	Arlington, Virginia	[redacted]	Astro (Meteor)
7	Omaha, Nebraska	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Ashes)
8	Muroc AFB, California	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Muroc AFB, California	[redacted]	Balloon
8	Rogers Dry Lake, California	[redacted]	Balloon
9	Boise-Meridian, Idaho	[redacted] visual	Balloon
		(PHOTO)(NOT IN FILE)	(Other(No Image)
9	Midland, Michigan	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (~~Fireworks~~) (F
9	Grand Falls, Newfoundland(FOLDER)*	[redacted]	Astro (Auroral Stres
20	Novo Scotia & Newfoundland(FOLDER)*	[redacted]	
23	Harmon Field, Newfoundland(FOLDER)*	[redacted]	
15	Between Novo Scotia & Newfoundland (FOLDER)	[redacted]	
10	Morristown, New Jersey	[redacted] (PHOTOS)	Astro (Meteor)
10	Harmon AFB, Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	[redacted]	Astro (Meteor)
10	Codroy, Newfoundland	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
11	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
	Black River Falls, Wisconsin	[redacted]	Balloon
12	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
15	Seattle, Washington	Civilian	Insufficient Data
20	Cumberland, Maryland(CASE MISSING)	Civilian(PHYSICAL)	Balloon (Radiosonde)
21	Chengtu, China (CASE MISSING)	[redacted] (PHYSICAL S)	Balloon (Radiosonde)
21	Jackson, Ohio	[redacted]	Astro (Meteor)
24	Helena, Montana	[redacted]	