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S-1107

Department of the Air Force
Air Force Declassification Office
Authority: FY24 NDAA, now codified at 44 U.S.C. 2107
Date: 5/27/2025
Declassified in Full: X
Case Number: 342UAP00028

FLYING DISCS--1952
(unidentified flying objects)

1030310

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FOURTH AF
Form No. 219

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. _____

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
#1	R.E. Powell	26 Jun 52	DO Int	Incident rept, Ltr unidentified acft, Fillmore, Calif area.
2	R.E. Powell	2[illegible]ul 52	DO Int	Additional Info on above acft.
3	Long Beach Municipal Aprt	28 Jul 52	DO Int	TWX 4358 unidentified acft Long Beach area.
4	2370th AB Sq Long Beach	30 Jul 52	DO Int	Rept of unidentified flying objects long Beach area.
5	OO Wright Patterson AFB	19 Dec 51	DO Int	Cy OSI ltr & Info rept on Cleat H. Ballard.
6	MATS Int Sum	1[illegible] Dec 52	--- ----------	Sightings of Unusual Flares.

1030310

INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this for

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This information was derived from the AAIB Intelligence Summary Dec 15, 62

ALASKA

During the period 12 Nov through 28 Nov 62, numerous reports of sightings of unusual flares or lights have been received by the Air Rescue Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base. As a concentrated search was being conducted during the same period for three missing aircraft, all unusual lights were investigated thoroughly in case they might be signals from the lost aircraft. The results of the investigations were negative. No information was obtained as to the source of the lights.

Following is a list of the lights and the dates seen:

On 13 November passengers in a car en route from Glenn Allen (62°07'N, 145°32'W) to Valdez (61°07'N, 146°16'W) Reported sighting a flare in the Mt. Sanford (62°00', 144°13'W) area.

On 17 November a flare was sighted at an undetermined distance SSW of Cold Bay (55°12'N, 162°43'W).

On 22 November[redacted] a brilliant white light was reported to have been seen about six miles S of Mt. Noualton (60°00', 154°52'W) by a native of the region.

Another report on 22 November was of a light north of Iliamna (59°45'N, 153°53'W)

Also on 22 November, two children reported seeing two flares, one red and one yellow, about six miles SE of Iliamna.

On 23 November, the CAA Station at Homer (59°38'N, 151°26'W) reported flashes to the SE. At the same time residents of Homer reported seeing similar flashes in the same direction.

On 26 November, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter STEERWAR reported two flare sightings, one on the south tip of Culross Island (60°42'N, 150°10'W) in Perry Passage the second somewhat later and appearing to be further inland in the mountains.

On 26 November a motorist in Anchorage (61°10'N, 149°55'W) reported a white flare 20 to 25 miles distant in a southeasterly direction.

On 28 November, three red flares were sighted by occupants of a boat on Kachemak Bay (59°et'N, 151°e0'W) between Seldovia(59°27'N, 151°42'W) and Port Graham (59°22'N, 151°55'W).

On 28 November, AC & W personnel at Sparrevohn Mountain (61°10'N, 155°46'W) reported flares 20 to 40 miles distant on a bearing of 210 degrees.

On the same date a pilot reported seeing two white flares while making an approach to Homer Airport.

The reporting officer comments that the flares or lights appeared to form no definite pattern, although the majority of the reported sightings were in the area around Homer, Alaska, on the Kenai Peninsula.

(RESTRICTED P-3) ARS, Alaska----------

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Hq 4AF INT 360.12 Subject: Information Concerning Unidentified Flying Object Observation (Cont'd)

of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects, 19 Dec 51. No further action is contemplated by this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl
Cy OSI ltr, 1Aug52
Subj,Cleat H Ballard
w/incls #1 and #3
(#2 not included)

2

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[redacted]

INT 360.12

SUBJECT: Information Concerning Unidentified Flying Object Observation

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

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a letter from the Commanding Officer, 19th District OSI, regarding a communication received originally by the FBI from a Mr Densel Sargeant. Mr Sargeant read an article in a local newspaper reporting that a Mr Cleat Ballard had observed "flying saucers" on a number of occasions. Mr Sargeant notified the FBI that he could furnish the FBI with some information concerning Mr Ballard. The FBI sent Mr Sargeant's letter to the OSI, which turned the letter over to this headquarters because of the last paragraph in the newspaper report stating that an intelligence officer would interview Mr Ballard. (Copy of clipping included with Inclosure #1.)

2. No intelligence office at Hamilton Air Force Base has a record of Mr Ballard's sighting, and, consequently, no interview with him has been accomplished. The last paragraph of the newspaper report appears, after a brief investigation by this headquarters, to be a misinterpretation by a newspaper reporter of a statement by the Western Air Defense Force Public Information Officer to the effect that intelligence officers would probably be interested in interviewing Mr Ballard.

3. This information is being forwarded to your headquarters for evaluation and such action as may be deemed desirable under the provisions of par 5, letter AFOIN - C/CC-2, Hq USAF, Subject: Reporting

[redacted]

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

The Inspector General USAF
19TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

19D OSI 24-0 1 August 1952

SUBJECT: CLEAT H. BALLARD
504 38th St.
Oakland, California
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Air Force Base
California

1. This office has been recently advised by the San Francisco Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, that they received a letter from an individual named Mr. Dengel Sargeant, which letter transmitted a newspaper clipping with regard to Ballard having observed flying saucers.

2. There is attached the original of the letter from Ballard together with its inclosure as well as the mailing envelope.

3. With the submission of the above and in view of the last paragraph contained in the newspaper clipping, which states, "The Air Force at Hamilton Air Force base said it would send an intelligence officer to interview Ballard," no further action is contemplated by this office.

3 Incls.
Letter
Envelope
Clipping
(as stated)

s/t G. T. COLLEY
Major, USAF
District Commander

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #1

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(COPY OF A HANDWRITTEN LETTER)

July 19, 1952

Dear Sirs;

I use to live in the same house with this fellow & his wife and if I can help answer any questions about him I would be glad too.

You can reach me at Denny's Hot Dog stand 508 Pacific Ave Santa Cruz, California any evenning except Wed. Will be in Oakland, Calif. at this Phone Ol. 2-2335 between 6 P.M. & 8 P.M. Wed. evenning.

(signed) Mr. Demzel Sargeant

Incl #1

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(COPY OF CLIPPING)

DECIDES TO TELL

EX-RANCHER SAYS HE SAW
FLYING SAUCERS 4 TIMES

An ex-Lake County turkey rancher said here today that he saw "flying saucers" four times in a period of four years.

Now living at 584 38th Street, Clent M. Ballard, former Oakland building contractor, said he decided to tell about them after hearing a news broadcast Saturday that the Air Force, which once discounted the saucer stories, is interested.

Ballard had a turkey ranch on Spruce Grove Road, east of Lower Lake, until four months ago.

OBJECT FLUTTERS DOWN

In 1947, he said, he saw a circular object fluttering down from the sky. It landed in a field and he picked it up, he said. It was about 12 inches in diameter and had lines radiating from the center. Between the lines were printed strange characters, similar to Oriental writing, which he could not read.

Ballard said he kept the disc, which was made of heavy paper, for several days, then burned it.

Now he believes that it might be a chart from one of the mysterious flying objects he saw later.

The first "saucer" he saw was in June or July, 1947, Ballard said.

(It was in June, 1947, that Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Ida., flying businessman, reported seeing nine mysterious objects over western Washington and started the "saucer" stories.)

SPOTTED BY TURKEYS

Ballard said his attention was drawn to the flying object by his turkey herd. All the turkeys, which he said notice everything that flies, were looking up as it whizzed by heading due north. His wife, Juanita, also saw the object. It made no sound and left no trail of any kind, Ballard said.

Twice more he saw similar objects, appearing to be round, fly over his ranch. The fourth time was last October, when one of them came plummeting out of the sky from great altitude, then stopped in mid-air for about a minute and shot upward again.

A neighboring Lake County rancher, Fred Topsey, also saw it, Ballard said.

The Air Force at Hamilton Air Force base said it would send an intelligence officer to interview Ballard.

SUBMITTED BY MR. DENGEL SANGEANT
NAME OF NEWSPAPER AND
DATE UNKNOWN

Incl #3

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Hq 2370 AB Sq O&T 350.05 Subject: Report of Unidentified Flying Objects (FLYCOMPT)

Int 360.32 (30 Jul 52) 1st Ind

HQ FOURTH AIR FORCE, Hamilton AFB, Hamilton, Calif

TO: Commanding General, Continental Air Command, Mitchel Air Force Base, New York

2

COMEBACK COPY TO (D.T.) Do 4/1 aug

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Hq 2370 AB Sq O&T 350.05 Subject: Report of Unidentified Flying Objects (FLYOBJT)

Int 360.32 (30 Jul 52) 1st Ind

HQ FOURTH AIR FORCE, Hamilton AFB, Hamilton, Calif

TO: Commanding General, Continental Air Command, Mitchel Air Force Base, New York

Do 247 Navy

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HEADQUARTERS
2370TH AIR BASE SQUADRON
Long Beach Municipal Airport
Long Beach, California

30 JUL 1952

OAT 350.05

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified Flying Objects (FLYOBJT)

THRU: Commanding General
Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Air Force Base
Hamilton, California

Commanding General
Continental Air Command
Mitchel Air Force Base
Mempstead, L.I., New York

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters, USAF
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Reference TWX 0419, this headquarters, dated 24 July 1952. Provisions of paragraph 7e(2), Air Force Letter 200-5, cannot be complied with inasmuch as a follow-up investigation of incident disclosed that source of report could not verify his previous statements which appeared to be possible fabrications, hallucinations, and hearsay. Corroborating witnesses were also reluctant to make any statement describing what had occurred which invalidates the reliability of original report.

2. This information is submitted in letter form due to the non-availability of Air Force Form 112 at this installation. These forms have been placed on order and will be utilized in future Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

F N WILLARD
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

Copy furnished:
Chief, Air Tech Intel Ctr
Wright-Patterson AFB

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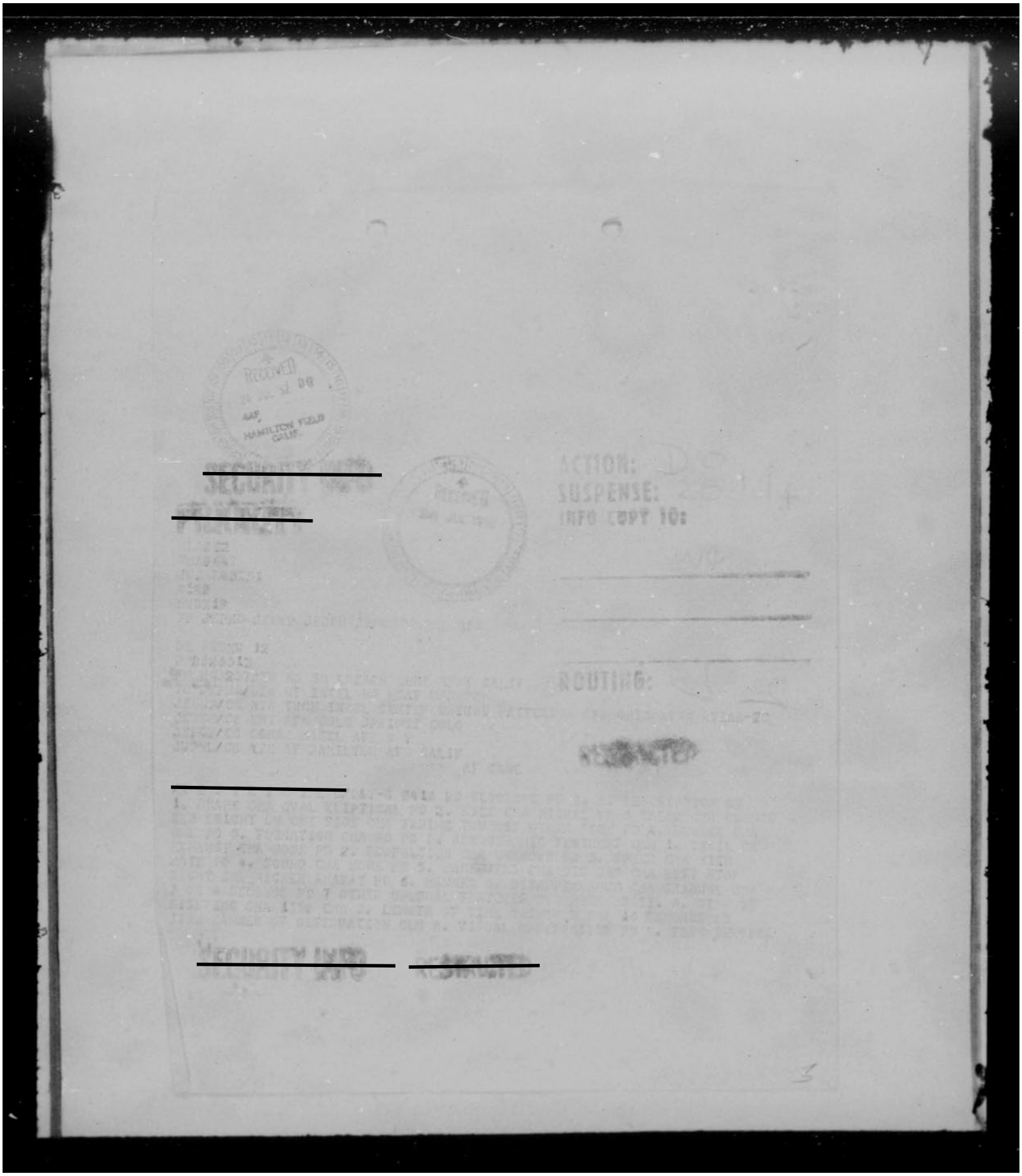

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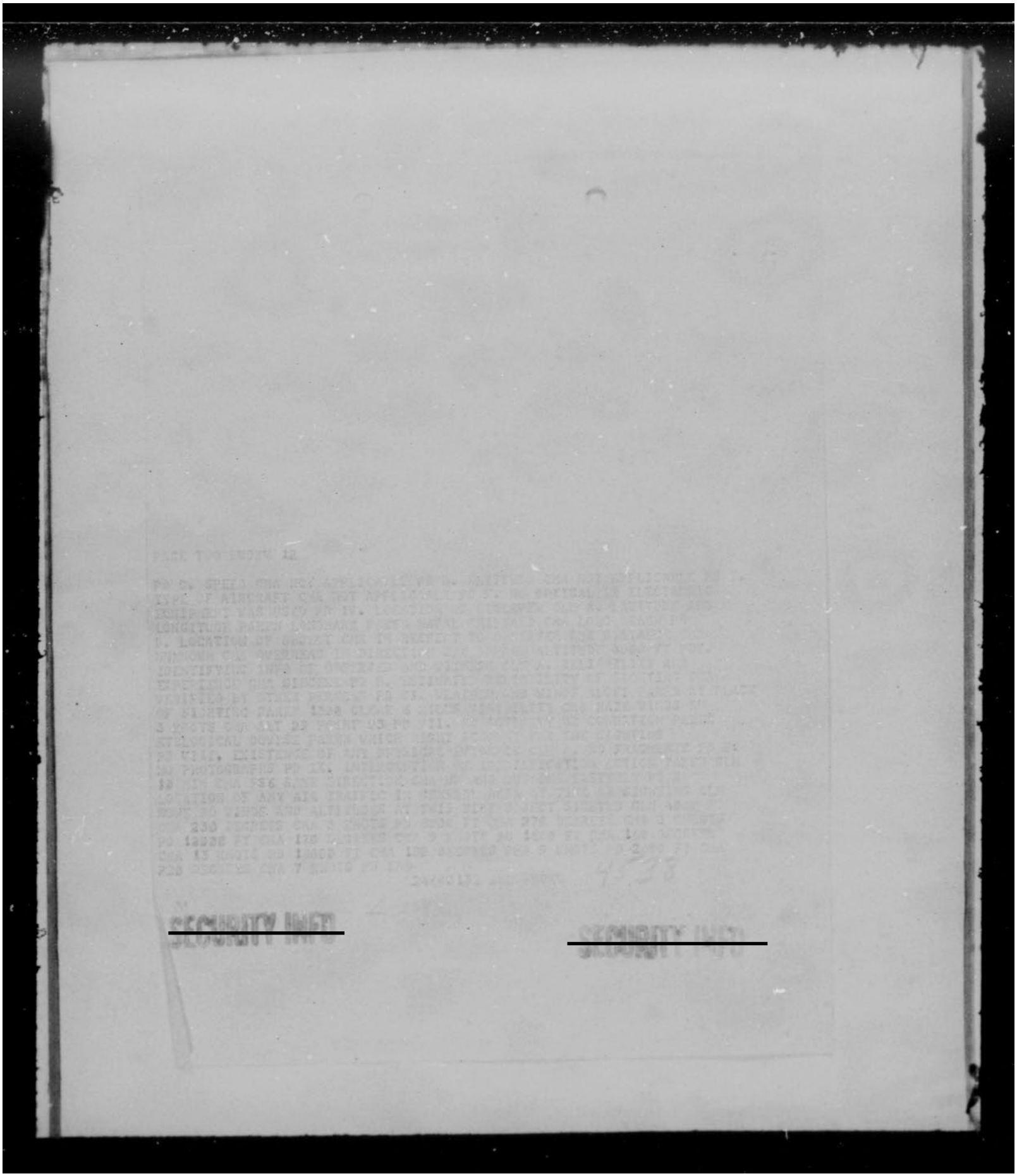

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Fillmore, Calif. 2 July 52

Commanding General
Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Air Force Base.

Re- flying object
Reply to yours of 26 June 52

This aircraft - single engine. quite small (looked like private sport plane) enclosed cockpit, probably three or four passenger size. Cabin: the natural oak wood color, highly varnished - looked new. No Govt. insigina in sight. Was'nt curious when over head, so got no numbers. (had I got numbers I'd reported at once) do not recall wing color. Very quiet running and traveling very slow.

at that time of day, he must have been heading almost direct into sun. Was going due West.

The object cast - was very bright and shiny - my best guess it was round and from four to six feet across.

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From elevation it was cast off it would have to raise at least another 1500 ft to clear the mountains which it did in very fast time.

After it cleared the mountains, I lost view, but that was four & one half to five miles away. It went in a N-E direction and traveled very much faster than the air craft.

It gave out no audible sound nor visible wake. When first cast off it seemed to flutter and drop a short distance and then took off in a bee line.

Regarding spraying - that is out. I've been here over thirty years and so far no one near here has gone into it via the air.

Yours truly

R E Powell -
R.R#1 Box 215
Fillmore

P.S. - My guess for what it is worth. I suspect (though I've no

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technical electronic knowledge) the source of energy used in propelling this object came from Point Mugu. I get this by the direction this object went and from my T.V. which sure acts up at times. Think my set about on a beam used by U.S. Naval Air Missile Test Center.

This P.S. merely my own hunch. Could be as wrong as the worst conclusion.

NEP

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Mr. R. E. Powell
Route 1, Box 216
Fillmore, California

Dear Mr. Powell:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 25 June 1952.

The Air Force is very much interested in all cases involving unidentified flying objects. Although your observation was of an object cast from a conventional type aircraft and not an unidentified flying object in its self, it is still of enough importance to request additional information. If at all possible request you furnish information on the following questions:

A description of the aircraft, its size, color, number.

From your position and the aircraft at the time the object was cast from the aircraft, where was the sun?

Describe the object cast from the aircraft - size, color, shape, any sound, or other features.

How long did you observe the object - did it fall to earth, float in the air, explode? Did you observe the object on the ground?

Was it possible that the aircraft was spraying near orchards?

A self-addressed franked envelope is inclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

1 Incl
Franked envelope

DO

COMEBACK COPY TO

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Fillmore, Calif.
23 June 52

Commanding General
4th U. S. Air Force
Hamilton Field

Sir - Notice by "Look" July 1-52, also radio talks - the Air Force are still looking for info re "Flying Saucers."

I've had personal experience, such as I have never seen in print or heard from any source.

I saw one launched from a small plane, over my shop at an elevation of not more than 600 ft.

This plane flew over my head. Wist bound, and when about 300 ft past of where I stood, saw this "Thing" cast from said plane. This was in clear day light bet 5 & 6 afternoon 7 July, 1947.

Have a small orange orchard about 5 mi. E. of Fillmore and 2 mi. W. of Piru - 1/4 mi. So. of State Highway #126.

If what I have is of any value and you wish more dope, advise, and I'll gladly try and clear up, what is lacking in this notice?

- over -

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Have not previously made any report of this incident.

Yours truly

R E Powell

C07244 R.R. #1 Box 215

Fillmore

Calif.





RECEIVED 25 JN 1952 AM HAMILTON FIELD CALIF.

RECEIVED 24 JUN 1952 HEADQUARTERS 4TH AIR FORCE

DO-8701-360.32-A

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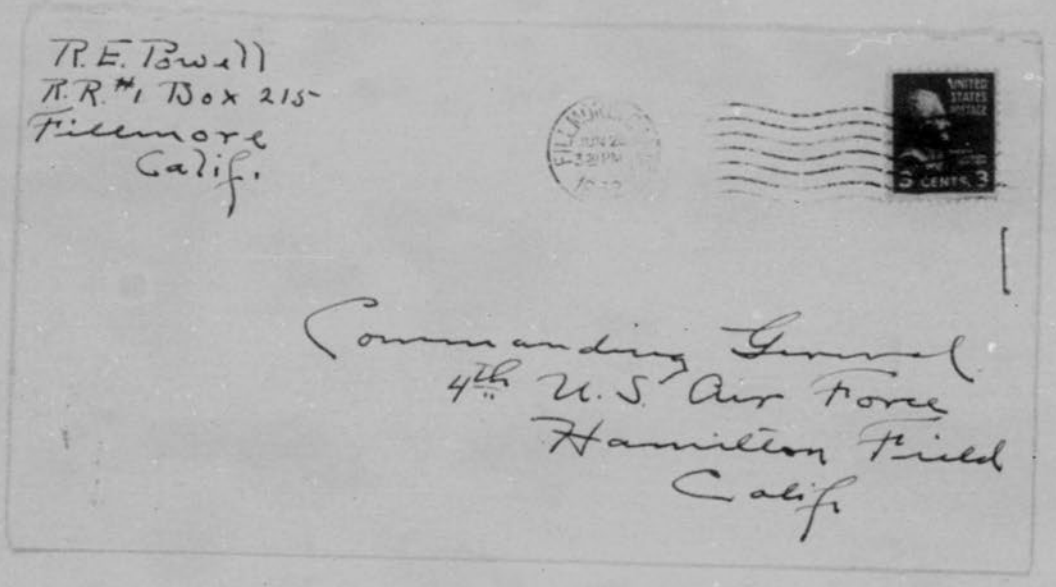

R. E. Powell
R. R. #1 Box 215
Fillmore
Calif.

Commanding General
4th U. S. Air Force
Hamilton Field
Calif.

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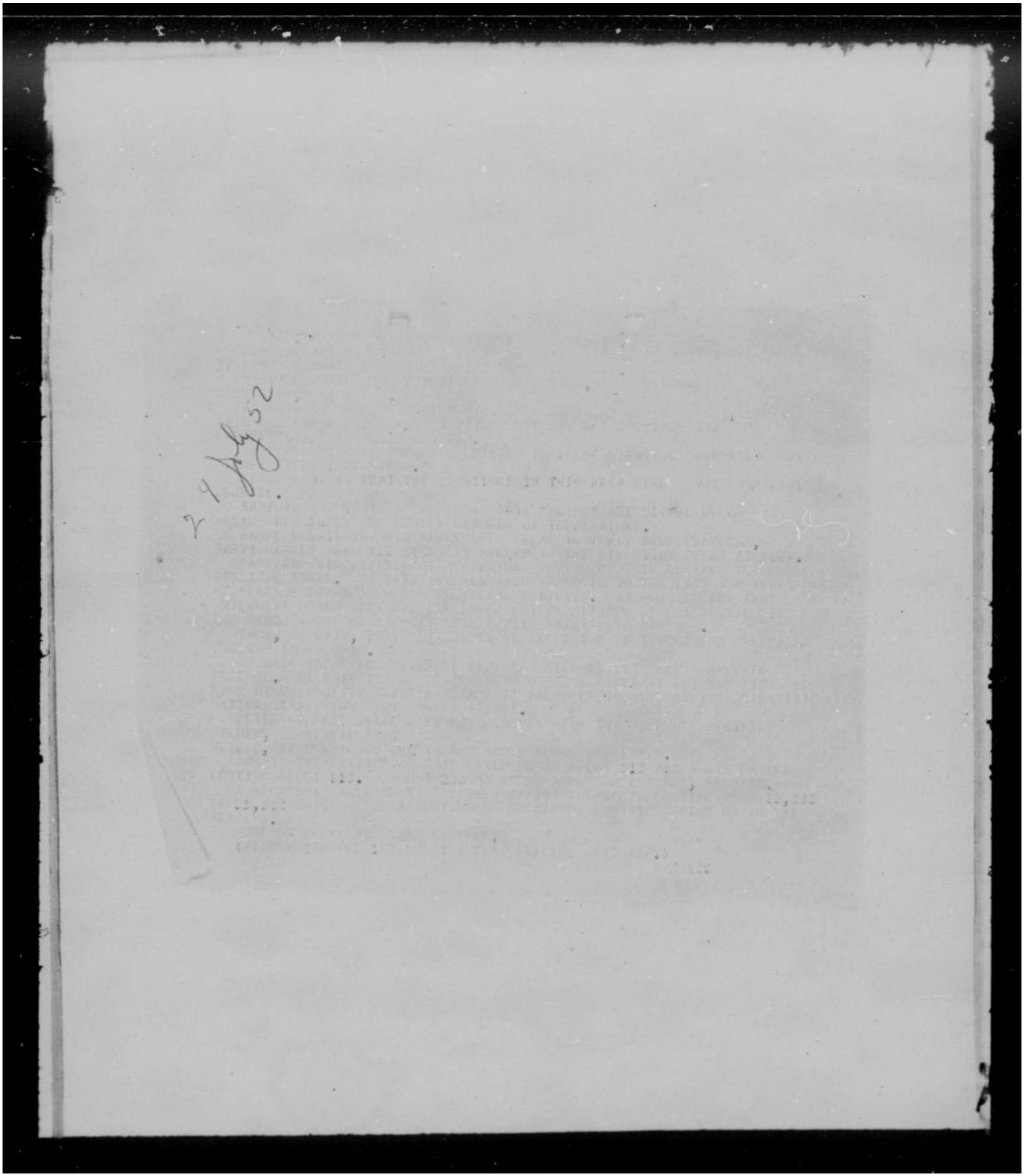

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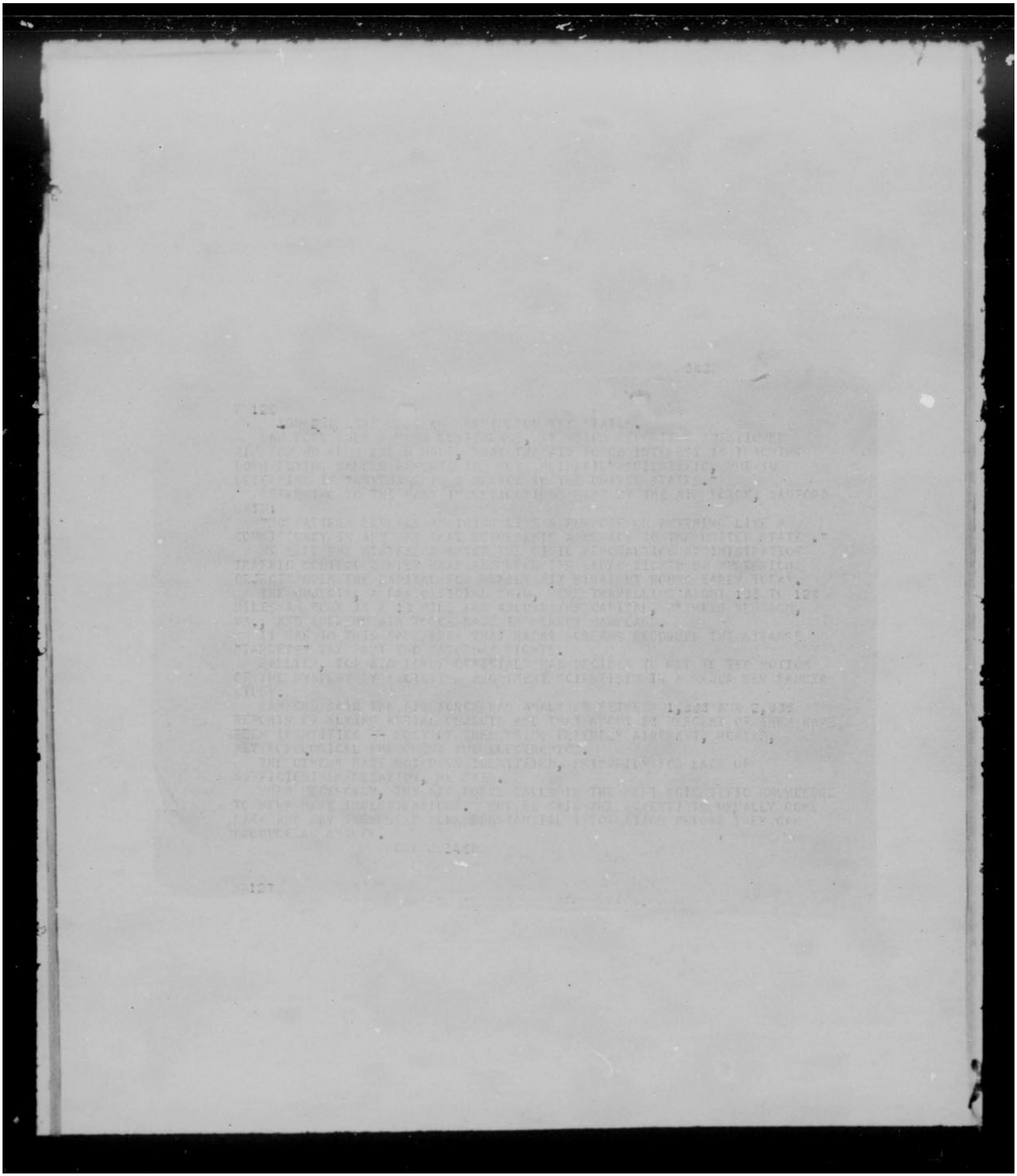

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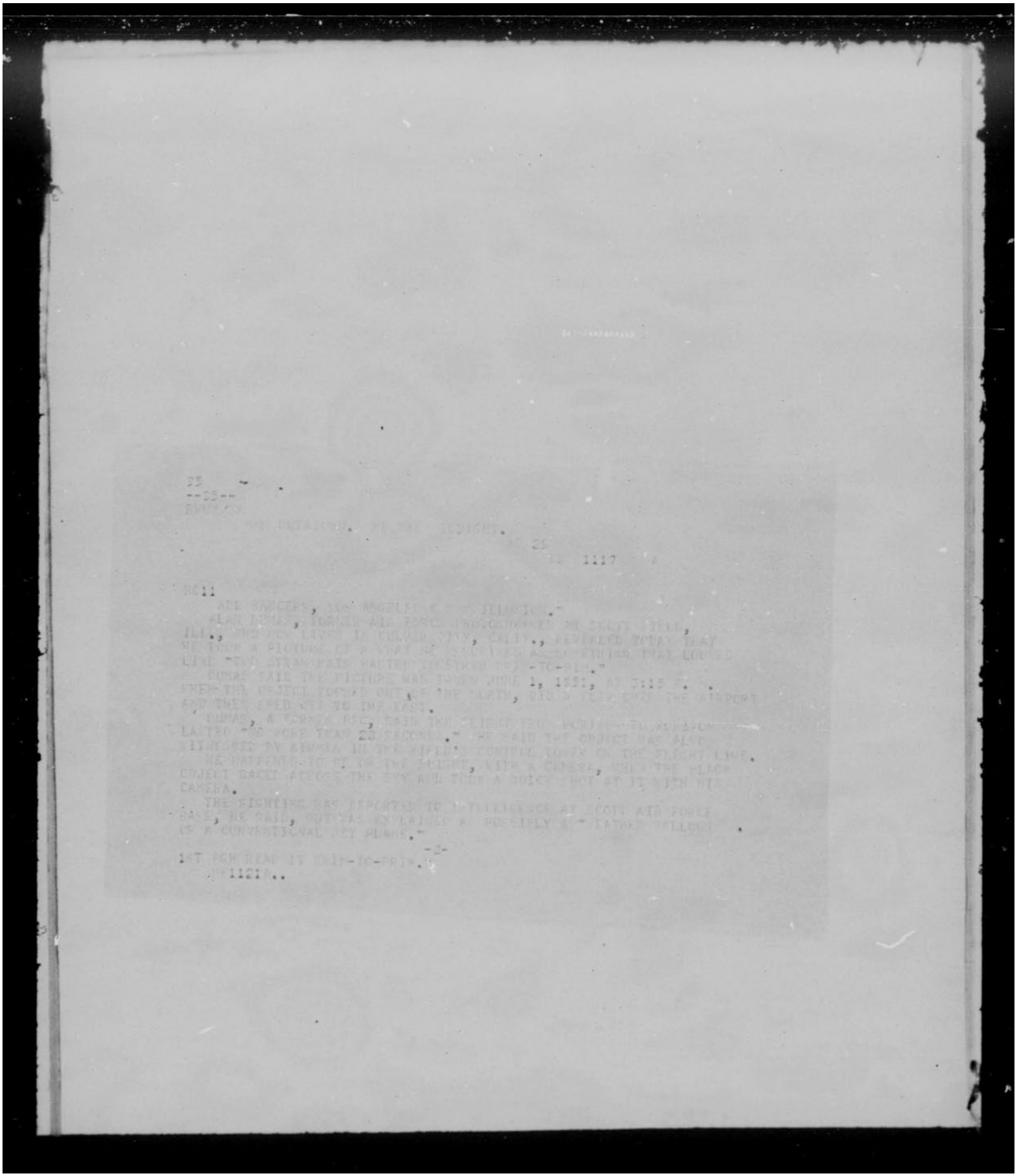

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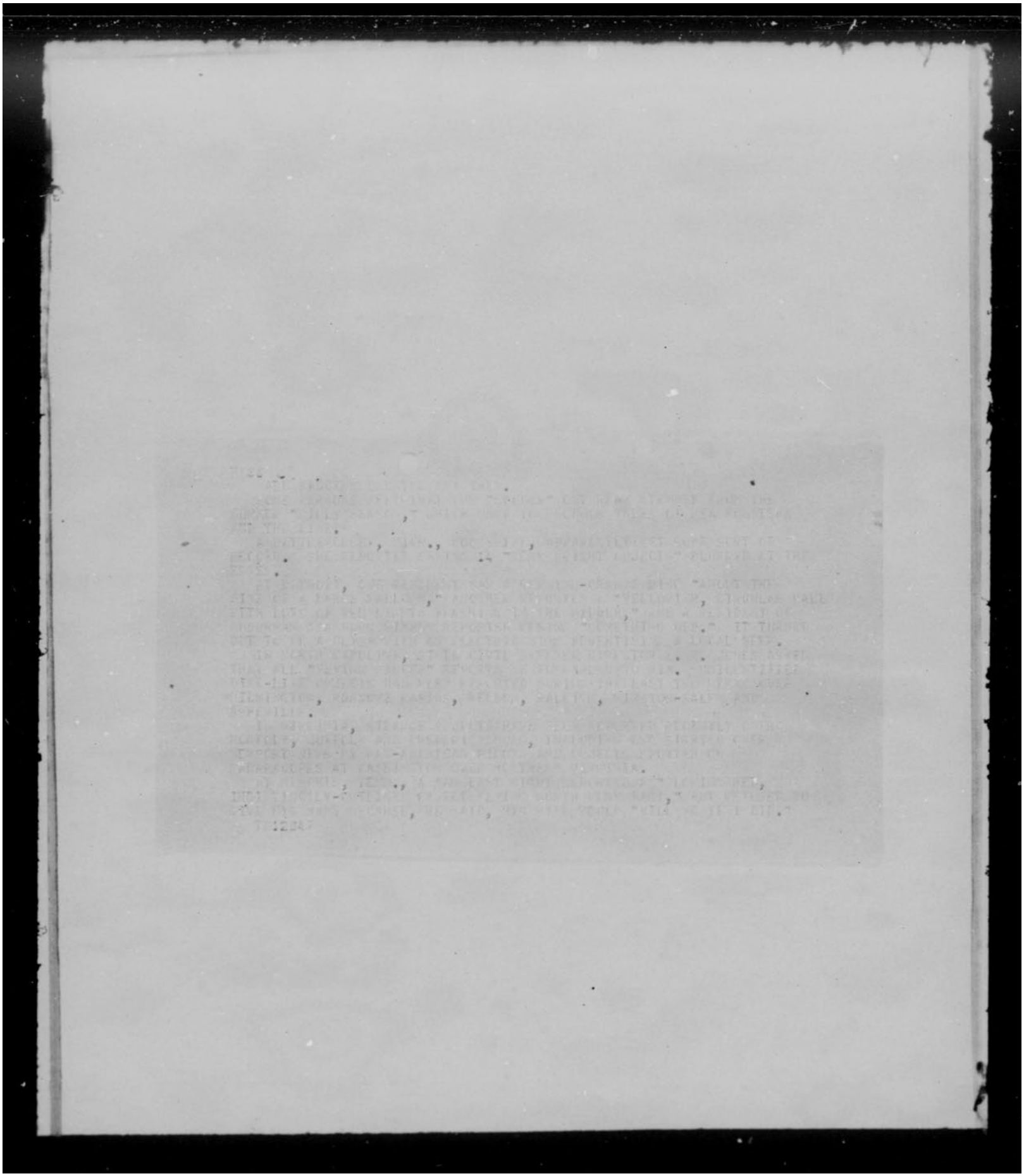

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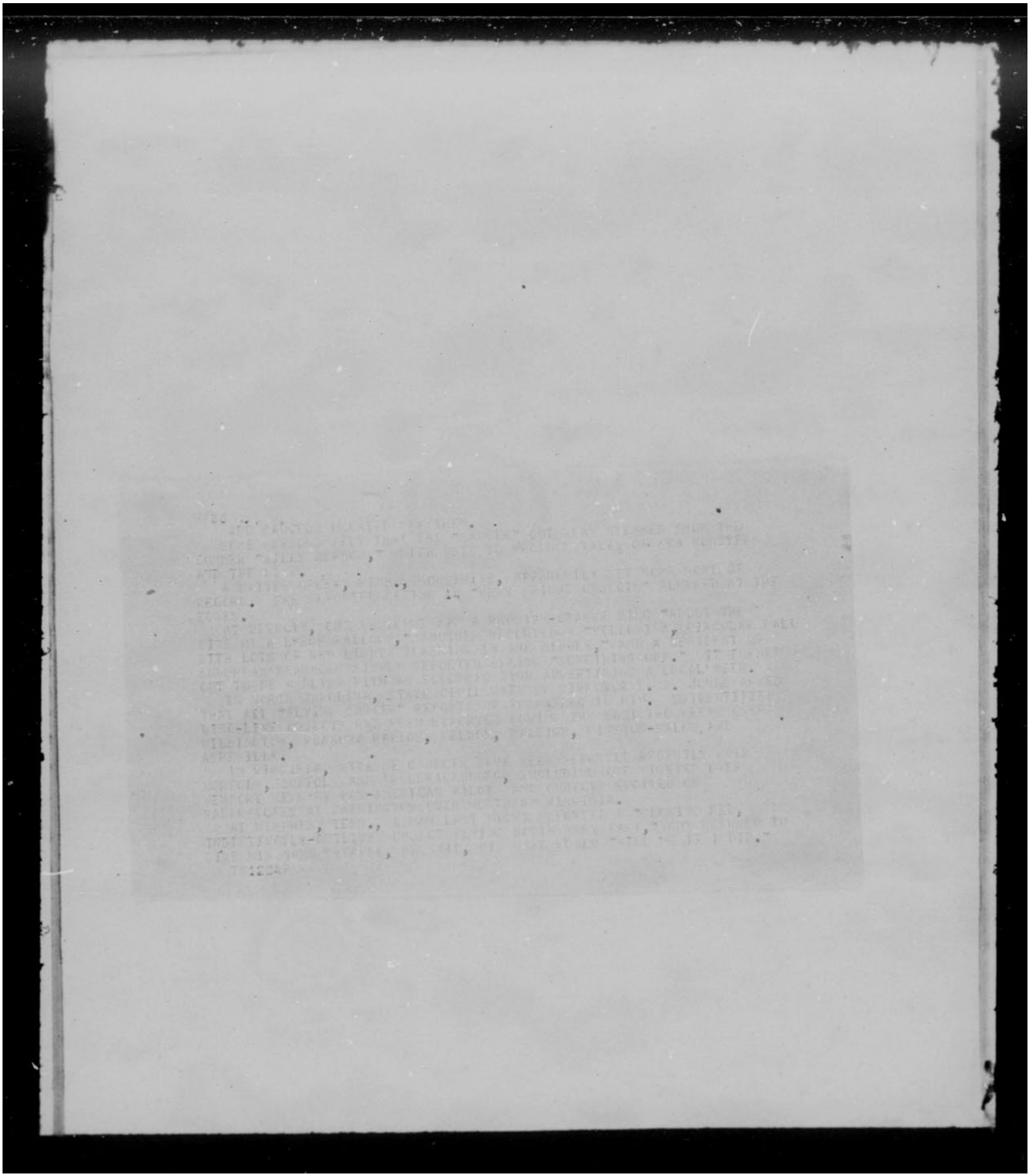

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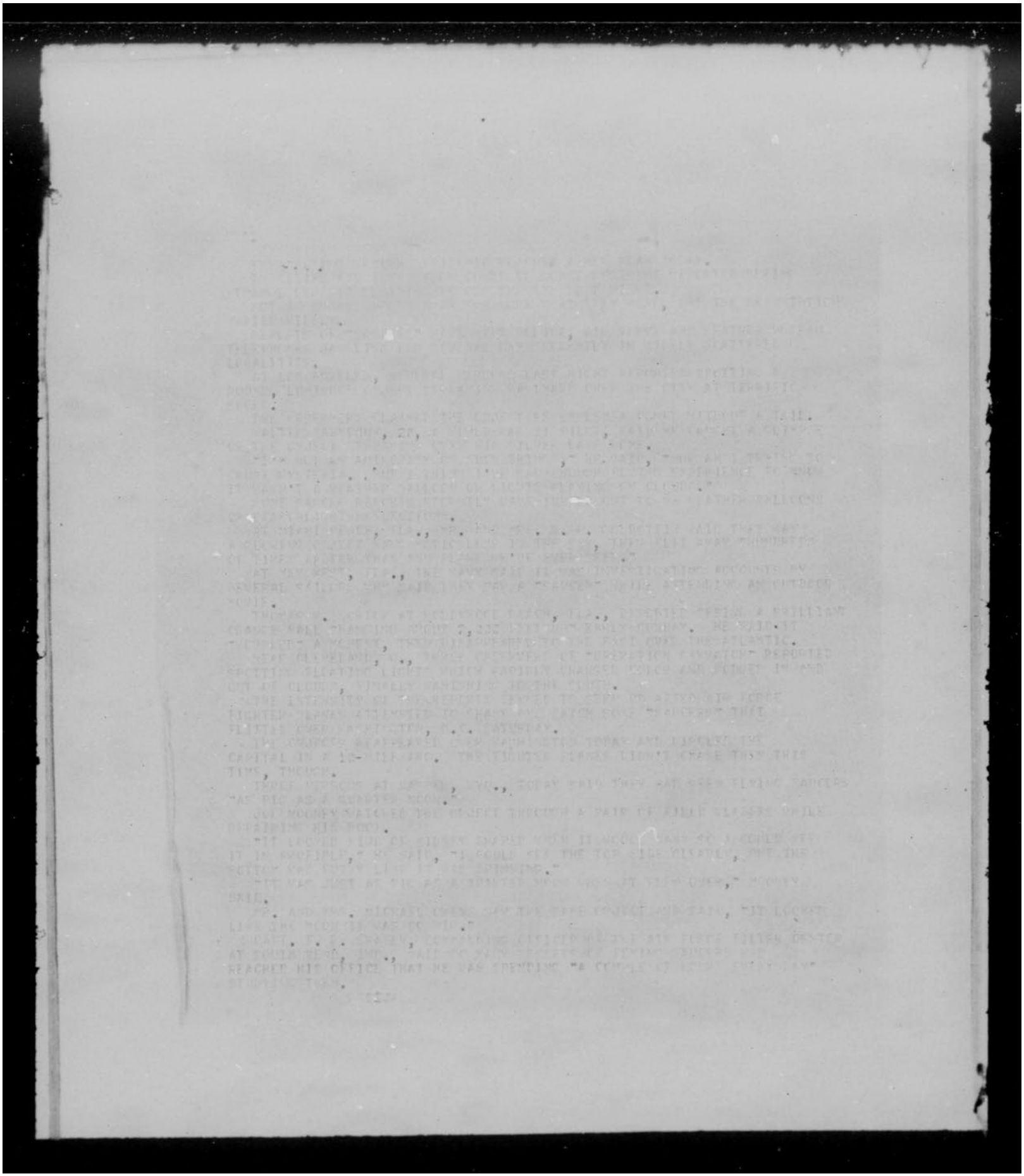

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HX171

1ST LEAD FLYING SAUCER

WASHINGTON, JULY 22--(UP)--THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS PICKED UP BY NATIONAL AIRPORT RADAR OPERATORS SATURDAY MIDNIGHT COULD HAVE BEEN "METEORLOGICAL PHENOMENA" OR POSSIBLY EVEN PRIVATE PLANES.

"WE CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT THEY WERE," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE U.S. AIR FORCE, WHICH ORIGINALLY DISCLOSED THE RADAR SIGHTINGS ON THE BASIS OF CAA REPORTS, SAID TODAY ITS OWN RADAR MEN AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MD., WERE "UNABLE" TO PICK UP THE "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS."

THAT WAS WHY AIR FORCE FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR AIRPLANES WERE NOT SENT ALOFT, THE STATEMENT SAID. A SPOKESMAN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DID NOT MEAN THE AIR FORCE IN OTHER CASES WOULD KEEP ITS FIGHTERS GROUNDED UNTIL IT WAS ABLE TO VERIFY REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED AIR VEHICLES WITH ITS OWN RADAR.

IT WAS LEARNED TODAY THAT SOME HOURS AFTER THE STRANGE OBJECTS WERE REPORTED, A NUMBER OF AIR FORCE JET FIGHTERS IN THE AIR OVER NEWCASTLE, DEL., ON ANOTHER MISSION WERE DIRECTED TO FLY OVER THE WASHINGTON AREA. BUT THEIR LOOKSEE WAS FRUITLESS---OR SAUCERLESS.

THE NAVY INFORMED THE AIR FORCE MEANWHILE THAT A REPORT PRINTED HERE THAT NAVY JETS HAD GONE ALOFT TO LOOK FOR THE OBJECTS WAS ERRONEOUS.

(PICKUP [illegible] AT 5TH PGH XXX TWO PILOTS ETC.)

JSA13P

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FB 1

1ST LEAD FLYING SAUCERS, LOS ANGELES

WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS, N. M., JULY 7--(AP)-- CLYDE TOMBAUGH IDENTIFIED HIMSELF TODAY AS THE "NOTED AMERICAN SCIENTIST" WHO TOLD AN ENGLISH AUTHORITY ON SPACE TRAVEL THAT HE "IS CERTAIN HE HAS SEEN" A FLYING SAUCER OVER THIS SECRET MILITARY BASE.

HE AGREED THAT HE IS PROBABLY THE MAN QUOTED IN LOS ANGELES, CALIF., BY SCIENTIST ARTHUR C. CLARKE.

CLARKE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE BELIEVES FLYING SAUCERS ARE MORE THAN MIRAGES OR MYTHS AND THAT HE BASED HIS BELIEF ON NEW DATA SUPPLIED HIM BY SCIENTISTS AT THIS ROCKET TESTING BASE.

TOMBAUGH WAS VAGUE ABOUT WHAT HE HAD SEEN BUT SAID "I'VE SEEN SOME FUNNY THINGS MYSELF. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE."

HE SAID HE MET CLARKE LAST WEEK WHEN THE ENGLISHMAN MADE A TALK IN LAS CRUCES.

CLARKE, WHO ARRIVED IN LOS ANGELES YESTERDAY FROM WHITE SANDS, SAID HE WAS "BEGINNING TO THINK THERE'S MORE TO THE FLYING SAUCER MYSTERY THAN JUST A MIRAGE."

-0-

July 7

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AG2

URGENT

SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 7--(UP)--A FLYING, FLAMING OBJECT WAS OBSERVED IN THE SKY OVER PARTS OF NORTHERN UTAH, NORTHERN NEVADA, IDAHO AND EASTERN OREGON TODAY AND SOME PILOTS INSISTED IT WAS A METEORITE THAT FELL, STARTING A FOREST FIRE, NEAR THE UTAH-NEVADA BORDER.

AN EMPIRE AIR LINES PILOT FIRST OBSERVED THE OBJECT NEAR PENDLETON, ORE. HE THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER AIRCRAFT WITH A BURNING ENGINE.

OBSERVERS AT BOISE SAID THEY NOTICED IT ABOUT 10 A.M. AND THAT IT LANDED SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF THE IDAHO CITY.

AT 10:32 A.M., NUMEROUS WITNESSES IN SALT LAKE CITY, OGDEN AND BRIGHAM CITY SAW THE OBJECT COMING FROM THE SKIES TO THE NORTHWEST AND A HIGH RATE OF SPEED.

AN AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER OPERATOR IN SALT LAKE CITY DESCRIBED IT AS A BLACK SPECK, TRAILED BY A STREAK OF LIGHT THAT WAS GREEN BUT CHANGED TO RED. HE SAID THE OBJECT EXPLODED--SOMEWHERE WEST OF GREAT SALT LAKE--WITH A BRILLIANT PUFF OF WHITE SMOKE AND THAT A BLACK OBJECT--"MORE SQUARE THAN ROUND"--FELL TO THE GROUND.

THE AIRWAYS TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER HERE SAID THE FLAMING DISPLAY WAS ALSO SEEN BY AIRMEN OVER RENO, NEV., DONNER SUMMIT, CALIF., AND HANKSVILLE, UTAH.

AT 11:30 A.M., AN AIRLINES PILOT SAID HE COULD SEE A "FRESH" FOREST FIRE IN THE SCRUB PINE AND SAGEBRUSH COVERED AREA NEAR PILOT PEAK, ABOUT 30 MILES WEST OF WENDOVER, ON THE UTAH-NEVADA LINE. OTHER AIRMEN CONVERGED THERE AND RADIOED BACK THEY THOUGHT THE FIRE HAD BEEN STARTED BY A FALLING METEORITE.

MORE ES1211P

X;

-95-

--95--

HX

JNL ASKS IF NEW LEAD LCW IN SITE?

J07

1210P.. JD

AG3

ADD METEOR, SALT LAKE CITY X X X METEORITE.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MONTANA POINTS ALSO REPORTED SEEING THE FLAMING OBJECT. THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT BOZEMAN WAS TOLD IT WAS A LARGE PLANE THAT "WENT DOWN IN FLAMES" NEAR BIG TIMBER, MONT., BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF MISSING AIRCRAFT.

ES1213P..

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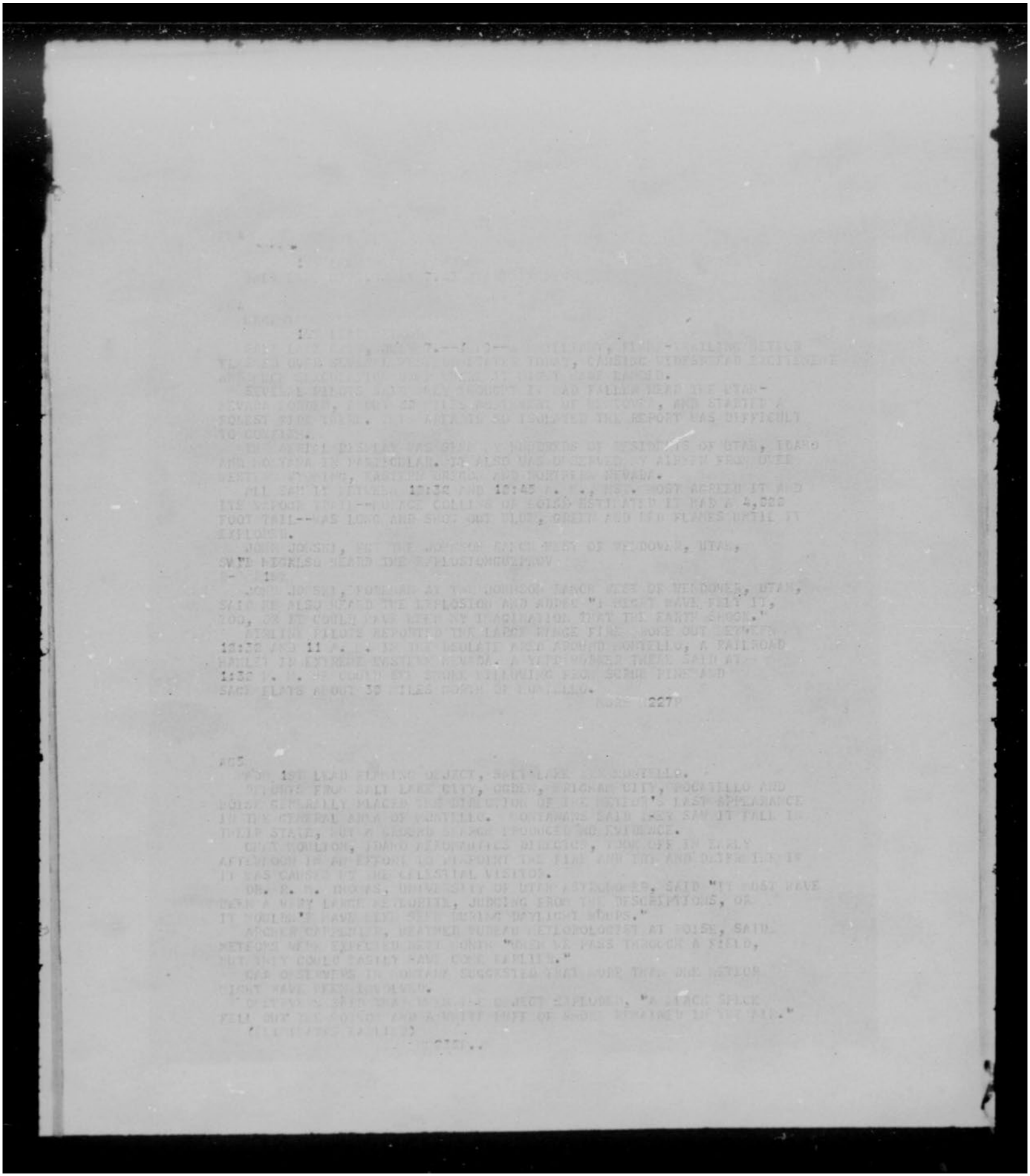

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AG 2W

BY HUGH A. WILSON

UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BOISE, AUG. 1.--(UP)--KENNETH ARNOLD, THE BOISE FLYING SALESMAN WHO FIRST SPOTTED THE FLYING SAUCERS FIVE YEARS AGO, INSISTS WITH EVERY BREATH OF SINCERITY WITHIN HIM THAT THOSE MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS ARE REAL --- AS SUBSTANTIAL AS THE GOOD EARTH BENEATH OUR FEET.

BUT THEY ARE SOMETHING FROM BEYOND THIS WORLD OF OURS, HE SAID TODAY --- SOMETHING THAT HAS CONQUERED TIME AND SPACE.

ARNOLD HAS SEEN THE SAUCERS 11 TIMES. HE SIGHTED THE FIRST IN 1947. THE LATEST HE SAW WAS NEAR MC DERMITT, NEV., OVER THE SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS, IN AUGUST, 1951.

NEVER, HE SAID, DID THEY APPEAR TO BE MENACING, AND NEVER DID HE HAVE THE FEAR THAT THEY WOULD COLLIDE WITH A PLANE IN FLIGHT. HE FIRMLY BELIEVES THEY ARE THE PRODUCT OF AN INTELLECT SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING ON EARTH.

BUT IF THEY WERE OF HOSTILE NATURE, SAID ARNOLD, WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM. THE FASTEST, MOST DEADLY INTERCEPTOR IN EXISTANCE TODAY WOULD BE USELESS.

YES, THE SAUCERS ARE REAL TO ARNOLD. IN DESCRIBING THEM HE SAID THEY SEEM TO BE A LIVING SUBSTANCE, CAPABLE OF BECOMING MORE DENSE OR LESS DENSE AT WILL. THIS, HE THINS(GIVES THEM THEIR POWER TO MOVE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.

SOME OF THE SAUCERS HE HAS SEEN APPEAR TO BE ALIVE AND ABLE TO THINK AND MOVE FOR THEMSELVES. OTHERS, HE SAID, LOOK AS THOUGH THEIR OUTER SHELLS WERE MADE OF METAL AND THEIR FLIGHT WAS CONTROLLED FROM WITHIN.

ARNOLD IS CONVINCED THAT RADAR ACTUALLY TRACKED FLYING SAUCERS IN THE RECENT MYSTERIOUS FORMATIONS THAT APPEARED OVER WASHINGTON, D.C. WHAT GOOD WOULD OUR MULTI-MILLIN RADAR NETWORK BE TO DEFENSE, IF IT HAS NOT BEEN PERFECTED TO DISTINGUISH ACTUAL OBJECTS IN FLIGHT?

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FOLO WASHINGTON
BOSTON, AUG. 1.--(UP)--SHELL R. ALPERT, 21-YEAR-OLD COAST GUARD PHOTOGRAPHER, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY HOW HE SAW SOME "WAVERING LIGHTS" AND SNAPPED A PHOTOGRAPH THAT SHOWED WHAT LOOKED LIKE FOUR FLYING SAUCERS.

"I COULDN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE WAVERING LIGHTS. THEY STAYED THERE IN THE SKY FOR MORE THAN SIX OR SEVEN SECONDS," ALPERT SAID.

ALPERT, 150 ASH ST., DENVER, COLO., SAID THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE JULY 16 WHILE HE WAS ON DUTY FILING PHOTOGRAPHS AT 9:35 A.M. IN THE SALEM COAST GUARD STATION.

HIS STORY WAS CORROBORATED IN PART BY THOMAS E. FLAHERTY, 24, WHO SAID HE WAS HASTILY CALLED INTO THE SALEM PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY AND TOLD TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

"I LOOKED UP AND SAW THIS QUICK FLASH. IT WAS VERY BRIGHT, BUT DIDN'T MAKE ME BLINK MY EYES. I COULDN'T DISTINGUISHED ANY OBJECT AND I WAS VERY SURPRISED THAT SHELL GOT A PICTURE."

FLAHERTY SAID NEITHER HE NOR ALPERT THOUGHT THE OBJECTS WERE SOLID THINGS, LIKE AIRCRAFT.

ALPERT SAID HE TOOK THE PICTURE WITH A 4 BY 5 CAMERA SET AT ABOUT 1/25TH TO 1/50TH OF A SECOND AT F 4.7. HE SAID THE CAMERA WAS IN THE LABORATORY TO BE CLEANED AND THAT THE SCREENS ON THE WINDOW THROUGH WHICH HE TOOK THE PICTURE WERE DIRTY.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, HE WAS SURE HE SAW LIGHTS IN THE SKY.

HE SAID IT WAS EXTREMELY HOT THAT DAY AND IT WAS POSSIBLE THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN [illegible].

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BY ROBERT K. SERLI
UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, AUG. 1.--(UP)--THE COAST GUARD TODAY RELEASED A PHOTOGRAPH OF FOUR BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHTS SNAPPED OVER ITS SALEM, MASS., AIR STATION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

THE PICTURE, TAKEN BY A 21-YEAR-OLD COAST GUARD PHOTOGRAPHER, WAS THE LATEST EPISODE IN THE NATIONWIDE OUTBURST OF "FLYING SAUCER" MYSTERIES.

IT CLEARLY SHOWS FOUR RAGGED-EDGED ROUND OBJECTS IN V-FORMATION. EACH APPEARS TO HAVE TWO IDENTICAL SHAFTS OF LIGHT EXTENDING ACROSS ITS CENTER AND PROTRUDING FORE AND AFT LIKE A GHOSTLY WING.

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEGATIVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY COAST GUARD PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERTS WHO ARE SATISFIED "THERE IS NO RETOUCHING OR FAKERY INVOLVED."

"WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OBJECTS ARE," A COAST GUARD OFFICER SAID, "BUT THAT BOY'S CAMERA CAUGHT SOMETHING."

A UNITED PRESS REPORTER WAS ALLOWED TO SEE THE NEGATIVE WHICH WAS FLOWN LATER TODAY TO DAYTON, O., WHERE IT WILL BE EXAMINED BY AIR FORCE INVESTIGATORS.

THE NEGATIVE SHOWS NO SIGN OF RETOUCHING, EVEN UNDER AN ENLARGER WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD SHOW UP ANY FAKING.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS SHELL ALPERT, A COAST GUARD ENLISTED PHOTOGRAPHER. HE SAID HE MADE THE PICTURE AT 9:35 A.M., JULY 16, THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW OF THE AIR STATION'S PHOTO LABORATORY.

ALPERT SAID HE WAS PREPARING TO CLEAN A CAMERA WHEN HE LOOKED OUTSIDE AND NOTICED SEVERAL BRILL

OUTSIDE AND NOTICED SEVERAL BRILLIANT LIGHTS IN THE SKY. HE CALLED ANOTHER COAST GUARDSMAN, HOSPITALMAN FIRST CLASS THOMAS E. FLAHERTY, WHO ALSO SAID HE SAW THE LIGHTS.

ALPERT SAID THE LIGHTS DIMMED SOMEWHAT, THEN BRIGHTENED. HE GRABBED A CAMERA, HELD THE SHUTTER WIDE OPEN AND SNAPPED A PICTURE.

COAST GUARD OFFICIALS WHO RELEASED THE PICTURE FOR PUBLICATION, SAID ALPERT WAS QUESTIONED FOR HOURS BY NAVAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS BUT HELD TO HIS STORY THAT HE HAD NOT SUPERIMPOSED THE LIGHTS OR OTHERWISE FAKED THE PICTURE.

ALPERT TOLD INVESTIGATORS THAT JULY 16 WAS A "VERY HOT DAY" AND THAT THE LIGHTS MAY HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF REFRACTION OF GROUND REFLECTIONS.

THAT HAS BEEN THE OFFICIAL AIR FORCE EXPLANATION FOR MANY SO-CALLED "SAUCER REPORTS."

ONLY YESTERDAY AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF HOYT S. VANDENBERG SCOFFED AT THE SAUCER REPORTS AND VOICED HOPE "MASS HYSTERIA" OVER THEM WOULD SOON PASS.

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