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COUNTRY United States of America	REPORT NO. 8AF-2-79	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>AF-18 0373</i>
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Investigation of Alleged "Flying Saucers"		
AREA REPORTED ON Fort Worth, Texas	FROM (Agency) Headquarters Eighth Air Force	
DATE OF REPORT 27 April 1950	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 - 21 April 1950	EVALUATION F-5
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major Dalton Smith	SOURCE [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Letter, SAC 31 January 1950, subject: "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft"		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, published 18 April 1950, carried a front page picture captioned "Pictures Offer Proof ... Vet Sees Flying Objects in Sky and Photographs Them." The accompanying story told how an [REDACTED] saw strange "banana-shaped" aircraft flying through a thundercloud and photographed them. The picture and story received nationwide distribution by AP Wirephoto.
2. The report was investigated since it was the first known time that pictures purporting to be flying saucers had appeared in the public press, and -- if proven to be genuine -- the pictures have definite intelligence value.
3. An interview with Mr. [REDACTED] revealed many discrepancies between his version of the incident and the story appearing in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Mr. [REDACTED] reports that he photographed a series of perpendicular streaks of light moving in formation across the sky. After developing the film, Mr. [REDACTED] discovered that crescent-shaped objects, apparently trailing vapor trails or exhaust, appeared on the negatives on two of the four pictures taken.
4. A study of the negatives by photo technicians at this headquarters indicates that "objects" are abrasions or crimps on the negatives resulting from mishandling during or prior to the developing process.

Record

APPROVED:

Edwin M. Kirtton
EDWIN M. KIRTON
Lt Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)
USAF memo 2/31/72
W. Lewis Date 7/12/88
AKS

- 6 INCLOS.
- 1-Item in Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 18 Apr 50
 - 2-Picture
 - 3-Picture
 - 4-Picture
 - 5-Picture
 - 6-Weather Report

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR
Director of Intelligence
Headquarters USAF
Washington, D. C. (duplicate)

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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FROM (Agency) Director of Intelligence Headquarters Eighth Air Force	REPORT NO. 8AF-2-79	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES
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1. Newspaper Story:

a. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, evening edition, published 18 April 1950, carried a front page picture and story captioned "Pictures Offer Proof ... Vet Sees Flying Objects in Sky and Photographs Them." (Incl No. 1)

b. The story told how [redacted] Fort Worth, Texas, snapped "objects he said definitely were some sort of aircraft, a type which he had never seen before."

c. The photographs admittedly retouched to bring out details, showed three crescent-shaped objects, in echelon formation, two of which were apparently trailing exhausts.

2. Reason for Report:

a. The publication of this picture by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram has occasioned widespread local comment. The picture received nationwide distribution by AP Wirephoto, and -- as far as is known by this headquarters -- is the first time a photograph purporting to be a "flying saucer" has been published by the press.

b. If analysis by expert photo technicians substantiates that the photographs are genuine, instead of abrasions or crimps, they will be of definite intelligence value.

3. Interview with Mr. [redacted]

On 19 April 1950 Mr. [redacted] was interviewed in his home, which is in a densely built up area in the south-central portion of Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. [redacted] was present throughout the interview. Mr. [redacted]'s account of the incident varies considerably from that published by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM STORY AND INTERVIEW WITH MR. [redacted]

a. THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM REPORTED: b. INTERVIEW WITH MR. [redacted] REVEALED:

(1) "A former Radar Bombardier on a B-24 in the Pacific"

(1) He served in the Air Force from 22 April 1942 to 29 September 1945 and from 18 August 1947 to 19 October 1948 as a Radio Operator, Aerial Gunner, and Radar Operator. He reports he reached the grade of Technical Sergeant. Records are not available locally to substantiate this information.

(2) "... that he saw flying objects in the air late Sunday Afternoon ..." (The Sunday immediately preceding was 16 April 1950.)

(2) Exposures were made at approximately 1730 hours on 9 April 1950.

(3) "... in two groups coming out of the west and traveling northeast and photographed some of them."

(3) [redacted] reports he saw a total of seven perpendicular streaks of light in three groups, moving horizontally across the sky.

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(4) "... [redacted] a veteran of 3600 hours of flying in the US Air Force ..."

(4) [redacted] lives in an upstairs garage apartment at the rear of the address given and claims over 300 hours of combat time.

(5) "... called his wife at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday and asked her to bring his camera out to him ..."

(5) According to Mr. [redacted] his attention was directed by his wife to a strange cloud overhanging Fort Worth at the time. Mr. [redacted] went down stairs to the side yard to look at the cloud, which was described as "boiling mad," streaked with orange, and hanging directly over his house -- although it was clear on all sides. The base of the cloud was reported at approximately 3500 feet and broken. The top of the cloud could not be seen.

Looking westward he reports he saw three perpendicular streaks of light in a V formation moving horizontally on a heading of 15/20 degrees. These were described as extremely bright and luminous and it was the opinion of Mr. [redacted] that there was insufficient light at that hour of the day to produce that bright a reflection from a solid object. These streaks of light, with an overall span greater than a normal aircraft, were all similar.

After seeing the first three objects [redacted] called upstairs to his wife to bring the camera. Within an estimated 45 to 60 seconds he was ready to take pictures.

[redacted] reports that he was able to photograph a second three streaks of light which behaved exactly as the first three. These are allegedly shown in the pictures (Incl No. 2). According to [redacted] the next two pictures were blank (see paragraph 5c(2) below and Incl No. 3). The last "object," allegedly shown in Incl No. 5, reportedly behaved exactly as the others except it was alone and appeared to be moving at a greater speed. The entire episode required a period of two or three minutes.

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(6) "... [redacted] set the camera at infinity and began snapping ..."	(6) A Kodak Duoflex camera was used to make pictures (Incls 1 through 5). This camera has a maximum lens speed of f8.0. It was focused at infinity using 1/25th of a second exposure and a diaphragm stop of f-11. The film used was 620 Superpan Press. [redacted] developed the negatives at his home.	
(7) "... objects he said definitely were some type aircraft, a type which he had never seen before."	(7) [redacted] says that he did not report to the paper they were definitely aircraft, nor that they were banana shaped. He says he did not think of flying "saucers", but thought they were only perpendicular streaks of light until after the film was developed.	
(8) "... they were moving fast and they appeared to be six or seven miles away. He described the objects as tailless craft and noiseless. Not like a saucer but more like a banana...."	(8) [redacted] was reluctant to estimate the size of the objects and did not estimate the distance from him, or the distance between objects. Speed was estimated at about the speed of conventional fighters. Light from objects inclosed was intermittent as they continued on course by being interdicted by lower fringes of clouds, but [redacted] believed he traced light through clouds. The streaks of light were lost from view into the cloud -- no sounds were heard.	
(9) "... Pictures showed that the objects left a vapor trail. ..."	(9) These exposures were made with the photographer facing almost due west. (Direction has been confirmed by examination of buildings and terrain features shown in Incl No. 4). Mr. Maxey has stated that the streaks of light he photographed were on a heading of approximately 15/20°. This would put the vapor trails ahead of the "objects." It is interesting to note that in the prints of the pictures made by Mr. [redacted] the negatives were reversed. As a result, on those prints the vapor trails are shown to be behind the object.	

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FROM (Agency) Director of Intelligence Headquarters Eighth Air Force	REPORT NO. 8AF-2-79	PAGE 5 OF 6 PAGES
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5. Study in Interpretation of Negatives and Photographs:

a. The negative of the picture appearing in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and three other negatives exposed at the same time were obtained on loan from the Managing Editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on 20 April 1950, with the approval of [REDACTED].

b. The negatives were in one strip when given to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, but had been cut before being obtained by Headquarters Eighth Air Force. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram insisted there were no bulges or blemishes upon this film when they received it. The Editor attributed the abrasions to "poking" with sharp pointed instruments in an effort to prove the picture a hoax.

c. A thorough study of the negatives revealed that "objects" are abrasions or crimps in the film in the exact position as the pictured crescent-shaped objects. These abrasions can be induced by a slight crimping or rough handling, usually when loading film into the reel of a film developing tank or prior to processing. The fact that these are abrasions or crimps is substantiated by:

- (1) The density of the film where the objects appear varies considerably, while objects having a relative size, shape, and position when photographed will reflect the same intensity of light if photographed at the same angle and time.
- (2) The second photograph (Incl No. 3) reveals a similar crescent-shaped object between the photographer and trees, which were not more than 50 feet away.

6. Other Evidence:

- a. [REDACTED] claims to have seen the last object. No other witnesses could be found.
- b. Local radar installations report no unusual returns at the time of sighting.
- c. Teletype weather sequence is forwarded as Incl No. 6.

7. Comments of Preparing Officer:

- a. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram is Fort Worth's leading newspaper and has the largest circulation of any newspaper in Texas.
- b. Thorough investigation and research by trained photo technicians at Carswell Air Force Base indicates that objects shown in inclosures 1 through 5 are not objects flying through space, i.e., flying saucers, but are the result of abrasions or crimps in the negatives.
- c. [REDACTED] was apparently nervous throughout the interview and anxious to impress with his ultra-patriotism. He said that while in Japan he had volunteered for a suicide atom-bomb mission on Moscow. He also reported he had received strange radiation signals while flying over Hokkaido, Japan, on 2 July 1948, which he still

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believes to be the result of a Russian atomic blast. He reported the incident to intelligence and -- when no action was taken -- to the F.B.I. in San Francisco after his return to the Z.I. [REDACTED] also claims to have protested in 1947 to the C.I.C. at Langley Field, Virginia, against the public sale of IFF equipment.

Dalton Smith
DALTON SMITH
Major, USAF
Asst to Director of Intelligence

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COUNTRY United States of America		REPORT NO. 8AF-2-79	(LEAVE BLANK) AF-18 0273
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Investigation of Alleged "Flying Saucers"			
AREA REPORTED ON Fort Worth, Texas		FROM (Agency) Headquarters Eighth Air Force	
DATE OF REPORT 27 April 1950	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 - 21 April 1950	EVALUATION F-5	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major Dalton Smith		SOURCE Ira M. Maxey, and Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 18 April 1950	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Letter, SAC 31 January 1950, subject: "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft"			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, published 18 April 1950, carried a front page picture captioned "Pictures Offer Proof ... Vet Sees Flying Objects in Sky and Photographs Them." The accompanying story told how an Ira M. Maxey saw strange "banana-shaped" aircraft flying through a thundercloud and photographed them. The picture and story received nationwide distribution by AP Wirephoto.
2. The report was investigated since it was the first known time that pictures purporting to be flying saucers had appeared in the public press, and -- if proven to be genuine -- the pictures have definite intelligence value.
3. An interview with Mr. Maxey revealed many discrepancies between his version of the incident and the story appearing in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Mr. Maxey reports that he photographed a series of perpendicular streaks of light moving in formation across the sky. After developing the film, Mr. Maxey discovered that crescent-shaped objects, apparently trailing vapor trails or exhaust, appeared on the negatives on two of the four pictures taken.
4. A study of the negatives by photo technicians at this headquarters indicates that "objects" are abrasions or crimps on the negatives resulting from mishandling during or prior to the developing process.

IRG (with)
12

APPROVED:

Edwin M. Kirtton
EDWIN M. KIRTON
Lt Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
USAF MEMO 7/31/78
By W. Lewis Date 9/13/78
AKG

- 6 INCL.
- 1-Item in Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 18 Apr 50
 - 2-Picture
 - 3-Picture
 - 4-Picture
 - 5-Picture
 - 6-Weather Report

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1. Newspaper Story:

a. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, evening edition, published 18 April 1950, carried a front page picture and story captioned "Pictures Offer Proof ... Vet Sees Flying Objects in Sky and Photographs Them." (Incl No. 1)

b. The story told how Ira E. Maxey, 916 5th Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas, snapped "objects he said definitely were some sort of aircraft, a type which he had never seen before."

c. The photographs admittedly retouched to bring out details, showed three crescent-shaped objects, in echelon formation, two of which were apparently trailing exhausts.

2. Reason for Report:

a. The publication of this picture by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram has occasioned widespread local comment. The picture received nationwide distribution by AP Wirephoto, and -- as far as is known by this headquarters -- is the first time a photograph purporting to be a "flying saucer" has been published by the press.

b. If analysis by expert photo technicians substantiates that the photographs are genuine, instead of abrasions or crimps, they will be of definite intelligence value.

3. Interview with Mr. Maxey:

On 19 April 1950 Mr. Ira M. Maxey was interviewed in his home, which is in a densely built up area in the south-central portion of Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Maxey was present throughout the interview. Mr. Maxey's account of the incident varies considerably from that published by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM STORY AND INTERVIEW WITH MR. MAXEY:

a. THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM REPORTED: b. INTERVIEW WITH MR. MAXEY REVEALED:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(1) "A former Radar Bombardier on a B-24 in the Pacific"</p> <p>(2) "... that he saw flying objects in the air late Sunday Afternoon ..." (The Sunday immediately preceding was 16 April 1950.)</p> <p>(3) "... in two groups coming out of the west and traveling northeast and photographed some of them."</p> | <p>(1) He served in the Air Force from 22 April 1942 to 29 September 1945 and from 18 August 1947 to 19 October 1948 as a Radio Operator, Aerial Gunner, and Radar Operator. He reports he reached the grade of Technical Sergeant. Records are not available locally to substantiate this information.</p> <p>(2) Exposures were made at approximately 1730 hours on 9 April 1950.</p> <p>(3) Maxey reports he saw a total of seven perpendicular streaks of light in three groups, moving horizontally across the sky.</p> |
|--|--|

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(4) "... Ira Maxey of 916 5th Avenue, a veteran of 3600 hours of flying in the US Air Force ..."

(4) Mr. Maxey lives in an upstairs garage apartment at the rear of the address given and claims over 300 hours of combat time.

(5) "... called his wife at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday and asked her to bring his camera out to him ..."

(5) According to Mr. Maxey his attention was directed by his wife to a strange cloud overhanging Fort Worth at the time. Mr. Maxey went down stairs to the side yard to look at the cloud, which was described as "boiling mad," streaked with orange, and hanging directly over his house -- although it was clear on all sides. The base of the cloud was reported at approximately 3500 feet and broken. The top of the cloud could not be seen.

Looking westward he reports he saw three perpendicular streaks of light in a V formation moving horizontally on a heading of 15/20 degrees. These were described as extremely bright and luminous and it was the opinion of Mr. Maxey that there was insufficient light at that hour of the day to produce that bright a reflection from a solid object. These streaks of light, with an overall span greater than a normal aircraft, were all similar.

After seeing the first three objects Mr. Maxey called upstairs to his wife to bring the camera. Within an estimated 45 to 60 seconds he was ready to take pictures.

Mr. Maxey reports that he was able to photograph a second three streaks of light which behaved exactly as the first three. These are allegedly shown in the pictures (Incl No. 2). According to Mr. Maxey the next two pictures were blank (see paragraph 5c(2) below and Incl No. 3). The last "object," allegedly shown in Incl No. 5, reportedly behaved exactly as the others except it was alone and appeared to be moving at a greater speed. The entire episode required a period of two or three minutes.

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(6) "... Maxey set the camera at infinity and began snapping ..."	(6) A Kodak Duoflex camera was used to make pictures (Incls 1 through 5). This camera has a maximum lens speed of f8.0. It was focused at infinity, using 1/25th of a second exposure and a diaphragm stop of f-11. The film used was 620 Superpan Press. Mr. Maxey developed the negatives at his home.	
(7) "... objects he said definitely were some type aircraft, a type which he had never seen before."	(7) Mr. Maxey says that he did not report to the paper they were definitely aircraft, nor that they were banana shaped. He says he did not think of flying "saucers", but thought they were only perpendicular streaks of light until after the film was developed.	
(8) "... they were moving fast and they appeared to be six or seven miles away. He described the objects as tailless craft and noiseless. Not like a saucer but more like a banana...."	(8) Mr. Maxey was reluctant to estimate the size of the objects and did not estimate the distance from him, or the distance between objects. Speed was estimated at about the speed of conventional fighters. Light from objects inclosed was intermittent as they continued on course by being interdicted by lower fringes of clouds, but Mr. Maxey believed he traced light through clouds. The streaks of light were lost from view into the cloud -- no sounds were heard.	
(9) "... Pictures showed that the objects left a vapor trail. ..."	(9) These exposures were made with the photographer facing almost due west. (Direction has been confirmed by examination of buildings and terrain features shown in Incl No. 4). Mr. Maxey has stated that the streaks of light he photographed were on a heading of approximately 15/20°. This would put the vapor trails ahead of the "objects." It is interesting to note that in the prints of the pictures made by Mr. Maxey the negatives were reversed. As a result, on those prints the vapor trails are shown to be behind the object.	

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5. Study in Interpretation of Negatives and Photographs:

a. The negative of the picture appearing in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and three other negatives exposed at the same time were obtained on loan from the Managing Editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on 20 April 1950, with the approval of Mr. Maxey.

b. The negatives were in one strip when given to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, but had been cut before being obtained by Headquarters Eighth Air Force. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram insisted there were no bulges or blemishes upon this film when they received it. The Editor attributed the abrasions to "poking" with sharp pointed instruments in an effort to prove the picture a hoax.

c. A thorough study of the negatives revealed that "objects" are abrasions or crimps in the film in the exact position as the pictured crescent-shaped objects. These abrasions can be induced by a slight crimping or rough handling, usually when loading film into the reel of a film developing tank or prior to processing. The fact that these are abrasions or crimps is substantiated by:

- (1) The density of the film where the objects appear varies considerably, while objects having a relative size, shape, and position when photographed will reflect the same intensity of light if photographed at the same angle and time.
- (2) The second photograph (Incl No. 3) reveals a similar crescent-shaped object between the photographer and trees, which were not more than 50 feet away.

6. Other Evidence:

a. Mrs. Maxey claims to have seen the last object. No other witnesses could be found.

b. Local radar installations report no unusual returns at the time of sighting.

c. Teletype weather sequence is forwarded as Incl No. 6.

7. Comments of Preparing Officer:

a. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram is Fort Worth's leading newspaper and has the largest circulation of any newspaper in Texas.

b. Thorough investigation and research by trained photo technicians at Carswell Air Force Base indicates that objects shown in inclosures 1 through 5 are not objects flying through space, i.e., flying saucers, but are the result of abrasions or crimps in the negatives.

c. Mr. Maxey was apparently nervous throughout the interview and anxious to impress with his ultra-patriotism. He said that while in Japan he had volunteered for a suicide atom-bomb mission on Moscow. He also reported he had received strange radiation signals while flying over Hokkaido, Japan, on 2 July 1948, which he still

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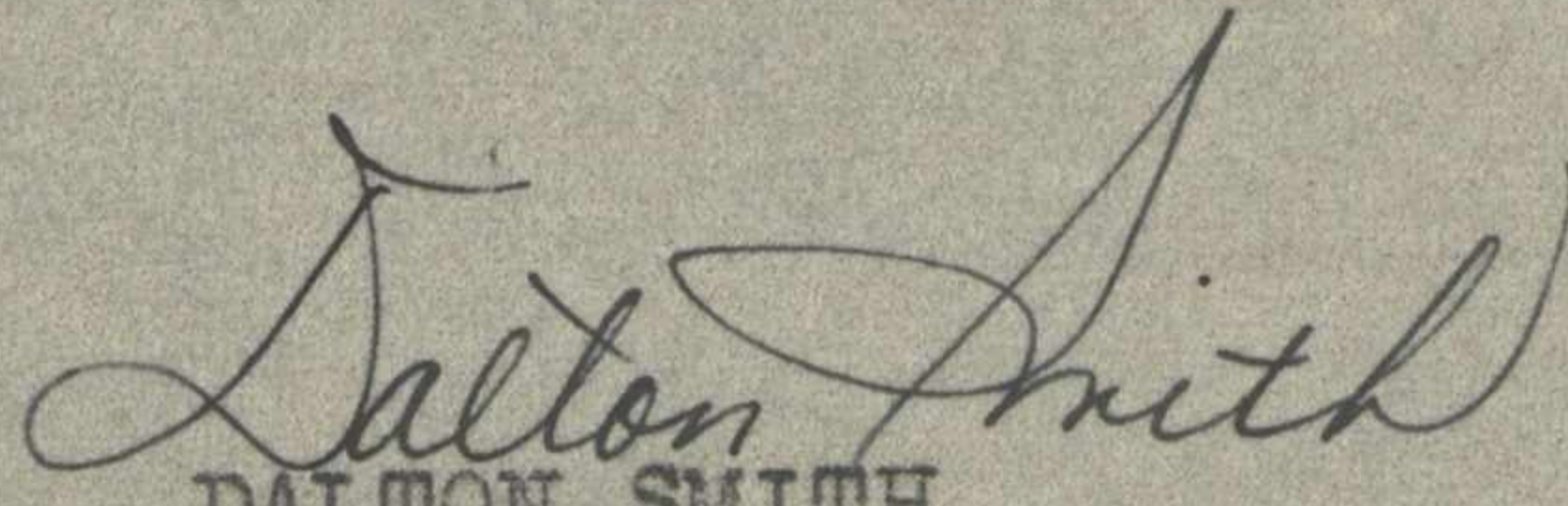
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believes to be the result of a Russian atomic blast. He reported the incident to intelligence and -- when no action was taken -- to the F.B.I. in San Francisco after his return to the Z.I. Mr. Maxey also claims to have protested in 1947 to the C.I.C. at Langley Field, Virginia, against the public sale of IFF equipment.



DALTON SMITH
Major, USAF
Asst to Director of Intelligence

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