UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

Incident #151

ATIC NO. ------

AF NO. ------

REPORT NO. ------

DATE OF REPORT ------

TIME OF SIGHTING 0955

SHAPE Like a broad, short, propeller

SIZE 6'-8' long x 1 1/2'-2' Wide

COURSE South

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ------

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES ----

DATE OF INFO 29 July 1948

LOCATION Indianapolis, Indiana

SOURCE Male Civilian

DATE IN TO ATIC ------

COLOR Aluminum - Shiny

SPEED 25 - 30 MPH Estimated ____ Measured ____

ALTITUDE 30 Ft Estimated ____ Measured ____

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ----

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Glided with no spinning motion

[redacted]

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Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

Incident No. 151 -- 29 July 1948, 0955 Hours, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The observers driving a truck saw an object shaped like a broad short propeller traveling 25-30 MPH in a bank just above the trees at thirty feet altitude. It was eight feet long, two feet wide and one foot thick, with "cups" on the upper sides of the blades. The object glided with no spinning action, and there was no sound or trail. The object was thought to have fallen, but a search revealed nothing.

AMC Opinion: No satisfactory conclusion can be drawn.

Serial no 0573.00
1718

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #151 -- Indianapolis, Indiana -- 23 July 1948

This incident and #152 are being considered together by this investigator, because they both occurred in Indianapolis, were separated by just two days, were observed at approximately the same time of day, and include certain similarities of description.

Both incidents are clearly non-astronomical.

Drawings are available for both objects observed, and, although they are considerably different, they might conceivably represent the same object viewed on edge and in plan. Both have approximately the same shape, although the scale given by one observer is about three times that given by the other. Both have 3:1 ratios of length to width. If these objects were real, it seems to be straining coincidence too far to assume that they were entirely independent of each other.

Were there by any chance some special glider experiments going on in the vicinity of Indianapolis at that time?

Barring hallucinations, these two incidents and incidents #17, 40, 75, and 84 seem to be the most tangible, from the standpoint of description, of all those reported, and the most difficult to explain away as sheer nonsense.

It should be noted that both incidents #151 and 152 had two observers.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DS3

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-24451-A

Hq ARC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

T-1481-1

29 Jul 48

With 194 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 and Dr. Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendices "AA" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. 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, which probably would not have been considered unusual or reported had there 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") exhibited few 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.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 151

1. Date 29 July 1948

2. Time 0955

3. Location Northeastern part of Indianapolis, Indiana (See attached sketch of location)

4. Name of observers Mr. [redacted] & Mr. [redacted]

5. Occupation of observers Both employees of W. O. Jones Rug Cleaners

6. Address of observer [redacted], Indianapolis

7. Place of observation [redacted], Indianapolis (See attached drawing of location)

8. Number of objects 1

9. Distance of object from observer N/S - not over a few hundred feet

10. Time in sight N/S

11. Altitude 30 feet - just above tree-tops

12. Speed 25 to 30 MPH

13. Direction of flight Headed south in bank to left

14. Tactics gliding with no apparent spinning action

15. Sound no discernible sound

16. Size 6 to 8 feet long by 1-1/2 to 2 feet wide (See attach drwg.)

17. Color Aluminum and shiny in color

18. Shape Shaped like a broad short propeller (See attached drwg.)

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction Aluminum construction

21. Exhaust trails None

22. Weather conditions CAVU - no clouds

23. Effect on clouds No clouds

24. Sketches or photographs 2

25. Manner of disappearance Went down in wooded area (seemingly)

26. Remarks: (over)

Object was shaped like a broad short propeller approximately 6 to 8 ft , each blade approximately 2 feet wide and approximately one foot thick with cups on upper side of blades. It appeared aluminum and shiny in color. Traveled approximately 25 to 30 MPH. It was sighted just above the trees at approximately a 30 ft altitude in bank to the left of approx 20° and appeared in a slight descent. There was no discernible sound and no exhaust trail.

NOTE: Truck had just started across bridge (see drwg) when object was sighted directly ahead above the trees. Witnesses stopped on the other side of the cantilever bridge but could not relocate object.

Search by Lt John E. Hoskins, Base PIO, and Lt Russell J. Carey, Jr. Base Intel Off. (331st AFBU) Res Tng Stout Fld. did not produce any result. However the area in which it was believed to have fallen is densely wooded with many hills and valleys. See diagram attached.

UNCLASSIFIED

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HEADQUARTERS
3318T AIR FORCE BASE UNIT (RES TNG)
STOUT FIELD, INDIANAPOLIS 6, INDIANA

AF331BI 3 August 1948

SUBJECT: Report on "Flying Disc"

TO: Commanding General
Air Material Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: TSDIN

In accordance with ADC Letter 45-5 Subject: Reporting of information on "Flying Discs", dtd 25 March 1948, the following report is hereby submitted:

(1) Sighted at approximately 0955 hours on 29 July 1948 at the bridge East of the intersection of East 56th St and Fall Creek Boulevard in the Northeastern part of Indianapolis, Indiana.
(2) Weather at time of sighting was excellent, no clouds in sky.
(3) Witnessed by Mr. [redacted] Bradley, Indianapolis and Mr. [redacted], Indianapolis, both employed by the W.O. Jones Rug Cleaners, 1440 N. Keystone Ave, Indianapolis.
(4) No photographs available.
(5) Sketch of object attached.
(6) Object sighted:
    (a) One (1)
    (b) Shaped like a broad short propeller.
    (c) Approximately six (6) to eight (8) feet long, each blade approximately two (2) feet wide and approximately one (1) foot thick with cups on upper side of blades.
    (d) Appeared to be aluminum and shiny in color.
    (e) Traveling approximately twenty-five (25) or thirty (30) mph.
    (f) Headed approximately South and in a bank to the left.
    (g) Sighted just above the trees at approximately thirty (30) feet altitude.
    (h) Appeared to be gliding with no apparent spinning action.
    (i) Made no discernable sound.
    (j) No exhaust trail
(7) Two witnesses were in a company truck at time of sighting

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[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED 9

151

9013

UNCLASSIFIED
[redacted]

Basic: Ltr fr Hq. Stout Field, Indianapolis 6, Indiana, dtd 3 Aug. 48
subj: Report on "Flying Disc".

and were headed West on East 56th Street. Just as the truck started across the bridge, the object was sighted directly ahead just above the trees in a bank to the left of approximately twenty degrees (20°) and appeared to be in a slight descent. Witnesses stopped on the other side of the bridge and jumped out for another look but the object could not be seen. Lt. John E. Hoskins, Base PIO and Lt. Russell J. Carey Jr. Base Intelligence Officer made an investigation and thoroughly searched the area but could not find the object, however the area in which the object was believed to have fallen was densely wooded and had many hills and valleys. See diagram attached of the area of sighting.

JAMES A. RONIN
Colonel USAF
Commanding

2 Incls
Incl 1 - Diagram of Object Sighted
Incl 2 - Map of area of sighting

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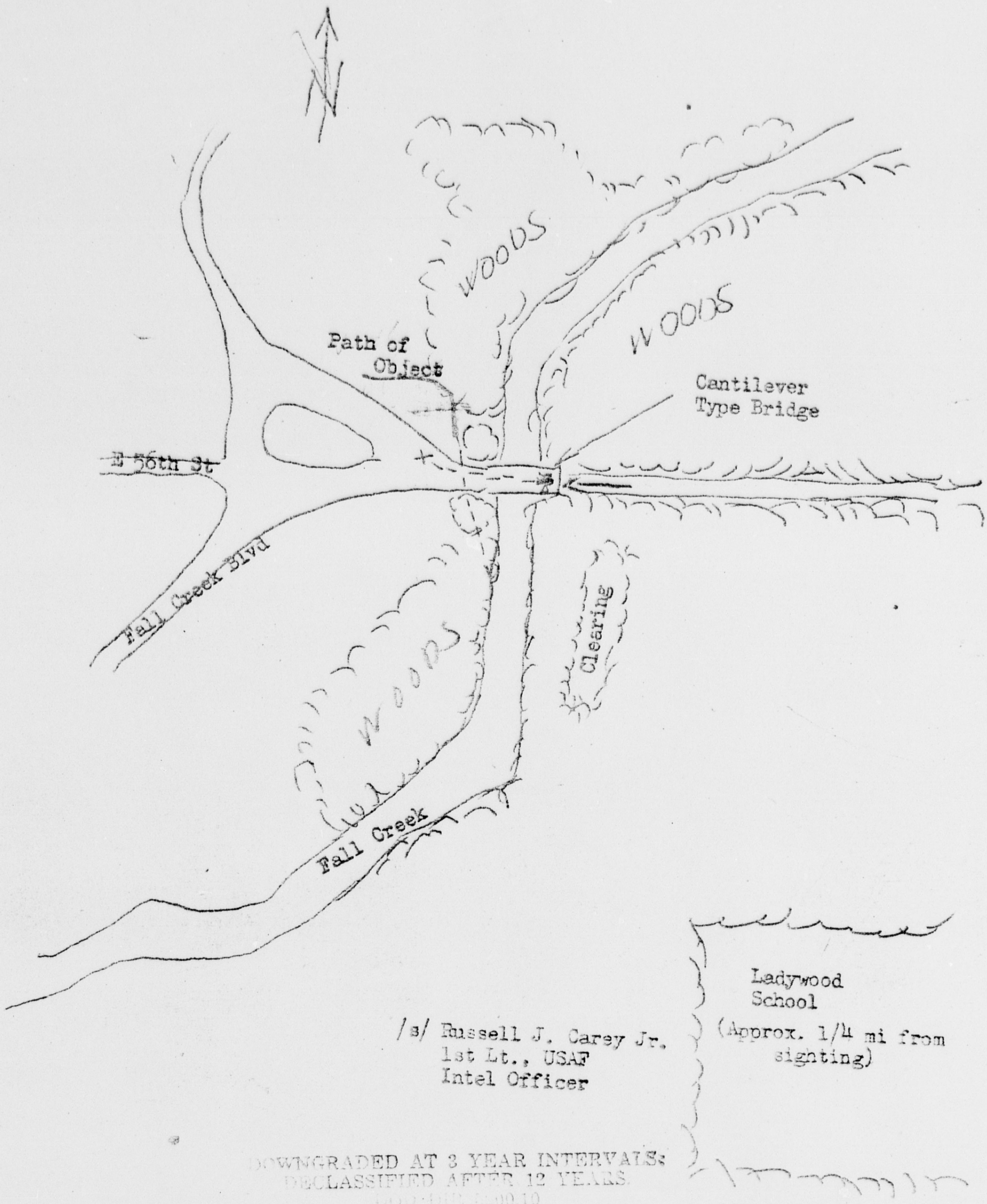
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED
[redacted]



/s/ Russell J. Carey Jr.
1st Lt., USAF
Intel Officer

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DOD DIR 5200.10

Hq AMC Form No. 10-4A (30 Jun 48)
(Old Hq AMC Form No. 10-513)
WF-O-10 SEP 48 250M

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HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
DAYTON, OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH COMMUNICATION AND ENVELOPE TO COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND, ATTENTION FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

MCIAXO-3

OCT 21 1948

General Electric Company
1 River Road
Schnectady, New York

THRU: Inspector of Naval Machinery
General Electric Company
Schnectady, New York

Gentlemen:

This office is engaged in the collection, compilation, collation, evaluation and dissemination of information on unidentified aerial anomalies which may appear throughout the world, and which are of possible concern to the national security.

Attached is a copy of Incident #151 which pertains to the sighting of an unidentified aerial object on 29 July 1948 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There seems to be a marked similarity between the object described in this incident and the description of the "roto-chute" invented by I. B. Benson and which is now being developed by General Electric Company.

Accordingly, it is requested that the attached incident be studied and checked with available files on this type of experimentation to establish conclusive evidence that this incident was or was not of domestic origin.

Kindly forward your reply to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Wright Field, Ohio, attention: MCIAXO-3.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the attached information is classified and is not to be released to unauthorized personnel. The retention and safe-guarding of this information will be in accordance with existing security regulations AR-380-5.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

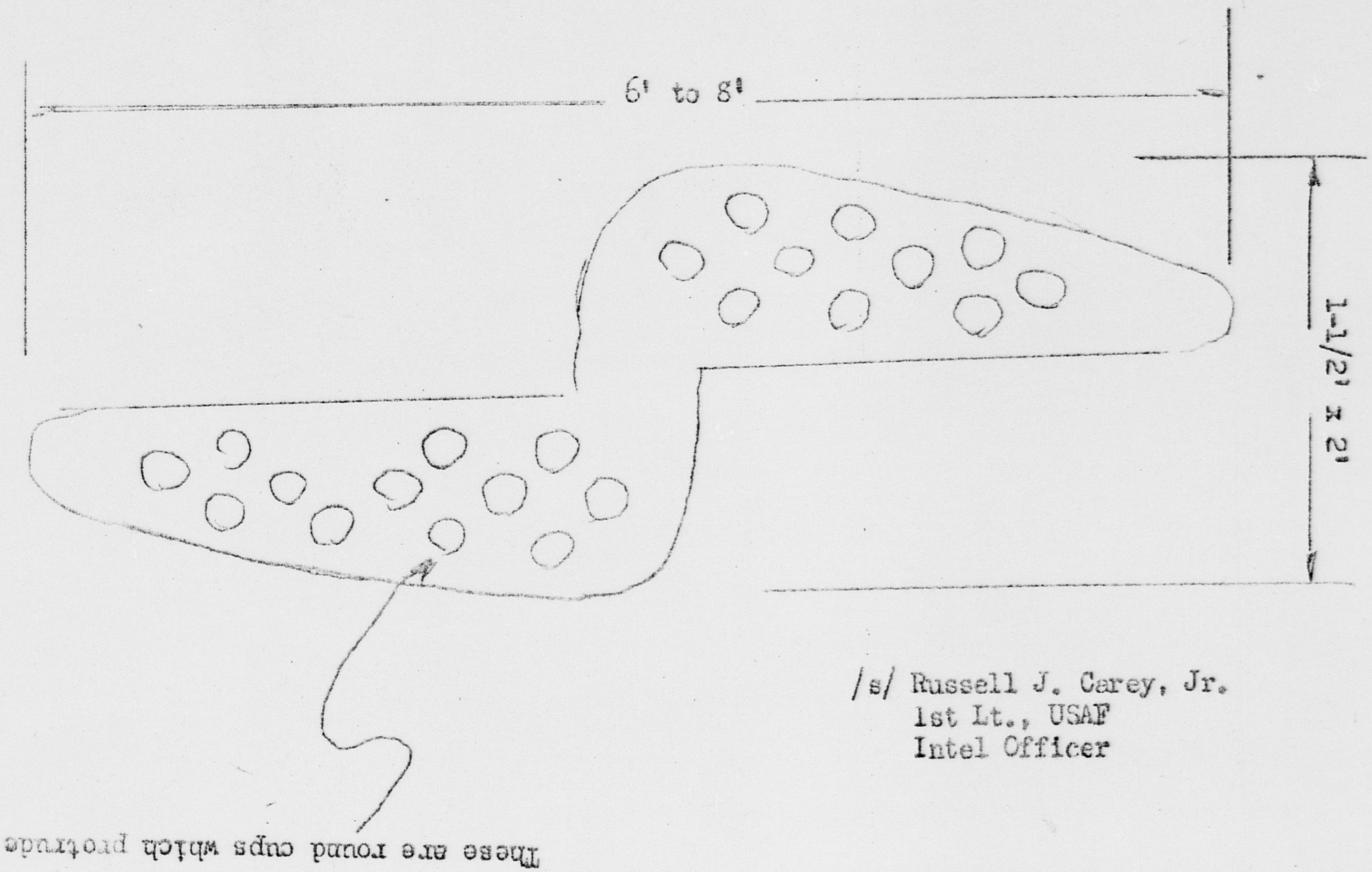
Very truly yours,

William J. Blanford, Wel USAF
for W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Tech Intelligence Division
Intelligence Department

1 Incl
Incident Summaries

UNCLASSIFIED

13



/s/ Russell J. Carey, Jr.
1st Lt., USAF
Intel Officer

WARNING - THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18 U.S.C. SECTIONS 793 AND 794. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

NAVSHIPS (NBS) 25
ADDRESS INSPECTOR OF MACHINERY, U. S. NAVY
AND REFER TO No.

A8 (25-AG) (2)
ENCLOSURES:

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF MACHINERY, U. S. NAVY

Schenectady 1, New York

17 December 1948 UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

From: Inspector of Machinery, USN
To: Army Inspector of Ordnance
Rochester Ordnance District
Bldg. 23, Rm. 236
General Electric Co.
Schenectady, New York

Subject: Unidentified Aerial Object, sighting of.

Reference: (a) Telephone conversation between Mr. John Cummings, Office of Army Inspector of Ordnance and Lt. D. E. Lackey, USN, of InsMach office, 12-14-48.

Enclosure: (A) Original of Hdqtrs, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, ltr MCIAXO-3 dtd 2 Dec. 1948, together with its enclosure.

1. Enclosure (A) is hereby forwarded to your office for information and action in accordance with your request of reference (a). By reference (a) you informed this office that the roto-chute developed by the General Electric has been used in connection with tests conducted on your contract.

2. It is requested that this office be informed of action taken.

3. It is requested that receipt be acknowledged by returning a signed copy of this letter.

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B. P. Ward
B. P. WARD

cc: Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attn: MCIAXO-3 UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

14

UNCLASSIFIED TRAYLOR /JTCummings/jem/4632

CONFIDENTIAL

ROCHESTER ORDNANCE DISTRICT
ARMY INSPECTOR OF ORDNANCE
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y.

Bldg 23
Room 236

IN REPLY
REFER TO

30 December 1948

Subject: Unidentified Aerial Object - Incident No. 151.

To: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Wright Field, Ohio

Attn: MCIAXO

1. Returned herewith is file relative to Incident No. 151 which was initiated by your headquarters, and forwarded to this office for appropriate action by the Inspector Machinery, U.S. Navy, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, under date of 17 December 1948.

2. Attention is invited to letter General Electric Company, dated 29 December 1948, addressed to this office, copies of which are inclosed herewith, which indicates that the object sighted in Indianapolis, Indiana on 29 July 1948 was not a roto-chute developed by the General Electric Company.

FOR THE DISTRICT CHIEF:

JOHN P. TRAYLOR
Major, Ord Dept
Assistant

2 Incls.
Incl. 1 n/c
Incl. 2 added ltr GE Co.
29 Dec.48(in dup)

cc: Insp. Mach., USN,
GE Co., Schenectady, NY.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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15

APPARATUS DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1 River Road
Schenectady 5, N. Y.

UNCLASSIFIED

December 29, 1948

[redacted]

Department of the Army
Rochester Ordnance District
c/o General Electric Company
Schenectady, New York

Attn: Major J. P. Traylor

Subject: Hermes I - Contract W30-115-ORD-1768

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your 21 December 1948 letter and the enclosed IM, Schenectady letter of 17 December and AMC, Dayton, Ohio letter dated 2 December 1948 relative to Incident #151, concerning an unidentified flying object.

This matter was discussed with Mr. I. B. Bensen, who was in charge of the ROto-chute development on the Hermes Project and has been following tnat program since the Roto-chute was dropped from Hermes. Mr. Bensen states that the object referred to in the attached correspondence was definitely not a Roto-chute dropped by any project orcompany personnel.

As requested, we are returning all copies of the correspondence forwarded with your above letter.

Yours very truly,

J. W. Frick
Ordnance Sales Division
AIRCRAFT, FED.&MAR. DIVISIONS

JWF:mvp

att.

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[redacted]

16

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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.