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Incident #67

ATIC NO. - - -

DATE OF INFO 14 Aug 1947

AF NO. - - -

LOCATION 5 Miles South of Placerville, Calif.

REPORT NO. - - -

SOURCE Civilian Couple

DATE OF REPORT - - -

DATE IN TO ATIC - - -

TIME OF SIGHTING 1600 PST

COLOR Polished Chrome

SHAPE Rocket

SPEED high (Estimated / Measured)

SIZE 5' long - 14" deep

ALTITUDE 750' (Estimated / Measured)

COURSE N to S (180 degrees)

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED Short Period

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Auto

SOUND - - -

MANEUVERS Very shallow dive

PHOTOS - - - SKETCHES - - -

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

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Prob Meteor

[redacted]

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Incident #67 -- near Placerville, California -- 14 August 1947

If details of the observers' statement are accurate, it would be difficult to assign an astronomical origin to the object seen in this incident. There are a few statements which, taken alone, strongly suggest that a meteor was observed: high rate of speed, "seemed to be in a shallow dive," white smoke trail, "disappeared in a puff of dark gray smoke." However, unless the description of the object (4-6 feet long and 10-14 inches wide) and the estimated distance (less than 1000 feet)-are illusory, the meteoric explanation will not hold.

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[redacted]

47-113-7

[redacted]

COPY

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1030 hours 18 August 1947

Telephone message received from Mr. [redacted], City Editor, [redacted]

Mr. [redacted], Calif, and insurance executive with the firm of [redacted], of Sacramento, reported the following incident:

At 4:P.M. on August 14, while driving on Cedar Rayine Road, 4 to 5 miles southeast of Placerville, Calif, he, accompanied by his wife, observed a "vapor" trail moving from north to south. Closer observation revealed a piece of "shiny metal" at from 500 to 1000 feet altitude moving at a "high rate of speed". The object appeared to be more "rocket-shaped" than disc-shaped. It appeared to be approximately 5 feet in length and was "tilted in a semi-circle".

The object struck the ground with a "puff of black smoke" about 100 feet below the top of a hill which was approximately 750 feet ahead of the automobile driven by the observer. An intervening canyon prevented investigation of the location where the object was observed to have landed.

The observer is able to identify the location where the object was observed to land.

(Mr. [redacted] is a University of California graduate, and is personally known by members of the Oakland Tribune staff. He is a brother-in-law of [redacted] of the Marine Hospital of Southern California)

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

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[redacted]

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Bell

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

AAFDM
SSH-5/KS

11 SEP 1947

SUBJECT: Investigation of Flying Discs

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

Attached is (are) for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Nelson Lussen

WILLIAM A. MEISNER
Brig. Gen., U. S. Army
Asst. Adjutant General

1 Incl:
(Ltr, Gen. Twining 20 Aug 47
(Note)

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ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL

Bern

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
AAC-1206-I
20 August 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR [redacted]

1. On 20 August 1947, [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] interviewed [redacted] Insurance Adjustor, at his home, [redacted] Sacramento, California, and he stated in substance: On the afternoon of 16 August 1947, he was driving his automobile from Placerville, California, on the Georgetown [redacted] and was in the process of passing an automobile and [redacted] when he saw a flash of light in the sky. He looked and saw a round object [redacted] in the sky. He estimated the object was approximately 1000 feet high and 1600 feet away. The object appeared to be [redacted] in diameter, and of a metal color, somewhat like highly polished chromium. In relation to the travel of the automobile the object was first seen at 1030, and when the object reached a point at approximately 1200, it was engulfed in a puff of dark grey smoke about ten feet in diameter. The object was traveling at a tremendous rate of speed and seemed to be on a very slight downward curve. When the puff of smoke appeared, the object disappeared completely and there were no pieces seen to have fallen from the smoke. The point where the object was entered in the smoke was about eight hundred yards [redacted] (in front of) [redacted] with no possibility of the object being hidden from view by any reason or condition. The object appeared perfectly [redacted] in shape or form, [redacted] one very short period of time it appeared and had a top surface which was very [redacted] curved. [redacted] object, [redacted] Sacramento [redacted] Bay area [redacted] and the [redacted] object [redacted] and [redacted] appeared to [redacted] the object was now very high in relation to the terrain and seemed to be following the contours of a canyon.

2. [redacted] contacted in this investigation [redacted] and the [redacted] with this organization. The smoke trail was [redacted] and the object appeared [redacted] was no danger [redacted] estimated the object to be about five feet long and [redacted] the [redacted] outward [redacted] object appeared to be some [redacted] Sacramento [redacted] the [redacted] the other passengers [redacted] did not see the object [redacted] the process of [redacted] to [redacted] to meet [redacted] at 1400, 20 Aug 47 at [redacted] Hotel, Sacramento, California, for the purpose of [redacted] where the object disappeared.

[redacted]

Bern

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AF-1208-I

On 26 August 47, [redacted] stated this agent contacted Mr. [redacted] Insurance Adjustor at the Bartells Hotel, Pinecrest, California. After investigation, Cedar Bayne would be a colder table mtns. considered for Pinecrest, known as Buck's Bar, [redacted] decided that the object from where the plant observed the object on 14 Aug. 47 was nearer to Pinecrest. After a thorough check of the area, [redacted] believed that same before the plant observed the object on the 14th, just north of Pinecrest Creek where the road breaks over the summit. This point is two miles from the Pinecrest Hotel, Pinecrest, California, on the Pacific Highway. As the round observes the Summer Air curves to the left which would present an observer from an airplane a sweeping view through 40° of the canyon and the mountains on the opposite side of Stanislaus Creek. This point of observation is 4,500 feet above sea level. The mountains on the opposite side of Stanislaus Creek are formed by a series of mountain peaks which are generally through 30° 30' 45" and which are on the south side of Stanislaus Creek. At a distance of four miles and from the observation point 2,300 feet above sea level, [redacted] was not detected as to what kind of the field of view he had seen the object and indicated that it could have been as far as the horizon. Any objects or parts of the object [redacted] saw on the ground on the field of view would be by [redacted] as being white [redacted] bodies, motionless towards which [redacted] of Pinecrest.

[redacted] believes that [redacted] could have been an illusion [redacted] conversations [redacted] were not possible because of this [redacted] [redacted] Pinecrest [redacted] returned to the [redacted] the object was [redacted] [redacted] observed by [redacted]

[redacted]

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ACTION NOTES: Forester [redacted] will communicate with the AC of S, [redacted] Headquarters, Fourth Air Force, Hamilton Field, California, for any information regarding presence of an observer in the area in question. [redacted] was not informed of the mission and was told to inform [redacted] that the mission was an effort to locate possible clandestine radio in the area.

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Observer first noticed a white smoke trail and while searching for its source he saw an object 4 to 6 ft. in length by 10 to 14 inches wide and of metal color which gave off a very bright reflection like highly polished chromium .
It was first observed at 1030 position to the automobile. Upon reaching a 1200 position it was engulfed in a puff of dark gray smoke about 10 ft. in diameter. There was a change in the color of the smoke. The object was traveling at a terrific speed and seemed to be in a shallow dive. When the puff of smoke appeared the object disappeared completely. No particleswere observed falling from it. The point of disappearance seemed to be about 800 yards in front of [redacted]. There was no possibility of being hidden by vegetation or terrain. It appeared rectangular for the most part, but once it appeared to have a very slightly curved top surface. It seemed more like a rocket than disc like. It seemed tilted in a semi circle.

NOTE:
Agent notes the point of observation would afford a sweeping view thru 40° of the canyon and the south side of Webber Creek.
([redacted] was not definite as to what part of the field of view he had seen the object and indicated that it could have been as far as the horizon.)
Any object or particles thereof would be in a six square mile area of wooded mountainous terrain full of canyons and ravines.

Agent thought that witness could have seen a conventional type of Aircraft which due to the distance from which it was observed presented no distinguishing features for the short period it was observed, however agent could not account for the smoke trail.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET
(To be filled out and retained in files)

#67

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1. Date of Observation . .14 Aug 47. . . .

2. Time of Observation . 1600. . . . . .

3. Where was Object(s) Sighted . FIVE.MILES.SOUTH.OF PLACERVILLE,.CALIF. . . . . .
. . . . . .38°.42'.45".North. 120°.47'.15".West . . . . .

4. Observer's Position . . . . . GROUND. . . . . .
(i.e. ground, air, control tower, etc.)

5. Name and Address of Observer . MR [redacted] AND WIFE . . . . . .
. BOX [redacted] KUM, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIF. . . . . .

6. Occupation and/or Hobbies . INSURANCE EXECUTIVE WITH THE FIRM OF MC GUIRE AND .
WALLIS AND IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIF. . . . . .

7. Attention Attracted to Object (s) By . . . . . .

8. Number of Object(s) Sighted . . . . . .

9. Size of Object(s) . 5 ft Long 13-14" in depth. . . . . .

10. Color of Object(s) .Polished Chromium. . . . . .

11. Shape (Sketch if Possible) .Seemed rectangular except for a short period when it appeared to have a slightly curved top surface. Seemed tilted in a semi circle. More rocket shaped than disc shaped.

12. Nature of Luminosity . . . . . .

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer . .Estimated 750 ft. . . . . .

14. Speed of Object(s) .High rate of speed. . . . . .

15. Time in Sight . Short period. . . . . .

16. Tactics . In a very shallow dive. . . . . .

17. Sound Made by Object(s) . Not stated . . . . . .

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) . . North to South. . . . . .

19. Apparent Construction (Of What Material or Substance) . Metallic . . . . . .
. . . . . .

20. Effect of Objects on Clouds and/or Exhaust Trail .A white smoke trail was first observed . Later object was enveloped in puff of dark gray smoke. . . . . .

21. Weather Conditions Existing at the Time .Fair with sunshine . . . . . .

22. Peculiarities Noted . Disappeared in a puff of dark gray smoke. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

23. Summary of Incident . . . . . .
. . . . . See Reverse . . . . . .
. . . . . .

(Attach a Separate Sheet if Additional Space is Needed)

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

   a. High probability:
   #26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

   b. Fair or low probability:
   #19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

   a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
   #3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

   b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
   #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

   c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
   #39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

   a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
   #38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

   b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
   #1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.