PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 14 Jun 47	2. LOCATION Bakersfield, California
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Other (BIRDS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 17	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer first sighted ten objects flying in V formation to the east, with one stragler. Later saw seven object flying in a V.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	
7. COURSE 1. East 2. 100 deg	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

Incident No. 29 -- 14 June 1947, 1200 and 1215, Bakersfield, Calif. The observer, an experienced pilot, reported sighting ten and later seven objects at 6000 ft altitude, traveling 300 MPH in a loose "V" formation. Although the objects were apparently at a considerable distance, the reporter described them as being similar to the XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack." He stated that he attached no particular importance to this sighting until he read of the Cascade Mountain sighting, (Incident No. 17). He then recalled this incident.

AMC Opinion: There is no information contained in this report to refute the assumption that these objects were ordinary aircraft beyond the range of identification. The fact that no one else in Bakersfield reported observing anything unusual, tends to substantiate this conclusion.

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Incident #28 -- ~~Portland, Oregon~~ -- 14 June 1947

There is nothing whatever in this incident to suggest that the objects observed were of astronomical origin. Their maneuvers and the relatively long time they were in sight definitely preclude any possible astronomical interpretation.

It is of interest to note that in this locality and at this season other possibly-similar, non-astronomical incidents were reported -- e.g., #17 and #68.

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, 163, 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.

With 1[illegible] incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation [illegible] Dr. Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendix "F" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Fitts)

212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, and size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, [illegible] probably would not have been considered unusual or reported [illegible] been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibit four common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the Mt. Ranier incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,
111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Date 14 June 1947 [redacted] Incident #29

2. Time 1200 noon first time later at 1415 approximately

3. Location ~~Portland, Oregon~~ Bakersfield, Calif

4. Name of observer [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer Pilot

6. Address of observer [redacted], California

7. Place of observation Ground Front yard

8. Number of objects 10 first time 7 second time

9. Distance of object from observer Not stated

10. Time in sight Not stated

11. Altitude 8500 feet

12. Speed 350 miles per hour

13. Direction of flight First group South to North. Second group North to South

14. Tactics Flying in "V" formation with one object straggling in the rear

15. Sound Not stated

16. Size Resembled the XF5U-1

17. Color Not stated

18. Shape resembled the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying Flapjack"

19. Odor detected Not Stated

20. Apparent construction flying machines

21. Exhaust trails Not stated

22. Weather conditions Clear and Sunny

23. Effect on clouds Not Stated

24. Sketches or photographs None

25. Manner of disappearance Not Stated

26. Remarks: (Over)

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

At approximately 1200 noon on the 14 of June I was lying in the front yard of my home. There was a lad mowing the lawn at the time. I looked into the sky and saw ten articles flying from the South to the North at what I would judge to be 8500 ft. The objects were flying at approximately what I would judge to be 350 miles per hour. I distinctly remember that at the time I saw the articles I mentioned it to the lad who was mowing the lawn at the time. I told the lad that the objects were in all probability some sort of Army or Navy test planes from the nearby test centers on the deserts of Sourthern California. The objects resembled the pictures that I have seen of the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying Flapjack" that the Navy is testing. At approximately 1415 I went back into the yard to sit and lie in the shade. At this time the objects reappeared going from North to South, although this time there were only seven of the articles. When I first saw the original ten objects they were flying in a "v" formation with one object seemingly straggling in the rear of the formation. When the objects appeared the second time they were still in the "V" formation although there was only seven of the objects at this time. I remember at this time that I told the lad, who was still working on the lawn, that probably three of the objects had proceeded back to their base on a different course. I actually thought that this was the case, that the other three objects had probably gone back to their base on the other side of the mountains from Bakersfield. I am firmly convinced that the articles I saw are actually some sort of flying machines although I cannot say from where they came or to where they were going.

PORTLAND, OREGON
30, July 1947

UNCLASSIFIED

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

On 30 July 1947 Mr [redacted] Portland, Oregon was interviewed by this agent and stated in substance as follows:

My name is [redacted] I am 47 years old and have flown since I was nineteen years old. I first soloed in an air craft in 1919. I have flown over all the western parts of the United States many times and have mapped all of the western part of the United States during the years before the late war for the US Forest Service. I am familiar with almost every part of the western United States. During a great part of my life I have done stunt flying for air shows and various other types of aeronautical exhibitions. My brother was "Tex"Rankin who was quite well known in both civilian and Military flying circles for many years before his death and during the late war ran thousands of Flying Cadets through primary training schools owned and operated by him. To date I have accomplished 7000 hours in the air as pilot of both civilian and Military aircraft. I am well acquainted with most articles that one would see in the air and I feel that I am well qualified to say when I see articles flying through the air, although I would not attempt to say that I am infallable and state that I could definitely identify every object that might be flying through the air. The following is an account of what I saw on 14 June 1947 from the yard of my home at [redacted], Bakersfield, California.

At approximately 1200 noon on the 14 of June I was lying in the front yard of my home. There was a lad mowing the lawn at the time. I looked up into the sky and saw ten articles flying from the South to th North at what I would judge to be 8500 ft. The objects were flying at approximately what I would judge to be 350 miles per hour. As I have stated before, I have done quite a lot of map work for the US Forest Service. I distinctly remember that at the time I saw the articles I mentioned it to the lad who was mowing the lawn at the time. I told the lad that the objects were in all probability some sort of Army or Navy test planes from the nearby test centers on the deserts of Southern California. Having quite a knowledge of aircraft in general I attempted to explain to the lad mowing the lawn that the objects were probably on some sort of training mission for either the Army or Navy. At that time I did not give the slightest thought to anything but that the objects were some sort of test ship for the Government Services. The objects resembled the pictures that I have seen of the XF5U-1, the so called "Flying Flapjack" that the Navy is testing. After the objects disappeared I proceeded into the house and had my noon meal. At approximately 1415 I went back into the yard to sit and lie in the shade. At this time the objects reappeared going from North to South, although this time there were only seven of the articles. When I first saw the original ten objects they were flying in a "V" formation with one object seemingly stragling in the rear of the formation. When the objects apperaed the second time they were still in the "V" formation although there was only seven of the objects at this time. I remember at this time that I told the lad, who was still working on the lawn, that probably three of the objects had proceeded back to their base on a different course. I actually thought that this was the case, that the other three objects had probably gone back to their base on the other side of the mountains from Bakersfield. A week or so later when I read of Mr Kenneth Arnold claiming that he had seen articles flying through the air over the Cascade Mountains in

UNCLASSIFIED

Incl #1

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Washington I realized that the articles that I saw were probably the same thing. I was still reluctant to mention this to anyone thinking that they would probably say that I was crazy. After some time I mentioned the incident to the editor of the "Oregonian", a Portland, Oregon newspaper. At this time I was in Portland for the remainder of the summer. The results of the conversation with the editor of the paper is put forth in the accompanying newspaper article.

I fully realize that this is a broad statement in view of the fact that there has been so much publicity put forth in various newspapers of the country. I am of sound mind in every respect and I am firmly convinced that the articles I saw are actually some sort of flying machines although I cannot say from where they came or to where thay were going. I say what I have said with no idea of publicity or personal gain.

SIGNED [redacted]

Portland, Oregon
30 July 1947

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident
4AF 1208 I
14 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

1. On 10 July 1947, a check was made at the following locations in Palm Springs, California for the purpose of trying to locate Mr. [redacted] Palm Springs Police Department, Palm Springs Newspaper, "The Desert Sun", Palm Springs Water Company, Southern California Gas Company, Palm Springs Telephone Company, Palm Springs Employment Office, Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, Royal Palms Hotel, 5 Palm Springs real estate offices, and the City Offices of Palm Springs including waste disposal, water rights, tax records and etc. No record of Mr. [redacted] existed in any of the above mentioned offices.

2. On 11 July 1947, Mr. Ryland M. Gorham, Postmaster of Palm Springs, California for the past 14 years was interviewed. Mr. Gorham stated that he had lived in Palm Springs for the past 24 years and that he was unaware if a person named [redacted] had ever lived in Palm Springs. Mr. Gorham stated that due to the fact that Palm Springs is a resort area and due to the fact that in the summer months only 3 to 5 thousand people resided in Palm Springs, whereas in the winter months 10 to 12 thousand resided in Palm Springs, it was very possible that Mr. [redacted] could have lived in Palm Springs more or less on a non-permanent status and he, Mr. Gorham, not being aware of it.

A check of General Delivery records revealed a letter addressed to Mr. [redacted], Palm Springs, mailed from Cicero, Indiana, postmarked at Cicero, Indiana July 1947, at 5 P.M. The return address on the envelope was listed as the Gospel Tract Worker, Route 1, Cicero, Indiana. Mr. Gorham permitted the contents of the envelope to be examined inasmuch as the contents was 3rd Class material and the envelope not sealed. The records were of a religious nature concerning the sad plight of American non-church goers, the second coming of Christ and etc. Superintendent of Mails was contacted by Mr. Gorham and stated that there was a Mr. [redacted] who had received mail through the general delivery office of the Palm Springs Post Office, but that the last mail, other than the letter mentioned above, came through the Post Office approximately two years ago. The Superintendent of Mails seem to have a very uncanny memory and recalled where the mail coming in for [redacted] had been addressed to. This mail was addressed to Mr. [redacted] in care of a trailer camp located in Palm Springs. On calling the trailer camp office, it was found that Mr. [redacted] had lived in the camp but departed approximately two years ago and left no forwarding address. Investigation is continuing in an effort to locate Mr. [redacted] and obtain a statement from him.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

FRANK M. BROWN, S/A, CIC 4th AF

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

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

4AFDA
333.5 ID

5 AUG

SUBJECT: Investigation of "Flying Discs"

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

1. Attached statement and newspaper clipping forwarded your office per request of TWX from Headquarters Air Defense Command, Mitchel Field, New York, dated 10 July 47.

2. Information copy furnished Headquarters Air Defense Command.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

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

2 Incls:
1. Statement re [redacted], dtd 30 Jul. (dup)
2. Newspaper clipping, dtd 3 Jul (dup)

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Incident #95 -- cancelled -- see #29

Pilot Recalls Seeing Discs

Dick Rankin Tells Of Odd Aircraft

More reports of "flying flapjacks" turned up Wednesday, one from no less than Dick Rankin, brother of the late Tex Rankin, and himself an experienced pilot of more than 7000 hours' flying time.

Rankin, who is recovering from an old back injury received in an automobile accident, came to Portland over the week end to spend the summer. He saw the "silver caucers" over Bakersfield, Cal., June 23, while lying on the lawn sun bathing, he told The Oregonian.

"I hesitated to say much about them," Rankin said, "until I noticed all the hullabaloo in the papers. I puzzled over their strange shape for a while and finally concluded that they were the navy's new XF5U-1 flying flapjacks, which are thin and round, with twin propellers and stubby tail."

Only One XF5U-1 Built

(The navy and the manufacturer have announced officially that only one such machine was built and that it never left Connecticut.

"These planes were flying high, maybe 9000 feet, and fairly fast, about 300 or 400 miles an hour. I first counted ten of them in formation, going north. About 2:15 P. M. they returned on the reverse course, headed south. But there were only seven in the formation.

"They were not weaving or bobbing in formation I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round. They looked like pictures of the navy's flying flapjack," Rankin said.

Rankin, who plans to spend the summer here at 834 N. E. Simpson street, is now able to resume a little flying for fun, but not commercially, he said. He now operates a string of auto courts, spending his winters at Palm Springs.

Two Descriptions Check

Rankin's description of the mysterious aerial objects agrees with that or Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho, business man, who first reported them over the state of Washington, except that Arnold clocked them at an estimated 1200 miles an hour.

Other reports came Wednesday from Astoria.

Jack Hayes, patient in St. Mary's hospital there, said he saw two of the discs Monday flying southwest at a rapid speed and that they vanished behind the hills.

Mrs. Earl Seado, Fort Stevens, said she saw a disc traveling north over Fort Stevens Tuesday noon, and that other observers saw the same object.

The army at Fort Stevens and the coast guard at nearby Point Adams did not see the discs.

The report of a Centralia, Wash., man Wednesday coincided in matter of time with the original report made by Arnold. Sidney B. Gallagher of Centralia said he saw nine aluminum-hued objects flying north at 3 P. M. June 24. He was working 11 miles southwest of Mineral, Wash., at the time.

"THE OREGONIAN" Portland, Oregon.
3 July 1947

Over California by Veteran Pilot

(The Associated Press)

'tland, Ore., July 1.—A vet- Pacific coast pilot, Richard in, today reported seeing the ng saucers" over California. e controversial "saucers"— experts have questioned her they exist—were high Bakersfield June 23, said in, a former Portland flier now lives in Palm Springs.

hese planes were maybe 9000 up and fairly fast, maybe 300 00 miles an hour. I first ted 10 of them in formation. r north. About 2:15 p. m. they ned in the reverse course ed south, but there were only n in the formation . . . I in't make out the number or ion of their propellers and in't distinguish any wings or They appeared almost round. y looked just like pictures of navy's Flying Flapjack," Ran- told a reporter.

The navy, however, has reported its Flying Flapjack—the XF5U-1—has never left Connecticut.

Rankin, brother of the late Stunt Pilot Tex Rankin, and a flier with more than 7000 hours in the air himself, said he hesitated to report what he saw until he read where others had reported the "saucers." He said he observed them from the ground.

Meanwhile new reports came in from Pacific Northwest residents. Two Portlanders, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bailliet, who said they "didn't believe the story" when they read it in the newspapers reported they saw at least 10 of them flying noiselessly over the Columbia river about noon today.

Shortly after Mrs. R. A. Hunt, wife of the Jefferson county agent at Madras, Ore., 100 miles south east of Portland, said she saw si of them high overhead.

"Flying Saucers"

PORTLAND, Ore., July 2.—(AP)—The report of a long-time West Coast pilot was added today to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the West.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more than 7000 hours in the air, said he saw the much-debated mystery disks high over Bakersfield, Cal., and going "maybe 300 or 400 miles an hour."

There were 10 in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven . . .

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round," he said.

Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

Ten Flying Disks Seen at Bakersfield, Cal. Also Over Portland

NY HERALD TRIBUNE

PORTLAND, Ore., July 2 (AP).—The report of a long-time West Coast pilot was added today to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the West.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more than 7,000 hours in the air, said he saw the much-debated mysterious disks over Bakersfield, Calif., and going "maybe 300 or 400 miles an hour."

There were ten in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven."

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail," he said. "They appeared almost round."

Mr. Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

New reports meanwhile came in from three Oregon cities, Astoria, Madras and Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, of Portland, said they saw at least ten of the "saucers" winging noiselessly high over the Columbia River yesterday.

JUL 3 1947

Philadelphia Bul 2 July 47

Veteran Airman Joins Ranks of 'Flying Saucer' Witnesses

Portland, Ore., July 2—(AP)— e report of a long-time West ast pilot was added today to the owing accounts of "flying ucers" over the West.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more an 7,000 hours in the air, said he v the much-debated mystery cs high over Bakersfield, Calif., d going "maybe 300 or 400 miles hour."

There were ten in formation fly- north, he told a reporter, but en "they returned on the re- se course, headed south, there re only seven.

couldn't make out the number ocation of their propellers and idn't distinguish any wings or . They appeared almost round," said.

Rankin said he saw them from ground on June 23, but hesi- ed to describe what he saw until noted others were reporting the he thing.

At first, he continued, he as- ned he had seen the XF-5U-1, the perimental Navy "flying flap- k." The Navy since has an- unced it has only one XF-5U-1, d it has not left Connecticut.

New reports, meanwhile, came from three Oregon cities, Astoria, adras and Portland. The Portland- s making the report, Mr. and Mrs. rbert Balliet, said they disbelieved ories about the "saucers" until ey saw at least ten of them wing- g noiselessly high over the Co- mbia River yesterday.

Plane Vet Reports Seeing 'Flying Saucers' June 23

Denver POST

PORTLAND, Ore., July 2.—(AP)—The report of a long-time west coast pilot was added Wednesday to the growing accounts of "flying saucers" over the west.

Richard Rankin, veteran of more than 7,000 hours in the air, said he saw the much-debated mystery disks high over Bakersfield, Calif., and going "maybe 300 or 400 miles an hour."

There were ten in formation flying north, he told a reporter, but when "they returned on the reverse course, headed south, there were only seven. . . .

JUL 2 1947

"ALMOST ROUND."

"I couldn't make out the number or location of their propellers and couldn't distinguish any wings or tail. They appeared almost round," he said.

Rankin said he saw them June 23, but hesitated to describe what he saw until he noted others were reporting the same thing.

At first, he continued, he assumed he had seen the XF5U-1, the experimental navy "Flying Flapjack." The navy since has announced it has only one XF5U-1, and it has not left Connecticut.

Rankin, ex-Portlander who now lives in Palm Springs, Calif., and a brother of the late John G. (Tex) Rankin, pioneer stunt flier, said he observed the "planes" from the ground.

MORE REPORTS.

New reports meanwhile came in from three Oregon cities, Astoria, Madras and Portland. The Portlanders making the report, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Balliet, said they disbelieved stories about the "saucers" until they saw at least ten of them winging noiselessly high over the Columbia river Tuesday.

Still another such account came from four states away. At Albuquerque, N. M., Max Hood, Chamber of Commerce executive, told of seeing "a disc-like bluish object following a zig-zag path in the northwestern sky" only Tuesday night. It disappeared in about half a minute, he said.

There have been similar reports the past several days from other points in New Mexico, west Texas and Oklahoma.