

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RSH/mlh

*Raymond
ne White*

UNCLASSIFIED

24-515

SUBJECT: (Confidential)
UNKNOWN SUBJECT(S)
M Unidentified Flying Object Sighted
M at Greenwood Lake, New York, on
14 July 1956
SPECIAL INQUIRY

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL INQUIRY

BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
Historian

DATE

5 DEC 1975

TO: Commander
Eastern Air Defense Force
M Stewart Air Force Base
Newburgh, New York

1. Forwarded, for the information of your Headquarters, is report of investigation made by Special Agent ROBERT S. HERMANN, 2d District OSI, this date, Subject and file as above.

2. This investigation comes within the purview of paragraph 4c, AFR 205-8, 20 January 1950.

3. This letter is classified CONFIDENTIAL pursuant to the authority contained in paragraph 30c, AFR 205-1.

1 Incl
a/s

cc: Dir OSI

24-185-22-10
USAF IG
OFFICE OF
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

20 July
ROBERT S. JONES
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

Classification Cancelled (Changed to)

by Authority of CMDR OSI DISTRICT

name and signature

date

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Class Nbr	Sequence Number	Serial Nbr
24	515	3
2nd District OSI 20 JUL 1956		
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INDEXED	FILE AUTHORITY	

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

File

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	FILE NO. 24-515	DATE JUL 23 1956 mlh
	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT S. HERMANN, S/A	
	REPORT MADE AT DO #2, 111 East 16th St., New York 3, N.Y.	
	PERIOD 18 July 1956	
	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #2, 111 East 16th St., New York 3, N.Y.	
STATUS CLOSED		

CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY
REFERENCE INITIAL REPORT
SYNOPSIS

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV	
BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian	DATE 5 DEC 1975

Investigation predicated upon receipt of a telephone call from RAYMOND WHITE, civilian, that he had sighted an unidentified flying object both in the afternoon and in the evening of 14 July 1956 at Greenwood Lake, New York. Such details which WHITE could remember, based upon his observation and description of what he had observed, were obtained.

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED (AFR 124-4)

This is a privileged document under military law. This report may not be reproduced or given additional dissemination except as authorized by AFR 124-4. If this report is classified see also AFR 205-1.

AFR 205-8
Disclosure of Information. Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of such information, including that contained in investigative reports, to persons involved or mentioned in the reports or to other persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, or higher authority.

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRIBUTION Dir OSI #5 ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, ATTN: TIAA-2C-Info-1) EADF (Info)	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Classification Cancelled (Changed to) 2 by Authority of CMDR OSI DISTRICT 2 name and signature <i>[Signature]</i> NOV 2 1956	FILE STAMP <table border="1"><tr><td>Class</td><td>Sequence</td><td>Serial</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>515</td><td>2</td></tr></table> 20 JUL 1956 2nd District OSI SEARCHED INDEXED FILED BY <i>[Signature]</i> FILE AUTHORITY <i>[Signature]</i>	Class	Sequence	Serial	24	515	2
	Class	Sequence	Serial					
	24	515	2					
	APPROVED 20 July ROBERT S. JONES Lt Colonel, USAF District Commander.							

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Replaces AFOSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used.

16-57744-1

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2D OSI File 24-515
UNKNOWN SUBJECT(S)
Unidentified FlyObt, Greenwood Lake, NY

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1. This investigation was predicated upon information received by the reporting agent from RAYMOND WHITE, age 32, a portrait painter, resident at 35 East 19th Street, New York, New York, by telephone on 18 July 1956.

2. WHITE reported that on 14 July 1956, he had twice observed a flying object in the sky. The observations took place for short periods at about 1630 hours and 2200 hours. The periods of observation were brief. WHITE could not tell whether he had seen the same object in both instances of observation. He described the object seen at 1630 hours as the size of a dime, silver colored, disc shape, and motionless; then it tilted, appeared to have a dome on the top, and disappeared.

The object seen at night was also the size of a dime, red in color, of disc shape, and was traveling at high speed; it curved sharply across the sky, and disappeared. Weather conditions were good for observation; no instruments were used. WHITE advised that his wife, ERICA WHITE, resident at his address, also ROBERT M. STEWART, an oil explorer, and MARGARET STEWART, a nurse, both of Greenwood Lake, New York, could corroborate his observation, in part. When asked if he could be interviewed, personally, about the matter, WHITE replied that a personal interview would take too much of his time.

3. Detailed answers, as required by Air Force Regulation 200-2, paragraph 7d, are set forth below; numbering is in accordance with that used in the Regulation:

(1) Description

- (a) Shape - Disc
- (b) Size - Dime
- (c) Color - Silver at day; red at night
- (d) Number - One
- (e) N/A
- (f) - (i) - Information not available

(2) Description of course of object

- (a) Personal observation of WHITE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2D OSI File 24-515
UNKNOWN SUBJECT(S)
Unidentified FlyObt, Greenwood Lake, NY

(b)-(f) - No information furnished

(3) Manner of observation - Naked eye from the ground

(4) Time and date of sighting

(a) Zulu time-date group - 2030Z, 14 July 1956
(1630 hours EDT, 14 July 1956)

Zulu time-date group - 0200Z, 15 July 1956
(2200 hours EDT, 14 July 1956)

(b) Light conditions - Day in first instance; night in second instance

(5) Location of observer - Thirty (30) miles east of Nyack, New York

(6) Identifying information of all observers

(a) RAYMOND WHITE, civilian, age 32, 35 East 19th Street,
New York City; portrait painter

(b) ERICA WHITE, civilian, wife of RAYMOND WHITE

(c) ROBERT M. STEWART, Greenwood Lake, New York; oil explorer

(d) MARGARET STEWART, Greenwood Lake, New York; nurse

(7) Weather conditions - Clear in both instances

(8)-(12), inclusive - No information available.

4. This report is classified CONFIDENTIAL pursuant to the authority contained in paragraph 30c, AFR 205-1.

- C L O S E D -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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*Strike out
inapplicable
words below.

REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

CONFIDENTIAL

File
24-515

TIME: _____ DATE: 18 July 56 CODE NO. _____

A telephone call was *received from/~~made to~~ RAYMOND WHITE

UNCLASSIFIED

references: _____

Synopsis: On 18 July 1956, RAYMOND WHITE, a Portrait Painter of 35 East 19th Street, New York City, called the office of 2nd District OSI, and talked to the writer about having seen one or two unidentifiable flying objects at Greenwood Lake, New York on 14 July 1956. He first saw an object at 1630 hours and then saw one at 2200 hours. The objects both appeared to be dime size and disc shaped. In the day light, the object was silver.

At night, it was red. Weather conditions were good both in the afternoon and evening. The object stayed in place, turned over, and disappeared during the day. At night it flew out of sight at high speed. Witnesses to all or part of the Subject were ERICA WHITE, his wife, ROBERT M. STEWART and MARGARET STEWART, friends of WHITE of Greenwood Lake, New York. WHITE declined a personal interview, saying it would take too much time.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY

BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
Historian

DATE

5 DEC 1975

Class Nbr	Sequence Number	Serial Nbr
24	515	1

Classification Cancelled (Changed to) **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

by Authority of CDR OSI DISTRICT

name and signature

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2D5-35 (revised 28Sep55)

ROBERT S. HERMANN
Special Agent, OSI

(Signature)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INVBY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
Historian

DATE

5 DEC 1975

File No. 34-20

6 August 1951

SUBJECT: UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Paterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIS

1. This District Office is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Paul J. Shine, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation at Albany, New York, which is quoted for your information:

"Miss Joyce N. Labier of West Sand Lake Road, Telephone 4-4763, advised this office on July 14, 1951, that she and members of her family had observed two silver objects in the sky, appearing to be southwest of Rensselaer, New York, at approximately 2:00 PM on this date.

"Miss Labier stated that they had maneuvered in the sky for approximately five minutes, had come down quite low, and then disappeared high into the sky. She could not describe these objects, other than that they did not appear to be airplanes.

"No investigation is contemplated by this office, and this information is forwarded to you for any action you deem advisable."

2. No investigative action is contemplated by this District Office.

3. Your attention is invited to the provisions of paragraph 4c, AFR 205-8, dated 20 January 1950.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED (changed to UNCLASSIFIED)
by authority of Comdr. 22d District OSI, IG, USAF
by R. A. Bullard DATE: 14 Mar 53
Chf, CI Division, 22d Dist OSI, IG, USAF

UNCLASSIFIED
Lt. Colonel, USAF
District Commander

cc: Hq. OSI

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

24-185-22-9	
USAF IG	
OFFICE OF	
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION	
22nd DISTRICT OSI (IG) USAF	
Classified:	6 Aug 51
Indexed:	24

Dir OSI

UNCLASSIFIED
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 - GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE
ROME, NEW YORK

22D 24-0

11 December 1957

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO:

Commander

Air Defense Command

Ent Air Force Base

Colorado Springs, Colorado

*AND object sighted 3 Dec '57
APPROX 8 miles North of SARATOGA, N.Y.
by MR. CLIFFORD BAILEY*

1. Reference is made to paragraph 7a(2)(a), AFR 200-2, dated 12 August 1954, concerning above subject.

2. Attached as inclosures are copies of two letters from the Albany, New York, Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation dated 2 and 4 December 1957. The letter dated 2 December 1957 describes the sighting of unidentified flying objects on 13 November 1957 between Oneida and Wampsville, New York, by a Mrs. JESSIE L. DARNELL, Wampsville, New York. The letter dated 4 December 1957, describes the sighting of an unidentified flying object on 3 December 1957 approximately eight (8) miles north of Saratoga, New York, by a Mr. CLIFFORD BAILEY, 161 Ottawa Street, Lake George, New York.

3. The indices of this District Office reflect no record of DARNELL or BAILEY.

4. This matter is being referred to your Headquarters in accordance with the referenced regulation. No investigation of this matter is contemplated by this District Office.

5. By carbon copy of this letter the Directorate of Special Investigations, Washington 25, D.C., and the Commander, Griffiss Air Force Base, New York, have been furnished verifax copies of the attached letters.

UNCLASSIFIED

24-185-27-8
Leon F. Bugh
LEON F. BUGH
Lt. Colonel, USAF
District Commander

DEC 27 1957

2 Incls:

1. Ltr, Albany, NY, FBI, dtd 2 Dec 57 (dup)(1 verifax cy & 1 carbon cy)
2. Ltr, Albany, NY, FBI, dtd 4 Dec 57 (dup)(1 verifax cy & 1 carbon cy)

cc: ✓ Dir OSI (w/2 Incls-dup) (verifax)
Comdr, GAFB (w/2 Incls-1 cy) (verifax)

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
(AFR 190-16)

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 25 - ROCKFORD AIR FORCE BASE
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

11 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible]
[Illegible]
[Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 • GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE
ROME, NEW YORK

22D 24-0

20 November 1957 ^{NR}

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects Reported By Richard A. SITTS

TO: Commander
Air Defense Command
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. Reference is made to paragraph 7a (2)(a), AFR 200-2, dated 12 August 1954, concerning above Subject.

2. Attached as an inclosure is a letter from Mr. RICHARD A. SITTS, 1377 Lawn Avenue, Schenectady, N. Y., dated 11 November 1957, who is an Electrical Engineer with the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y., which describes an unidentified flying object. As noted in the letter, this incident occurred in the Spring of 1952 or 1953 and was not observed by Mr. SITTS but instead by his father, AUGUSTUS SITTS, a barber, who passed away 23 April 1957.

3. The inclosed letter was forwarded to this Office by letter dated 13 November 1957 from the Albany, N. Y., Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 502 Federal Building, Albany, N. Y., for any action deemed appropriate.

4. This Office did not conduct any investigation concerning this matter and no investigation is contemplated. In accordance with the above cited AF regulation, matters of this nature come under the responsibility of your Command.

5. By carbon copy of this letter, the Directorate of Special Investigations, Washington 25, D. C., and the Commander, Griffiss AF Base, New York, have been furnished verifax copies of the above described letter.

UNCLASSIFIED

LEON F. BUGH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl:
Ltr fr Mr. SITTS, dtd 11 Nov 57 (dup)(1verifax cy)

cot Dir OSI w/Incl (dup)(verifax cys)
Comdr, GAFB, N. Y. w/Incl (1 verifax cy)

(AFR 190-16)

25 Nov 57 09 00

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 - BRITISH AIR FORCE BASE
ROCKWELL, NEW YORK

Transmitted by Air Mail

TO: SAC, NEW YORK
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

1. Reference is made to [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED].

2. Attached as an exhibit is a letter from [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED]. This letter contains information regarding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] which is being furnished to you for your information.

3. The enclosed letter from [REDACTED] dated [REDACTED] is being furnished to you for your information.

4. This office has not conducted any investigation concerning [REDACTED] and no further action is warranted.

5. It is recommended that you be kept advised of any further information received regarding [REDACTED].



IN

[REDACTED]

1377 Lawn Avenue,
Schenectady, N.Y.

OR
Bldg #2, Rm. 523
General Electric Co.
Schenectady, N.Y.

November 11, 1957

Federal Bureau of Investigation
432 State Street
Schenectady, N.Y.
Gentlemen:

I hesitate to write this letter, as I have for the last five years. However recent developments have convinced me that this matter should be called to the attention of some authority for whatever evaluation it deserves. I feel that by writing this letter to you it will be directed into the correct channels. This is a second hand account of a sighting of a flying saucer.

My name is Richard Sitts. I was born in Nelliston, N.Y. on April 25, 1929. I lived with my family in Fort Plain, N.Y. until 1939 and in Canajoharie, N.Y. until 1947. From 1947-1951 I was an electrical engineering student at Union College, and since then I have been employed as an electrical engineer by General Electric in Schenectady. My present position is that of an application engineer in the Apparatus Sales Division. I am married and live at 1377 Lawn Ave., Schenectady - Phone EL5-0536.

The incident that I wish to describe for your consideration occurred in the spring of either 1952 or 1953 (my memory fails me concerning this). I had returned to our home in Canajoharie for a week-end vacation from college, and while talking with my father, the late Augustus Sitts, it became apparent that something was bothering him. When I asked him what was wrong he was quite hesitant about telling me

(2)

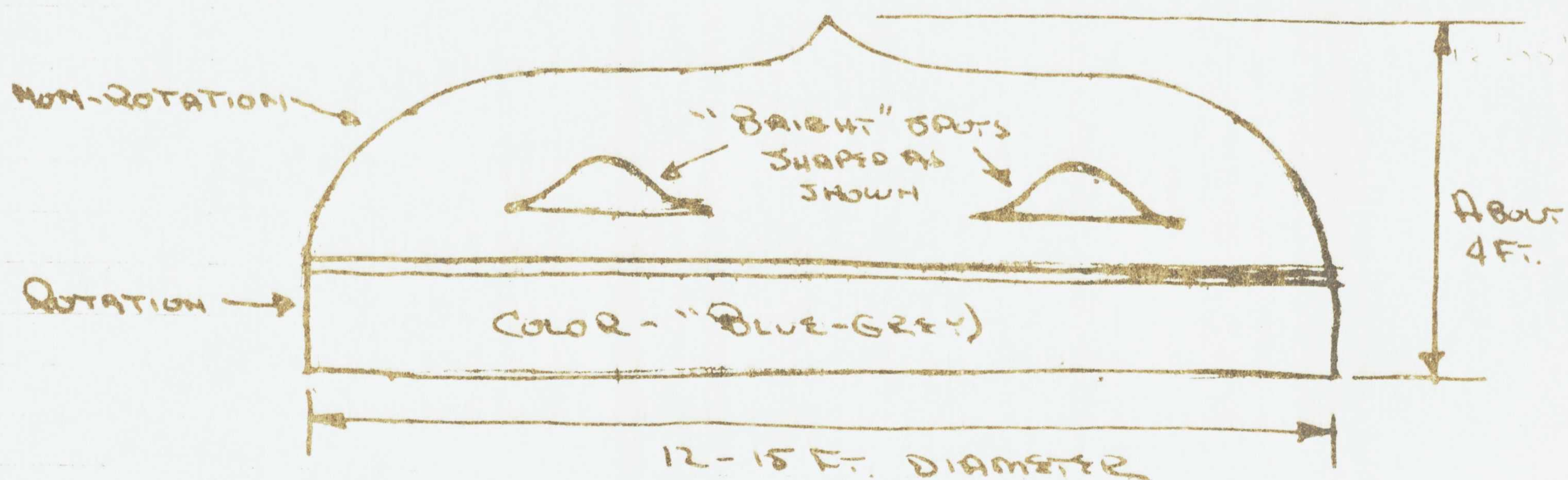
the story which follows, and after he had told me he asked me not to repeat it outside our family because of the attitude the majority of the people had at that time about similar stories. I recall that there were several newspaper stories about flying saucers during that period, and I also recall that my father was quite skeptical about those stories at the time. He told me once that he thought they were probably tricks of vision related to such things as weather balloons. I should probably point out that my father was a barber.

Here is the story that he told me, as accurately as I can remember it:

Earlier that week - probably on Thursday, which was his day off from work - he drove alone up to Green Lake to see if the snow had done any damage to our camp. Green Lake is located on Route 29A, about fifteen miles northwest of Gloversville, N.Y. From Canajoharie the usual route to the lake is via Route 10, through Stone Arabia and Ephratah. It was while he was returning home on Route 10 at about 3:00 P.M. at a point about one mile south of Ephratah that he noticed what he thought was an airplane flying "quite high and quite far away" (in a position to be seen through the windshield of the car). Whatever it was was flying in an easterly direction.

At that point something to his left caught his eye, and when he looked at it he saw this thing that he decided must be the type of thing people were calling flying saucers.

The following sketch represents what he described. I draw such a sketch at the time and he confirmed that it was a pretty fair picture of what he saw.

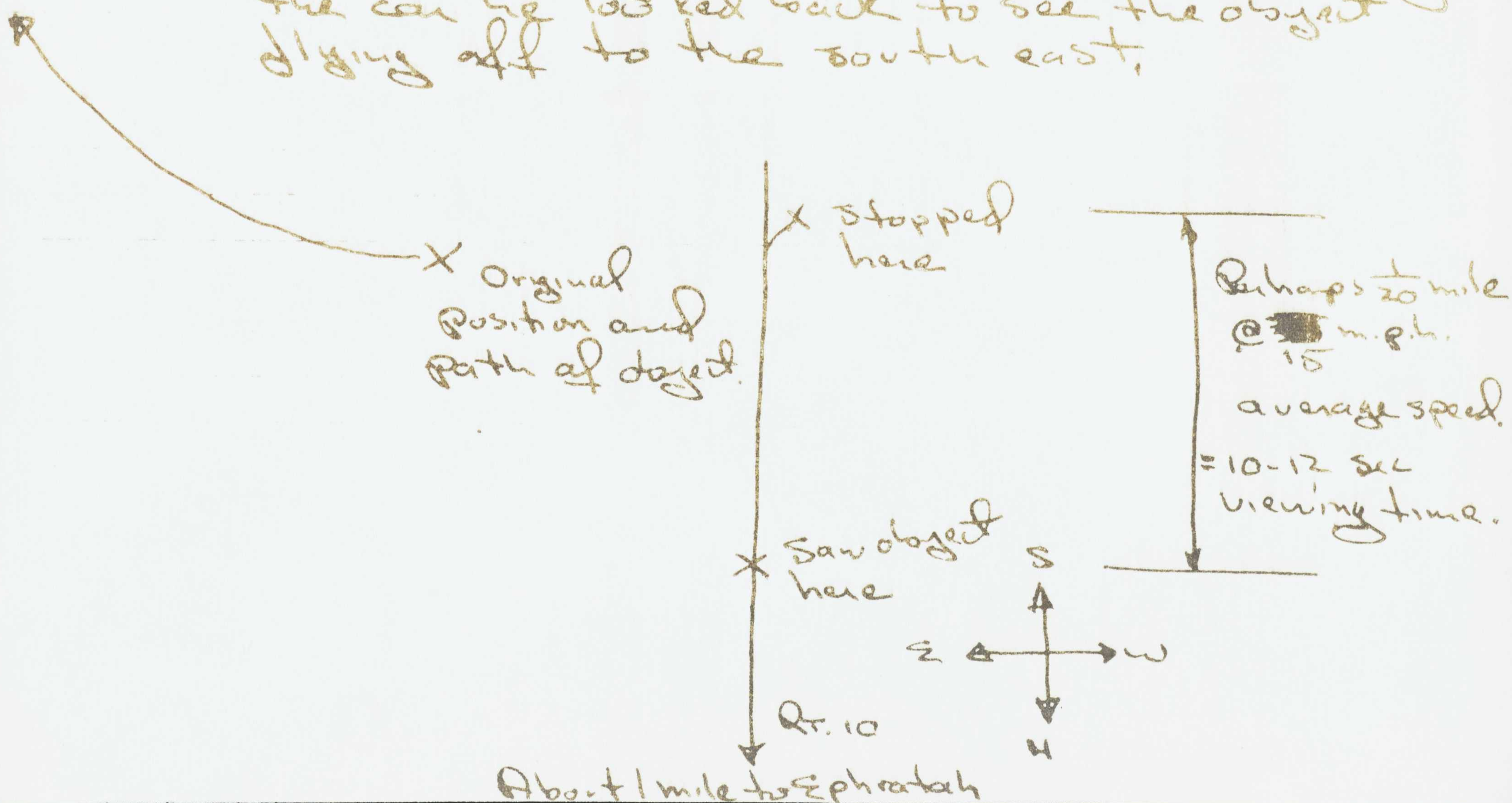


- FRONT VIEW -



When he saw this thing it was in a field, about 35-50 yards away. It occurred to him that it must be a "flying saucer", and he decided to try to get as good a look at it as possible. He said it had the estimated dimensions shown on my sketch. It was about 3 feet off the ground when he first saw it, and it was moving eastward and upward. Its color was blue-grey. It appeared to be divided into two sections, as shown, the upper of which was not rotating and the lower of which was rotating "slowly". There were two bright spots that were "shiny, like a mirror".

As he watched, his car went off the road, onto the right hand shoulder, and he had to look away for a second. After stopping the car he looked back to see the object flying off to the south east.



RICHARD A. SITTS

APPLICATION ENGINEER
METALWORKING MACHINERY ENGINEERING

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

APPARATUS SALES DIVISION

5

I questioned him to get the following additional information:

- 1- He heard no noise over the noise of the car engine.
- 2- He saw no evidence of exhaust fumes or flame except as possibly related to the "bright spots".
3. He got the impression that if there were a very large engine or other mechanism in the object there wouldn't be room for more than one person in it.
4. He wondered ~~if~~ if the object could have been guided by a parent ship, possibly the one he had seen in the air ahead of him.

This is about all the information I can give you concerning the incident. I did drive up on Saturday of that week to see the spot where Dad saw the object. I found no evidence of any description that would lead to an explanation of what had happened.

My father died last April 23.

Please don't feel obligated to reply to this letter. I'm sure you will see to it that it gets whatever attention is called for.

Yours truly,

Richard A. Sitts

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 - GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE
ROME, NEW YORK

22D 24-0

18 July 1957

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

Buffalo N.Y., HERL MOSE

TO: Commander
Air Defense Command
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

6 July '57

1. Reference is made to paragraph 7 (2)(a), AFR 200-2, Subject as above, dated 12 August 1954.

2. Attached hereto is a verifax copy of a letter from the Buffalo, New York, Field Office of the FBI regarding "Flying Discs," dated 10 July 1957, which is self-explanatory, and is forwarded for any action you may deem necessary.

3. This Office did not conduct any investigation on this matter inasmuch as this is a responsibility of your Command in accordance with referenced Air Force Regulation.

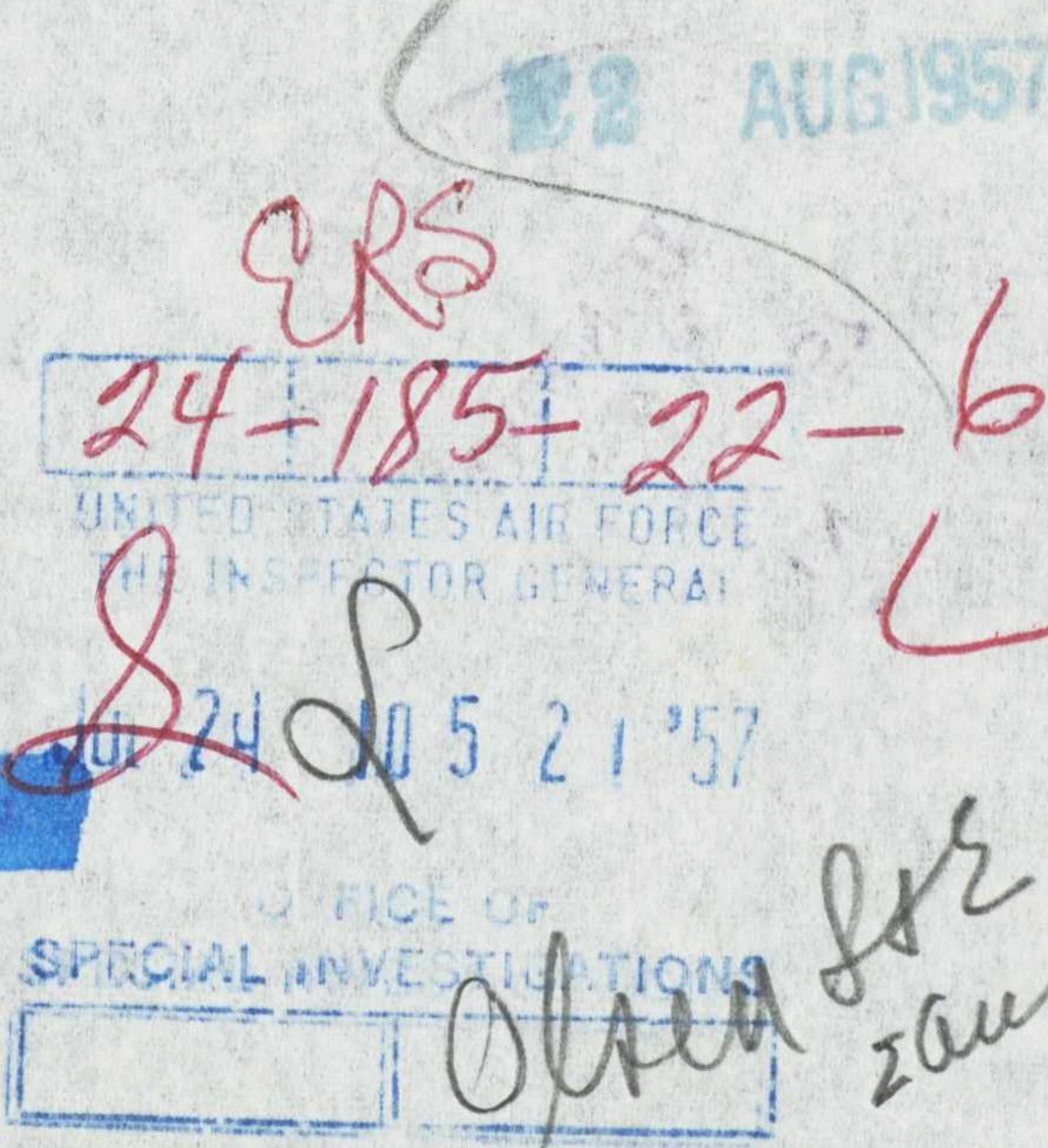
Leon F. Bugh
LEON F. BUGH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl:
Ltr, FBI, dtd 10 Jul 57 (verifax cy)

cc: Dir OSI (w/Incl - verifax cy)
Comdr, NFAFB (w/Incl - verifax cy)



UNCLASSIFIED



Declassification Authority: NND 923007

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hq. OSI

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

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 - SAMPSON AIR FORCE BASE
GENEVA, NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

File No. ~~34-20~~

SUBJECT: ~~UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT~~

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Paterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIS

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV
BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
Historian
DATE _____

6 August 1951

5 DEC 1975

1. This District Office is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Paul J. Shine, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation at Albany, New York, which is quoted for your information:

"Miss Joyce N. Labier of West Sand Lake Road, Telephone 4-4763, advised this office on July 14, 1951, that she and members of her family had observed two silver objects in the sky, appearing to be southwest of Rensselaer, New York, at approximately 2:00 PM on this date.

"Miss Labier stated that they had maneuvered in the sky for approximately five minutes, had come down quite low, and then disappeared high into the sky. She could not describe these objects, other than that they did not appear to be airplanes.

"No investigation is contemplated by this office, and this information is forwarded to you for any action you deem advisable."

2. No investigative action is contemplated by this District Office.
3. Your attention is invited to the provisions of paragraph 4c, AFR 205-8, dated 20 January 1950.

UNCLASSIFIED

cc: Hq. OSI

ROGER HICKS
Lt. Colonel, USAF
District Commander

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

AUG 10 14 36 '51

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 25 - CAMPBELL AIR FORCE BASE
GENERAL NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

BY WILLIAM R. KUNZE Capt USAF
Historian
DATE _____
CLASSIFICATION CANCELED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
8 DEC 1975



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Lowell, Mich.
9/21/67

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DCC/eml

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

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 22 - GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE
ROME, NEW YORK

22D-24-19

21 July 1950

SUBJECT: Discovery of Balloon at Camden, N.Y.
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Inclosed are two copies of report of investigation prepared by this office pertaining to the discovery of a balloon at Camden, N.Y.

2. This case was solved, inasmuch as it was determined that the balloon had escaped from an experimental laboratory at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

3. If further investigation is desired regarding the balloons that may be on sale by ~~Burger & Co.~~, Cleveland, Ohio, request this office be so advised.

D. C. Carpenter
D. C. CARPENTER
MAJOR, USAF
District Commander

Incl

Rpt, DO #22, dtd 21 July 50
File No. 24-19 (2 cys)

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED	
BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV	
BY	KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian
DATE	5 DEC 1975

84-185-88-4

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

JUL 25 8 59 AM '50

OFFICE OF
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

27 JUL 50

(WOLD)

CONFIDENTIAL

100/100

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED JUL 27 1950
FROM NEW YORK

21 JUL 1950

21-1-10

SUBJECT: Discovery of balloon at Garden, N.Y.
[Redacted]

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Washington 25, D.C.

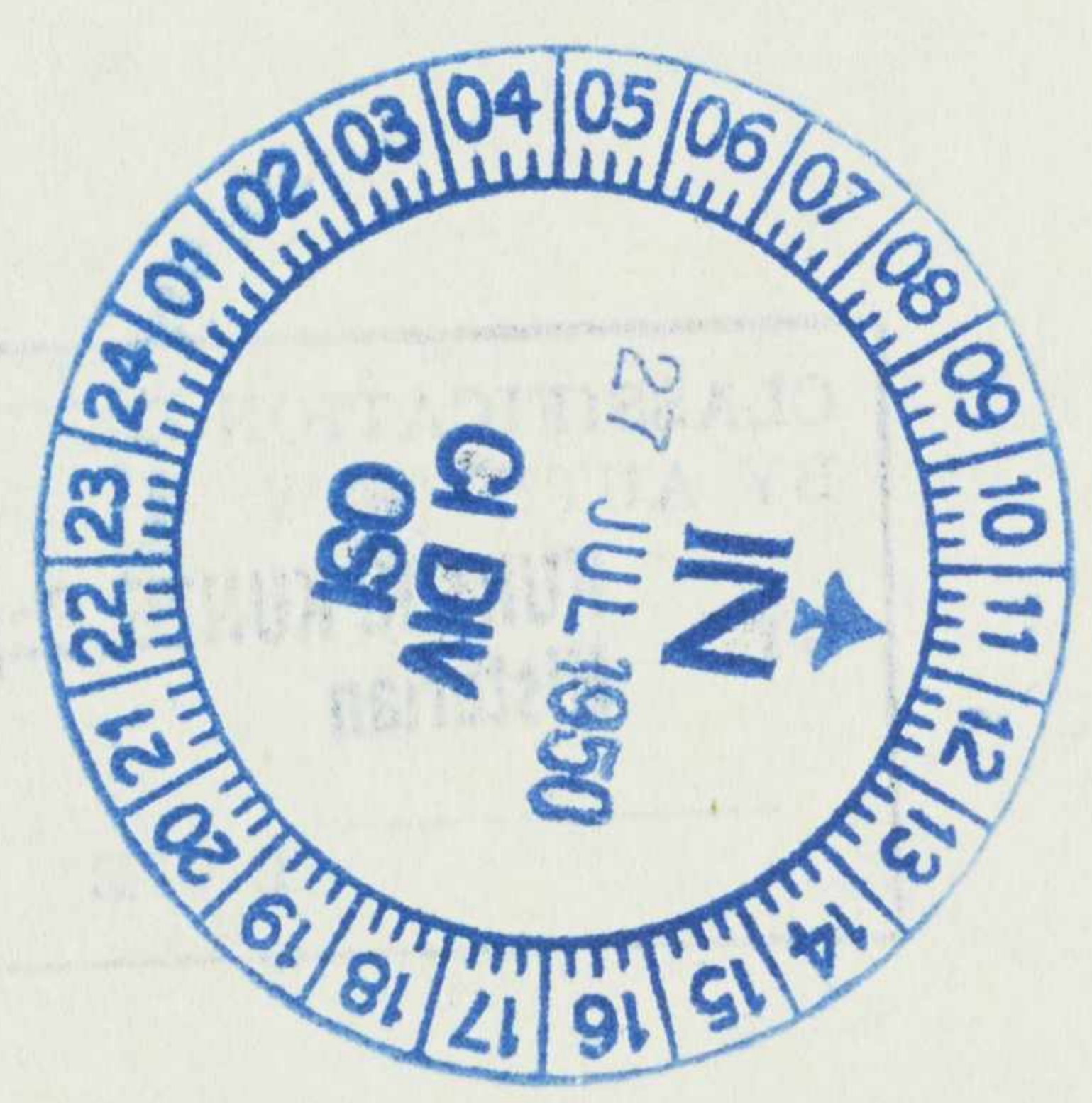
1. Inclosed are two copies of report of investigation prepared by this office pertaining to the discovery of a balloon at Garden, N.Y.

2. This case was solved, inasmuch as it was determined that the balloon had escaped from an experimental laboratory at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

3. If further investigation is desired regarding this balloon, please refer on file by Bureau of Aeronautics, Office, request this office be so advised.

D. J. [Redacted]
Major, USAF
District Commander

26 JUL 1950
[Redacted]



[Redacted]

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-19	DATE 21 July 1950
TITLE DISCOVERY OF BALLOON AT CAMDEN, NEW YORK		REPORT MADE BY DONALD C. CARPENTER	UNCLASSIFIED
		REPORT MADE AT DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		PERIOD 6-19 July 1950	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY		STATUS CLOSED	
REFERENCE None - This is an initial report.		CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF <i>Historian</i>	
SYNOPSIS		DATE 5 DEC 1975	
Investigation predicated upon report from New York State Police, reporting the discovery of a balloon approximately twenty-five feet in diameter, on the farm of ENO J. LABELL, Camden, N.Y. Balloon was picked up by OSI, DO #22 and brought to Griffiss AFB. Balloon examined by OSI and Electronics Research and Development Squadron, Griffiss AFB, with negative results. Inquiries at Pine Camp, New York, and Olmsted AFB, Middletown, Pa., failed to indicate balloon of this type was in use at any of those stations. Records of U.S. District Engineer, Buffalo, N.Y., reveal that V.L.A. balloons were originally manufactured for use as barrage balloons. Information was received at Buffalo Surplus Sales Co., Buffalo, N.Y., that that company had purchased a balloon from Burger & Co., Cleveland, Ohio, several months previous and had sold it to the Paramount Television Co., Toronto, Canada on 29 June 1950; and that Burger & Co. had approximately two hundred such balloons on hand. It was learned from three sources that balloons of subject description are not utilized by Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Buffalo, N.Y.; in western New York area; nor in the Buffalo area. On 19 July 1950, Mr. HERBERT WILD, Nedrow, N.Y., and Mr. SILVAN LIDOVITCH, Syracuse, N.Y.; employees of the Institute of Industrial Research, Division of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.; identified subject balloon as one which broke away from its mooring during an experiment conducted by that Institute on 27 June 1950.			
DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	
CO, Griffiss AFB (3 Incls) (Action cy) 2 Hq. OSI (3 Incls) 2 File (3 Incls) 1		Commanding Officer Griffiss Air Force Base Rome, New York UNCLASSIFIED	
		APPROVED <i>D.C. Carpenter</i> D. C. CARPENTER MAJOR, USAF <i>District Commander</i>	

YOUR ATTENTION IS INVITED TO PARAGRAPH 11 AFR 205-6, DTD 13 MAY 49 WHICH STIPULATES THAT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF THE CONTENTS OF AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT IS CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF SECURITY REGULATIONS

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation is predicated upon a report from Trooper SULLIVAN of the New York State Police at Camden, New York, on 6 July 1950, to the effect that a balloon, approximately twenty-five (25) feet in diameter was discovered on the farm of ENO J. LABELL, approximately thirty-five (35) miles northwest of Griffiss Air Force Base. According to the State Police the balloon was known not to have been there on the 3rd of July 1950 but was found by LABELL on 4 July 1950.

AT GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE, ROME, NEW YORK

2. The balloon was picked up by OSI Agent WALTER J. LUBIEJEWSKI and brought to the 22nd OSI District Office. It is composed of an envelope, approximately twenty-five (25) feet in diameter with three (3) non-inflatable fins composed of a fabric covered collapsible wooden frame. The entire envelope and fin material is estimated to be between .005 and .015 inches thick. It is black on the inside and silver on the outside. Wires are attached to the fins, apparently for the purpose of keeping them in place while the balloon is in flight. It is equipped with numerous cords and a heavy lacing about two (2) feet wide, of sponge rubber cord. The lacing extends from one end of the balloon to the other. The balloon, when found was ripped through its entire length. Markings on the balloon are indicated below:

"M-1-V.L.A., P. O. 57683, C. E. - 402-43,
The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio
5-43, Wght 127 lbs., Mfg. No. 327"

The wooden frame of the fins and the thin fabric contained the insignia of the Corp of Engineers with markings "U. S. - 3, Buffalo, New York". A check with the Flight Service at Olmsted Air Force Base, Middletown, Pennsylvania, failed to furnish any information which would indicate that the balloon originated from that locality.

3. Both Major STANLEY C. LEWIS, 10884-A and M/Sgt. JAMES F. OLSSON, AF-6983697, of the 3171st Electronics Research and Development Squadron, Griffiss Air Force Base, inspected the remnants of the balloon. They advised that they were both in a good position to know whether a balloon of this type was in use by any activity at Griffiss Air Force Base and advised that they had no knowledge of this type of balloon having been launched in the vicinity of Griffiss Air Force Base.

AT WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

4. On 8 July 1950, M/Sgt. WILLIAM E. RICHMOND, 6885533 and Captain LUTHER M. HART, O-472323, Sergeant Major and Duty Officer, respectively, were interviewed at Pine Camp, Watertown, New York by S/A D. C. CARPENTER. Both indicated their belief that they probably would have known if such a balloon had been launched in the Pine Camp area and advised that they had no information to indicate that such a balloon had been launched in that area. Major

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WILFRED R. PIEPER, 655th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, in charge of Radar at Pine Camp, and Lt. Colonel ROBERT C. EDGAR, Base Engineer at Pine Camp, upon interview by S/A D. C. CARPENTER, stated that they believed they were in a good position to know whether or not such a balloon had been placed in use at Pine Camp and advised that they had no knowledge concerning the use of any such balloon in the Pine Camp area.

AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK

5. Upon interview by Special Agent EARL E. HOLMES; Colonel FRANK H. FORNEY, U. S. District Engineer's Office, Buffalo, N.Y., advised that records of the District Engineer indicate that V.L.A. (very low altitude) balloons were originally manufactured for use as barrage balloons.

6. Upon interview by Special Agent HOLMES, Mr. ELMER M. BOWERS, U. S. District Engineer's Office, furnished the following information: that Purchase Order No. 57683 (this apparently pertains to the number, "P.O. 57683" appearing on the balloon) has been retired from the Buffalo office and will probably be on file in the office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C., with information as to its disposition; that Field Office records are not maintained longer than eighteen months after filling of an order; and that the markings "U.S. - 3 Buffalo, New York" were verified as the inspection stamp indicating that the balloon had been inspected in May 1943.

7. Upon interview by Special Agent HOLMES, HARRY FAXXSTEIN, owner of the Buffalo Surplus Sales, 26 East North St., advised that he had purchased a balloon from Burger & Company, Cleveland, Ohio, several months ago and had sold it to the Paramount Television Company, 1174 Ellington Avenue, Toronto, Canada, on 29 June 1950; that the balloon was silver, made of rubberized material, about thirty (30) feet long with no markings of any kind, and without fins, ropes or straps; that at the time he made his purchase, Burger & Company had approximately two-hundred (200) of the same type balloons on hand; and that he did not know of any surplus stores in the Buffalo area handling surplus balloons.

AGENT'S NOTE: It is believed that FAXXSTEIN's statements with regard to markings and accouterments on the balloon may be open to question inasmuch as FAXXSTEIN originally stated that he could not tell much about the balloon because it was folded in a bundle; but then reversed himself and stated that he had stretched the balloon out before it was sold to the Paramount Television Company. Further, it appears that an Army balloon sold as war surplus would carry some identification marks.

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8. Upon inquiry by Special Agent HOLMES; Major JAMES EVANS, Civilian Air Patrol (CAP), employed with the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Buffalo, N.Y., advised that he had no information indicating that balloons of this description were utilized by the Cornell Laboratory. Mr. R. H. GUERARD, CAA, Inspector in Charge, located at the Bell Aircraft Corporation, who has responsibility for the CAA inspection mission throughout western New York State, advised that he did not know of any balloons of this description in use by any activity in the western New York area.

9. 1st Lt. ROBERT J. STEWART of the 661st Aircraft Control and Warning Detachment in the Buffalo vicinity, advised that he knew of no balloons of this description being used in the Buffalo area.

10. Photographs of the subject balloon were taken at Griffiss Air Force Base, and are attached as inclosures.

AT GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE, ROME, NEW YORK

11. On 18 July 1950, Professor S. EUGENE CLEMENS, Phone No. Syracuse 73-3371, Extension 21, Thompson Road, Annex of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., called Special Agent JAMES B. BROOKS, 22nd OSI District (IG), by phone, and advised that the University of Syracuse was doing some experimental work for Watson Laboratories, and that they had lost a balloon; and that he would send a representative to Griffiss Air Force Base on the following day in an effort to identify the balloon as the one reportedly picked up by OSI, according to an article in the Camden, N.Y., newspaper which had been referred to CLEMENS some time earlier. On 19 July 1950, Mr. HERBERT WILD, 109 Kenneth Ave., Nedrow, N.Y., and Mr. SILVAN LIDOVITCH, 109 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N.Y., both employed as Electrical Engineers, Institute of Industrial Research, Division of Syracuse University, Thompson Road Annex, Syracuse, N.Y., were interviewed by Major CARPENTER and Special Agent BROOKS at the 22nd OSI District Office in regard to proper identification of the balloon found at Camden, N.Y. Mr. WILD and Mr. LIDOVITCH identified the balloon, by description and markings, as the balloon which broke away from its mooring during one of their experiments at the Thompson Road Annex on 27 June 1950 at approximately 1800 hours. Mr. WILD further advised that the CAA at Syracuse Airport and the State Troopers were notified that the balloon had broke away from its mooring. Mr. WILD advised that he believed a Mr. RICHARD GILDERSLEEVE, a co-worker, had notified authorities at Griffiss Air Force Base, but could not be sure that such a report was made to Griffiss Air Force Base. WILD and LIDOVITCH advised that the balloon had been purchased through War Assets Administration, but they did not know the exact outlet.

Inclosures:

FOR HEADQUARTERS, OSI, and COMMANDING OFFICER, GRIFFISS AFB

1. Picture of markings appearing on subject balloon.
2. Picture of subject balloon (opened - front view).

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3. Picture of subject balloon (opened - rear view).

- CLOSED -

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-11	DATE JAN 27 1950
TITLE PROJECT "GRUDGE" INCIDENT, TRUMANSBURG - PERRY CITY ROAD, NEAR ITHACA, NEW YORK 28 DECEMBER 1949.		REPORT MADE BY JAMES B. BROOKS	UNCLASSIFIED
		REPORT MADE AT DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		PERIOD 10 January 1950	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE 30 DECEMBER 1949 Edition of Syracuse Herald-Journal, Syracuse, New York			
SYNOPSIS CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian DATE 5 DEC 1975 Interviews and checks made re- garding aerial objects reportedly sighted at approximately 1530, 28 December 1949 on the Trumansburg- Perry City Road, near Ithaca, New York. Objects were allegedly seen by Mrs. FLORENCE MAE MURRAY, Miss KATHLEEN LOIS MURRAY, her daughter, and DONALD MURRAY, her son. UNCLASSIFIED			
DISTRIBUTION CG, WPAFB (Action Copy) HQS. OSI File	- 2 - 2 - 1	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Material Command Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, Ohio	FILE STAMP 424-185-22-3 JAN 30 10 53 AM '50 File 4042 FEB 3 1950
		APPROVED DONALD C. CARPENTER Major, USAF <i>District Commander.</i>	

AFHQ FORM
15 JAN 49

O-208

Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used.

CONFIDENTIAL

16-57744-1

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		TITLE SUBJECT IN THE MATTER OF NAME, ADDRESS, AND CITY STATE AND ZIP	
FILE NO. REPORT MADE BY REPORT MADE AT PERIOD OFFICE OF ORIGIN STATUS	CHARGES REFERENCE SYNOPSIS		
UNCLASSIFIED			
CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT BY AUTHORITY OF KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian DATE: 2 DEC 1975			
INTERVIEW AND REPORT MADE BY GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION REPORT MADE AT PERIOD OFFICE OF ORIGIN STATUS			
UNCLASSIFIED			
DISTRIBUTION (List in copy)			
1 FEB 1950 IN CI DIV ISO			
1 FEB 1950 OUT DIV. MANAGEMENT ISO			
2 FEB 1950 OUT CI DIV ISO			
District Command			

CONFIDENTIAL

DETAILS:

1. This investigation was predicated upon information in an article taken from the 30 December 1949 edition of the Syracuse Herald-Journal, Syracuse, New York, which article reads as follows:

"ITHACA - - - This area is now in the Flying Saucer belt. Wednesday, three members of a Reynoldsville family, Mrs. Florence Murray, her son, Donald and her daughter, Kathleen say they saw the swiftly moving flash of a silvery object in the sky.

They stopped their car about two miles east of Perry City and alighted to watch the strange object, Kathleen, who had a longer view than the others, says there were two of the objects, described as resembling "a shiny phonograph record", and moving "very rapidly".

AT REYNOLDSVILLE, NEW YORK

2. Mrs. FLORENCE MAE MURRAY, Reynoldsville, New York was interviewed by the WRITER concerning her alleged observation of an object in the sky. She stated that on 28 December 1949, at approximately 1530, while riding in an automobile driven by her son DONALD A. MURRAY, age 22 and accompanied by her daughter, KATHLEEN LOIS MURRAY, age 15, about two miles east of Perry City on the Trumansburg-Perry City Road, Tompkins County, near District No. 15 schoolhouse, near the "Stillman" home, Latitude 56 degrees, 35 mins., west, Longitude 42 degrees, 29 mins., north, she observed an oblong object, silver in color, with a second object apparently attached by straps or something which seemed to be light in color and shaped like an umbrella upside down. Mrs. MURRAY did not make her observations known to her son and daughter at first but asked them if they had seen anything unusual. She stated that her daughter told her she had seen something and asked her brother to stop the car, which he did. Mrs. MURRAY was riding in the middle of the front seat and her daughter was sitting at her right side. The car was headed in an easterly direction toward Ithaca, New York when they observed this object in the sky, to their left, just above the treetops of a wooded area. She stated that as the object began to disappear behind the treetops, the two objects seemed to be rotating like phonograph records then seemed to merge and become one object. Mrs. MURRAY stated that the day was very warm; that the sky was very clear with a few clouds overhead and that the sun was very high in the sky. She added that there was no sound, odor, or signs of vapor of any nature and that they watched the object for approximately one or two minutes, although she was not sure of the exact time. She further stated that the object was moving very rapidly and after it's disappearance they drove around a one square mile area, believing they might be able to sight the object again in order to get a better idea of what it looked like, but without success. She stated that the object did not have wings or fins. Mrs. MURRAY added that they immediately proceeded to Ithaca, New York and reported the incident to the News Editor, Ithaca Journal. After returning home, Mrs. MURRAY called a number of people in this area with whom she was acquainted, to inquire whether or not they had seen the object but none of them had observed any unusual objects in the sky.

- 2 -
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3. Miss KATHLEEN LOIS MURRAY, age 15, daughter of Mrs. FLORENCE MAE MURRAY, a high school student, was interviewed by this Agent concerning her alleged observation of aerial objects. She stated that on 28 December 1949 at about 1530, while accompanying her brother and mother to Ithaca, New York on the Trumansburg-Perry City Road, Latitude 56 degrees, 35 mins., west, Longitude 42 degrees, 29 mins., north, she observed an object which was described as oblong in shape, approximately the size of a piano and a second object which seemed to be attached to the larger object by straps or ropes of a lighter color. She added that this small object was in the shape of a bowl or umbrella upside down. Kathleen stated that after her mother asked her if she had seen the object, she asked her brother to stop the car, which he did. She said that they alighted from the car and observed this object for approximately one or two minutes before it vanished over the horizon, behind a wooded area. She stated that the two objects seemed to rotate and joined together just before vanishing, adding that she did not hear any noise, see any vapor or smoke nor did she detect any odor. She further added that the object did not seem to have any wings or tail. The weather was described by KATHLEEN MURRAY as being very mild, clear with white clouds high overhead, bright sunshine, with no wind or snow.

4. This Agent interviewed DONALD MURRAY, son of FLORENCE MAE MURRAY, of Reynoldsville, New York, who stated that on 28 December 1949 at approximately 1530 while driving about two miles east of Perry City, on the Perry City Road, Latitude 56 degrees, 35 mins., west, Longitude 42 degrees, 29 mins., north, his mother and sister who were riding in the front seat with him, asked him to stop as they had seen some object in the sky. He immediately stopped the car and got out to see the object also. His mother and sister pointed the object out to him and he described it as being oblong in shape, a light metallic gray in color with a small object which seemed to be suspended from the larger object. He added that this smaller object seemed to be shaped like a huge bowl and as the two objects disappeared, they were rotating resembling a shiny victrola record, then seemed to unite becoming one object. He stated that there seemed to be no sign of wings, tail, or anything which might resemble the engine of an airplane. He stated that there was no sound, odor or vapor which could be detected. DONALD said that the object seemed to be traveling in a northeasterly direction and after it disappeared he drove the car around a one square mile area in an effort to observe this object again but without success. After this, DONALD MURRAY stated he drove his mother and sister to Ithaca, New York. He concluded that after the newspaper article which was published in the Ithaca Journal appeared, he talked to a number of people about the incident but that no one had seen this object.

AT TRUMANSBURG, NEW YORK

5. Mrs. Ethel CALDWELL, RD #3, residing on the Trumansburg-Perry City Road, near the vicinity where Mrs. MURRAY and her children sighted the flying object, was interviewed by this Agent. She stated that on 28 December 1949 she was at home all day and had gone out on the porch a number of times but at no time had she seen the objects described by Mrs. MURRAY. She stated that she had read the account in the Ithaca Journal the following day but had no idea it was so close to her home until she was informed by the Writer. She further mentioned that she did not know of anyone in that vicinity who had seen this object, except Mrs. MURRAY and her family.

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6. Mrs. MERTIE DICKENS, RD #3, Trumansburg, New York was interviewed and stated that on 28 December 1949 she was at her home all day and did not see the objects described by Mrs. MURRAY and her children, nor did she hear any airplanes flying overhead that day. She further states that later than evening, Mrs. MURRAY called her and asked whether or not she had seen the objects which were seen near her home. She stated that she did not know of anyone in that vicinity who had seen the objects, except Mrs. MURRAY and her children.

7. Mrs. MILDRED STILLMAN, RFD #3, Trumansburg, stated upon interview, that on 28 December 1949 she was at home doing her housework and did not see the objects described by Mrs. MURRAY, although she had read about it in the newspaper. It had been determined by Mrs. MURRAY that the "Stillman" house was the closest to the spot in the road where they stopped to observe the objects in the sky. Mrs. STILLMAN stated that she did not see or hear anything unusual and did not know anything about it until she read about it in the newspaper.

8. Mr. IVAN SMITH, whose farm borders the strip of woods over which Mrs. MURRAY saw the objects flying, stated that on 28 December 1949 he was at home and had been out on the farm with his tractor and had been out in the car also but that he had not seen the objects described by Mrs. MURRAY. He stated that he was well acquainted with Mrs. MURRAY and remembered her calling him on the phone the evening after she had observed the flying objects, to inquire whether he had seen these objects in the sky.

9. This Agent interviewed Mrs. IVAN SMITH, school teacher, Trumansburg, New York and she stated that she was at home on 28 December 1949 as this was during the Christmas vacation period. She stated that she had been going in and out of the house a great deal that afternoon as she was helping her mother and father to pack their trailer prior to their leaving for Florida. She stated that she did not see any objects in the sky nor did she hear any airplanes. She stated further that since the Christmas vacation she had talked to a great number of her students and fellow teachers but no one had seen the objects described by Mrs. MURRAY. Most of the students and teachers live in the vicinity of the location where Mrs. MURRAY and her children saw the objects in the sky.

AT ITHACA, NEW YORK

10. This Agent interviewed the Chief of Police, MARSHALL, and he stated that he had seen the article in the Ithaca Journal relative to the MURRAY's who live in the Perry City section and who had seen the objects in the sky. A check of the records revealed that there were no complaints received on 28 December 1949 nor had any information other than that which was in the newspaper relative to the flying objects, been heard of in that locality.

11. Professor Richard Parmenter, Assistant Professor of Research at Cornell University, was interviewed by the Writer and he stated that he had seen the article in the Ithaca newspaper and was quite interested, having read considerable publicity about various people in the different parts of the country who had observed flying saucers. He further stated that there were no experiments being conducted at the University at this date and that there was no weather apparatus sent up to register the weather that day. He added that to the best of his knowledge, 28 December 1949 was a warm, clear December day with no snow and excellent visibility.

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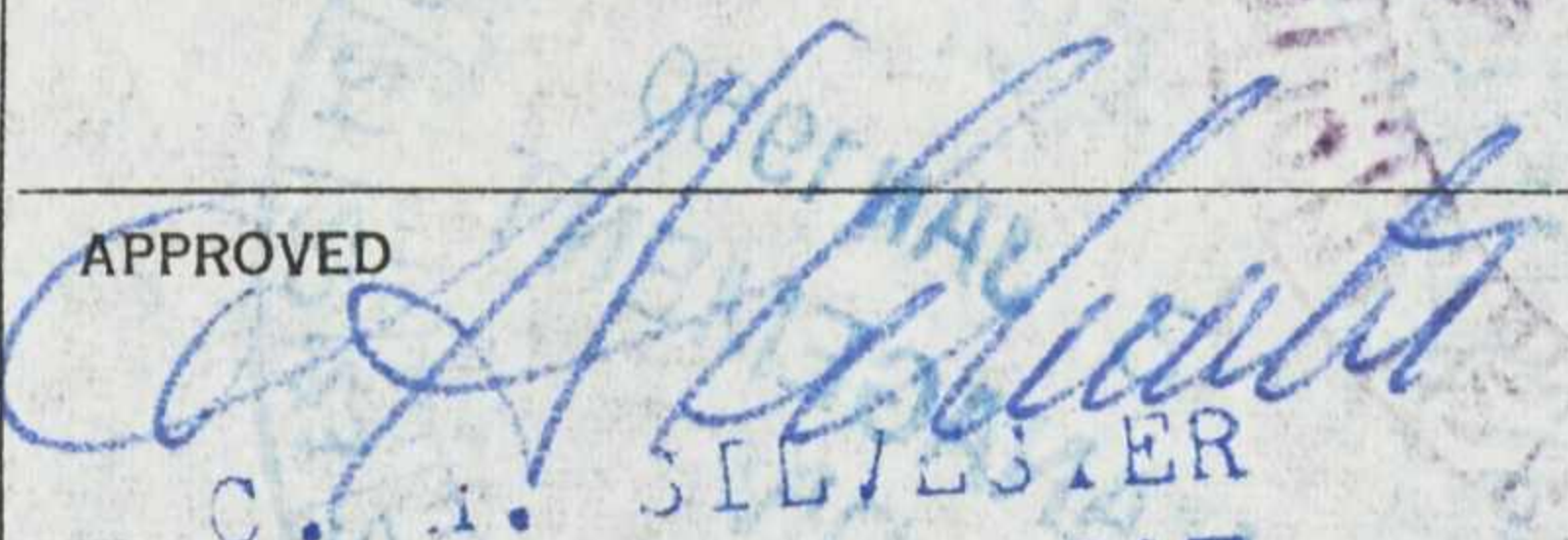
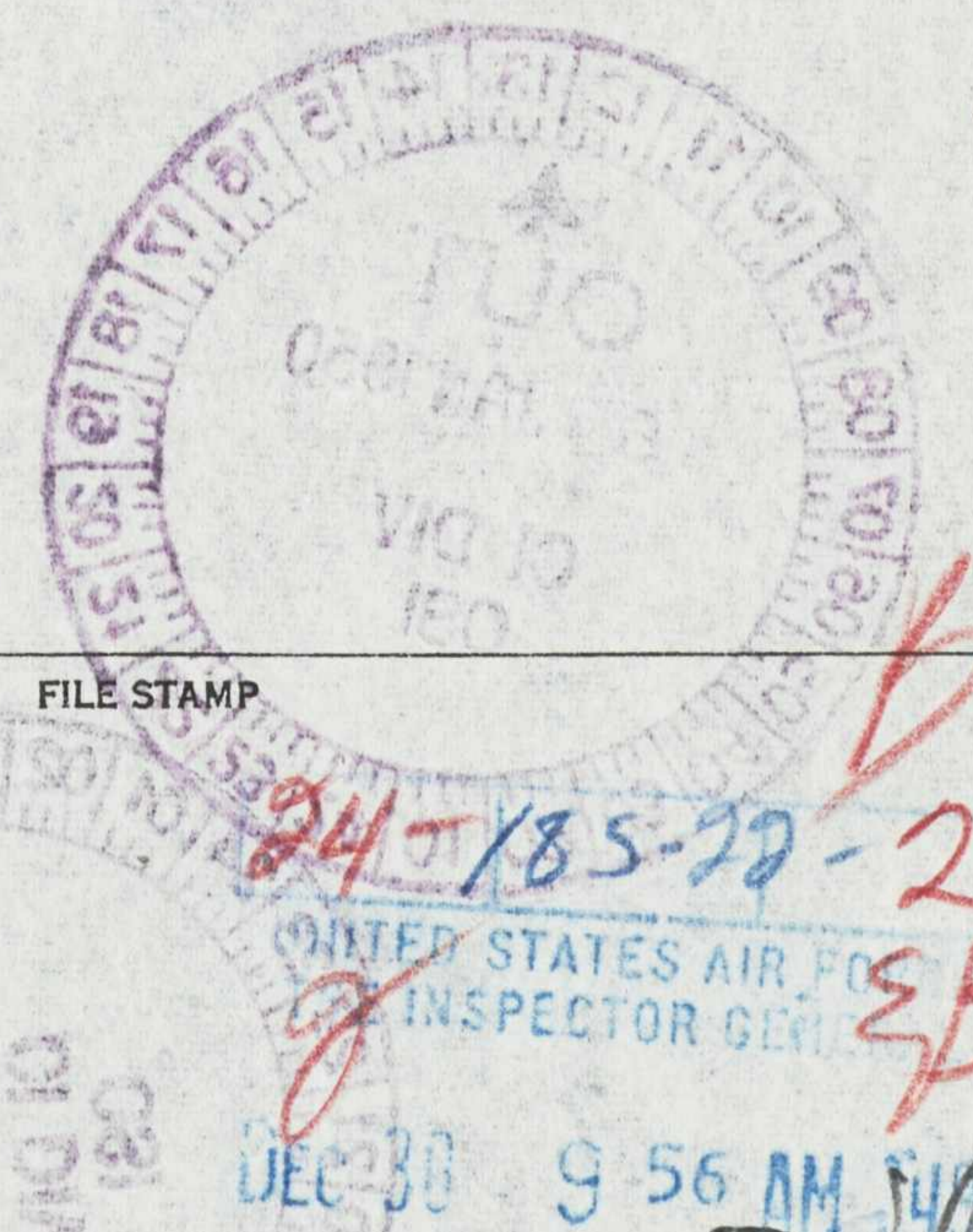
12. This Agent interviewed Mr. CARL BENSCOTER, Operations Officer for the Robinson Airlines, Ithaca, New York. Mr. BENSCOTER made a check of the records and stated that there was no weather apparatus used on 28 December 1949 or at any time during the month of December. He further states that he observed the article in the Ithaca newspaper and had questioned the pilots flying Robinson aircraft in this vicinity on that date. He further states that it is possible that Mrs. MURRAY may have seen one of the Robinson Airliners, which is a DC-3, which landed at the Ithaca Airport at 1535, coming in from a Buffalo to Rochester to Ithaca, New York flight. He stated further that this would place the aircraft in the vicinity described by Mrs. MURRAY at approximately 1530, the time she states she saw the object. Another DC-3 landed at the Ithaca Airport at approximately 1522 from a Syracuse to Ithaca, New York flight. He stated further that upon checking the maps in the Operations Room at the Robinson Airlines, he determined that both flights, the one from Buffalo and the one from Syracuse, New York, would circle for a landing near the vicinity where Mrs. MURRAY observed the objects on 28 December 1949.

13. Mr. Robert C. Hancock, Buffalo Street, Ithaca, New York was interviewed by this Agent. Mr. Hancock stated that he was a pilot with the Robinson Airlines and was piloting a DC-3 on 28 December 1949 on a flight from Buffalo to Rochester to Ithaca, New York and that he landed at approximately 1535 after circling the area where Mrs. MURRAY is alleged to have observed the objects in the sky. He stated that he did not observe anything unusual and that he circled at approximately 1530.

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-10	DATE DEC 22 1949
TITLE PROJECT GRUDGE Incident, Barker, New York		REPORT MADE BY Earl E. Holmes, S/A	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		PERIOD 21 October, 5 December 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		STATUS UNCLASSIFIED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT			
REFERENCE Lead Sheet from DO #22, Griffiss AFB, dated 24 October 1949, File No. 24-10			
SYNOPSIS CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian DATE 5 DEC 1975 An investigation conducted to develop information relative to an unidentified flying object, which was seen by Clair Hildebrant and Ralph Bencene, near Barker, New York, on the night of 20 October 1949.			
DISTRIBUTION CG-AMC-Wright-Patterson AFB Attention: MCIAXO-3 (2 incls) - 2 Hq. OSI (2 incls) - 2 DO #22 (2 incls) - 2	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO APPROVED  C. A. SILVESTER CAPTAIN, USAF DONALD C. CARPENTER FOR Major, USAF District Commander.		
FILE STAMP  UNCLASSIFIED JAN 9 1950 3164 NAR			

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		UNITED STATES AIR FORCE	
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS	
FILE NO.	REPORT MADE AT	PERIOD	OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DATE	STATUS		
CHARACTER		REFERENCE	
SYNOPSIS			
CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF Historian 8 DEC 1973			
ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO		DISTRIBUTION	

OUT
6 JAN 1950
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IN
4 JAN 1950
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3 JAN 1950
MANAGEMENT
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DETAILS:

INCLOSURES

FOR CG-AMC; HQ OSI; DO #22

Signed statement of CLAIR HILDEBRANT dated at Bell Aircraft Corporation, Niagara Falls, New York, 5 December 1949.

OBSERVATIONS OF CLAIR HILDEBRANT

1. Date of Observation 20 Oct 1949 Date of Interview 21, 25 Oct 1949
2. Exact time of observation (local) 1830 to 1845 EST
3. Place of Observation:
(Map Coordinates) Longitude 79° 37¹ Latitude 43° 18¹
4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details):
Observer was driving his car north on Hartland Road, north of Route Number 104, and approximately three (3) miles from Lake Ontario.
5. What attracted attention to object:
Observer's attention was attracted by the speed and color of the object.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping:
Observer stated that there was one (1) object.
7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at arms length):
Observer stated that object resembled a right wing tip light when seen at a distance of one (1) mile, at an altitude of five hundred (500) feet.
8. Color of object:
Object was a lighter blue than a wing tip light, and was about the color of burning natural gas.
9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object):
Object was seen as a single light and had no apparent shape.
10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon - 0° at horizon, 90° overhead):
Observer estimated that the object was 30° above horizon
11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from North):
When first seen? When last seen?
Observer was traveling in a northerly direction; object was first seen in the east, and disappeared in the west.
12. Distance from observer (Distance to town, bldg, etc., over which object appeared to be):
Observer was not able to establish distance.

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13. Direction of flight of object (s):
Object traveled from east to west
14. Time in sight:
Object was in sight from five (5) to eight (8) seconds.
15. Velocity (time to cover given angular distance):
Observer estimated distance covered as about eight (8) miles.
16. Sound and odor:
Observer stated that he had stopped the car and gotten out, but could detect neither sound nor odor.
17. Trail (color, length, width, persistence, etc.):
Observer stated that no trail was apparent.
18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of brilliance):
Observer stated that object was about as brilliant as a blue Evening Star.
19. Projections (fins, wings, rods, antennae, canopies, etc.):
No projections were visible.
20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc. - sketch of flight path):
Observer stated that object maintained level flight, without deviation in course or altitude.
21. Manner of disappearance:
Object gave off a few sparks, and disappeared in the same manner as an electric light being turned off.
22. Effect on clouds:
Observer stated that there were no clouds in the vicinity.
23. Additional information concerning object:
None
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Visibility was clear and unrestricted.

Name and address of observer:

Clair Hildebrant

R F D #1, Barker, New York

Occupation:

Employed by Bell Aircraft Corp., Niagara Falls, New York, as a Laboratory Mechanic (Rocket Test).

Hobbies: Hunting

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Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material?

Observer does not wear glasses. Object was viewed through an automobile windshield.

INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO INFORMANT

DATE OF BIRTH: 19 March 1914

PLACE OF BIRTH: Sommerset, New York

EDUCATION: Attended Barker High School from 1929 to 1933

PAST EMPLOYMENT: Employed by B. Resseguie & Son, Farm Feed, from 1935 to 1941. Mr. C. L. Gracey, Manager, advised that informant was an excellent worker and is eligible for rehire.

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT: Employed by Bell Aircraft Corp., Niagara Falls, New York as a Laboratory Mechanic since 30 January 1941. Efficiency rating is "excellent".

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM: Milford H. Pratt, Principal of Barker High School, and H. Pilkey, Barker, New York, which stated that informant is reliable, intelligent, and recommended for access to classified material.

CRIMINAL RECORD: None

OBSERVATIONS OF RALPH BENCENE

1. Date of Observation 20 Oct 1949 Date of Interview 25 Oct 1949
2. Exact time of observation (local) 1830 to 1845 EST
3. Place of Observation:
(Map Coordinates) Longitude 79° 37¹ Latitude 43° 18¹
4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details:)
Observer was an occupant in a car heading north on Hartland Rd., north of Route 104, and approximately three (3) miles from Lake Ontario.
5. What attracted attention to object:
Observer's attention was attracted by the speed and color of the object.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping:
Observer stated that there was one (1) object.
7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at arms length):
Observer stated that the object was approximately the size of a cigarette pack, when viewed at arms length.
8. Color of object:
Observer stated that the object was a light blue, resembling the flame from burning natural gas.

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24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Visibility was clear and unrestricted

Name and address of observer:

Ralph Bencene
Barker, New York

Occupation:

Observer is employed in Rocket Test at Bell Aircraft Corp., Niagara Falls, New York.

Hobbies:

Hunting and Fishing.

Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material?

Observer wears glasses, correctible to 20/20. Object was viewed through an automobile windshield.

INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO INFORMANT

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 August 1913

PLACE OF BIRTH: Niagara Falls, New York

EDUCATION: One (1) year at Lockport High School, Lockport, New York

PAST EMPLOYMENT: Employed as a Press Operator and Die Setter by Harrison Radiator Company, Lockport, New York, from 4 April 1934 to 27 December 1947. Informant resigned to enter his own business, and is eligible for rehire, having had an excellent efficiency rating while employed.

Employed as General Maintenance by Fairmont Foods, Barker, New York, from June 1947 to March 1949. Informant was laid off due to lack of work, and is eligible for rehire, having had a good efficiency rating while employed. Records carry the notation "...very good man, dependable..."

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT: Laboratory Technician at Bell Aircraft Corp.,
Niagara Falls, New York, since 14 March 1949.

CRIMINAL: None

RELATIVE TO RADAR SIGHTINGS

Local radar stations were not in operation at the time of the incident.

GENERAL

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions: Time 1804
Scattered clouds at 1200 feet, visibility four (4) miles with smoke and haze;
Wind southwest eight (8) miles, Temperature 59°, Dew Point 42%.

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2. Winds aloft report

	Time 1610
surface	200° 9 knots
1000'	210° 10 knots
2000'	230° 15 knots

3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time:
(Check Canadian activity if close to border)

A check of local Airports failed to reveal any information pertaining to the incident.

4. Possible releases of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other; obtain computed or observed trajectory of device (thedolite, radar readings, etc.)

Investigation failed to reveal any information pertaining to testing devices, experiments, etc., being conducted in the area.

This investigation was conducted in accordance with the provisions of OSI Bulletin Number four (4), and AFCSI Letter Number eighty-five (85).

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STATEMENT OF CLAIR HILDEBRANT

On 20 October 1949 between 1830 and 1845, Ralph Bencene and I were on the way home from work. We were driving north on Hartland Road, north of Route 104, approximately three (3) miles from Lake Ontario in Niagara County, when I saw a blue light which appeared to be about the size of a wing tip light on an aircraft. It was traveling from east to west, in level flight, without deviation in altitude or course. The light was in sight for from five to eight seconds, and covered an estimated five miles. Although it was a quiet evening we were not able to hear any unusual sound, even after stopping the car and getting out. While it was impossible to accurately judge altitude or distance I would say that a comparison could be made to the wing tip light of an aircraft at an altitude of five hundred (500) feet, distance of one (1) mile, and estimated speed of one thousand (1000) MPH. There were no trailing sparks or evidence of any type of propellant such as in a rocket or jet. The light disappeared in the same manner as an electric light being turned off. At the instant of disappearance a few orange-red sparks appeared and fell almost immediately.

My first thought was that it was an aircraft until I realized that if it were the running lights would have been reversed, and that I would have seen a red light instead of a blue one. The speed also ruled out the possibility of a conventional type aircraft. I have worked around planes for the past twelve (12) years, have worked in rocket test, on the XS-1, and have seen the North American F 86 flown wide open, but have never yet seen anything that approached the speed at which the light was traveling.

I am familiar with the Northern Lights, meteors, and St. Elmo's Fire, but none of these could explain the nature of the light that was seen on 20 October.

I have read the foregoing statement, consisting of one (1) page, and it is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Clair Hildebrant
Clair Hildebrant.

WITNESS:

Lester W. Lerch

Earl B. Holmes

Signed and Witnessed 5 Dec 1949

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-8	DATE NOV 3 1949
TITLE JOSEPH E. PANEK AND MICHAEL BEDNASZ PROJECT GRUDGE Incident, Boston, New York		REPORT MADE BY Gordon R. Daley, S/A	UNCLASSIFIED
		REPORT MADE AT DO #22, Griffiss AFB	
		PERIOD 18 October 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #22, Griffiss	
		STATUS	
CHARACTER Special Inquiry - Unconventional Aircraft			
REFERENCE CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPEC INV			
SYNOPSIS BY <u>KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF</u> Historian DATE <u>5 DEC 1973</u> An investigation conducted to develop additional information regarding the observation of an unknown flying object on 10 September 1949 near Boston, New York, indicates that three witnesses sighted this flying object from ten to fifteen seconds. Excellent weather conditions enabled witnesses to follow object's westerly course, without interruption or obstruction. With the exception of the object's position in flight, the information of observers agreed. Attention is invited to the qualifications of witnesses. Joseph E. Panek and Michael Bednasz operate farms and are also employed by industrial firms situated in Buffalo, New York. Employment investigation reflects that witnesses are considered reliable, loyal, and trustworthy. However, both male witnesses have completed only the equivalent of seven (7) school grades. In conclusion, further investigation failed to reveal other observers, radar tracing, or experimental operations being conducted in this area during the incident period. UNCLASSIFIED			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, O. 2 Hq, OSI 2 File 1	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO CG, AMC, Wright Patterson AFB Dayton, O. Attn: MCLAXO-3	FILE STAMP 24-8522-1 NOV 12 25 PM '49 1607	
APPROVED  DONALD C. CARPENTER Major, USAF District Commander.			

AFHQ FORM
15 JAN 49

O-208

Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used.

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DETAILS:

OBSERVATIONS OF JOSEPH E. and CLARA PANEK

1. Date of Observation 10 September 1949 Date of Interview 18 October 1949
2. Exact time of observation (local) 1700 EST
3. Place of Observation: Boston, New York
(Map Coordinates) Taken from Detroit (V8) Sectional
Longitude 79° 48¹ Latitude 43° 44¹
4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details:)
Observers were filling silo in a rural farming area near Hamburg, New York.
Point of observation was approximately one thousand (1,000) feet above
surrounding area, and clear of any visual obstructions.
5. What attracted attention to object:
Observers were operating a machine filling the silo. While checking the
outlet chute, observed "disc" passing overhead.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping:
One object.
7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at
arms length):
Size of object was comparable to an automobile hub-cap held at arms length.
8. Color of object:
Dull, light color, or similar to aircraft covering.
9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object):
Object was comparable to an automobile hub-cap held at arms length.
The diameter was about eight (8) inches. The observers could not give an
estimate of the thickness; but the object appeared to have a flat surface
and not completely "ball shape".
10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon + 0° at horizon, 90° overhead)
The object passed at an angle of forty-five (45) degrees overhead from
point of observation, at an estimated altitude of five thousand (5,000) feet.
11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from North):
When first seen? West When last seen? East
12. Distance from observer (Distance to town, bldg, etc., over which object
appeared to be):
Object appeared to pass over an area approximately one (1) mile from the
point of observation. (No towns, bldg, etc., located near area)
13. Direction of flight of object (s):
Flight path of object was from due West to due East.
14. Time in sight:
The object was observed for approximately ten (10) seconds.

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15. Velocity (time to cover given angular distance):
The object was traveling well over five hundred (500) miles per hour. Observers have seen fast-moving conventional type aircraft on numerous occasions, but the object moved so quickly that it was completely out of view in a matter of seconds.
16. Sound and odor:
No sound nor odor was noticed.
17. Trail (color, length, width, persistence, etc.):
No trail nor any other distinguishing characteristics noticed by observers.
18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of brilliance):
No luminous characteristics noticed by the observers.
19. Projections (fins, wings, rods, antennae, canopies, etc.):
No projections, fins, wings, etc., were noticed by observers.
20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc. - sketch of flight path):
Flight path constantly parallel to earth's surface at all points of observation.
21. Manner of disappearance:
Observer, Joseph Panek, called attention of fellow workers; while doing so lost view of object. (Wife, Clara, followed the object's flight until it completely disappeared from vision. The "disc" moved at an extreme high rate of speed, and therefore moved from normal eye view, within a matter of seconds.)
22. Effect on clouds:
Observers stated that no cloud formations were observed on this date.
23. Additional information concerning object:
The "round disc" appeared to move on axis parallel to the earth's surface.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Weather conditions were excellent. No clouds, long range visibility, and about sixty-five (65) degrees in temperature.

Name and address of observers:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Panek
Rt 2, South Fedick Road,
Hamburg, New York

Occupation and hobbies:

Joseph E. Panek - factory worker and farmer
Clara (Mrs. J.E.) Panek - housewife
Their hobbies consist mostly of sports activities.

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COMMENTS OF INTERROGATOR:

The records of the Buffalo Police Department, Buffalo, New York, fail to reveal any information pertaining to Joseph or Clara Panek.

Joseph E. Panek, according to the employment records of the Chevrolet-Buffalo Division, was born on 21 August 1911 in Buffalo, New York, and has been employed in various positions for this organization since 9 January 1933. Panek has a satisfactory efficiency rating, and no derogatory information could be obtained from interviews or employment records. Records indicate that Panek completed seven (7) years of schooling. Clara Panek's age is estimated at thirty to thirty-five years.

Due to the rural sparsely-settled farms, it was impossible to contact neighbors for interviews.

Neither Clara or Joseph Panek wear glasses. Joseph Panek is required to pass a vision test annually to insure satisfactory work at the Chevrolet-Buffalo Division.

NOTE: Attached is a letter received by Joseph E. Panek, requesting information regarding the observation of the "flying disc".

OBSERVATIONS OF MICHAEL BEDNASZ

1. Date of Observation 10 September 1949 Date of Interview 18 October 1949
2. Exact time of observation (local) 1700 EST
3. Place of Observation: Boston, New York
(Map Coordinates) Taken from Detroit (V8) Sectional
Longitude 79° 48¹ Latitude 43° 44¹
4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details:)
Observer was assisting the Paneks in filling silo, and in a position identical to that of Joseph and Clara Panek.
5. What attracted attention to object:
Panek observed object while checking outlet chute, and immediately called to attention of Bednasz.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping:
Only one object was observed.
7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at arms length):
The object, according to Bednasz, could be comparable in size to an automobile hub-cap, held at arms length. The diameter was approximately eight (8) inches.
8. Color of object:
The color was dull, and believed to be similar to aircraft covering.

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9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object):
The shape appeared to be that of an automobile hub-cap. The object was round, but no estimate on thickness could be established.
10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon - 0° at horizon, 90° overhead)
The object passed at an angle of forty-five (45) degrees overhead from point of observation, at an estimated altitude of five thousand (5,000) feet.
11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from North):
When first seen? West When last seen? East
12. Distance from observer (Distance to town, bldg, etc., over which object appeared to be):
The object's path was estimated at being about one (1) mile from the point of observation.
13. Direction of flight of object (s):
The object's flight path was from due West to due East.
14. Time in sight:
The object was observed, approximately, for about fifteen (15) seconds.
15. Velocity (time to cover given angular distance):
The observer believes that the speed of the unknown object was well over one thousand (1,000) miles per hour.
16. Sound and odor:
No sound nor odor was noticed.
17. Trail (color, length, width, persistence, etc.):
No trail or other relative reactions were observed.
18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of brilliance):
Informant stated that the sun reflected from the object, but no other luminous features were observed.
19. Projections (fins, wings, rods, antennae, canopies, etc.):
No projections, fins, wings, rods, etc., were noticed.
20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc, - sketch of flight path):
No violent maneuvers were observed. Object's flight path was straight and level.
21. Manner of disappearance:
Informant stated that he had observed the unknown object until, due to the high velocity of speed, it passed out of the normal vision.
22. Effect on clouds:
No clouds were visible during the date of observation.

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23. Additional information concerning object:
Informant stated that the object's position in flight differed from that stated by the Paneks. The object moved on an axis perpendicular to the earth's surface.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Observer stated that visibility was unlimited, and generally the weather was excellent.

Name and address of observer:

Michael Bednasz,
Rt 2, South Fedick Road
Hamburg, New York

Occupation and hobbies:

Informant operates a farm, and is also employed as a crane operator.
Observer stated that his hobbies consist mostly of sporting activities.

COMMENTS OF INTERROGATOR

The records of the Police Department, Buffalo, New York, reveal that Michael Bednasz was arrested for a minor traffic violation on 17 May 1929, and fined five (\$5.00) dollars. Bednasz was apprehended on 18 February 1933 by U.S. Federal agents for Violation of the National Prohibition Act. No disposition information was available.

Michael Bednasz, according to employment records of Farrar & Trefts, Inc., Milburn Street, Buffalo, New York, was born in Buffalo, New York, on 15 May, 1910, and has been employed as a crane operator since 1926. Mr. Jack Rentschler, Personnel Manager, stated that he has been acquainted with Bednasz for several years. Bednasz has been a loyal, efficient employee, and is considered to be honest and trustworthy. Records also indicate that Bednasz completed seven (7) grades in school.

Due to the sparsely-settled rural section, it was impossible to conduct interviews with neighbors.

Bednasz does not wear glasses, and as a crane operator must have passable eye vision. The company gives a vision test annually.

NOTE: Several other persons were assisting the silo-filling operations of the Paneks. However, although advised, these workers refused to look for the "flying disc", adding later that they believed that the Paneks and Bednasz were "seeing things".

RELATIVE TO RADAR SIGHTINGS

A check of local radar installations disclosed that they were not in operation during the date of observation of the unknown object.

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GENERAL

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions:
Clear - visibility five (5) miles - Wind, South at four (4) miles per hour (1700 EST sequence)
2. Winds aloft report:
As of 1703 EST
3000 feet - wind 300 degrees - calm
4000 feet - wind 60 degrees - 2 knots
5000 feet - wind 60 degrees - 2 knots
6000 feet - wind 350 degrees - 3 knots
7000 feet - wind 340 degrees - 5 knots
3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time:
(Check Canadian activity if close to border)
4. Possible releases of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other; obtain computed or observed trajectory of device (theodolite, radar readings, etc.)

Investigation failed to reveal any information pertaining to testing devices, experiments, etc., being conducted in this area.

This investigation was conducted in accordance with the provisions of OSI Bulletin Number Four (4) and AFCSI Letter Number eighty-five (85), dated 12 August 1949.

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