

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR FBI

FROM : SAC KNOXVILLE
CC McSwainSUBJECT: "FLYING SAUCERS" OBSERVED OVER
OAK RIDGE AREA
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: January 10, 1949

There are being submitted herewith two photographs of reputedly "flying saucers" which were seen at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sometime during July of 1947. All of the information contained in this letter was received from [redacted] Chief Investigator, Security Division, Atomic Energy Commission, and [redacted] Resident Engineer, Air Material Command, United States Army, who is the principal army technician at the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft Research Center at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Mr. Roteman [redacted] advised that the attached photographs were taken by [redacted] in July of 1947. He stated that interview with [redacted] revealed that he had been snapping photographs of his family in front of his residence at 218 Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, late in the afternoon, when he looked into the sky and observed the vapor trail as exhibited by the photograph numbered "1." [redacted] stated that he took a snap of this trail, was winding the film to the next number, when he looked into the sky and observed the ball of fire as shown in photograph 2. Upon observing the unusual phenomena, he used his last film in taking photograph #2. [redacted] made these photographs available to reporters of the Knoxville News-Sentinel and a story concerning them was run in that paper; however, as shown by the photostatic copy of the newspaper clipping, which is also being submitted herewith to the Bureau, the print was very indistinct; the news story did not contain any factual information; and it was regarded generally by the public at the time as a possible trick.

Later, it was learned by [redacted] and [redacted] that [redacted] had made several copies of this photograph and had [redacted] them among his acquaintances at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Upon [redacted] finding that the photographs had received some distribution, he requested [redacted] as Head of the Compliance and Investigations Division, to recover as many as possible of the photographs, advise the persons in whose possession they were found to say nothing to anyone concerning them, and to return the said photographs to [redacted] for transmission to the United States Air Force Intelligence Service. [redacted] advises that he succeeded in rounding up twenty-four copies of these photographs, and that, according to the statements of [redacted] no more copies were made or distributed. [redacted] further stated that [redacted] had appeared extremely concerned over the matter and seemed to be quite emphatic that the matter should be given no more publicity than was absolutely necessary. [redacted] also advised that he studied the negatives from which the reproductions were made, and they appeared to be authentic in that trick photography should have been apparent, but from the

RECORDED - 121

INDEXED - 121

31 JAN 12 1949

FIVE

EX-31

158