

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE DR 23 November 1951		2. LOCATION Riverside, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>HOAX</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT <u>UNKNOWN</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE CIVILIAN			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE N/A		
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photograph of alleged flying saucer.			11. COMMENTS Phot is wheel cover of from 1937 ford thrown into air and photographed.		

(Confidential)

23

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL 504 DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION	SEARCH INDEX FILE
CHIEF	AGENT
TO:	FILE

BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

OR at DTR removed

1. McLoski - Actual
 2. McLoski - Info
 3. McLoski - 1

24 MAR 52
 CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY
 TO DO IS CSI HAYWOOD CALIF

TO CS AND SPAFS FOR DIST OFFICE 5 DIST CSI SPAFS

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
 DOD DIR 5200.10

PROJECT BLUELOCK. UR REQUEST TO DETERMINE AUTHENTICITY OF PHOTOGRAPH
 OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT TAKEN BY MR [REDACTED] RIVERSIDE
 CALIF. APPOINTMENT MADE LATE AFTERNOON 21 MAR 52 TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]
 AT 0900 HOURS 22 MAR 52. AT 0640 HOURS, 22 MAR 52, [REDACTED] DELIVERED
 NOTE TO MARCH AFB SENTRY ADVISING IMPERATIVE BUSINESS IN PHOENIX
 AFB PREVENTED INTERVIEW. NOTE DECLARED FACTS SURROUNDING PHOTOGRAPH
 EXACTLY AS REPORTED IN NEWSPAPERS. INTERVIEW OF 2 FORMER ASSOCIATES
 OF [REDACTED] DISCLOSES QUESTION OF RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY.
 BOTH REPORT [REDACTED] PHARMSTER AND CAPABLE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC HOAX BUT
 NO DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING QUESTIONED PHOTOGRAPH. [REDACTED],
 COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHER, RIVERSIDE, SELLER OF PHOTOGRAPH TO AGENT
 ADVISED PHOTOGRAPH AUTHENTIC IN HIS OPINION. [REDACTED] REPORTED [REDACTED]
 HESITANT ABOUT BRINGING NEGATIVE TO HIM BECAUSE OF [REDACTED] REPUTATION
 AS PHARMSTER. [REDACTED] ADVISED 3 PERSONS, NAMES UNKNOWN TO HIM, PRESENT

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ACTION COPY

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PAGE TWO

WHEN PHOTOGRAPH MADE. [REDACTED] VAGUE ABOUT SIZE AND DISTANCE OF OBJECT
WHEN PHOTOGRAPHED. NEGATIVE DEVELOPED COMMERCIALY REPORTS [REDACTED] ALTHOUGH
[REDACTED] NORMALLY PROCESSES FILMS AT [REDACTED] PHOTO SHOP. NEITHER NEGATIVE
OF PRINT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. [REDACTED] ADVISES NEGATIVE FORWARDED
PREVIOUS WEEK TO LIFE MAGAZINE, LOS ANGELES, FOR FORWARDING TO LIFE
MAGAZINE, NEW YORK, FOR STORY ON FLYING OBJECTS.

[REDACTED] WILL RELEASE NEGATIVES, IF DESIRED, TO OSI UPON RETURN FROM
~~LIFE MAGAZINE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING. WHEN DETERMINATION OF~~
AUTHENTICITY MADE, RESULTS WILL BE WIRED YOUR HQS.

525-36613-1

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

171530Z MAR 50

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PRECEDENCE FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

OO ATIC

TO: DISTRICT COMMANDER 10TH DISTRICT OST
32ND USAF SPECIALIZED REPORT
BOX 330 RAYBOD CALIF

BOOK MESSAGE

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

YES

NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-2G

THE AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER HAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF AN UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT TAKEN BY A MR. [REDACTED] OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA. THE PHOTO WAS SOLD TO THE LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF THE ACME NEWS PICTURE, INC. THE NUMBERED IDENTIFICATION OF THE PHOTOS LA 9080. PHOTO INTERPRETATION INDICATES OBJECT MAY BE AUTOMOBILE HUB-CAP, HOWEVER, DUE TO POOR DEFINITION IN PHOTO THIS ANALYSIS IS NOT CONCLUSIVE. REQUEST THAT MR. [REDACTED] CONTACTED AND DETAILS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THE PHOTO BE OBTAINED. IF HE CANNOT BE LOCATED IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, HE CAN BE LOCATED THROUGH ACME NEWS PICTURES, INC. IN LOS ANGELES. PROOF OF AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTO IS URGENTLY NEEDED. IN REPLY CITE PROJECT BLUE BOOK.

10-371
 DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR IN
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEAR
 DOD DIR 5200.19

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

15-6087

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

LT E. J. RUPPELT

SYMBOL

TELEPHONE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ATIAA-2G

5202

DD FORM 173 1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48, WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-50223-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: (Originator)

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

DATE-TIME GROUP 21000Z MAR 52		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> BOOK MESSAGE		<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE ADDRESS		CRYPTOPRECAUTION <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
REFERS TO MESSAGE:		
IDENTIFICATION 11-371	CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL	

GO ATIC

TO: BENJAMIN GORDON, JR. 15TH DISTRICT OSI
 82ND USAF SPECIALIZED GROUP
 BOX 310 MAXWELL GOLF

REPORT

INFO:

INFO: AFMIA-23

REFERENCE IS MADE TO OUR MEMO, SER IC-371, DATED 171500Z MAR 52. FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DISSEMINATE OF INTELLIGENCE, HQ USAF, STATES THAT MR. [REDACTED] WHEN APPROACHED BY LIFE MAGAZINE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE F.B.I. AND THAT THEY TOOK HIS NEGATIVES AND SENT THEM TO THE AIR FORCE. HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF F.B.I. PARTICIPATION NOR HAVE HE EVER RECEIVED SUBJECT NEGATIVES. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL POSSIBLY ASSIST YOU IN YOUR INVESTIGATION.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS,
 DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

753-6087A

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required) LT B. J. TRUBBLE	
RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	
SYMBOL AFMIA-23	TELEPHONE 54351
OFFICIAL TITLE	

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

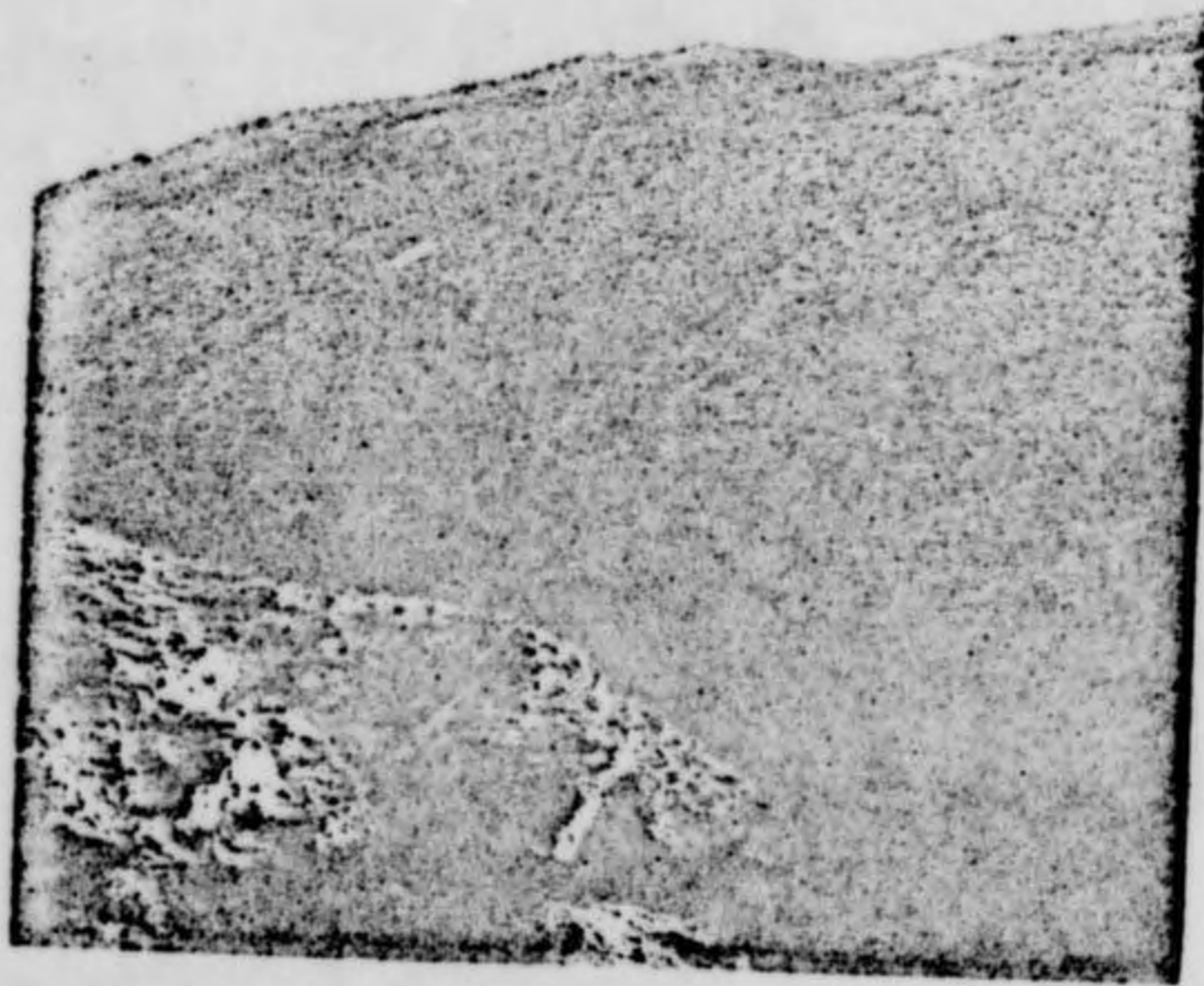
REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-54121-2 ★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Case includes one (1) 8" x 10" photograph,
four (4) 3" x 3 ³/₄" photographs, two (2)
4" x 5" negatives.





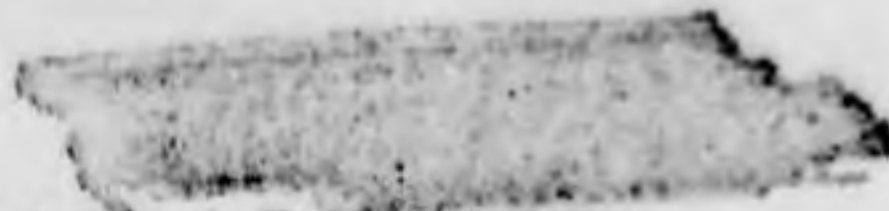







DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)


UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.

SUBJECT Photograph of an Unidentified Aerial Object Taken
by Mr.  Riverside, California

TO ATIAA-2C

FROM MCE

DATE 22 Apr 52

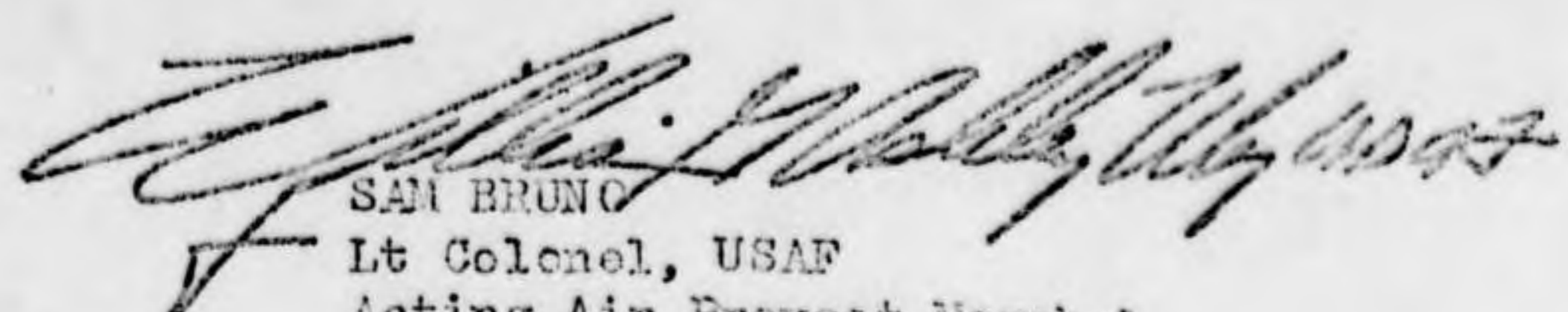
COMMENT NO. 1

ATTN: Lt E. J. Ruppelt
(NRN)

Mr. Rohlf/pjm
64112/B262/PIR

The attached letter dated 7 April 1952 together with OSI Report of Investigation is forwarded as a matter pertaining to your Headquarters.

1 Incl
Ltr dtd 7 Apr 52
w/ 1 Incl (in dup)


SAM BRUNO
Lt Colonel, USAF
Acting Air Provost Marshal
Inspector General's Office

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

7-2112-48

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 28 Nov 1951		2. LOCATION Riverside, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Conflicting Data</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0300 AM GMT 28/1100Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE - - -		
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Observation of object was oval, green halo, with characteristics of adjacent stars. Observed for 30 minutes. Object appeared to be stationary at 4 to 5,000 ft altitude. Nearest star Vega. Object had movement like ball bouncing in slow motion. Report made in May 1952 News Article.			11. COMMENTS At 0300 on 28 Nov 51, Vega not visible. Venus not visible. Jupiter on horizon and west. Mars below horizon in EAST. Object characteristic of Astro body, however, no major planet visible during report of sighting. Star Vega below horizon. Venus nearest planet to Vega. Report evaluated as conflicting data. (Vega not visible)		

Swenson Report Tells of Saucer Sighted, Chased

Recent revival of interest by the public in reports on flying saucers has induced a Northrop artist to relate an adventure along these lines which he had kept to himself in fear that nobody would believe the tale.



LEO SWENSON
Saw Saucer

Leo Swenson, illustrator, of the Illustration Department, is the man who witnessed the strange object and its behavior as pictured on this page. Swenson returned to the spot when the Northrop News became interested and made an accurate painting of the surrounding territory and landmarks. The "saucer" was seen by Swenson at 3:00 a.m. on the morning of November 28, 1951, while traveling along Highway 91 between Colton and Riverside.

Greenish and Oval

According to Swenson, when the object was first sighted, it appeared to have the same characteristics as adjacent stars, except that it was surrounded by a greenish oval halo which had the appearance of cigar smoke around the outside of a luminous core.

He stopped his car and observed the object for thirty minutes. At first it appeared to be 4000 to 5000 feet in the air.

As he watched, the object dilated rapidly up to five times its original magnitude and remained that way for half a minute.

The Chase

It then dwindled back to a slightly lesser size than the nearest comparative star (Vega), and had the appearance of being cut in half. Later it returned to its original density and magnitude.

Swenson drove eastward on Center Street in the general direction of the object in an attempt to see it at closer range. The object moved off in an easterly direction at a slow rate of speed and although he was able to approach somewhat closer, the street turned south after five miles and the chase came to an end.

He stopped his car and was able to observe the flight pattern of the object against a cloud formation until it disappeared. It appeared to climb and gain speed.

The action of the object as it moved up and eastward was like a rubber ball bouncing in slow motion. The object rose and fell vertically but did not swerve from side to side.

Swenson

Swenson's background includes a tour of duty with the USAF Intelligence Department, Historical Section. His assigned duty was to compile and illustrate war events; results of experimental projects and combat developments. He was educated at University of Utah; Harvard University; and Choinard Art Institute, Los Angeles.

Swenson's report is reminiscent of, but entirely dissimilar to, a memo written in April, 1950, by Northrop pilot Max Stanley who came to very close range in broad daylight with an object while flying over Memphis, Texas, with two other men in the Northrop "Black Widow."

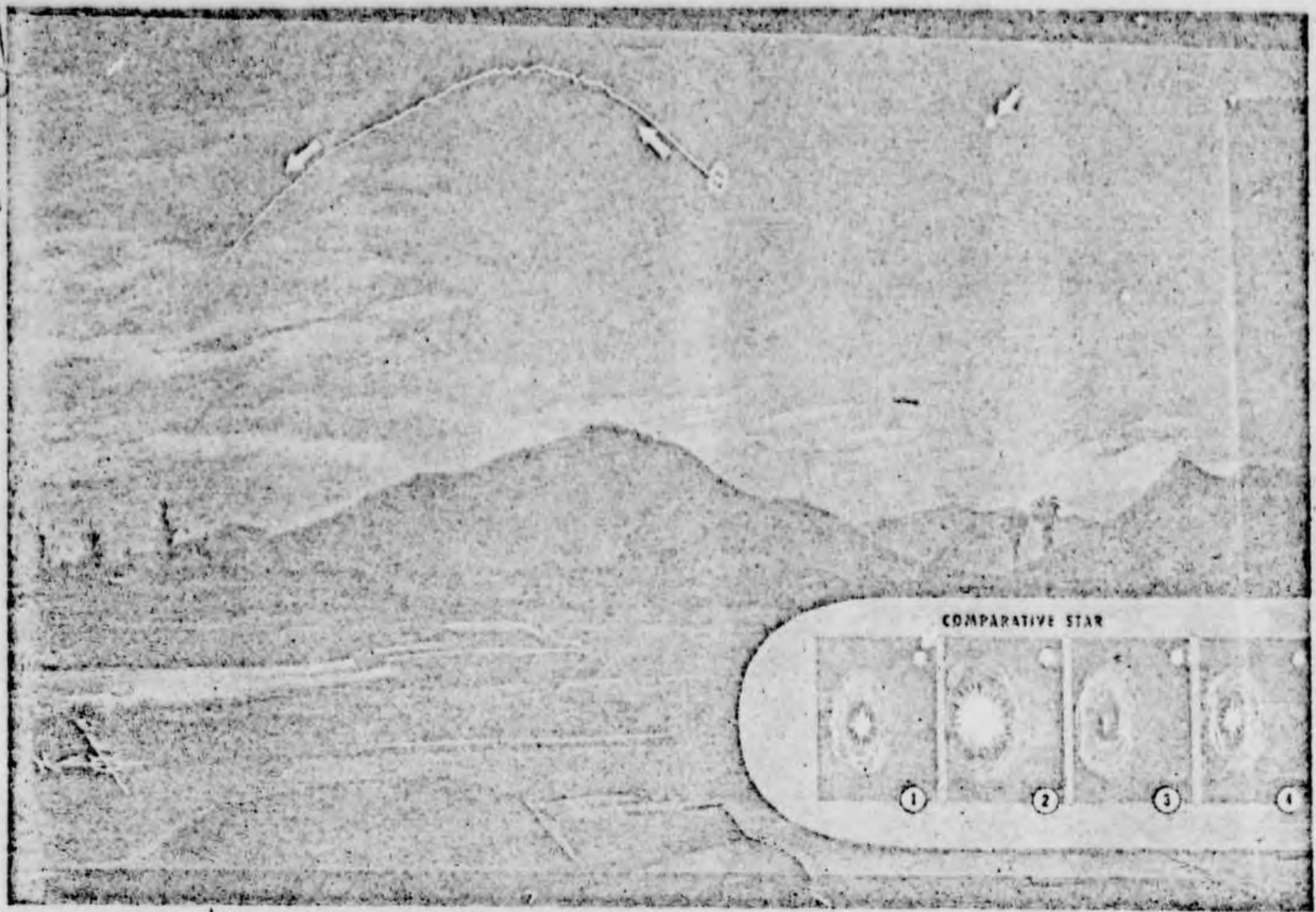
Stanley stated, "The object was of a silvery metallic color with a translucent quality; no orange ring or other evidence of color was observed. The shape of the object was spherelike with prominent detents on the top and bottom, and with a dark streak or shadow connecting these detents. For the most part this shadow was vertical and appeared to tilt occasionally, resulting in a sideways movement of the object."

Stanley's memo states, "Mr. Lloyd Balsam, who was riding in the gunner's station in the airplane, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Sam F. West is a graduate of the University of California, and for five years was employed in the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

"Both of the above observers are familiar with this report, and are in agreement with the statements made herein. Further, we all agree that the object sighted was not an airplane, balloon, celestial body, or any other object commonly seen above the earth."

1-3112-410

Swenson



FLYING SAUCER viewed by Leo Swenson, Illustration Department, in early morning of November 28, 1951, pictured here in sketch made at the scene by Swenson especially for Northrop News. Chart shows size as compared to Vega when first seen (1); when it expanded (2); when it shrank and appeared cut in half at its nucleus (3); and when it returned to its original size (4). Arrows (center left) show path and action of object as it departed in easterly direction. Swenson had the object in direct view for over thirty minutes. He was watching stars and going over a course in navigation he is taking in a local school when he spotted the odd object. Passenger airplane (right center) gave Swenson a fair idea of height and size of the "saucer." Object was chased in Swenson's automobile for a good five miles.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

7 April 1952

SUBJECT: Photograph of an Unidentified
Aerial Object Taken by Mr. [redacted]
[redacted] Riverside, California
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Attached hereto for your information are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent JESSE E. McSWAIN, 18th OSI District, dated 28 March 1952, file 24-168, subject as above.

2. This investigation was requested by the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, predicated upon the publication in newspapers of a photograph of an alleged flying saucer.

3. Mr. [redacted] was interviewed on 24 March 1952 and stated the photograph was "phony"; was originally started as a gag, and mushroomed beyond his control. He reported object in the photograph is a tire cover from a 1937 Ford automobile and was buried at the site where the photograph was taken.

4. No further investigative action is contemplated and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed in this case.

5. Attention is invited to paragraph 7, AFR 205-1, which prohibits disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

John L. Lawrence
745 AF
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl (in dup)
R/I, DO #18, dtd 28 Mar 52

Copy to:
Hq OSI

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO.

24-168

DATE

28 March 1952

REPORT MADE BY

JESSE E. McSWAIN

TITLE

Photograph of an Unidentified
 Aerial Object Taken by Mr.
 [REDACTED], Riverside,
 California

REPORT MADE AT

DO #18, Maywood, California

PERIOD

21, 22 & 24 March 1952

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DO #18, Maywood, California

STATUS

CLOSED

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

None, this is an initial report.

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by CG, AMC, and predicated upon publication of photograph of alleged flying saucer taken by [REDACTED] Riverside, Calif. TWX from CG, AMC, advised photo interpretation discloses belief object in photo is automobile hub-cap but findings not conclusive. TWX requested authenticity of photo be determined. Appointment made with [REDACTED] for 22 Mar 52 not kept by [REDACTED] because of his "imperative" need to be in Phoenix. Inquiry disclosed [REDACTED] of questioned reliability and integrity and has reputation of being prankster. Mr. [REDACTED], person who sold photograph to newspapers, interviewed and declared photograph authentic in his opinion. Mr. [REDACTED] reported personal sighting of numerous flying saucers over Riverside, California. Mr. [REDACTED] contacted 24 March 1952 and consented to interview at March AFB. [REDACTED] immediately declared photograph "phony"; was originally started as a gag, and mushroomed beyond his control. He reported object in photograph is tire cover from about 1937 Ford automobile and was buried at the site where photograph taken. Exact location presently unknown to [REDACTED].

DISTRIBUTION

CG, AMC (Action Cys) 2
 DO #5 2
 Hqs OSI 2
 File 2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General
 Air Materiel Command
 Wright-Patterson AFB
 Ohio

FILE STAMP

APPROVED

[Signature]
 KEEFE O'KEEFE
 Colonel, USAF
 District Commander

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DETAILS:

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1. This investigation was requested by the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and is predicated upon the publication in newspapers of a photograph of an alleged flying saucer. Mr. T.M., the Commanding General of A.C. requested that Mr. [redacted] Riverside, California, be contacted to determine the authenticity of the photograph reportedly taken by him. The T.M. is quoted as follows:

"THE A.M.C. HAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT CAPTURED BY A P. [redacted] OF RIVERSIDE, CALIF. THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY THE LOS ANGELES JOURNAL OF THE 16TH MARCH 1952, ETC. THE PHOTO SHOWS A DISC SHAPED OBJECT IN THE SKY. IT IS 9000 FEET IN DIAMETER AND HAS A SPEED OF 1000 M.P.H. HOWEVER, THE OBJECT WAS OBSERVED IN UNUSUAL MANNER IN THE SKY. THE OBJECT WAS REPORTED THAT IT WAS A SCOUTS AIRCRAFT OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. THE OBJECT WAS OBSERVED IN THE SKY IN RIVERSIDE, CALIF., IN THE EARLY PART OF THE DAY, ETC. THE OBJECT WAS OBSERVED IN LOS ANGELES. PROOF OF THE OBJECT IS BEING INVESTIGATED. THE OBJECT WAS OBSERVED IN RIVERSIDE, CALIF., IN THE EARLY PART OF THE DAY, ETC."

AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

2. Mr. [redacted] Riverside, California, was contacted telephonically in the late afternoon of 21 March 1952. Mr. [redacted] advised he could not make an appointment for interview on 21 March 1952 but would be available for interview at 0900 hours, 22 March 1952. He requested the interview be held at the March AFB Detachment OSI.

3. At 0650 hours, 22 March 1952, the writer stationed himself at the March AFB gate to meet Mr. [redacted]. The sentry on duty delivered a note addressed to the writer and advised it had been delivered to him at about 0345 hours, 22 March 1952. The note is quoted:

Mr. McSwain
OSI

Dear Sir -

I found it imperative to be in Phoenix for a few days and had to leave early this morning - I will contact you upon my return -

The camera used in the Photograph under discussion was Kodak-icord, Super 8 film, all the rest of the story can be obtained from the clipping in the Riverside Press - it's the straight story -

Respectfully
[redacted]

4. Mr. [redacted] Riverside, and Mr. [redacted] were interviewed and advised

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[REDACTED]

they had known [REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED
up until recent years. [REDACTED] declared he has the reputation of being a prankster
and practical joker and would be capable of performing a hoax and carrying it
through to the ultimate end. Neither knew of any definite information con-
cerning the photograph in question and were unable to furnish any information
concerning [REDACTED]'s photographic ability or background. Both declared him to
be of questionable reliability and integrity.

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

5. This phase of the investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] T.
[REDACTED], 10 1/2, Inglewood, California.

6. The Love Pans Pictures, Los Angeles, California, was contacted and advised
they had purchased photograph LA 9089 from Mr. [REDACTED]
Riverside, California. Love advised Mr. [REDACTED] is a "bringer", one who gets
pictures and sells them.

AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

7. Mr. [REDACTED] commercial photographer, [REDACTED] Riverside,
was interviewed and advised he had sold the photograph of the flying saucer
which had been taken by [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] related that he had originally
sold [REDACTED] the camera used and had printed the picture which appeared in
the newspaper. He said that although [REDACTED] normally processed his films
at [REDACTED] photo shop, the film in question had been processed through a
commercial film finishing company. [REDACTED] declared that [REDACTED] had been very
hesitant about bringing the negative to him because he, [REDACTED] did have the
reputation of being a prankster and was afraid no one would believe that the
photograph was not a hoax. He continued that [REDACTED] was extremely reluctant
about any publicity concerning the photograph but finally, after being persuaded
by [REDACTED], consented to its publication. [REDACTED] said he had studied the photo-
graph and negative from every conceivable photographic standpoint, and is
absolutely convinced the photograph had not been retouched and is not a fraud
or hoax. He said some persons viewing the photo had questioned whether or
not the object was a hub-cap from an automobile but their fears were dis-
pelled when a laboratory in Riverside examined the dimensions and curvature of
the object and declared it was not an automobile hub-cap. [REDACTED] averred he
had checked the negative and the size of the object was in complete conformity
with the focal length of the lens used in taking the photograph. [REDACTED] swore
the negative had not been retouched in any way when he made the prints from
it and it was an actual photograph.

8. On 22 March 1952, a T.X. was sent to the Commanding General, Air Technical
Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, with information copy to the District
Commander, 5th District OSI. The T.X. advised the action and information
addressee of the facts as developed at that time.

9. On 24 March 1952, at 1000 hours, a telephone call was placed to the
residence of Mr. [REDACTED]. The writer inquired of the individual answering
the phone if [REDACTED] pictures, was at home. The answering party

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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advised he was and called him to the telephone. The writer identified himself to Mr. [REDACTED] and requested permission to come to his home to talk to him. Mr. [REDACTED] asked if it was imperative that the writer speak to him. Advised that it was imperative from the viewpoint of the U.S. Air Force, Mr. [REDACTED] consented to the interview and promised to be at the March AFB gate at 1100 hours.

AT MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

10. Mr. [REDACTED] was interviewed in the March AFB Detachment OSI Office. When informed of the exact nature of the inquiry being made, Mr. [REDACTED] stated, "There's no sense in beating around the bush. The photograph is a phony." He then advised that he and three other young men from Riverside had been on the Falls to Pines Highway from Hemet, California, to Palm Springs, California. At a point approximately 15 or 20 miles east of the Idyllwild turn-off they had found the spare tire cover from about a 1937 Ford automobile. One of the individuals present with him had thrown the tire cover into the air and he, [REDACTED], had photographed it. He said he then decided to pull a gag on a friend of his, [REDACTED], by telling him he had actually photographed a flying saucer. In order to make his story more realistic, he had his film processed by a commercial film developing company, and then took the negative to [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] checked the negative thoroughly to assure himself it was not a hoax and then sold it to the News Picture firm. Mr. [REDACTED] said he was sorry about it almost immediately but it was too late to do anything about it. He advised that Mr. [REDACTED] has not even mentioned that the photograph is a hoax but still believes it is actually a flying saucer.

11. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he and his companions had buried the tire cover at the spot where they took the photograph. He said he does not now know the exact location of the site of the photograph and might not be able to find it. He declared he is extremely sorry the U.S. Air Force became involved in the matter and did not want to create any disturbance at all. For that reason, he said, he felt telling the truth to the Air Force investigators was the only thing for him to do. He said he would like to undo any damage that it might have caused. He reported the negative has been sent to Life magazine and, upon its return to him, will be submitted to the OSI if it is desired.

12. On 24 March 1952, a TX was sent to the Commanding General, AFB, advising him that the photograph taken by [REDACTED] is not an authentic photograph of a flying saucer.

CLOSED

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND

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LA9080 LOS ANGELES BUREAU

THIS IS A FLYING SAUCER ?

LOS ANGELES: The object shown in this picture is purportedly a "flying saucer". It was sighted by [redacted] and two friends who were stopped on a mountain road looking at the scenery. [redacted] claims that the "thing" flew by once at a very high rate of speed and when it came back he had his camera ready and made this picture. The place where the object was seen was near Riverside, Calif. but [redacted] was a little hazy as to the exact location. He claims that the "saucer" was four or five city blocks distant at the time the picture was made. (EXCLUSIVE)

APPE-CHI-NY-634
SECRET (ACMF PHOTO)

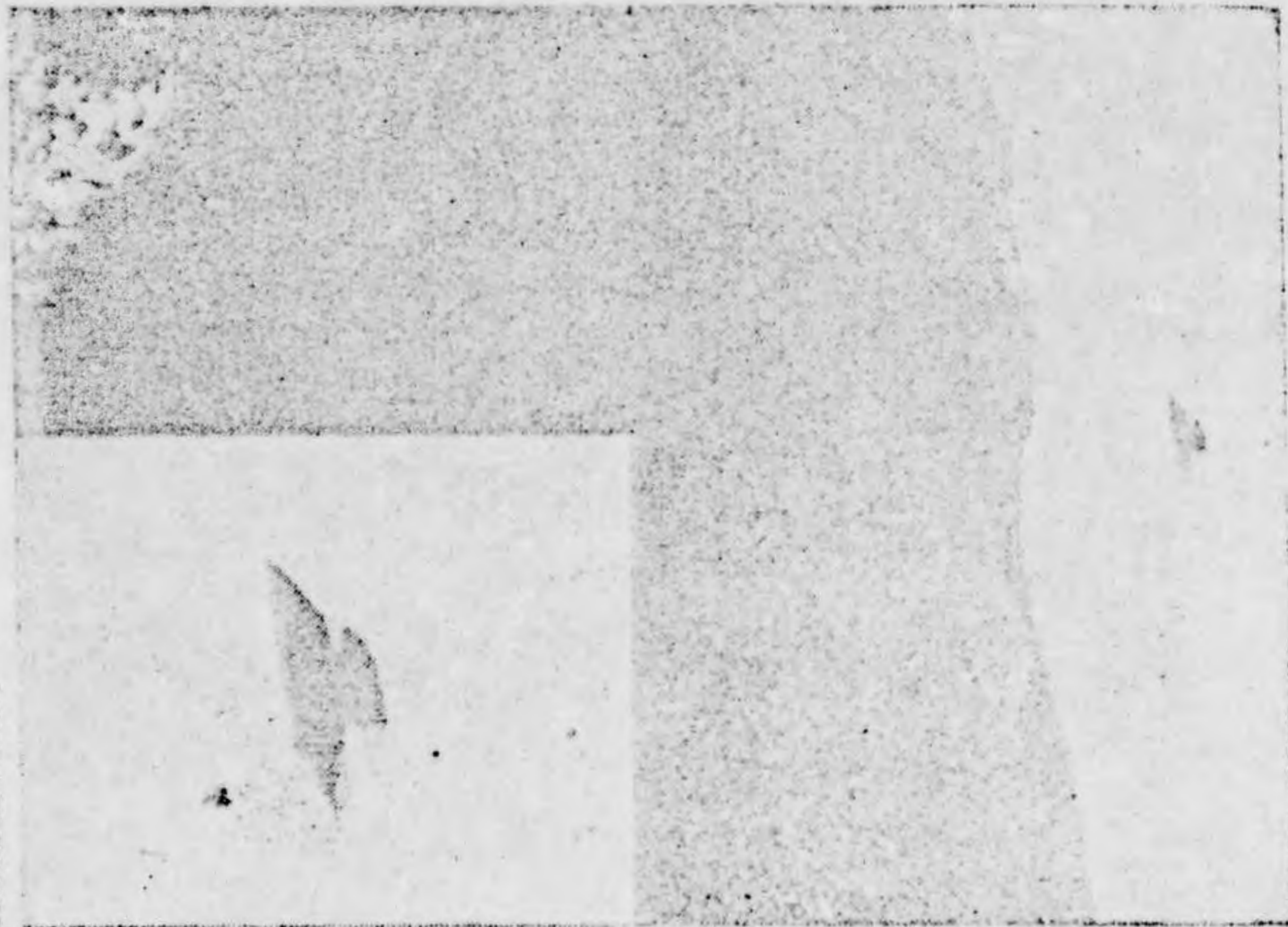
UNCLASSIFIED

11/24/51

60

*Riverside, California - 23 Nov 51
No further Data on Photo*

Is This A Flying Saucer?



RIVERSIDE, Calif., Nov. 23.—Object above the skyline, and shown in inset (lower right corner), is purported to be a "Flying Saucer" sighted and photographed near Riverside, Calif., by [redacted]. Two friends who were with [redacted] when he saw the object said he photographed the "thing" as it flew by them for the second time on a mountain road.

—ACMF TELEPHOTO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

NR 80 25 MAR 52

4575

227

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

OK Au DTG
Rourke

CI CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

FM 18 DIST OSI MAYWOOD CALIF

TO AMC WP AFB OHIO

INFO CO WP AFB OHIO

DIR OF SP INVS WASH DC

ACTION COPY

NF
1 - MCLASH - ACTION
2 - MCLASH - INFO
3 - [unclear]
EWE

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

PROJECT BLUEBOOK, MR. [REDACTED] INTERVIEWED 24 MAR 52 AND DECLARED PHOTO "PHONY", PHOTO WAS GAG ON [REDACTED] AND MUSHROOMED TO WHEEL MARQUAND COULD NOT CONTROL IT. HE REPTS OBJECT IN PHOTO IS WHEELCOVER FROM ABOUT 1937 FORD THROWN INTO AIR BY CONFEDERATE AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY [REDACTED]. WHEELCOVER WAS BURIED AT SITE, EXACT LOC UNKNOWN. [REDACTED] WILL BELS NEGATIVE TO CSI UPON RETURN FROM LIFE MAGAZINE IF DESIRED YOUR MR. WRITTEN REPT FOLS.

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 18 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

528-36893-1

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