

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 23 April 49 23/0522Z		2. LOCATION Vicksburg, Mississippi 353	
3. SOURCE Civilian		10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One			
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5-10 seconds		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer sighted a triangular-shaped object. It looked milky like a fluorescent light. It was heading West at a moderate speed. It appeared to have wings. <i>EAST</i>	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual			
7. COURSE East			
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No			
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No			

FORM

100-100-100 (TDS) - This form may be used

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INCIDENT NO. 353

1. Date of Observation 23 April 1949 Date of Interview 11 May 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 0022
3. Place of Observation Vicksburg, Miss.
4. Position of observer Ground
5. What attracted attention to object While watching sky
6. Number of objects One
7. Apparent size 4 ft. on side 1-1/2 ft wide
8. Color of object Milky like of fluorescent light
9. Shape Triangle
10. Altitude 45°
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) East
14. Time in sight 5-10 seconds
15. Speed Slower than Jet faster than regular planes
16. Sound and odor
17. Trail None
18. Luminosity Luminous
19. Projections Appeared to be wings
20. Maneuvers
21. Manner of disappearance Passed out of sight
22. Effect on Clouds None
23. Additional information concerning object Row of lights running down outside edge of each side
24. Weather Conditions

(over)

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

Use this form for inter-office correspondence within headquarters.

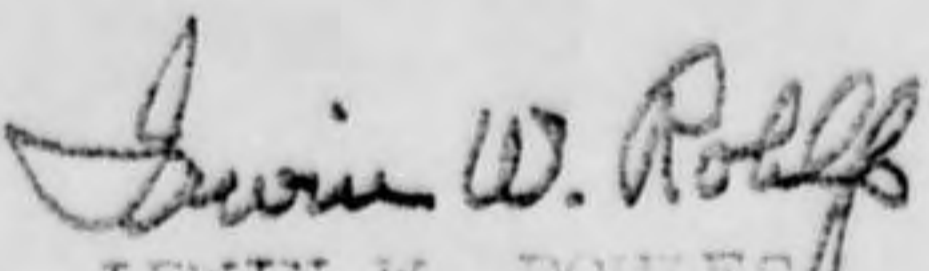
Use authorized office symbols to designate addressor and addressee.

Place initials of dictator and typist, telephone number and location to right of signature.

Number all comments consecutively.

Note warning signal at lower left of form. Remaining space is sufficient only for proper spacing of typewritten signature.

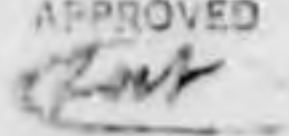
Separate comments by horizontal lines across page.

SUBJECT <u>Unidentified Aerial Phenomena</u>		DATE <u>9 June 1949</u>	COMMENT NO. <u>1</u>
TO <u>MCIAXS</u>	FROM <u>MCGAP</u>		
1. Attached hereto are 2 copies report of Special Agent Bernard A. Price, District Office #9, OSI, dated 26 May 1949. 2. This matter is being referred to your office in accordance with existing directives.  IRWIN W. ROHLF Technical Advisor Air Provost Marshal's Office 1 Incl Rpt of Invest (2 cys) dtd 26 May 1949 IWR/rez 6-4112 P 206S B 262			

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24 Apr 49

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-8	DATE 21 Sept. 1949
TITLE Alleged Sighting of Flying Discs, White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, dates unknown, as per Newspaper Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August.		REPORT MADE BY JOHN F. FRAMPTON	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #17, Kirtland AFB	
		PERIOD 19 September 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #17, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS PENDING	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT			
REFERENCE			
SYNOPSIS			
This investigation requested by Headquarters, 17th District OSI, to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the reported observation of flying discs, White Sands Proving Ground, as cited by article Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August 1949. Investigation White Sands Proving Ground disclosed article stemmed from press conference at WSPG during Navy Viking firing 25 August 1949. Further, it was disclosed that article is elaboration on facts of previously reported sighting/24 April 1949 by [REDACTED] E, General Mills Aeronautical Research, as reported by this office. Records WSPG reveal no official news release made by Army PIO that post, nor was an official release made by the Commanding General that post. Investigation disclosed that all releases regards to article Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August 1949, were released by Naval Unit WSPG. Records of the Post Intelligence Office, WSPG, reflect no sightings of any phenomenal object since MCORE's sighting 24 April 1949.			
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS: DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10			
DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	
CG, AMC, ATT:MCIAXO-3 (4 Incls) 2 Hq OSI (4 Incls) 2 Director of Intelligence USAF (INFO)(4 Incls) 1 FBI, El Paso, Texas (INFO) (4 Incls) 1 DO #12, Scott AFB (4 Incls) 2 DO #18, Maywood Spec Depot (4 Incls) 2 File (4 Incls) 2		APPROVED  DOYLE REES Lt Colonel, USAF District Commander.	
		FILE STAMP	
		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	

HQ FORM
1 JAN 49

O-208

Replaces AFCSI Form 1, 21 Jul 48, which may be used.

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15-47447-1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation predicated upon the request of Headquarters, 17th District OSI, dated 31 August 1949, wherein it was requested that a newspaper article, Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August 1949, Heading: "REPORTERS HEAR DISC TALES AT WHITE SANDS" be investigated and a report submitted in accordance with AFCSI Letter 85, dated 12 August 1949.

2. This is a joint investigation by Special Agent ROBERT R. JOHNS and the writer.

AT WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND, NEW MEXICO

3. On 19 September 1949, Brigadier General PHILIP G. BLACKMORE, Commanding General, White Sands Proving Ground, was contacted and advised that he personally had made no press release to any of the press agents present during the firing of the Navy Rocket "Viking", scheduled to be fired on 25 August 1949. In regards to the article in the Los Angeles Times, General BLACKMORE declared he was cognizant of the article but is certain that the information contained therein was not released by his Army installation. BLACKMORE further declared that he had been questioned in regards to Aerial Phenomena by news representatives but had stated to them that he possessed negative knowledge regarding the matter. BLACKMORE and his Executive Officer were inclined to believe that the news article in question is an elaboration of a previously reported Photodolite sighting on 24 April 1949, by Mr. C.D. MOORE, representative of General Mills Aeronautical Laboratory, previously on TDY at White Sands Proving Ground.

4. In lieu of Captain EDWARD D. DETCHEMENDY, Post Public Information Officer, recently placed on Leave prior to overseas shipment, Staff Sergeant WILLIAM A. FELDMAN, RA-32613758, Public Information Specialist, ASFG, was interviewed and declared that no official press release was made by the Army PIO Office, White Sands Proving Ground, in regards to any phenomenal objects having been sighted at that post, nor had any releases been made in regards to the subject article of the Los Angeles Times. FELDMAN declared that it is an established PIO policy that all news items of national interest will first be channeled through Public Information Office Headquarters, National Military Establishment, prior to their being released, and as this policy is strictly adhered to by all PIO personnel U.S. Army, White Sands Proving Ground, he is assured that subject article was not released by his office. FELDMAN declared that he is cognizant of the article, as was Captain DETCHEMENDY, and that both he and DETCHEMENDY had determined that the article had been a Naval Unit release. FELDMAN further disclosed that during the period 24 August 1949 to 30 August 1949, the Naval Unit had sponsored the "Viking" Rocket firing, which firing was covered by numerous representatives of the press, which included both MARVIN MILES and CLEVE ROBERTS of the Los Angeles Times and radio station KPFB respectively. In regards to this press conference, Capt. DETCHEMENDY

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Army PIO Officer, had been requested by the Naval Unit to handle all the details of the conference to include the preparation of the itineraries. Under these conditions, DETCHEMENDY was present during the greater portion of the press conference and FELDMAN is assured that DETCHEMENDY is aware of the Naval person or persons who made subject release to the representatives of the Los Angeles Times. An undeveloped lead is herein set forth to interview Captain DETCHEMENDY at his Leave address. Inclosed is a list of press personnel present at the conference and records of two phone calls made to the PIO in regards to the article by MILES.

5. Captain WILLIAM A. GORRY and Commander DOUGLAS C. McLAUGHLIN, U.S. Naval Unit, White Sands Proving Ground, were interviewed at their office on 19 September 1949, and advised that insofar as they were concerned the article contained in the Los Angeles Times dated 30 August 1949, contained no factual data whatsoever. GORRY declared that MARVIN MILES and CLETE ROBERTS were present as newspaper correspondents during the firing of the Navy Rocket "Viking" and that during the period of two or three days in which the firing of the rocket was postponed due to technical malfunctions, ROBERTS and MILES had questioned numerous Naval Personnel in regards to the sighting of flying discs and other aerial phenomena. GORRY admits that the details of a previous sighting, made by M. [REDACTED] on 24 April 1949, had been discussed. In regards to the sighting, as cited in the newspaper article, which was alleged to have been sighted on the Friday preceding the writing of the article, Captain GORRY stated one of the visitors at White Sands Proving Ground had declared that he had observed strange objects in the sky, however, GORRY placed no confidence in the statement and further doubted the validity of the statement. On this basis, GORRY declined to divulge the name of this person. GORRY declared further that the validity of the article and even the existence of flying discs are entirely doubtful in his mind. GORRY strongly intimated that it is his belief that the article was written by the newsmen in an effort to justify their presence and existence at White Sands Proving Ground during the delayed firing of the "Viking" Rocket, declaring, "After all, they have to make a living too". The above was corroborated by Commander McLAUGHLIN. Both GORRY and McLAUGHLIN stated they possessed no further knowledge concerning the article in question.

6. 1st Lt. ALEXANDER SZABO, O-1690907, Photographic Officer, White Sands Proving Ground, was interviewed on 19 September 1949 and declared that to the best of his knowledge no photographs of flying discs had been taken by either of the photographic units at WSPG, nor had any photograph been taken which showed objects other than a missile or a rocket. To the best of SZABO's knowledge, no photographs had been obtained of a flying disc and ultimately ruined, as stated by the article.

7. On 19 September 1949, Captain PAUL W. DAVIDSON, O-54119, Post Intelligence Officer, was interviewed at his office and he stated that to the best of his knowledge, as substantiated by his records, no factual or

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official reports of sightings of any phenomenal objects has been disclosed at White Sands Proving Ground since the report of [REDACTED] on 24 April 1949. Statement by [REDACTED] is herein inclosed. DAVIDSON declared that in his capacity as Technical Advisor to the Public Information Office, subject article was not cleared through him prior to publication by MILES. On this basis, DAVIDSON had submitted a report for record to General BLACKMORE in which he disclosed that the article in the Los Angeles Times had not been an official WSPG release and that the information contained in the article had been disclosed to newsmen by members of the Naval Unit. DAVIDSON further declared that the Naval Unit is fully cognizant that the Army's Unconventional Aircraft Project is classified as "Restricted" and is therefore not eligible for free and full dissemination to civilian organizations.

8. No further information being obtainable at White Sands Proving Ground, undeveloped leads are set forth in an effort to determine the identity of persons declared to have sighted the objects, as stated in the article of the Los Angeles Times.

Inclosures:

FOR CG, AMC (ATTN: MCIAKO-3)

1. List of press personnel present at conference of "Viking" firing WSPG.
2. Record of phone conversation, PIO and INS representative, dtd 30 Aug. 49.
3. Record of phone conversation, PIO and Mr. COWEN, Herald Post, El Paso, Texas, dated 31 August 1949.
4. Statement by Mr. C.D. MOORE, dated 27 April 1949.

FOR HEADQUARTERS OSI

Same as above.

FOR DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF

Same as above.

FOR FBI, EL PASO, TEXAS

Same as above.

FOR DO #12, SCOTT AFB

Same as above.

FOR DO #18, MAYWOOD SPEC. DEPOT

Same as above.

FOR FILE

Same as above.

- PENDING -

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FOR DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 12, SCOTT AFB

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Will contact Captain EDWARD D. DETCHEMENDY, 4104 Castleman Street, to determine his knowledge regarding sighting of flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, as disclosed in an article, Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August 1949, wherein it is stated that such information was obtained by MARVIN MILES and CLETE ROBERTS from two senior officers and an enlisted technician. Ascertain, if possible, from whom MILES and ROBERTS obtained their information. Obtain all information regarding the occasion when this information was given to MILES and ROBERTS. MILES and ROBERTS are Los Angeles Times reporter and KFWB newscaster respectively.

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 18, MAYWOOD SPEC DEPOT

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Will locate and interview Mr. MARVIN MILES, reporter, Los Angeles Times, to determine from whom he obtained information at White Sands Proving Ground regarding the sightings of flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground. MILES was member of press conference at White Sands Proving Ground during a Navy exhibition firing on or about 24 August 1949, at which time he obtained the information for an article in the Los Angeles Times dated 30 August 1949.

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Will locate and interview Mr. CLETE ROBERTS, Newscaster, Radio Station KFWB, Los Angeles, to determine from whom he obtained information at White Sands Proving Ground regarding the sightings of flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground. ROBERTS was member of press conference at White Sands Proving Ground during the Navy exhibition firing of a rocket scheduled for 24 August 1949.

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25 Aug 49

Visitors Badges Viking Project - 24 August 1949 (signed for by Capt
Detchemendy)

<u>Badge No.</u>	<u>ISSUED TO</u>
300	Miles, Marvin - L A Times
301	Bath, Philip - L A Times
304	Hart, Julian - L A Examiner
306	Grant, Gordon - Hollywood Citizen News
307	Boone, Andrew - Popular Science
308	Eastburn, Glen - Aviation Progress
309	Stimson, Tom - Popular Mechanics
310	Roberts, Clete - Radio Station KFNB
311	Ray, William - Radio Station KFNB
312	Douglas, Doug - Radio Station KRKD
313	Douglas, Michael - Radio Station KRKD
314	Martin, Geo. Jr. - Mutual Broadcasting System
317	Pringal, Nelson - CBS
321	Bosworth, Ellis - AP
324	Marcney, Ray - Acme News
325	Koverman, Irvy - News of the Day
326	Grenwald, Samuel - Paramount News
327	Johnson, Joseph - Universal News
328	Vandiveer, Willard - Pathe News
329	Brick, Alfred - Fox Movietone News
330	Beice, Lt Cdr H E - USNR Escorting PIO
331	Hopkins, Floyd - Inter News Photo.
332	Hill, Gladwyn - NY Times
333	Conover, Hollywood Citizen News

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HEADQUARTERS
WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND
PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Tel. WSPG, Ext. 215
(Night Ext. 261)

IMPORTANT INCOMING AND OUTGOING TELEPHONE MESSAGES

TO Captain E B Detchemendy

Time 3:00

Date 30 Aug 49

FROM International News Service Representative--Denver, Colo.

MESSAGE

In Captain Detchemendy's absence, representative asked to talk to secretary.

INS Rep: What is this story on the radio about some flying saucers at White Sands Proving Ground? It is put out by a Mr. Clede Roberts from Los Angeles--I believe.

Mrs. D. We have not released any information of such a nature from this office, however Mr. Roberts was a guest of the Navy last week, and if he has made a release, they will be able to give you the information on same. Shall I switch you to the Navy headquarters where you may confirm his source of information, if any?

INS. Rep: Then you do not know anything about such a story?

Mrs. D: We have no such information, nor have we made any releases, in this office. However, I will switch you to Captain Gorry, and he will be able to answer your questions--since Mr. Roberts visited their headquarters recently.

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Switched call to Captain Gorry's extension.

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HEADQUARTERS
WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND
PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Tel. WSPG, Ext. 215
(Night Ext. 261)

IMPORTANT INCOMING AND OUTGOING TELEPHONE MESSAGES

TO: Captain E B Detchemendy

Time 9:05 Date 31 Aug 49

FROM Mr. Cowan - Herald Post, El Paso, Texas

MESSAGE

Mr. Cowan: What is this the radios are putting out about you people at the White Sands seeing flying saucers -- or flying discs up there?

Capt D: I just heard about it from some people who came out from El Paso-- is it a story put out by a Mr. Roberts?

Mr. Cowan: Yes--a Mr. Roberts and a Mr. Miles, from Los Angeles, I believe.

Capt D: These men were here last week as guests of the Navy, and if they have any information of this type, I imagine they got it from the Navy-- shall I switch you to the Navy and let you talk with them?

Mr. Cowan: Do you have a Navy PIO?

Capt D: I'll switch you to Cdr McLaughlin, who will be able to clear you up on where the stories came from. We have had no such information here, and have made no releases at all on such

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Note: I believe Mr. Roberts received this information on which he based his release-- from the Navy. Cdr. McLaughlin released verbal information of a similar nature, to Mr. Scholin, Public Information representative National Military Establishment, Washington, D.C. when he was here at this post some weeks ago-- in my presence

E B DETCHEMENDY
Capt, Ord, PIO

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but I'd seen nothing unusual.
Furthermore, this occurred before
the recent articles appeared in
the Post and press.

I hope this information may
facilitate your research on the
subject.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sarasota, Florida

27 April 1949

S T A T E M E N T

On 24 April 1949, three miles north of Arrey, New Mexico, four Navy enlisted men from White Sands Proving Ground (Chief [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) and I saw a rapidly moving object while making a pibal wind run. We released a 350 gram balloon at about 1020 MST and were following it with a standard ML-47 David White Theodolite. After the 1030 reading, [REDACTED] took over the theodolite and [REDACTED] and I looked up to find the balloon with naked eye. We thought we had the balloon when we picked up a whitish spherical object right along the direction the theodolite was pointing (45° elevation and 210° azimuth). The object was drifting east rapidly (5° second as estimated by stopwatch and width of fingers), but we had thought to encounter similar winds on the balloon. When the distance between the theodolite and supposed balloon became apparent, I took over the theodolite and found the true balloon still there, whereupon I abandoned it and picked up the object after it came out of the sun (this gives another good bearing if you wish to work out a sun shot at 1033 MST at Arrey). The object was moving too fast to crank the theodolite around; therefore, one of the men pointed the theodolite and I looked. The object was an ellipsoid about $2\frac{1}{2}:1$ ^{slenderness ratio;} ~~slantness~~ ratio length about $.02^{\circ}$ subtended angle. White in color except for a light yellow of one side as though it were in shadow. I could not get a hard focus on the object due to the speed at which the angles changed. Therefore, I saw no good detail at all.

The azimuth angle continued to decrease as the object continued on a north heading, growing smaller in size. At around 20° - 25° azimuth the azimuth held constant and the elevation angle began increasing from the 25° minimum to about 30° . The object then apparently disappeared due to distance after a

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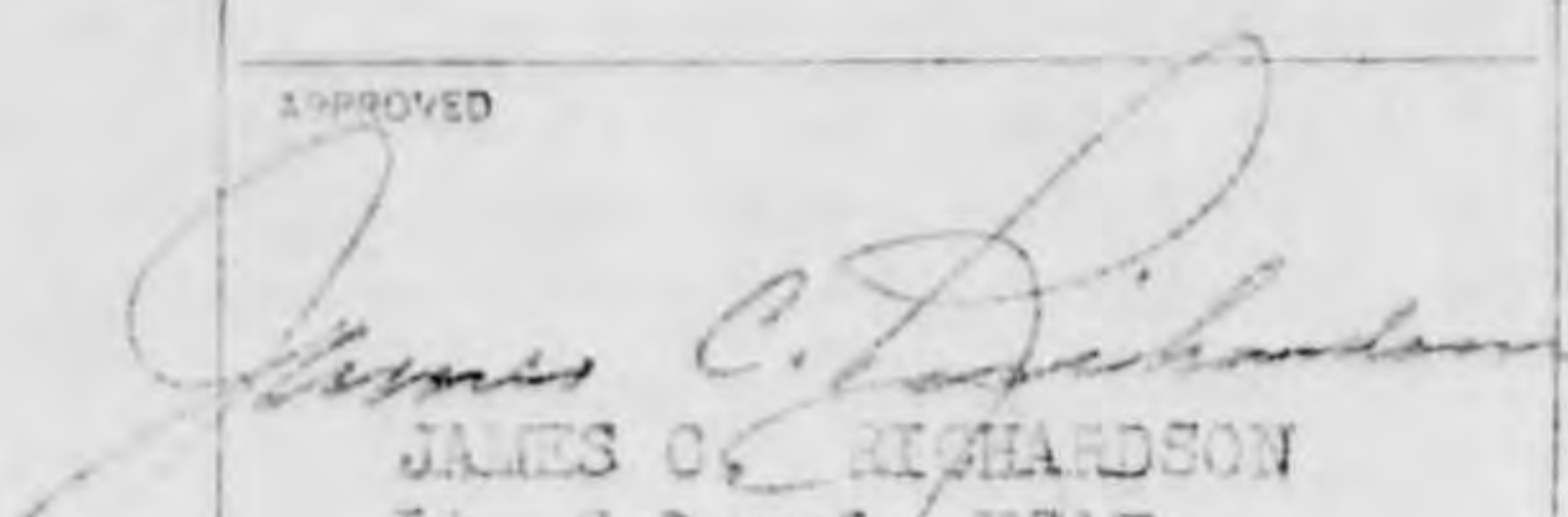
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total time of observation of about 60 seconds.

The object was not a balloon and was some distance away. Assuming escape velocity, a track is enclosed which figures elevation above the station of about 300,000 feet over the observed period. If this is true, the flight would have probably gone over the White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman Air Force Base, and Los Alamos.

~~██████████~~
General Mills Research
Minneapolis

~~████████████████████~~
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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-65	DATE 25 October 1949
TITLE Alleged Sighting of Flying Discs, White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, dates unknown, as per Newspaper Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY R7C		REPORT MADE BY PAUL A. MILLER	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #12, Scott AFB	
		PERIOD 12 October 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #17, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS R U C	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE DO #17 report of S/A JOHN F. FRAMPTON, dtd 21 Sept 49, file 24-3			
SYNOPSIS Capt. EDWARD D. DETCHEMENDY, on 25 August 1949, assisted Naval Authorities, at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, orientate, accommodate and transport reporters of press media invited by the Navy to witness the firing of the "Viking" rocket. DETCHEMENDY was with one or more members of the press during their one-day visit and overheard no member discuss, interview or converse concerning the sighting of flying discs. No Army Senior Officers were present on the occasion of the visit of the reporters. DETCHEMENDY spent much time with CLETE ROBERTS, who, he stated, carried on his person a portable type recording machine. DETCHEMENDY could not recall MARVIN MILES. DETCHEMENDY reported that REDACTED spent several hours at one of the tracking telescope stations. DETCHEMENDY declared that the members of the press had ample opportunity to converse with and interview White Sands Proving Ground personnel out of his hearing and observation. DETCHEMENDY was aware of the publication of the 30 August 1949 article and its contents and he stated that the Army PIO at White Sands Proving Ground branded information concerning flying discs as classified. The Army PIO at White Sands Proving Ground, unofficially was aware of the sighting of a flying disc reported 25 April 1949 by Naval Personnel. Captain WILLIAM A. GORRY, U. S. Navy, White Sands Proving Ground, after the appearance and publication of the article by ROBERTS and MILES told DETCHEMENDY that the article concerned the Navy tracking in the Spring and that they got the story from the Navy.			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AMC, APT:MOIAXO-3 2 DO #17 2 Director of Intelligence 1 USAF (information cy) 1 Hqs, OSI 2 File 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO APPROVED  JAMES C. RICHARDSON Lt. Colonel, USAF District Commander	
		FILE STAMP FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY R7C	

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation predicated upon undeveloped lead request set forth in the report of Special Agent JOHN F. FRAMPTON, of the 17th OSI District (IG), Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, dated 21 September 1949, file number 24-8.

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

2. Captain EDWARD D. DETCHEMENDY, O-45117, Ordnance, U. S. Army, Former Public Information Officer, White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, enroute from White Sands, New Mexico, to Bremerhaven, Germany, was interviewed 12 October 1949, and stated he had been the Public Information Officer from August 1948 to 12 September 1949.

Captain WILLIAM A. GORRY, U. S. Navy, White Sands Proving Ground, in preparation to test-firing the "Viking" rocket during the period 22-26 August 1949, requested the presence of DETCHEMENDY from the Commander of White Sands Proving Ground to assist the Navy in the accommodation of press reporters being sent to cover the firing of the Navy rocket. He was to assist Naval Public Information Officers of the 12th Naval District, San Diego, California, who were in charge of the party of press representatives. DETCHEMENDY assisted in the billeting, transportation and orientation of the press representatives on the rocket firing facilities of White Sands Proving Ground. DETCHEMENDY stated he was with the members of the press from the time they descended from their plane at about 1700 hours, 24 August 1949, at Conron Field, until their departure, 25 August 1949.

DETCHEMENDY recalled being present at two press conferences at which all members of the press were assembled. The first conference occurred at the Navy Officers' Mess and last 45 minutes. GORRY made a short introductory talk and Dr. NEWELL of the Navy Research Laboratory, gave a short talk on the "Viking" rocket. A second conference took place in the Lounge of the Army Officers' Club and movies of the "Viking" rocket and the German "V-2" rocket were shown. (At conferences reporters were advised that certain phases of the "Viking" rocket were classified and any information they might happen to run across was not to be printed and that the Navy following the firing would hold a conference for all press representatives at which conference all the phases of the firing would be covered and the press given data they could use for publication). DETCHEMENDY stated he was with one or more members of the press at all times during the period of their visit and neither at the conferences or elsewhere heard, either directly or indirectly, any mention or discussion of flying discs.

DETCHEMENDY asserted that he found certain of the photographers and reporters were interested in various phases of the Proving Ground itself. He recalled that when he escorted the reporters to the Ballistic Measurement Section, certain reporters and photographers were interested in photographing a tracking telescope and simulating the tracking of a rocket in flight. The tracking telescopes are located five to forty five miles from the White Sands Proving Ground Headquarters. The reporters and photographers therefore because of the short length of their visit and the distance involved decided to pool their coverage of the tracking. Thus, according to DETCHEMENDY, reporters and photographers had ample opportunity out of the hearing of both himself and Naval Information Officers to talk to technicians and others on their tour of the Proving Grounds, the

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Ballistic Measurement Section and at the tracking telescope sites. Anyone of the afore-mentioned personnel who knew of the reported incident of last Spring may have revealed information concerning that incident to the reporters.

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In order to refresh his memory DETCHEMENDY was shown a list of the reporters who were present for the Naval firing. DETCHEMENDY was able to recollect CLETE ROBERTS and IRVY KOVERMAN. DETCHEMENDY stated he spent considerable time with reporter CLETE ROBERTS, mainly because ROBERTS had returned from Germany in June 1949 and DETCHEMENDY had just received orders assigning him to Germany and therefore DETCHEMENDY was interested in obtaining all the first-hand information he could from ROBERTS regarding life in Germany. Mr. ROBERTS, he related, was a free-lance radio commentator who sells anything of news value he can pick up. ROBERTS would only publish that which he had proof of. ROBERTS carried with him at all times, both in the field and at press conferences, a portable hand-carried electronic recorder and therefore may have an actual recording of the conversation with the person from whom he obtained the information regarding flying discs. DETCHEMENDY stated it was not unusual conduct for reporters like ROBERTS to carry recording machines. ROBERTS, according to DETCHEMENDY, always turned on his mikes for sounds and firings on the White Sands Proving Ground range which are directed by a firing officer on public address system. DETCHEMENDY alerted ROBERTS when to turn on his radio during the rocket launching preparation at the launching site. DETCHEMENDY related that at the launching site he was with twelve (12) photographers and reporters of the press and radio and at this time also he heard no mention of flying discs.

DETCHEMENDY did not see ROBERTS converse with or interview any of the Senior Army Officers of White Sands Proving Grounds. Brig. General BLACKMORE was absent from White Sands and Lt. Colonel EIFLER appeared on the scene only briefly to welcome the reporters to White Sands. DETCHEMENDY did see ROBERTS in the presence of two Naval Information Officers, one of whom was a Lieutenant and the other a Commander. DETCHEMENDY did not see ROBERTS talk to any White Sands Naval Officers; however, ROBERTS could have done so without his knowledge when he, DETCHEMENDY, was otherwise engaged. DETCHEMENDY was unable to recall MILES for he had no individual contact with him that enabled him to remember and distinguish MILES from the others.

IRVY KOVERMAN, according to DETCHEMENDY, was one of the individuals who went to one of the tracking telescope stations the afternoon preceeding the scheduled firing. He was accompanied by personnel from the Ballistic Laboratory and went to the station closest to the Camp. KOVERMAN would have been with the personnel at the tracking telescope from about 1500 hours to 1700 hours. DETCHEMENDY did not know the personnel who manned that particular telescope on that date because he remained with the main group of the press at the Block House.

DETCHEMENDY asserted that as part of his duties as Public Information Officer he maintained clipping files on information of all kind referring to White Sands Proving Ground that appeared in various news media. DETCHEMENDY first learned of the publication of information regarding flying discs at White Sands upon reading the article published by the El Paso, Texas newspaper on or about 30 August 1949. DETCHEMENDY took the article to Brig. General BLACKMORE together with what he considered appropriate remarks; the impropriety for making such a release without naming the individual giving the information; that the release was questionable; that it was material the Army treated as classified. General BLACKMORE advised DETCHEMENDY to

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see Captain GORRY since the release had been made to newspapers covering the Navy rocket firing. DETCHEMENDY recalling the content of the article stated that it did not mention any specific branch of the Armed Forces as having been the source of information but stated it mentioned that two high ranking officers had discussed the information. The Sunday after the appearance of the story, DETCHEMENDY met Capt. GORRY and asked him about the release of the story regarding flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground. GORRY told DETCHEMENDY, "it was that same old thing of the Navy tracking of discs in the Spring and that they got this story from us" (the Navy). DETCHEMENDY judged from Captain GORRY'S manner and attitude that he did not consider the release of the story to the news as anything very serious. It is DETCHEMENDY'S opinion that GORRY does not believe the tracking of so-called flying discs as anything unusual.

DETCHEMENDY revealed that from 7 April 1949 to 30 May 1949, he was in attendance at the Radiological Defense School at Biloxi, Mississippi. Upon his return to White Sands Proving Ground he resumed his duties as Public Information Officer and while reviewing the activities of White Sands during his absence, Sgt. FELDMAN verbally informed DETCHEMENDY that he had heard of the actual tracking by telescope at White Sands Proving Ground of what was believed to be a flying disc. DETCHEMENDY stated he followed this information up and interviewed Mr. CLYDE TOMBAUGH, Chief, Ballistic Measurement Section, White Sands Proving Ground, who informed him that the object in question had been reportedly tracked by Naval Personnel. DETCHEMENDY said no official report had been made of this to the Public Information Officer of the White Sands Proving Ground and he saw nothing in the newspapers concerning it.

On or about 6 July 1949, Mr. SCHOLIN, Public Information Officer, National Military Establishment, Washington, D. C., made a one day visit to White Sands Proving Grounds on a general orientation tour of White Sands and to gather information on possible leads for future releases. SCHOLIN and DETCHEMENDY visited the Naval Operations Office and there met Commander McLAUGHLIN, who, during the visit revealed to SCHOLIN and in his (DETCHEMENDY) presence, information regarding the tracking of the flying discs in the Spring by Naval White Sands Proving Ground personnel. DETCHEMENDY said he interrupted McLAUGHLIN and advised him the Army Public Information Officer at White Sands considered the information classified. DETCHEMENDY did this to protect the classification of the material and to call the attention of SCHOLIN to the position of the Army in the matter. McLAUGHLIN replied to DETCHEMENDY that this was all known information. DETCHEMENDY stated that he did not know what McLAUGHLIN intended to imply by that statement. Nevertheless McLAUGHLIN proceeded to go into the details for SCHOLIN of the tracking accomplished by his personnel. DETCHEMENDY again took occasion to interrupt McLAUGHLIN and reiterated to him the position of the Army and the manner it treated the subject. After leaving McLAUGHLIN'S office, DETCHEMENDY told SCHOLIN that the White Sands Proving Ground'S Public Information Officer considered all information gathered on flying discs classified and any release regarding them would stem from official information channels in Washington.

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-185/3	DATE 26 October 1949
TITLE Alleged Sighting of Flying Discs, White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, dates unknown, as per Newspaper Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August.		REPORT MADE BY JAMES B. SHILEY	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #18, Maywood, California	
		PERIOD 14, 17, 18 October 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #17, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS RUC	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY R7C

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

REFERENCE

Report of S/A JOHN F. FRAMPTON, DO #17, 21 September 1949

SYNOPSIS

MARVIN MILES, Aviation Editor, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, refused to reveal source for his story appearing in 30 August 1949 issue of the Times wherein it was stated that an object was sighted in the sky at White Sands Proving Ground as late as Friday (26 August 1949). MILES did state, however, that he was in the Captain's office of the USN when he overheard part of the verbal report on the sighting of the object. MILES said the Captain (believed to be Capt. GORRY) knew origin of the report since it was made to him. MILES would not elaborate other than to state that the source was also an officer at the USN, WSPG, and was not an official visitor nor an enlisted Navy man. CLETE ROBERTS, Newscaster, Station KFWB, Hollywood, California, stated that much of the information contained in his newscast was obtained from remarks made by Commander McLAUGHLIN, USN, WSPG. Commander McLAUGHLIN mentioned, according to ROBERTS, the fact that an object had been sighted in the sky recently and that the photographs thereof "didn't turn out." ROBERTS said that he believed that MILES' source for the recent sighting of an object in the sky was a Naval Commander, believed to be named [REDACTED] AUSTIN CONOVER, Reporter, Hollywood Citizen-News, Hollywood, California, also published an article concerning the sighting of "flying disks" or "flying saucers" at WSPG, and stated sources were USN Commanding Officer at WSPG (believed to be Captain GORRY) and others cited in his article: Commander ROBERT McLAUGHLIN and HOMER E. NEWELL, JR.

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		<i>[Signature]</i> Lt. Colonel, USAF	
		DISTRICT COMMANDER	

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was conducted in order to determine who had furnished information at White Sands Proving Ground regarding the sighting of flying disks to MARVIN MILES, Reporter, Los Angeles Times, and CLARE ROBERTS, Newscaster, Radio Station KFNB.

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

2. Prior to interview with MILES, a copy of his article released in the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday, 30 August 1949, was secured and is being forwarded to DO #17 with copies of this report. The article reads as follows:

"U. S. OFFICERS SEE FLYING SAUCERS

BY MARVIN MILES

"WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND, N.M., Aug. 29--Flying saucers--or at least mysterious flying "objects"--have been sighted by service personnel at this vital center of America's upper air research.

"I talked with three men, two senior officers and an enlisted technician, who reported seeing strange objects in the sky, one as recently as last Friday during preparation for a high-altitude missile flight.

"In all fairness, it must be pointed out that other officers and engineers at White Sands scoff at the reports and put them down to imagination, weather balloons, dual images in high-powered optical equipment, or possibly distant planes reflecting sunlight.

"Experienced Observers

"Yet the men who gave these reports presumably are familiar with such possibilities and well acquainted with the appearance of balloons and planes and the quixotic results of staring at a fixed point in the sky for long moments.

"One officer believes, sincerely, that the objects seen are space ships and declared that a ballistic formula applied to one observation through a photo theodolite showed the 'ship' was 35 to 40 miles high--an 'egg-shaped' craft of fantastic size and traveling at incredible speeds of three to four miles a second!

"The observer in this case, he said, was tracking a balloon into the upper air when the object swept across the balloon's path and cavorted for some 10 seconds--taking turns up to 22 times the force of gravity--before it disappeared. It had no visible means of propulsion.

"The enlisted technician reported seeing an object at 3:35 p.m., last June 14, as he was tracking the course of a V-2 test rocket in a 20-power

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elevation telescope, an instrument that can follow a missile to altitudes of 100 miles or more.

"I don't know what it was, but I had never seen anything like it before," he told me. "It seemed to be metallic, but I couldn't tell its size, its speed or its altitude. It would be impossible unless you knew one of the three factors."

"He added he had informed his superiors of the incident and was told the next morning he had seen a 'disk.'"

"Weather Balloon?"

"A check of one officer elicited the response: 'It was probably a weather balloon,' but he declared the enlisted technician is considered 'a reliable man.'"

"Last Friday's object was seen by a senior officer shortly after 11 a.m. and reported to the unit commander. The observer was preparing for a missile firing and scanning the skies through binoculars."

"I don't know what it was, but it came out of the north in a shallow dive and turned west. No. I wouldn't guess at speed or size."

"He hastened to explain he is a 'skeptic.'"

"Proof for Skeptic"

"Isn't seeing such a thing the best proof for a skeptic," he was asked.

"I should say it was," he smiled. "But I just saw something and reported it."

"In all, some five reports have been made in the last six months, one officer said, with only one last year."

"On one occasion, he told me, three of four officers saw a flying object with the naked eye, and at another time two smaller objects were observed to 'chase' a test rocket. These may have been dual images on the telescopes, he said, although they were seen from several widely separated stations."

"These reports tend to take the 'flying saucer' question out of the realm of housewives' stories and the tales of air transport pilots. Still they have actually proved nothing—merely added to the mystery."

3. It is observed that the title of the article as given in the reference report was, "REPORTERS HEAR DISC TALES AT WHITE SANDS," and mentioned the fact

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that photographs of the object had been ruined. The aforementioned article was secured from the pictorial issue of the Times and therefore may have been changed somewhat from the other issues.

4. MARVIN MILES, Aviation Editor, Los Angeles Times, Times Building, 202 First Street, Los Angeles, was questioned concerning his article and his first remark was, "Do you think I made it up?" MILES was definitely reluctant to talk as to the source of the information for his article but finally gave the following account.

5. MILES stated that he was in the Navy Office at White Sands Proving Ground when someone came in the office to talk with the Captain. MILES claimed he could not recall the Captain's name and when the name "GORRY" was suggested to him he said he guessed that was the name. At any rate, the "someone" was a man who made a report to the Captain concerning the sighting of an object in the sky on Friday (26 August 1949). MILES claimed that he overheard part of the story but claimed he could not recall exactly what he had overheard. However, he further claimed that he did not talk to the man at the time but later sought him out and questioned him further. MILES said the man refused to give his name but he later learned the man's name and that the man was not a civilian visitor, not a member of the press who were at WSPG during that period, but was a naval officer. MILES would not give the rank of the officer nor would he give the writer the name of the officer, but added that Captain GORRY could supply that information if OSI needed it. MILES then wanted to know if OSI was "trying to get someone in trouble" and he was advised that the purpose of the inquiry was to determine his source for his story in order that that person could be interviewed for further details.

6. MILES called attention of the writer to the second paragraph of his article wherein he stated that three men, two senior officers and an enlisted technician, had reported seeing strange objects in the sky, one as recently as last Friday (26 August 1949) during preparation for a high-altitude missile flight. MILES said that this was true. He stated that one of these officers, whose name he would not furnish, had told him about other occurrences which had been noted at WSPG. MILES strongly suggested that the officer in question was Commander DOUGLAS C. McLAUGHLIN, U.S.N., WSPG, but claimed he did not recall the officer's name. The second officer mentioned in his article was apparently also officially stationed at WSPG from the way MILES talked, but he would not elaborate on this.

7. MILES disclaimed any knowledge about an allegation or rumor of any photographs being spoiled when the object reported to have been spotted on 26 August 1949 was seen.

8. CLETE ROBERTS, Newscaster, Radio Station KFWB, Hollywood, appeared very cooperative during the interview with him and stated that he did not know for sure but he thought that the source for the 26 August 1949 sighting of the object in the sky was a Commander JANSEN, or some such name, but that MILES, not he, got this story. ROBERTS intimated that MILES had told him this.

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May 22, 1949

Technical Intelligence Div.
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sir:

On April twenty third at ten p.m.,
I saw what I suppose is a flying
saucer. It appeared high in the
western sky slightly to the south,
at an angle of approximately eighty
degrees, and sailed silently across
to the northeast where it simply
vanished. The time elapsed while
I witnessed this phenomenon

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supplied
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9. ROBERTS advised that he did not intend to break any story about the objects sighted in the sky at WSPG but that on Tuesday morning, 30 August 1949, he noticed MILES' article in the Times. ROBERTS further advised that he called MILES and said in effect that he thought that there was to be no publicity on the matter, to which MILES replied to the effect that GLAD HILL (GLADWIN HILL of New York Times who also attended the WSPG test) was going to break a story and he "wanted to beat him to the punch." ROBERTS stated that he communicated with HILL and HILL denied that he was going to release any such story.

10. ROBERTS further stated that since MILES' story had already broken he, ROBERTS, saw no harm in broadcasting a little news item on his radio newscasting program since his sponsor might "wonder where he was" since MILES had a story and he also had been to the same tests at WSPG but had no news similar to MILES'. As a result ROBERTS said that he mentioned over the radio on 30 August 1949 that objects had been sighted in the sky at WSPG and made a few remarks about the type of objects, the speed of the objects and the height of the objects in the sky. ROBERTS further said that subsequently he saw Commander McLAUGHLIN and apologized to the Commander for the newscast and Commander McLAUGHLIN said, "Oh, that's all right. I don't care."

11. ROBERTS went on to state that he received quite a bit of information on the subject from Commander McLAUGHLIN, among which were:

a. WSPG had an observation point located about 42 miles from WSPG located on a hilltop where observations had been made of objects in the sky since 1947.

b. Objects other than rockets have been sighted in the sky.

c. On one occasion two disks, or objects, were sighted in the sky and were flying alongside of a V-2 test rocket, one on each side of the rocket. One of the objects dropped behind the rocket in the vapor trail and then pulled up again to the former position at the side of the rocket, and then both objects shot ahead.

d. In all probability some men from somewhere or objects from other planets were checking on the tests--based on the fact that such occurrences seemed to take place only during the rocket and other types of tests.

e. Planet MARS will be closer to the earth in a short time than it was three years ago.

f. Objects have been sighted at least six times.

12. ROBERTS stated that in addition to the above remarks he was also amazed that the U. S. Navy allowed an executive of a minor radio station to bring his young son and allowed the boy to sit in on the orientation lecture to the news and radio group. ROBERTS did not mention the names of these two but it is presumed from an examination of the list of visitors at the Naval rocket test that

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he referred to DOUG DOUGLAS and MICHAEL DOUGLAS, both of whom were allegedly representing Radio Station KRKD, (Los Angeles). The orientation lecture was given by Captain GORRY, according to ROBERTS.

13. ROBERTS was questioned further about any knowledge of a recent sighting of an object as indicated in MILES' article heretofore quoted and he stated that he "was not in on this" but put "two and two together" and related the following incident. ROBERTS stated that he was recording for a future broadcast and was under and past the restraining ropes, where the rest of the visiting newsmen were, in order that he might get the oxygen "swoosh" as it was being pumped into the rocket. As he stepped back under the restraining ropes he overheard Commander McLAUGHLIN say something to someone—identity not known—about objects being sighted in the sky. ROBERTS said that he then made a remark to Commander McLAUGHLIN about him "holding out on him" and the Commander mentioned something about a recent sighting and some photographs. ROBERTS said that he questioned the Commander about the last remark and the Commander seemed embarrassed. ROBERTS remarked that the Commander "hedged" on this point and said the photographs "didn't turn out," or words to that effect, indicating that the photographs were taken but that through some error the results of the photography were useless.

14. ROBERTS concluded by stating that if a "direct quote" was necessary as to who was supplying information to at least some of the commentators and newsmen that the writer should talk to AUSTIN CONOVER of the Hollywood Citizen-News. It is noted that CONOVER was also listed as a visitor at the test.

15. The writer checked the library files of the Hollywood Citizen-News at their offices at 1545 North Wilcox Avenue, Hollywood, California, and located a story datelined Tuesday, 30 August 1949, by AUSTIN CONOVER. This article is being forwarded to DO #17 with copies of this report and the article read as follows:

"ROAMING AROUND

With Austin Conover

"FLYING DISKS REAL, SAY ROCKET EXPERTS

"Mysterious flying objects that are called 'flying saucers' or 'flying disks' have been sighted by rocket experts at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico.

"During a visit there last week, I was told by a top Navy officer who has had long experience in observing high-altitude missiles:

"While sunbathing one day recently I saw a mysterious object cavorting high in the air above me.

"Just before that, I turned in a report to Washington that two such objects were observed by a party of rocket experts visiting here. At that

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time I was skeptical. They insisted that I make the report.'

"Homer E. Newell Jr., a top civilian scientist with the Naval Research Laboratory at White Sands, commented: 'I have never seen a flying saucer. I discount all of the reports about them except a few. Some just can't be dispelled as pure myth, hallucination, weather balloons, or shadows of rockets on clouds.'

"'Flying disks,' said Comdr. Robert McLaughlin, who since 1939 has been engaged in rocket research, 'have nothing to do with any experiments carried on by American scientists or for that matter by anyone on earth.

"'If these things are real, they come from another planet, where creatures are far ahead of us in science.

"'I heard it said that they are space ships from Mars which have been attracted to the earth by our atomic bomb explosions and, fascinated by what they saw, have continued to keep an eye on us.'

"A rocket to the moon is 'a long way off,' according to the White Sands scientists, who this year sent a rocket to the record height of 250 miles.

"'We need better metals to withstand the powerful thrusts needed to send a rocket beyond the earth's gravitational pull,' remarked a rocket expert.

"'We need more powerful propellants,' said another, who suggested that atomic energy may be the solution.

"The American Rocket Society, which has a test site near Roswell, New Mexico, was mentioned for its pioneering in rocket research during the 1920s and 1930s.

"The late Dr. Robert Goddard, its founder, and his assistant at one time, Charles Lindbergh, were singled out for special praise.

"The Germans who developed the V-2 rocket were said to have learned much from the research of those two men.

"'There will never again be mass bomber flights over enemy installations,' commented Comdr. McLaughlin.

"'Uncle Sam has developed rockets to the point that they will not only seek out targets in the air but throw shrapnel over a wide area in the sky, when they explode.

"'We have found evidence that the Germans were working on such rockets when the war ended.

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"Such is rocket research today that only a few fast, high flying planes in the next war will be able to get through to their target."

"No German scientists are today doing rocket research at White Sands Proving Ground.

"We were told that they are working on a secret project at an Air Force Base near El Paso.

"White Sands Proving Ground base is 50 miles north of El Paso. The testing is done in a 30-by-200-mile area between the Organ Mountains and the Sacramento Mountains.

"The Navy has requested that we newsmen who visited the base last week not release the story of what we saw there until Sept. 6."

16. AUSTIN CONOVER, Reporter, Hollywood Citizen-News, was questioned at the newspaper offices and he, like MILES, tried to be evasive and cagey. However, he did admit that the information in the first four paragraphs of his article indicating that "flying disks" or "flying saucers" had been sighted by rocket experts at WSPG; that an object had been recently seen; and that two reports had previously been turned in by the same party, had been furnished to him by the Commanding Officer of the Navy Office at WSPG. CONOVER claimed he did not recall the officer's name and when the name GORRY was suggested to him he said that he believed that that was the name of the Commanding Officer. It is observed that the source of other quotes in the article are named therein.

17. An editorial was also located which was written by AUSTIN CONOVER and appeared in the Hollywood Citizen-News on Monday, 5 September 1949. This editorial is being forwarded to DO #17 with copies of this report and the pertinent part of the editorial is quoted below:

"EDITORIALS

"Monday, September 5, 1949

CITIZEN-NEWS

HOLLYWOOD

"HOW GOES THE WORLD

BY AUSTIN CONOVER

"IMAGINATION OR MARTIANS

"When scientists and military observers report that they, too, have seen flying saucers in the sky, it's thought-provoking.

"I expected the reply, 'Bunk, there are no such things as flying saucers,' when I asked about them at the government's big rocket-testing base at White Sands, N.M., a fortnight ago.

"Much to my surprise, men whose business is upper air research made no such off-hand response. Two said that they have seen flying saucers. One top military officer stated that a party of visiting scientists

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were so convinced that they saw them that he had to make a report to Washington on the matter.

"My fellow newspapermen, working on their own, found a similar response among the officials whom they contacted.

"All of the scientists and military observers, whether or not they had seen any, were agreed on this point: the saucers are not man-made.

"David Lilienthal, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, dismisses as 'foolish' the suggestion that they may be something related to atomic energy....."

18. Since the above editorial deals in generalities, no specific questions were asked CONOVER as to his source for the information set out therein but he volunteered that he "sort of dreamed it up."

19. It is noted that reference report indicates Commander McLAUGHLIN'S name is DOUGLAS C. McLAUGHLIN, and that CONOVER'S article gives his name as Commander ROBERT McLAUGHLIN. Since CONOVER could not remember the USN Commanding Officer's name it is possible he erred in recalling the correct first name. It might also be mentioned here that none interviewed seemed to indicate that the name [REDACTED] (of the General Mills Aeronautical Laboratory) had been revealed to them, although it appeared from their releases that the contents of the report signed [REDACTED] had been discussed with them.

20. One copy of this report is being forwarded to District Office No. 12, Scott AFB, for their possible information in the event that Captain EDWARD D. DETCHEMENDY has as yet not been interviewed.

21. In connection with any further investigation which is conducted by District Office No. 17, it is requested that extreme care be used in questioning any Naval personnel on information furnished in this report by CLYTE ROBERTS, Newscaster, KFWB, Hollywood, since he was very cooperative during this investigation and attempted to be very helpful.

Inclosures:

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 17, KIRTLAND AFB

1. Article by MARVIN MILES, Los Angeles Times, 30 August 1949.
2. Article by AUSTIN CONOVER, Hollywood Citizen-News, 30 August 1949.
3. Editorial by AUSTIN CONOVER, Hollywood Citizen-News, 5 Sept. 1949.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 21-65	DATE 25 October 1949
TITLE Alleged Sighting of Flying Discs, White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, dates unknown, at press Newspaper Los Angeles Times, dated 30 August.		REPORT MADE BY JAMES H. HANLEY	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY		REPORT MADE AT DO 2nd Contl. Bldg.	
REFERENCE DO #17 report of S/A JOHN F. TRAVER, et al.		PERIOD 15 August - 1949	
SYNOPSIS		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO 2nd Contl. Bldg.	
		STATUS R U G	
Capt. EDWARD D. DETCHENBERY, on 25 August 1949, presided over the investigation at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, concerning the sighting of flying discs. Detachment of press media invited by the Army to the "Viking" rocket. DETCHENBERY and his staff, or others, were present during their one-day visit and observed the flying discs. The Army PIO at White Sands Proving Ground, on the occasion of the visit of the press, stated that the flying discs were seen by CLETE ROBERTS, who, he stated, said that he saw a flying disc in the sky. DETCHENBERY could not recall seeing any flying disc. IRVY ROVENMAN spent several hours at one of the telephone exchange stations. DETCHENBERY declared that the purpose of the investigation was to provide an opportunity to converse with and interview White Sands Proving Ground personnel out of his hearing and observation. DETCHENBERY was aware of the publication of the 30 August 1949 article and its content and he stated that the flying disc was seen at White Sands Proving Ground. Information concerning flying discs was classified. The Army PIO at White Sands Proving Ground, unofficially was aware of the sighting of a flying disc reported 25 April 1942 by Naval Personnel. Captain MONTAGUE A. GORBY, U. S. Navy, White Sands Proving Ground, after the disclosure and publication of the article by ROBERTS and IRVY told DETCHENBERY that the article concerned the Navy tracking in the Spring and that they got the story from the Navy.			
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Lt. Colonel [Signature]			
Major [Signature]			

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Aerospace Studies Inst
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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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DETAILS:

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1. This investigation predicated upon undelayed and request set forth in the report of Special Agent JOHN R. WARD, of the 14th OSI District (IC), Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, dated 21 September 1949, 14-10000-10-1.

AT FT. LOUIS, ARIZONA

2. Captain EDWARD D. DETCHENBERRY, 1st Lt., U.S. Army, Former Public Information Officer, White Sands Proving Ground, enroute from White Sands, New Mexico, to Ensenada, B.C., on 10 October 1949, and stated he had been the Public Information Officer from 1 April 1948 to 12 September 1949.

Captain WILLIAM A. COOK, U.S. Army, White Sands Proving Ground, in preparation to test-firing the "Viking" rocket on 23 August 1949, requested the presence of Detachment 100, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to assist the Navy in the accommodation of press representatives to cover the firing of the Navy rocket. Detachment 100, 1st Cavalry Division, Officers of the 12th Naval District, San Diego, California, were in charge of the party of press representatives. Detachment 100, 1st Cavalry Division, transportation and orientation of the press, and the firing of the rocket. Detachment 100, 1st Cavalry Division, officers of White Sands Proving Ground, assisted in the orientation of the press from the time they departed from their place at about 1700 hours, 24 August 1949, at Canon Viejo, until their departure, 25 August 1949.

DETCHENBERRY recalled being present at the press conferences at which all members of the press were assembled. The first conference occurred at the Navy Officers' Mess and lasted 15 minutes. COOK made a short introductory talk and Dr. NEWELL of the Navy Research Laboratory, gave a short talk on the "Viking" rocket. A second conference took place in the lounge of the Navy Officers' Mess and movies of the "Viking" rocket and the German "V-2" rocket were shown. (At all press conferences reporters were advised that certain phases of the "Viking" rocket were classified and any information they might happen to run across was not to be printed and that the Navy following the firing would hold a conference for all press representatives at which conference all the phases of the firing would be covered and the press given data they could use for publication). DETCHENBERRY stated he was with one or more members of the press at all times during the period of their visit and neither at the conferences or elsewhere heard, either directly or indirectly, any mention or discussion of flying discs.

DETCHENBERRY asserted that he found certain of the photographers and reporters were interested in various phases of the Viking Ground itself. He recalled that when he escorted the reporters to the Ballistic Measurement Section, certain reporters and photographers were interested in photographing a tracking telescope and simulating the tracking of a rocket in flight. The tracking telescope was located five to six miles from the White Sands Proving Ground Headquarters. The reporters and photographers were aware of the short length of their visit and the distance involved and tried to get their coverage of the tracking. Thus, according to DETCHENBERRY, reporters and photographers had ample opportunity out of the hearing of both sides and Naval Information Officers to talk to technicians and others in charge of the Viking Ground, the

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Ballistic Measurement Section and at the time of the investigation. Any of the afore-mentioned personnel who knew of the significant incidents of last spring may have revealed information concerning that incident to the reporters.

In order to refresh his memory DEICHMEYER made a list of the reporters who were present for the Naval firing. DEICHMEYER was able to recollect CLARE ROBERTS and IRVY KOVACHAN. DEICHMEYER had contact with reporter CLARE ROBERTS, mainly because he had met him at the Army in June 1949 and DEICHMEYER had just received information from the Army and therefore DEICHMEYER was interested in obtaining information from ROBERTS. he could from ROBERTS regarding the incident. DEICHMEYER related, was a free-lance radio commentator who could be contacted by radio or by mail. ROBERTS would only publish that which he had heard from DEICHMEYER. DEICHMEYER with him at all times, both in the field and in the office. DEICHMEYER had a portable electronic recorder and therefore he was able to record the information from the person from whom he obtained it. DEICHMEYER stated that he had unusual contact with ROBERTS. DEICHMEYER stated that he had unusual contact with ROBERTS, according to him, he had unusual contact with ROBERTS and firings on the White Sands Proving Ground. DEICHMEYER was a public address officer on public address system. DEICHMEYER was a public address officer on the radio during the rocket launching program. DEICHMEYER related that at the launching site he was with the reporters of the press and radio and at this time he was with the reporters of flying discs.

DEICHMEYER did not see ROBERTS at the time of the firing. One of the Senior Army Officers of White Sands Proving Ground, Colonel [redacted] was absent from White Sands and Lt. Colonel [redacted] was not present to welcome the reporters to White Sands. DEICHMEYER was in the presence of two Naval Information Officers, one of whom was a Commander and the other a Commander. DEICHMEYER did not see ROBERTS at the time of the firing; however, ROBERTS could have been with DEICHMEYER at the time of the firing, as DEICHMEYER was otherwise engaged. DEICHMEYER did not have individual contact with ROBERTS but he was able to obtain information from the others.

IRVY KOVACHAN, according to DEICHMEYER, was one of the individuals who went to one of the tracking telescopes at the time of the scheduled firing. He was accompanied by personnel and he was with the reporters and went to the station closest to the camp. KOVACHAN was accompanied by personnel at the tracking telescope from about 1500 hours to 1700 hours. DEICHMEYER did not know the personnel who manned that particular telescope on that date because he remained with the main group of the press at the Block House.

DEICHMEYER asserted that as part of his duties as Public Information Officer he maintained clipping files on information of all kind referring to White Sands Proving Ground that appeared in various newspapers. DEICHMEYER first found of the publication of information regarding the firing of the rocket in the article published by the El Paso Times on August 1, 1949. DEICHMEYER took the article to Brig. General [redacted] and he considered appropriate releasing the information to the public without giving the individual giving the information; that the information was reliable; that it was material the Army treated as classified information.

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see Captain GORRY since the release had been covered by reporters covering the Navy rocket firing. DETCHENEDY recalling the content of the article stated that it did not mention any specific branch of the Armed Forces as being the source of information but stated it mentioned that two high ranking officers had discussed the information. The Sunday after the appearance of the story, DETCHENEDY met Capt. GORRY and asked him about the release of the story regarding flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground. GORRY told DETCHENEDY, "I have seen some old thing of the Navy tracking of discs in the 1940s and that was not their story from us" (the Navy). DETCHENEDY judged from GORRY's attitude that he did not consider the release of the story to be one of anything very serious. It is DETCHENEDY'S opinion that GORRY does not believe the tracking of so-called flying discs as anything unusual.

DETCHENEDY revealed that from 1941 to 1942 to 1949, he was in attendance at the Radiological Defense School at Fort Detrick, Md. On his return to White Sands Proving Ground as acting Public Information Officer and while reviewing the activities of White Sands during his absence, Sgt. FEEBAM verbally informed DETCHENEDY that he had heard of the several tracking by telescopes at White Sands Proving Ground of objects believed to be flying discs. DETCHENEDY stated he followed this information to Fort Detrick, Md. to Lt. COL. W. W. WEAVER, Chief, Ballistic Measurement Section, White Sands Proving Ground, who informed him that the object in question had been reported by several of the personnel. DETCHENEDY said no official report had been made of this to the Public Information Officer of the White Sands Proving Ground and he saw nothing in the newspapers concerning it.

On or about 6 July 1949, Mr. SCHOLIN, Public Information Officer, National Military Establishment, Washington, D. C., paid a day visit to White Sands Proving Ground and a general orientation tour of White Sands and to gather information on possible bases for future releases. DETCHENEDY visited the Naval Operations Office and there met Mr. SCHOLIN. During the visit revealed to DETCHENEDY in his (DETCHENEDY'S) presence, information regarding the tracking of the flying discs in the 1940s by several White Sands Proving Ground personnel. DETCHENEDY said he informed Mr. SCHOLIN and advised him the Army Public Information Officer at White Sands considered the information classified. DETCHENEDY did this to protect the classification of the material and to call the attention of SCHOLIN to the position of the Army in the matter. SCHOLIN replied to DETCHENEDY that this was all known information. DETCHENEDY stated that he did not know what Mr. SCHOLIN intended to imply by that statement. Nevertheless Mr. SCHOLIN proceeded to go into the details for SCHOLIN of the tracking accomplished by his personnel. DETCHENEDY again took occasion to interrupt Mr. SCHOLIN and reiterated to him the position of the Army and the manner it treated the subject. After leaving Mr. SCHOLIN'S office, DETCHENEDY told SCHOLIN that the White Sands Proving Ground'S Public Information Officer considered all information gathered on flying discs classified and any release regarding them would stem from official information channels in Washington.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNCLASSIFIED

see Captain GORRY since the release had been made to newspapers covering the Navy rocket firing. DETCHEMENDY recalling the content of the article stated that it did not mention any specific branch of the Armed Forces as having been the source of information but stated it mentioned that two high ranking officers had discussed the information. The Sunday after the appearance of the story, DETCHEMENDY met Capt. GORRY and asked him about the release of the story regarding flying discs at White Sands Proving Ground. GORRY told DETCHEMENDY, "it was that same old thing of the Navy tracking of discs in the Spring and that they got this story from us" (the Navy). DETCHEMENDY judged from Captain GORRY'S manner and attitude that he did not consider the release of the story to the news as anything very serious. It is DETCHEMENDY'S opinion that GORRY does not believe the tracking of so-called flying discs as anything unusual.

DETCHEMENDY revealed that from 7 April 1949 to 30 May 1949, he was in attendance at the Radiological Defense School at Biloxi, Mississippi. Upon his return to White Sands Proving Ground he resumed his duties as Public Information Officer and while reviewing the activities of White Sands during his absence, Sgt. FELDMAN verbally informed DETCHEMENDY that he had heard of the actual tracking by telescope at White Sands Proving Ground of what was believed to be a flying disc. DETCHEMENDY stated he followed this information up and interviewed Mr. CLYDE TONBAUGH, Chief, Ballistic Measurement Section, White Sands Proving Ground, who informed him that the object in question had been reportedly tracked by Naval Personnel. DETCHEMENDY said no official report had been made of this to the Public Information Officer of the White Sands Proving Ground and he saw nothing in the newspapers concerning it.

On or about 6 July 1949, Mr. SCHOLIN, Public Information Officer, National Military Establishment, Washington, D. C., made a one day visit to White Sands Proving Grounds on a general orientation tour of White Sands and to gather information on possible leads for future releases. SCHOLIN and DETCHEMENDY visited the Naval Operations Office and there met Commander McLAUGHLIN, who, during the visit revealed to SCHOLIN and in his (DETCHEMENDY) presence, information regarding the tracking of the flying discs in the Spring by Naval White Sands Proving Ground personnel. DETCHEMENDY said he interrupted McLAUGHLIN and advised him the Army Public Information Officer at White Sands considered the information classified. DETCHEMENDY did this to protect the classification of the material and to call the attention of SCHOLIN to the position of the Army in the matter. McLAUGHLIN replied to DETCHEMENDY that this was all known information. DETCHEMENDY stated that he did not know what McLAUGHLIN intended to imply by that statement. Nevertheless McLAUGHLIN proceeded to go into the details for SCHOLIN of the tracking accomplished by his personnel. DETCHEMENDY again took occasion to interrupt McLAUGHLIN and reiterated to him the position of the Army and the manner it treated the subject. After leaving McLAUGHLIN'S office, DETCHEMENDY told SCHOLIN that the White Sands Proving Ground'S Public Information Officer considered all information gathered on flying discs classified and any release regarding them would stem from official information channels in Washington.

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was probably not more than
one minute.

Since it was dark, I did not
see the actual object, but a frosty,
white light emanating from it,
in a shape similar to this: .
Also, I am not certain that I
saw the top line or whether I
assumed it would be there. There
was no sound whatever. I
scanned the sky for perhaps ten
minutes after that, but saw
nothing unusual. I have looked
numerous times since then,

ROUTING AND REC

D SHEET

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ATERIEL COMMAND

Use this form for inter-office correspondence within headquarters.

Use authorized office symbols to designate addressor and addressee.

Place initials of dictator and typist, telephone number and location to right of signature.

Number all comments consecutively.

Note warning signal at lower left of form. Remaining space is sufficient only for proper spacing of typewritten signature.

Separate comments by horizontal lines across page.

Use entire width of sheet, both sides.

SUBJECT Project Grudge 306-392

TO MCLAXS

FROM MCREOA

DATE 27 July 49

COMMENT NO. 2

1. This Office can give no hint of identification or possible origin of these objects as described.

2. No development work known to this Office could be even remotely connected with these incidents.

Incls
n/c

George F. Smith
GEORGE F. SMITH
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aircraft Projects Section
Engineering Division

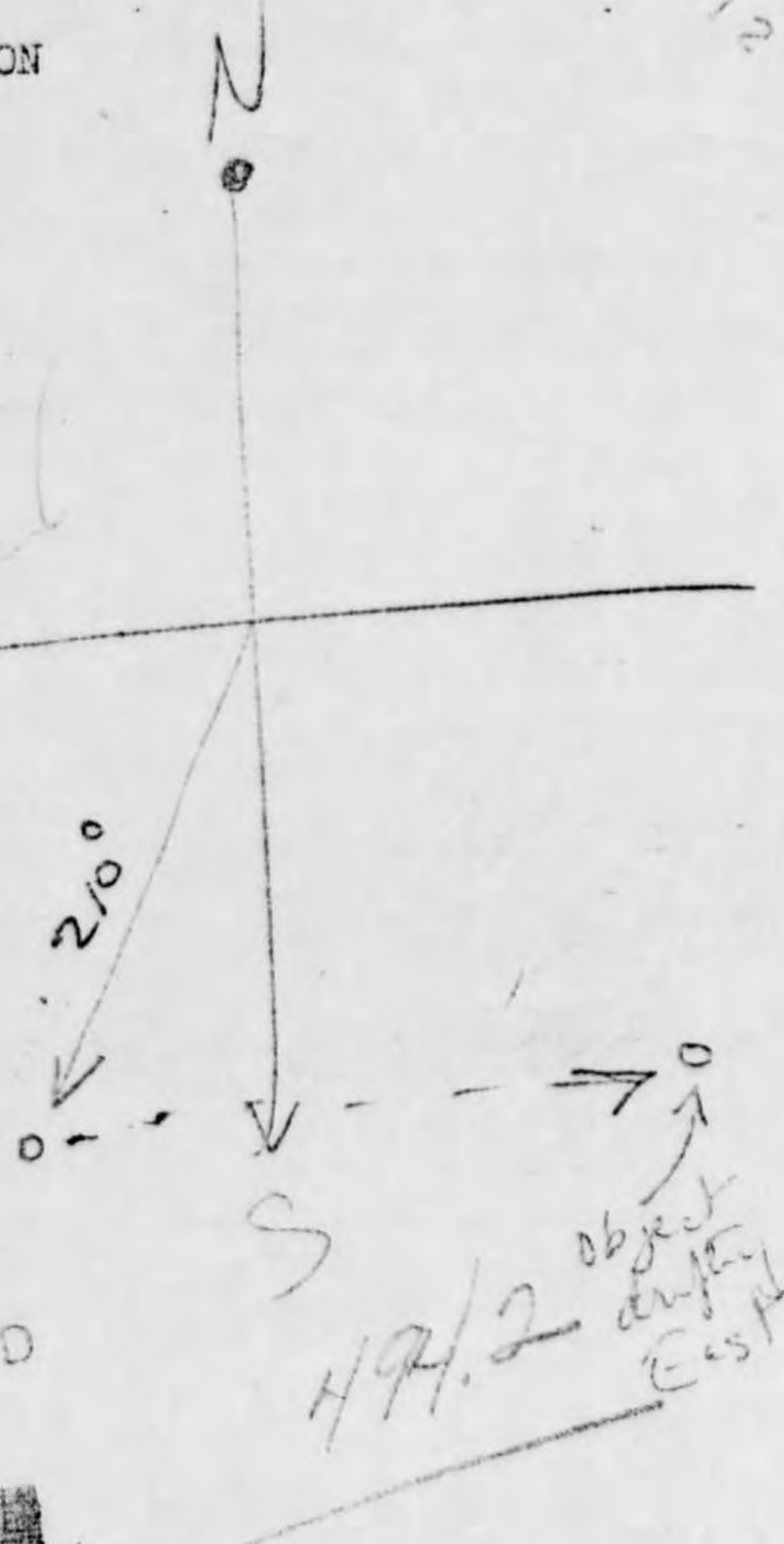
JUL 28
GFS/ml
2-3122
Bldg 14
Rm 101

COORDINATION

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS:
DOD DIB 5200.10

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Project Grudge 306-392

MCIAXS

MOREOA

27 July 49

2

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2. No development work known to this Office could be even remotely connected with these incidents.

Incls
n/c

GEORGE F. SMITH
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aircraft Projects Section
Engineering Division

GFS/ml
2-3122
Bldg 14
Rm 101

COORDINATION

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS:
DDI DIR 5200.10

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

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Number all comments consecutively.

Note warning signal at lower left of form. Remaining space is sufficient only for proper spacing of typewritten signature.

Separate comments by horizontal lines across page.

SUBJECT Project Grudge 306-392

TO MCRR
MCRECA ✓
MCREKD
MCREEO

FROM MCIAXS

DATE 21 Jul 49 COMMENT NO. 1

1. This office is currently engaged in the investigation and study of all reported unidentified aerial phenomena. Under authority contained in paragraph No. 4 of Technical Instruction 2185 Addendum 3, this Command, dated 11 February 1948 the assistance and cooperation of your office is requested.

2. The inclosed information regarding the sighting of unidentified aerial objects in the vicinities of Arrey New Mexico and Southern Oregon is forwarded for your review and comment as to possible origin and/or identification of these objects.

3. In view of the source of these reports Headquarters USAF has requested action on this matter be expedited and that both incidents be given special attention in an effort to obtain a logical explanation.

4. It is desired this office be advised by telephone of the estimated date your comments can be expected.

W. R. Clingerman
21 Jul 49

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

SWT
SWT
GWT/mr
6-6398
Post 2192
Bldg 263

3 Incls

1. Cy of Statement
2. Guide to Investigation
3. Incident Summary 392

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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Project Grudge 306-392

MCIAKS

MCREKD

25 Aug 49

2

1. The attached information regarding unidentified aerial objects has been reviewed.

2. This Laboratory does not feel justified in saying definitely what the nature of this unidentified object may be.

3. It is believed that significance should be attached to the fact that the observer could not get a hard focus on the object and therefore obviously did not make an exact determination of its distance. One of the points emphasized by Dr. Paul M. Fitts in his recent review of similar findings was that observers usually were unable to determine the distance of the object. Unless distance is determined, all estimates of the size of the object and of its linear speed are unreliable. It is believed possible that, had the observer been able to bring the object into clear focus in his theodolite, he might have been able to identify it.

3 Incls:
n/c

A. P. GAGGE
Lt. Colonel, MSC (USAF)
Acting Chief, Aero Medical Laboratory
Engineering Division

PMF/bgs
2-2228
Bldg. 29

COORDINATION

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

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Place initials of dictator and typist, telephone number and location to right of signature.

Number all comments consecutively.

Note warning signal at lower left of form. Remaining space is sufficient only for proper spacing of typewritten signature.

Separate comments by horizontal lines across page.

SUBJECT Project Grudge 306-392

UNCLASSIFIED

TO MCIAXS

FROM MCREKD

DATE 25 Aug 49

COMMENT NO. 2

1. The attached information regarding unidentified aerial objects has been reviewed.

2. This Laboratory does not feel justified in saying definitely what the nature of this unidentified object may be.

3. It is believed that significance should be attached to the fact that the observer could not get a hard focus on the object and therefore obviously did not make an exact determination of its distance. One of the points emphasized by Dr. Paul M. Fitts in his recent review of similar findings was that observers usually were unable to determine the distance of the object. Unless distance is determined, all estimates of the size of the object and of its linear speed are unreliable. It is believed possible that, had the observer been able to bring the object into clear focus in his theodolite, he might have been able to identify it.

A. P. GAGGE -

A. P. GAGGE

Lt. Colonel, MSC (USAF)

Acting Chief, Aero Medical Laboratory

Engineering Division

PLF/bgs

2-2223

Bldg. 29

3 Incls:
n/c

COORDINATION

P. M. Fitts MCREKD-9

1. c. 7 Aug 49. Data

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DDC DIR 5200.10

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was initiated by the District Commander, 9th OSI District, upon receipt of information that an unidentified aerial phenomena was sighted over Vicksburg, Mississippi on Friday, 22 April 1949, which was described as a "flying triangle".

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

2. The following newspaper item taken from the Jackson, Mississippi Daily News, dated 23 April 1949, is quoted verbatim:

'FLYING TRIANGLE' REPORTED OVER VICKSBURG FRIDAY

A "flying triangle" was reported seen in the sky over Vicksburg last night.

JAMES E. PARKER said he saw the object "like a lighted triangle" shortly after midnight.

He said he could not estimate the height or speed of the object. PARKER said there was no noise to indicate it might have been a high flying airplane.

AT VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI:

3. On 11 May 1949, the writer interviewed Mr. [REDACTED] at Vicksburg, Mississippi. [REDACTED] stated in substance that he sighted a flying triangle at approximately 0022 hours, central standard time, 23 April 1949, over the city of Vicksburg. When this object was sighted, it was within the city limits and approximately one and one-half (1-1/2) miles from the center of the city of Vicksburg. [REDACTED] further stated that he was standing in front of [REDACTED] when he first sighted this object. [REDACTED] stated that he could not locate the latitude on the map. [REDACTED] only saw one object and when this object was sighted, it was at about a forty-five (45) degree angle, going east, and was at a seemingly high altitude. [REDACTED] further stated that he observed this object from a period of from five (5) to ten (10) seconds.

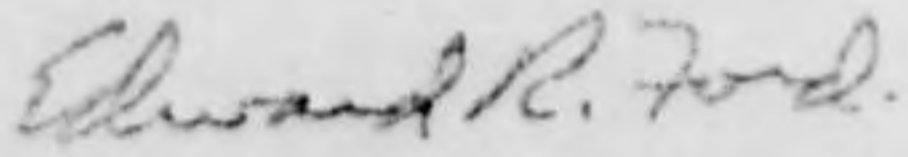
353 [REDACTED] described the color of the object as being milky looking, like a fluorescent light, but not quite as bright. [REDACTED] described the object as being in the shape of a triangle, each side of the triangle being approximately four (4) feet in length and one and one-half (1-1/2) feet in width. Running down the outside edge of each side of the triangle was a row of lights.

[REDACTED] further stated that this object was headed due east in level flight and that there was no evidence of exhaust, nor was there any effect caused on the clouds by this object. All light appeared luminous, but slightly milky. This object appeared to be supported by wings, but there was no evidence of any kind of propulsion, nor did he sight any type of stabilizers or antenna on this object.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 32-4	DATE 26 May 1949
TITLE PROJECT SIGN		REPORT MADE BY Special Agent BERNARD A. PRICE	
		REPORT MADE AT Jackson Det, DO #9, Jackson, Miss.	
		PERIOD 25 April - 12 May 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #9, Barksdale AFB, La.	
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER Subversive Activity			
REFERENCE 9TH OSI District Bulletin # 55-16, dated 22 November 1948.			
SYNOPSIS Investigation at Vicksburg, Mississippi regarding an unidentified aerial phenomena described as being a flying triangle, failed to verify definitely just what type of object was sighted.			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB (Action Copy) -3 Hq. OSI -2 DO #10, Kelly AFB -2 DO #9, -2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AF Base Dayton, Ohio	
		APPROVED  EDWARD R. FORD Major, USAF District Commander	
		FILE STAMP	

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353 [redacted] stated that this object was traveling at a speed faster than mail planes, or National Guard planes, but slower than a jet type aircraft. This object did not make any sound. The manner of disappearance of this object was that it "just disappeared" in a clear sky as though it traveled out of sight.

Information relative to the observer is that [redacted] lives at 1226 West Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and follows the occupation of carpenter as a rule, but at present is employed in a pool hall under the name of "Nosser's Smoke House". [redacted] does not have any hobbies, but likes to watch airplanes in an effort to determine their type. [redacted] has done some riding in airplanes and enjoys this experience. [redacted] appears to have the ability to determine color, and the ability to determine the speed of automobiles, but is not too familiar with the speed of airplanes. [redacted] seems to have the ability to determine the size of an object at a distance. According to informants in Vicksburg, [redacted] is seemingly reliable as an observer. The local police department has no record of [redacted]. [redacted] has what could be termed as a "fairly good" eyesight and according to [redacted], his attention was not drawn to this object in any particular manner. He just happened to glance up into the sky and saw the object. When Mr. [redacted] was interviewed, the writer was accompanied by Major FRANKLIN A. RICHARDSON, Base Intelligence Officer and Base Inspector, Hawkins Air Force Base, Jackson, Mississippi, who is a rated pilot and both the writer and RICHARDSON agree that [redacted] seemed very reliable. [redacted] is very elusive in his description, and it is the opinion of Major RICHARDSON and the writer that [redacted] did see something.

Information relative to radar sightings in Vicksburg, Mississippi is negative.

Weather information on 22 April 1949 is as follows: Visibility one half (1/2) mile, ground fog; estimated ceiling, 25,000 feet; light broken clouds; barometric pressure, 1001.86; temperature, 58 degrees; winds, southeast, two miles per hour altimeter. Vicksburg weather at 0030Z, 23 April 1949 was garbled and could not be read. Prevailing winds aloft in the local area were from the southwest, or west and ranged from six (6) miles per hour at 10,000 feet to fifty-seven (57) miles per hour at 20,000 feet.

There was no commercial aircraft in the vicinity of Vicksburg, Mississippi after 2330 hours, 22 April 1949, and there was no record of military aircraft in Vicksburg at the time the object was sighted. It is not known in this vicinity whether or not any test device had been released by any military organization or any research organization.

There was no radio antenna or any projection of extension from this object which might be construed as such.

The following signed statement which is quoted verbatim was received from Mr. J. [redacted], Vicksburg, Mississippi.

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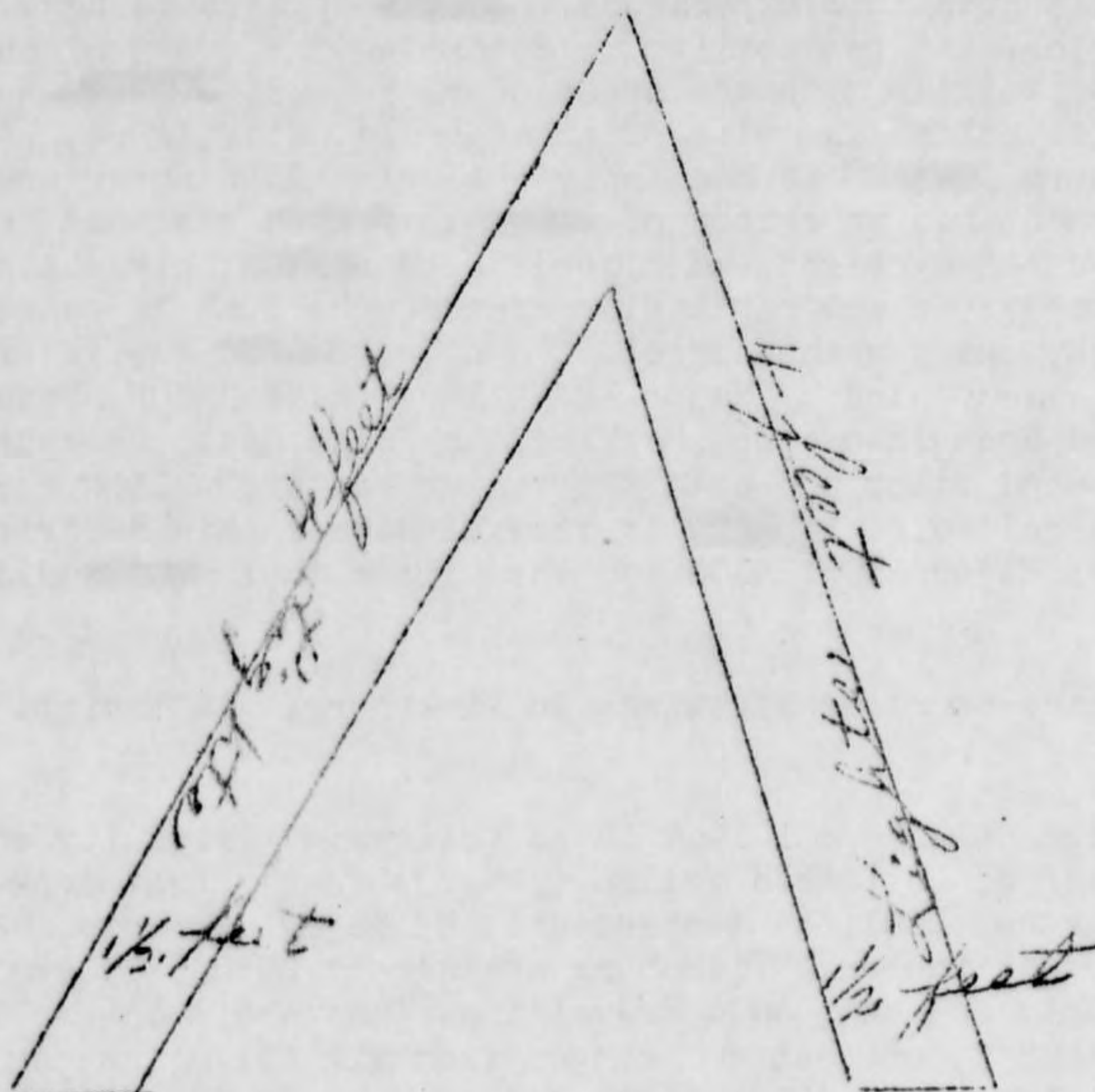
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"On April 22, 1949, as well as I can remember, about 12:25, I got out of a cab at Clay and West Streets, and I looked up and saw a flying object shaped like a angle and it was dimmed lighted, traveling at a fast rate of speed, traveling faster than the average plane. It looked like to be 4 ft long and it was high in the air. It was traveling east. See drawing at bottom of this page. I couldn't estimate the height of speed.

/s/ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~



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Name and address of observer: Mr. [REDACTED], Vicksburg, Miss.

Occupation and hobbies:

carpenter

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Appeared reliable

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

On 11 May 1949, the writer interviewed Mr. [REDACTED] at Vicksburg, Miss. [REDACTED] stated in substance that he sighted a flying triangle at approx. 0022 hours, central standard time, 28 April 1949, over the city of Vicksburg. When this object was sighted, it was within the city limits and approximately one and one-half (1-1/2) miles from the center of the city of Vicksburg. Parker further stated that he was standing in front of [REDACTED] when he first sighted this object. [REDACTED] stated that he could not locate the latitude on the map. Parker only saw one object and when this object was sighted, it was at about a forty-five (45) degree angle, going east, and was at a seemingly high altitude. [REDACTED] further stated that he observed this object from a period of from five (5) to ten (10) seconds.

[REDACTED] described the color of the object as being milky looking, like a fluorescent light, but not quite as bright. [REDACTED] described the object as being in the shape of a triangle, each side of the triangle being approx. four (4) ft in length and one and one-half (1-1/2) ft in width. Running down the outside edge of each side of the triangle was a row of lights.

[REDACTED] further stated that this object was headed due east in level flight and that there was no evidence of exhaust, nor was there any effect caused on the clouds by this object. All light appeared luminous, but slightly milky. This object appeared to be supported by wings, but there was no evidence of any kind of propulsion, nor did he sight any type of stabilizers or antenna on this object. [REDACTED] stated that this object was traveling at a speed faster than mail planes, or National Guard planes, but slower than a jet type aircraft. This object did not make any sound. The manner of disappearance of this object was that it "just disappeared" in a clear sky as though it traveled out of sight.