

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 20 May 53	2. LOCATION Brush Creek, California
3. SOURCE Civilians	10. CONCLUSION HOAX Regarded as a Hoax
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Saucer shaped object landed on a Sandbar and two little men got out to get a pale of water. The two observers, gold miners, expected the thing to come back on 20 Jun and 20 Jul to raid their gold.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

JULY 20, 1953 BRUSH CREEK, CALIFORNIA (BARKER P 37) 2 WITNESSES00

AND , OPERATING TITANIUM DIGGINGS, CLAIM TO 01
HAVE OBSERVED A SMALL MAN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. 02

SEEN FROM 150 FEET AWAY, THE LITTLE MAN WORE GREEN TROUSERS, A JACKET AND A03
TIE. HIS SHOES WERE PARTICULARLY STRANGE IN THAT THEY SEEMED TO BE SO 04
REMARKABLY FLEXIBLE. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE DISTINCTLY RECOGNIZABLE AS SHOES, 05
THEY SEEMED ALMOST TO BE A PART OF THE MAN-S FEET. THE OUTFIT WAS TOPPED OFF 06
WITH A GREEN CAP OVER BLACK HAIR. .07

HE LOOKED LIKE A NORMAL PERSON EXCEPT FOR THE SMALL STATURE AND SOMEWHAT 08
ODD DRESS. THE WALK WAS STIFF, AS IF HIS MUSCLES WERE CRAMPED. HE WAS BROAD-09
SHOULDERED, APPEARED TO BE STRONG, AND WAS RATHER GOOD-LOOKING - FOR A 10
SAUCERMAN. HE WAS VERY PALE. AS BLACK PUT IT, *HE LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE WHO 11
HAD NEVER BEEN OUT IN THE SUN MUCH.* 12

WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE LITTLE MAN, WHO WAS 13
DIPPING A BUCKET OF WATER FROM THE CREEK. THE BUCKET HAD A FLAT ROUND 14
BOTTOM AND A BAIL, BUT HAD NEVER SEEN A BUCKET QUITE LIKE IT. THE SIDES15
FLARED OUT LIKE THE SEGMENTS OF A CONE. IT LOOKED LIKE ALUMINUM, OR SOME 16
OTHER SHINY METAL. (NOTE. SEE PHOTO - WAUKEGAN NEWS SUN 12/19/50) 17

AS HE CREPT CLOSER TO GET A BETTER LOOK, HE STEPPED ON A DRY STICK. THE 18
LITTLE MAN HEARD THE NOISE, LOOKED UP AND DOWN THE CREEK, BUT APPARENTLY 19
DIDN'T SEE BLACK, OBSCURED BY TREES AND BUSHES. HE HURRIED TO A SAUCER 20
STANDING NEARBY, GOT INTO THE THING AND WAS OFF. 21

THE BEST WAY COULD DESCRIBE THE SAUCER WAS THAT IT LOOKED LIKE TWO 22
LARGE SOUP PLATES FASTENED TOGETHER, FORMING A CONVEX SHAPE. IT WAS A SHINY 23
METALLIC COLOR, AND NO RIVETS WERE VISIBLE. HE ESTIMATED THE SIZE AS ABOUT 24
EIGHT FEET IN DIAMETER. IT WAS APPROXIMATELY FOUR AND A HALF FEET THICK AT 25
THE CENTER. IT WAS RESTING ON A CYLINDER, A PIPE-LIKE UNDERSTRUCTURE FROM 26
WHICH HAND-HOLDS JUTTED AT INTERVALS, LIKE THE SPIKES ON A TELEPHONE POLE. 27

THERE WAS A WINDOW IN THE SIDE OF THE SAUCER, BUT IT AFFORDED NO VIEW OF THE28
INTERIOR. SUPPOSED IT WAS A WINDOW. IT LOOKED LIKE ONE. THERE WAS NO 29
SMELL OF GAS OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE. 30

THE LITTLE MAN CLIMBED UP THE PIPE-LIKE UNDERSTRUCTURE. HIS FEET, IN THEIR31
ODDLY FLEXIBLE SHOES, CURLED AROUND EACH SPIKE. HE CLIMBED UNTIL ALL OF HIS 32
BODY ABOVE THE KNEES HAD VANISHED THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE BASE OF THE 33
SAUCER, THEN SEEMED TO SIT DOWN AND LIFT UP HIS LEGS. THE CRAFT ROCKED AS HE 34
GOT IN, THE BASE WAS DRAWN UP INTO THE BODY, AND THE SAUCER HOVERED IN THE 'AIR35
FOR A FEW SECONDS, THEN TOOK OFF AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE WITH A HISSING SOUND. 36

NO VISIBLE MEANS OF PROPULSION COULD BE OBSERVED. ON ONE OCCASION, EITHER 37
JUNE 20 OR MAY 20, THE EFFICIENT CONTROL OF THE MACHINE WAS EVIDENT AS IT WAS 38
RISING THROUGH SOME TREES, WITHOUT ROOM TO CLEAR THE TOPS. IT SLIPPED SIDEWAY39
BETWEEN THEM UNTIL IT GAINED ALTITUDE. ON ONE OCCASION IT WAS SEEN TO WOBBLE A40
LITTLE. 41

[REDACTED]
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

7 August 1953

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Object
Brush Creek, California

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATIAA-2C

1. Attached for your information are two (2) copies of Closed report of investigation by Special Agent WILLIAM M. STRATTON, 19th OSI District (IG), Travis Air Force Base, California, file 19D 24-180, dated 28 July 1953, subject as above.
2. Investigation was requested by Commander, ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, predicated on information that an unidentified aerial object had been sighted at Brush Creek, California, on 20 May and 20 June 1953 by two (2) miners.
3. No further investigative action is contemplated, and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed in instant case.
4. Attention is invited to the provisions of AFR 124-1 which prohibit release of classified information to unauthorized persons.

1 Incl (in dup)
ROI, DO #19, dtd 28 Jul 53

George T. Koch, Jr.
GEORGE T. KOCH, JR
Major, USAF
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEARS FROM DATE
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS
DOD DDI 8204.10

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.
52-180

DATE
28 July 1953

REPORT MADE BY
WILLIAM M. STRATTON, S/A

TITLE

UNKNOWN SUBJECT
Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Object
Brush Creek, California

REPORT MADE AT

DO#19, Travis AFB, Calif.

PERIOD

20, 24 July 1953

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DO#19, Travis AFB, Calif.

STATUS

CLOSED

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Initial Report

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Background data and reliability of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] could not be determined through interviews with civil authorities in Butte County, California. District Forest Ranger advised [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] claim to be mining fissionable material at junction of Marble and Jordan Creeks. The object did not appear.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVIEW
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

ATTENTION: Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of such investigative information to persons mentioned in the report or to other persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, IG, or higher authority, unauthorized disclosure of such information will be considered to be a violation of AFR 205-1.

DISTRIBUTION

✓ Comdr. Air Tech Int.
Cent. w/2 incls

-2

DO#5 (info)

-1

Dir/OSI

-2

Comdr, Beale AFB(info)

-1

File

-2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commander
Air Technical Intelligence
Center
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

APPROVED

Paul A. Hurst
PAUL A. HURST
Colonel, USAF

DISTRICT COMMANDER

FILE STAMP

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 REF ID: A66527

19D OSI 24-180
DETAILS: (Cont'd)

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

scene of the reporting sighting on 20 July 1953, to be on hand in the event the said miners reported another sighting. CHRISTENSEN further stated that through news medium, many people have read of the previous sightings and it is expected that a large number of sightseers will be on hand on 20 July 1953, to witness another "possible landing of the object."

AT BRUSH CREEK, CALIFORNIA

4. On 20 July 1953, Sgt WALTER JOHNSON, star #1117, California Highway Patrol, who had been sent to Brush Creek to assist in traffic control, advised he had talked with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] earlier in the day. JOHNSON stated that both men were consistent in their story of the previous sightings of the object, but that both gave vague and conflicting stories when questioned about footprints or markings left by the object on previous occasions. JOHNSON further stated he did not know anything concerning the miners' backgrounds, or of their reputation for reliability in the area.

5. On 20 July 1953, District Ranger WILLIAM E. TURPIN, Plumas National Forrest, advised he has known [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for approximately three (3) years, and that neither of the two appear to be drinkers. TURPIN further advised he has visited the miners' claim on numerous occasions; that he has ordered them, several times, to clean up the camp area to reduce fire hazard, and that the two men have sunk a shaft approximately 40 to 50 feet into the side of the mountain, claiming to be mining "fissionable material." TURPIN stated the two have not filed for a claim in the three summers they have been there, and to the best of TURPIN's knowledge, the two have never taken anything resembling ore from the mine or the surrounding area. TURPIN added he did not know anything concerning the background or reliability of either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], or where they reside in winter.

AT OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA

6. On 24 July 1953, Undersheriff BERT N. LUCAS, Butte County Sheriff's Office, advised he had been present at Brush Creek on 20 July 1953 when the unidentified object was supposed to reappear, but had not talked to either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. LUCAS stated he did not know anything concerning the background or reliability of the two men. LUCAS further stated that news reporters representing papers from Chico, Oroville, and Sacramento, California, had been present on the 20th, as well as a news broadcaster representing a local Oroville radio station. The unidentified object did not appear.

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

19D OSI 24-180
DETAILS: (Cont'd)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ UNCLASSIFIED

INCLOSURES:

FOR THE COMMANDER, AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON
AFB, OHIO.

1. Newspaper clipping from the San Francisco Chronicle, dated 19 July 1953.
2. Newspaper clipping from Appeal-Democrat, Marysville, dated
21 July 1953.

CLOSED

-4-

UNCLASSIFIED

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

IF LITTLE MEN COME BACK, A FINE RECEPTION'S WAITING

If Little Men Come Back A Fine Reception's Waiting

Special to The Chronicle

OROVILLE, July 18— Little men from outer space, you've been warned. They're waiting for you.

If it's just a quiet bucket of water you want, Brush Creek's going to be a turbulent place to get it from. There's going to be an earth-style reception—radio broadcasters, newspapermen, magazine writers, crowds, everything.

You may not like it.

This reception is the result of reports made by two gold miners, John Q. Black and John Van Allen.

For the past two months, on the 20th of the month, at exactly 6:30 p. m. a flying saucer has landed near their claim at Brush Creek, they say. Each time the same thing happens: a small, broad-shouldered midget, wearing a green parka, climbs out, scoops up a pail of water, then takes off in his machine again with a noise like the hissing of a steam boiler.

For the last two months the miners have been too startled to make a move. But this time they, and the public, are ready.

If, in spite of the welcome waiting for them, the little men do decide to show up July 20, it is requested that they kindly be punctual, as the national radio network which will have its

commentator on the scene gets very annoyed if its programs do not begin on time.



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Item from San Francisco Chronicle, Page 4, dated 19 July 1953

Incl #1

THOSE LITTLE SPACEMEN DIDN'T APPEAR YESTERDAY

Those Little Spacemen Didn't Appear Yesterday

BRUSH CREEK, Calif. (UP) — Miner John Q. Black said today he was "darn disappointed" that the little men from Mars didn't show up in their flying saucer with the retractable leg.

"I don't know why they didn't come," he said. "It's too deep for me. I'm just a miner."

Black and his partner, John Van Allen, had predicted the saucer would arrive at the junction of Marble and Jordan creeks at 6:30 p.m. yesterday.

Black claimed to have seen the saucer seven times before. He and his partner said they saw it appear on May 20 and June 20 at 6:30 p.m. They thought maybe it would reappear last night on a monthly schedule.

About 300 people, including newsmen and photographers, scanned the skies all day yesterday in hopes of seeing the silver-colored saucer land on the sand-split in a remote mountain area near here.

Black and Van Allen said when they saw the "saucer" before, a little man about four feet tall in a forest green parka got out scooped up water from the creek in a bucket and passed it to another occupant in the saucer. Then the saucer took off without a sound.

A small crowd of about 20 or 25 was on hand at the junction of the two creeks at the appointed hour. All they got was sun in their eyes.

Item from Appeal Democrat, Marysville Calif, dtd 21 July 1953, page 3

Incl # 2

The an amend-ave applied inental Shelf e right to levy a the submerged east region. The sponsored by Sens. nder, both Louisl-ts, was shouted down

STATE

NSWICK (P)—Elea-attractive 16-year-om Freehold, was r of New Jersey lay. Miss Lipski to edge out Carol prestown for the y 11 votes in a machine election

VA FAILS

The New Jersey today rejected a te for a rehear-be state building thout constitu-ssuing \$675,000. weeks ago the constitutional te police bar-motor vehicle id then rent te.

RE

A four-alarm an estimated he interior of in Reformed largest of its . East. Flames le of the 1,000-structure and d from doors w. \$35,000 or-Part of the

Col. 2

House, spoke in saying it was "something need"

"It is part of the program of a code," he said, "to secure a compact with the states of New York, New Jersey and Delaware on ways of utilizing the waters of the Delaware river in the public interest." The compact would authorize three dams in the river in New York State and one in the waters between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"The Pennsylvania dam," he said, "would cover about 600 acres near Delaware Water Gap."

The bill will go before the Senate for action where opposition to

Continued On Page 34, Col. 7

veloped. chairman's a get-together done in the way approach to the tax has been the No. 1 p. fore the Assembly since makers convened in January. Democratic state headquarters. reached Splain by telephone at Bedford, while he was driving by automobile from Pittsburgh to Scranton. Splain stopped over at Harris-

Continued On Page 20, Col. 4

Miners Plan To Ambush 'Saucer And Little Men'

BRUSH CREEK, Calif. (UP)—

Two grizzled gold miners laid a trap today for a "flying saucer" manned by broad-shouldered midgets that keeps bothering them at their mountain diggings.

The miners, John Q. Black and John Van Allen, said they were tempted to fire away at the thing next time it shows up.

Black and Van Allen, who have a reputation for sobriety, told Sheriff's Capt. Fred Preston the "saucer" has landed twice near the small gold mine they operate in the remote Marble Creek area. Each time, they said, a little man got out, scooped up a pail of water and handed it to someone inside.

The miners asked if it would be all right to take a shot at the contraption next time they see it. They said it landed first on May 20 and again on June 20, so they reckon it will be back on July 20.

Preston said he told the men he couldn't give them permission to shoot at anything.

"I told them they'd better grab it next time so they'll have something to back up their story," Preston said. He added that he wasn't planning any investigation but he had "informed the Air Force."

The miners said the "saucer" came down on a sand bar at the junction of Marble and Jordan creeks, using a three-legged landing gear that retracted when it took off. The landing gear left marks on the sand the size of elephant tracks, they said.

Black and Van Allen described the object as being about seven feet in diameter and about four feet thick. The little man who got out was wearing something like a "knee-length parka" and his arms and legs seemed covered with a heavy-tweed material, the miners said.

Re. Rec

The Rev. retired Ep served the ordination night at his N. J.

Father Sh had remain cles since t sistant in t sion of the He serve Church in years until archdeacon 25 years a sions in the

Father S charge of Washington ber, 1952, u

He observ sary of his by being c of holy con Church, an evening ser James Chuz Less than ther Shipley tion class at the Rev. Be

Continued On

Easton (Pa.) Express June 26, 1953

Gold Miners Teetotally Sure They Saw It—a Baby Saucer

Brush Creek, Calif., June 25 (U.P.).—Two gold miners, neither of them drinking men, complained today that a flying saucer with a couple of little men in it keeps showing up at their diggings near here.

Grizzled John Q. Black and his partner, John Van Allen, said they're going to try to grab the thing next time it lands near their



small gold mine in the Marble Creek area. It landed first on May 20 and again on June 20, they said, so they look for it to come back on July 20.

The miners told Sheriff's Capt. Fred Preston that each time the saucer comes down, a broad-shouldered little man gets out and scoops up a pail of water. He hands it to someone inside, climbs back in and the saucer scoots away again they said.

The saucer makes its landings on a sand bar at the junction of Marble and Jordan Creeks, using a three-legged landing gear that leaves marks as big as elephant tracks, they said. They described it as being about seven feet in diameter and four feet thick.

He Wears a Parka.

The little man, they said, was wearing something like a knee-length parka and his arms and legs appeared to be covered with a heavy tweed material.

Mrs. Vi Belcher, operator of the Brush Creek store, said the two miners had a good reputation and were noted for their sobriety.

N. Y. Daily News, June 26, 1953

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Music Merchants in Chicago, this electrical keymaster is design-
ing the scale easier and even pleasant. The dial is used to set
time a correct note is struck, one of the lights on the dial
wrong note is struck, a buzzer sounds. N.Y.W.T. Mon 7/2/38

Rug's Out for Commuters On Mars-to-Earth Disk

By the United Press.

BRUSH CREEK, Calif., July 20.

The "little men from Mars" were scheduled to land near here again today—unless flash bulbs, reporters and sensation seekers scare them away.

Also unless the people who said they saw the out-of-this-world pilots May 20 and June 20 were just kidding.

Everyone here was armed for the event, but with cameras, not guns. If the "Martians" stick to their schedule they'll land their flying saucer early today.

4-Foot. Spacemen.

According to reports, the gnome-like, four-foot spacemen have visited this area twice before. Two titanic miners, John Q. Black and John Van Allen, who claim to have seen them, were on hand today.

Messrs. Black and Allen came to the office of Sheriff's Capt. Fred Preston in Oroville last month and said they wanted to shoot the spacemen if they landed again at the junction of Marble and Jordan Creeks.

Backed by a reputation of truth-

Sadie Brown says:

ADULTS!

fulness and sobriety, the miners described a silver-colored flying saucer and how it landed on the sandspit near their camp the morning of May 20 and again at the same time on June 20.

Stop For Water.

They said that on each occasion the metal saucer lowered three retractable legs and a broad-shouldered man about four feet tall climbed out.

He scurried to the creek with an aluminum bucket, scooped up some water then returned to the ship, Messrs. Black and Allen said.

They told Capt. Preston the visitor passed the bucket up to someone else, climbed a rope ladder into the saucer which shot back into the sky.

John Wananaka
B'way at 8th

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FURNITURE,
YOUR CARPETS**

Jersey

By the As

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6-25

JAY ALAN

"I'll buy it if you'll come home with me and help convince my husband he can afford it!"

Two Miners Fly Off Handle at a Saucer

By the United Press

BRUSH CREEK, Calif., June 25. —Two grizzled gold miners laid a trap today for a "flying saucer," manned by a broad-shouldered midget that keeps bothering them at their mountain diggings.

The miners, John Q. Black and John Van Allen, said they were tempted to fire away at the thing next time it shows up.

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W.T. & S. June 25, 1953