2

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Incident #67

ATIC NO. - - -

DATE OF INFO 14 Aug 1947

AF NO. - - -

LOCATION 5 Miles South of Placerville, Calif.

REPORT NO. - - -

SOURCE Civilian Couple

DATE OF REPORT - - -

DATE IN TO ATIC - - -

TIME OF SIGHTING 1600 PST

COLOR Polished Chrome

SHAPE Rocket

SPEED high

Estimated / Measured

SIZE 5' long - 14" deep

ALTITUDE 750'

Estimated / Measured

COURSE N to S (180 degrees)

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED Short Period

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Auto

SOUND - - -

MANEUVERS Very shallow dive

PHOTOS - - -

SKETCHES - - -

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

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Prob Meteor

[redacted]

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Incident #67 -- near Placerville, California -- 14 August 1947

If details of the observers' statement are accurate, it would be difficult to assign an astronomical origin to the object seen in this incident. There are a few statements which, taken alone, strongly suggest that a meteor was observed: high rate of speed, "seemed to be in a shallow dive," white smoke trail, "disappeared in a puff of dark gray smoke." However, unless the description of the object (4-6 feet long and 10-14 inches wide) and the estimated distance (less than 1000 feet)-are illusory, the meteoric explanation will not hold.

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[redacted]

7-3113-4

[redacted]

COPY

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1030 hours 18 August 1947

Telephone message received from Mr. [redacted], City Editor, [redacted]

Mr. [redacted], Calif, and insurance executive with the firm of [redacted], of Sacramento, reported the following incident:

At 4:P.M. on August 14, while driving on Cedar Ravine Road, 4 to 5 miles southeast of Placerville, Calif, he, accompanied by his wife, observed a "vapor" trail moving from north to south. Closer observation revealed a piece of "shiny metal" at from 500 to 1000 feet altitude moving at a "high rate of speed". The object appeared to be more "rocket-shaped" than disc-shaped. It appeared to be approximately 5 feet in length and was "tilted in a semi-circle".

The object struck the ground with a "puff of black smoke" about 100 feet below the top of a hill which was approximately 750 feet ahead of the automobile driven by the observer. An intervening canyon prevented investigation of the location where the object was observed to have landed.

The observer is able to identify the location where the object was observed to land.

(Mr. [redacted] is a University of California graduate, and is personally known by members of the Oakland Tribune staff. He is a brother-in-law of [redacted] of the Marine Hospital of Southern California)

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

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[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Bem

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

4AFIA
333.5/K

11 SEP 1947

SUBJECT: Investigation of Flying Discs

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

Attached MOIC for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

WILLIAM J. TUCKER,
CWO, U. S. Army,
Asst. Adjutant General.

1 Incl:
MOIC, con, dtd 20 Aug 47.
(con)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Bem

ADDRESS REPLIES TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, FOURTH AIR FORCE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Bem

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
AAC-1208-I
20 August 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

1. On 20 August 1947, this agent and Special Agent [redacted] interviewed Mr. [redacted] Insurance Adjuster, at his home, [redacted] Sacramento, California, and he stated in substance: On the afternoon of 14 August 1947, he was driving his automobile from Placerville, California, on the Cedar Ravine Road. Mr. [redacted] was in the front seat of the automobile and Mrs. [redacted] mother and the two children were in the back seat of the car. At about 1600 hours they were at a point approximately five miles southwest from Placerville when [redacted] saw a white smoke trail out of the corner of his eye. In searching for a rocket ship (?80) he saw an object, four to six feet in length, ten to fourteen inches wide, and of a metal color, bright like highly polished chromium. In relation to the travel of the automobile the object was first seen at 1030, and when the object reached a point at approximately 1200, it was engulfed in a puff of dark grey smoke about ten feet in diameter. The object was traveling at a tremendous rate of speed and seemed to be in a very shallow dive. When the puff of smoke appeared, the object disappeared completely and there were no particles seen to have fallen from the smoke. The point where the object was engulfed in the smoke was about eight hundred yards distant (in front of) [redacted] with no possibility of the object being hidden from view by vegetation or terrain. The object appeared rectangular in shape except for one very short period of time it appeared to have a top surface that was very slightly curved. Mr. [redacted] turned to tell his wife about the object but found her with her mouth open in an effort to say something and with her hand in a pointing gesture toward where the object had disappeared. The object was now very high in relation to the terrain and seemed to be following the contour of a canyon.

2. In a separate interview Mrs. [redacted] concurred in the information obtained from Mr. [redacted] with the following exceptions: The smoke trail and the puff that engulfed the object appeared dark grey in color and there was no change in the color. Mrs. [redacted] estimated the object to be about five feet long and about a foot wide with the top surface being slightly curved. The object appeared to be some larger in size than Mr. [redacted]

AGENT'S NOTES: At the time this object was seen, the sun was to the back, the sky was clear and the object gave off a very brilliant reflection. Mr. [redacted] has been connected with the field of insurance investigations for the last eighteen years and appears to be a man not desirous of publicity. The other passengers of the car did not see the object. Mr. [redacted] is in the process of moving to a ranch near Placerville, Calif., and his new address will be [redacted] Eldorado County, Calif. Arrangements have been made to meet Mr. [redacted] at 1400, 28 Aug 47 at Raffels Hotel, Placerville, Calif., for the purpose of going back over Cedar Ravine Road to locate the point where the object disappeared.

[redacted]

Special Agent, AIC

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4AF-1208-I

On 26 August 47, S/[redacted] and this agent contacted Mr. [redacted] Insurance Adjustor at the Raffels Hotel, Placerville, California. After traveling Cedar Ravine road to a point nine miles southeast of Placerville, known as Duck's Bar, [redacted] decided that the place from where he had observed the object on 14 Apr 47 was nearer to Placerville. After a thorough check of the road, [redacted] believed the spot where he had observed the object to be on the ridge just north of Webber Creek where the road breaks over the summit. This point is two miles from the Raffels Hotel, Placerville, California, on the Cedar Ravine road. As the road approaches the summit it curves to the left, which would provide an observer from an automobile a sweeping view through 40° of the canyon and the horizon on the south side of Webber Creek. This point of observation lies 38° 42' 45" North Latitude and 120° 47' 15" West Longitude. Her elevation at this point is 4,800 feet above sea level. The horizon from this point to the south is formed by a series of mountain peaks which lie generally through 360 39' 45" and which are on the south side of Sugar Hollow Creek, a distance of four miles and ranging in elevation from 2,300 feet to 4,500 feet above sea level. [redacted] was not definite as to what part of the field of view he had seen the object and indicated that it could have been as far as the horizon. Any object, or particles of an object that he saw, is on the ground on the field of view, would be in a [redacted] wild area of rocky, mountainous terrain which is full of canyons and ravines.

Army [redacted] this agent believes that [redacted] could have seen an aluminum surface conventional type aircraft which, due to the distance at which he observed it, certain structural features were not seen because of the bright reflection and the short period of observation. The aircraft would have been coming from the left as [redacted] turned to the left, thereby giving the effect of a much greater speed than the object was really traveling. This agent has no other information as to the whole trail observed by [redacted]. It recommended is desired to endeavor [redacted] to see if anything can be located on the ground. This agent [redacted] hand a small [redacted] aircraft similar to an L-6 be used in low level [redacted] between [redacted] feet or 1100 to 1500 [redacted] was very cooperative and [redacted] much of our [redacted] in an effort to be of as much service as possible. [redacted] will communicate with the AC of S, A-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Presidio, San Francisco, California, in the event of any report of aircraft [redacted] in the area.

[redacted] 20 Aug 47, a check with Ranger [redacted] State Forest Service, Sacramento, California, and [redacted] Forester, Federal Forest Service, Placerville, [redacted] California, brought the following information. There has been no [redacted] fires or reported aircraft crashes in the area in question within the last month.

[redacted] Special Agent, AIC

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UNSUCCESSFUL OBJECT
AR-1203-1

AGENT'S NOTES: Forester [redacted] will communicate with the AC of S, [illegible] Headquarters Fourth Air Force, Hamilton Field, California. If any information regarding wreckage of an aircraft is located in the area in question, [redacted] was not informed of the mission and was led to believe that the mission was an effort to locate possible aircraft wreckage in the area.

Hayden P. Udon, Special Agent, AIB etc

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Observer first noticed a white smoke trail and while searching for its source he saw an object 4 to 6 ft. in length by 10 to 14 inches wide and of metal color which gave off a very bright reflection like highly polished chromium.
It was first observed at 1030 position to the automobile. Upon reaching a 1200 position it was engulfed in a puff of dark gray smoke about 10 ft. in diameter. There was a change in the color of the smoke. The object was traveling at a terrific speed and seemed to be in a shallow dive. When the puff of smoke appeared the object disappeared completely. No particleswere observed falling from it. The point of disappearance seemed to be about 800 yards in front of [redacted]. There was no possibility of being hidden by vegetation or terrain. It appeared rectangular for the most part, but once it appeared to have a very slightly curved top surface. It seemed more like a rocket than disc like. It seemed tilted in a semi circle.

NOTE:

Agent notes the point of observation would afford a sweeping view thru 40° of the canyon and the south side of Webber Creek.
([redacted] was not definite as to what part of the field of view he had seen the object and indicated that it could have been as far as the horizon.)
Any object or particles thereof would be in a six square mile area of wooded mountainous terrain full of canyons and ravines.

Agent thought that witness could have seen a conventional type of Aircraft which due to the distance from which it was observed presented no distinguishing features for the short period it was observed, however agent could not account for the smoke trail.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET
(To be filled out and retained in files)

#67

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1. Date of Observation . 14 Aug 47. . . .

2. Time of Observation . 1600. . . . . .

3. Where was Object(s) Sighted . FIVE MILES SOUTH OF PLACERVILLE, CALIF. . . . . .
. . . . . 38°.42'.45".North. 120°.47'.15".West . . . . .

4. Observer's Position . . . . . GROUND. . . . . .
(i.e. ground, air, control tower, etc.)

5. Name and Address of Observer . MR [redacted] AND WIFE . . . . . .
. BOX [redacted] AUKUM, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIF. . . . . .

6. Occupation and/or Hobbies . INSURANCE EXECUTIVE WITH THE FIRM OF MC GUIRE AND WALLIS AND IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIF. . . . . .

7. Attention Attracted to Object (s) By . . . . . .

8. Number of Object(s) Sighted . . . . . .

9. Size of Object(s) . 5 ft. Long 13-14" in depth. . . . . .

10. Color of Object(s) . Polished Chromium. . . . . .

11. Shape (Sketch if Possible) . Seemed rectangular except for a short period when it appeared to have a slightly curved top surface. Seemed tilted in a semi circle. More rocket shaped than disc shaped.

12. Nature of Luminosity . . . . . .

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer . Estimated 750 ft. . . . . .

14. Speed of Object(s) . High rate of speed. . . . . .

15. Time in Sight . Short period. . . . . .

16. Tactics . In a very shallow dive. . . . . .

17. Sound Made by Object(s) . Not stated . . . . . .

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) . . North to South. . . . . .

19. Apparent Construction (Of What Material or Substance) . Metallic . . . . . .
. . . . . .

20. Effect of Objects on Clouds and/or Exhaust Trail . A white smoke trail was first observed . Later object was enveloped in puff of dark gray smoke. . . . . .

21. Weather Conditions Existing at the Time . Fair with sunshine . . . . . .

22. Peculiarities Noted . Disappeared in a puff of dark gray smoke. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

23. Summary of Incident . . . . . .
. . . . . See Reverse . . . . . .
. . . . . .

(Attach a Separate Sheet if Additional Space is Needed)

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

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

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

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

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

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

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

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

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

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