

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JEM/fmm

UNCLASSIFIED

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21U

17 August 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE, Incident at Rogue River, Oregon
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Reference is made to letter, this office, subject and file as above, dated 27 July 1949.

2. Inclosed for your information is report of investigation by Special Agent CHARLES E. BROOKS, DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base, dated 9 August 1949.

3. As this is the final report in this investigation the files of this District Office are being closed in instant case.

1 Incl
R/I dtd 9 Aug 49
(in dup)

Jerome M. Braun
WOLF, USAF
JEROME M. BRAUN
Acting District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
RQD DIR 5200.10

*Incident
367*

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other (kite)

AUG 19

UNCLASSIFIED

Project "Grudge" 367

5D OSI

MCIAXS

22 June 49

1

ATTN: Mr. J. E. Morrill

1. It is requested that your office initiate an investigation of the sighting of an unidentified flying object as reported by the inclosed AF Form 112, Air intelligence Information Report.

2. As an aid to the investigating officer in recording data from each witness, five copies of our Guide to Investigation are also forwarded herewith.

2 Incls:

1. AF Form 112, Air Intel Info Rpt,
6/14/49, (1-3pgs)
2. Guide to Investigation (5)

A. J. HEMSTREET, JR.

Lt Colonel, USAF

Acting Chief, Analysis Division

Intelligence Department

GWT/amc

6-6398

Bldg 288

Post 2188

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RESTRICTED

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5D-OSI/HML/mrt

UNCLASSIFIED

5D-24-21U

27 June 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE, Incident, Rogue River, Oregon
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Reference is made to R&R Sheet, dated 22 June 1949, from the Technical Intelligence Division, Air Materiel Command, Dayton, Ohio, requesting that this office conduct an investigation incidental to the sighting of an "unidentified object" on Tuesday, 24 May 1949 at Rogue River, Oregon.

2. Attached for your information are two copies of the report of Special Agent HARRY M. LEE, of this office, dated 27 June 1949.

3. This is an initial report and no present action is recommended. The investigation is continuing in this and other OSI District Offices. Subsequent reports will be forwarded for your review and for such action as you deem appropriate when the investigation is completed.

1 Incl
Report of SA HARRY M. LEE
dtd 22 Jun 49 (in dup)

THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR.
Captain, USAF
Acting District Commander

Copy to: Hq OSI

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

FILE NO.

5D 24-21U

DATE

27 June 1949

REPORT MADE BY

HARRY M. LEE

mrt

TITLE

PROJECT GRUDGE
 Incident - Rogue River, Oregon
 24 May 1949

REPORT MADE AT

DO #5, W-P AFB, Dayton, Ohio

PERIOD

27 June 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DO #5, W-P AFB, Dayton, Ohio

STATUS

PENDING

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

None, this is an initial report.

SYNOPSIS

Investigation was requested by Technical Intelligence Division, Hq, Air Materiel Command, Dayton, Ohio, to interview all witnesses to the "unidentified object" sightings referred to in the copy of AF Form 112, Air Intelligence Information Report, Pages 1, 2, and 3, dated 14 June 1949, from Security Officer, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Moffett Field, California, which occurred Tuesday, May 24th, about 5:00 p.m. - 2-1/2 miles up Rogue River from mouth in Oregon.

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR 5200.10**

DISTRIBUTION

CG, AMC (MCIAXO) 2
 (1 incl)
 Hq OSI (1 incl) 2
 DO #19 (2 incls) 2
 File 2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

CG, AMC (MCIAXO)

FILE STAMP

Handwritten initials/signature

APPROVED

Handwritten signature
 THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR.
 Captain, USAF
 Acting District Commander.

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5D 24-21U
PROJECT GRUDGE

DETAILS:

1. Investigation was requested by the Technical Intelligence Division of the Air Materiel Command, Dayton, Ohio, on R&R Sheet dated 22 June 1949 to interview all witnesses and obtain all facts pertaining to the sighting of an "unidentified object" on Tuesday, 24 May 1949, about 5:00 p.m. - 2-1/2 miles up Rogue River from mouth in Oregon.

AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

2. Excerpt of letter from Security Officer, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Moffett Field, California, dated 14 June 1949, is quoted below:

"report by Mr. Don Heaphy recounting the observation by several employees of this laboratory of an unusual object apparently in flight. Mr. Heaphy is employed in this laboratory's 1- by 3-foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel and is therefore necessarily somewhat familiar with high-speed flight configurations."

Incllosures:

FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

AF Form 112, Pages 1, 2, and 3, dated 14 June 1949 (in dup)

FOR HEADQUARTERS OSI

AF Form 112, Pages 1, 2, and 3, dated 14 June 1949 (in dup)

FOR DO #19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB

1. AF Form 112, Pages 1, 2, and 3, dated 14 June 1949 (in dup)
2. Guide to Investigation - Unidentified Aerial Objects (in quint)

P E N D I N G

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5D 24-21U
PROJECT GRUDGE

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB

AT MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA

At Moffett Field, California, will interview all witnesses and obtain all facts on "unidentified objects" sighted, using the inclosed guide for reference, and will report by OSI Form O-208 with completed guide as inclosure to DO #5.

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COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unconventional Aircraft		
AREA REPORTED ON Fourth Air Force	FROM (Agency) Security Officer, Nat Advisory Comm for Aeronautics, Moffett Field, Calif	
DATE OF REPORT 14 June 1949	DATE OF INFORMATION 13 June 1949	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) E. F. BONVICIN, Major, USAF, Dir of Intell.	SOURCE Arthur B. Freeman, Security Officer	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

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

Following is copy of letter and inclosure re sighting of unconventional aircraft:

"NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS, Ames Aeronautical Laboratory,
Moffett Field, California. 13 June 1949

Jerome C. Hunsaker, Sc.D., Chairman	
Alexander Wetmore, Ph.D., Vice Chairman	
Hon. John R. Alison	Vice Adm. John D. Price, U.S.N.
Vannevar Bush, Sc. D.	Arthur E. Raymond, M. S.
Edward U. Condon, Ph.D.	Francis W. Reichelderfer, Sc.D.
Ronald M. Hazen, B.S.	Hon. Delos W. Rentzel
William Littlewood, M.E.	Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, U.S.A.F.
Rear Adm. Theodore C. Lonnquest, U.S.N.	Theodore P. Wright, Sc.D.
Maj. Gen. Edward M. Powers, U.S.A.F.	

Committee Headquarters
1724 F Street, Northwest
Washington 25, D. C.

Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory
Langley Field, Hampton, Va.

Flight Propulsion Research Laboratory
Cleveland Airport, Cleveland 11, Ohio

Director of Intelligence,
Fourth Air Force,
Hamilton Field, California.

Dear Sir:

There is attached a report by Mr. Don Heaphy, recounting the observation by several employees of this Laboratory of an unusual object apparently in flight. Mr. Heaphy is employed in this Laboratory's 1- by 3-foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel and is therefore necessarily somewhat familiar with high-speed flight configurations. Therefore it was considered advisable to forward Mr. Heaphy's report to you inasmuch as the observers were undoubtedly competent.

Please acknowledge receipt of this report.

INCL.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Arthur B. Freeman,
Security Officer. "

Encl.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

2 cys - CG, AMC
1 cy - C/S, USAF

1 cy - ConAC, Attn D/I
1 cy - 4AF File

JUN 21

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

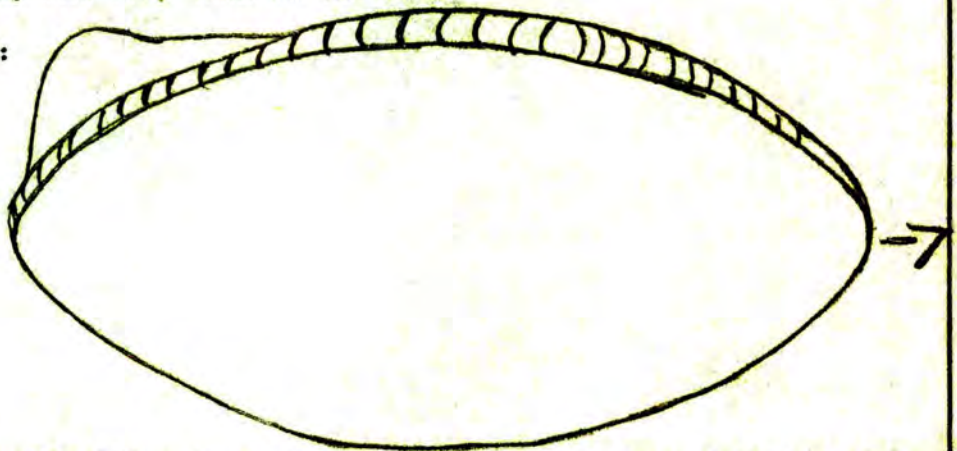
FROM (Agency) Director of Intelligence Hq 4AF, Hamilton AFB, Calif	REPORT NO. Unconventional Aircraft	PAGE 2 OF PAGES
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	-----------------

INCLOSURE:

"Tuesday May 24th about 5:00 P.M. -- 2 1/2 miles up Rogue River from mouth in Oregon was vantage point.

When my attention was called to an object in the sky it appeared like a round shiny object such as a round mirror with the sun shining on it and the mirror standing on edge. With the naked eye the appearance never changed. It appeared to be stationary when I first saw it. There was another party looking at it with a pair of 8-power glasses during this time. As it started to move slowly to the right and it was at an up angle of about 60° I took the 8 power glasses and looked. With the glasses there was no glare. It was flat and round like a pancake and a little thicker in the center than on the edges but appeared to be flat on the bottom. The pancake part seemed to be slightly oblong and instead of being on edge it was lying flat. I would say it was 25 or 30 feet in diameter. The edge had a outward round radius and looked about 1 foot thick. The trailing edge as it traveled had a rough appearance. As it traveled I noticed a fin starting from nothing about midship and becoming higher as it reached the trailing edge of the pancake but it did not protrude past the edge. The fin appeared small in relation to the rest. The fin was round on top and a inward radius on the side. The fin looked fairly thick midship and very thin at the rear.

SEE ATTACHED SKETCH:



It looked as if it was built out of aluminum and some of the metal looked a little dirty.

I looked very close for propellers or a jet stream but could see none. We listened very close for a noise but there was no sound of any kind. It appeared to be at an altitude of about 5,000 feet. I looked at it about two minutes or more with the glasses until it disappeared in the distance. The last 1/2 minute or so I watched it, it looked as though its speed was about like a jet plane.

There were five of us watching it. Two of us looked at it with the 8 power glasses.

I could see no openings such as doors or windows or holes of any kind.

Don Heaphy 1x3

Also observed by --
Gilbert Rivera (Drafting section) and
three others."

NOTE: Familiar with current and future U.S. aircraft designs.

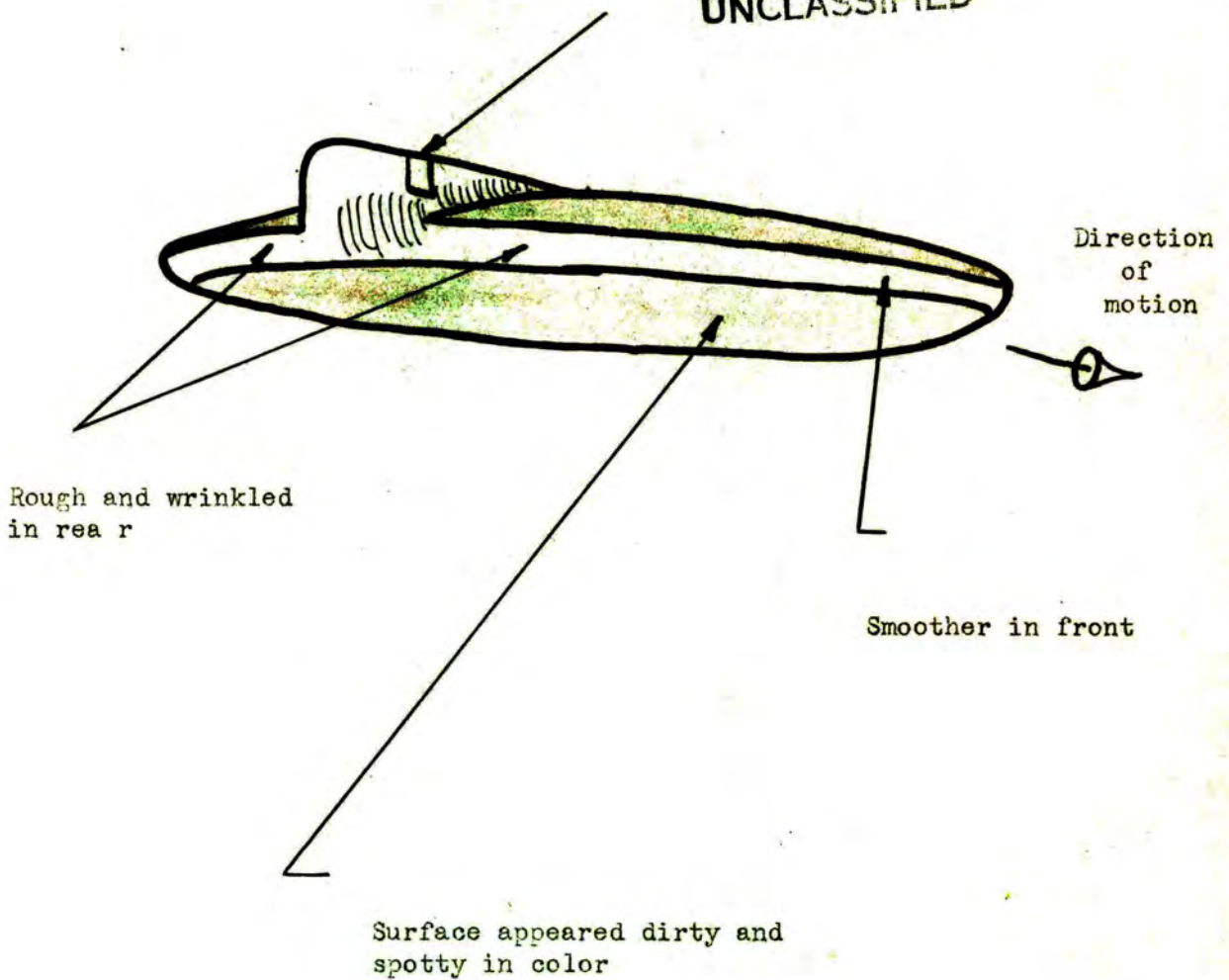
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Director of Intelligence, Hq 4AF Hamilton AFB, Hamilton, Calif	REPORT NO. Unconventional Aircraft	PAGE 3 OF PAGES
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	-----------------

No propellers, jets, or other protuberances visible.
Absolutely no sound.

Something equivalent
to a patch

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Rough and wrinkled
in rear

Direction
of
motion

Smoother in front

Surface appeared dirty and
spotty in color

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

CONTROL NO.

SUBJECT: **Form**

DECIMAL FILE NO. _____

SHOW UP ON _____

R-834**Unconventional Aircraft**

DATE

FROM: **Moffett Fld Calif.**DATED **6/14/49**TO: **IAXS**NO. INCLS. **1**

RECORDING

AXT-1DATE **6/21/49**

DESK

RECORDED

HOUR **0800**

	ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1	IAXS	N/R	rwT	21 June
2				
3				

DATE OF REPLY

OTHER DISPOSITION:

TRANSMITTAL
 AMC FORM NO. 10-2
 (20 NOV. 47)

SEE OTHER SIDE
 FOR REMARKS

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was requested by District Commander, DO # 19, upon receipt of report from Security Officer, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Moffett Field, California, dated 14 June 1949.

AT MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA

267A

2. On 24 June 1949, in an interview with Mr. GILBERT RIVERA, Drafting Section, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Ames Laboratory, Moffett Field, California, the following information was ascertained: On Tuesday, 24 May 1949, at 1700, P.S.T., Mr. RIVERA and four (4) other persons, while fishing two (2) miles upstream (East) of the mouth of the Rogue River, at approximately the same direction and distance from the town of Gold Beach, Oregon, sighted an object which is described as follows: When first sighted it appeared to be a glitter about four (4) miles away laterally, at some 5000 feet above the ground which at that point was at sea level or approximately so. The object was then examined through a pair of 8-power Navy type binoculars. Observation time about 90 to 120 seconds. Object appeared round and shiny, something like a fifty-cent piece, viewed from below and to one side. Object's color was silvery and it appeared round in a plan view. The object seemed to be solid with no visible openings and was about 30 feet in diameter as nearly as could be judged. Just before Mr. RIVERA handed the glasses to Mr. HEAPHY, the object made a turn on its vertical axis with no tilting or banking and started to move in a southeasterly direction. There was no sign of exhaust or propeller; no driving force could be seen or felt and no sound was heard. The object at no time contacted or came any closer than 5000 feet, approximately, to the earth, and when last seen was disappearing in a southeasterly direction, accelerating to an approximate speed of a jet plane. There were no protuberances other than a slight fin which seemed to start amidship and come back flush with the trailing edge viewed as the ship drifted. No radio antenna or windows, port holes, or any other protuberances, gaps or openings were visible. The only land mark near the sighting point was a rock formation locally known as "Elephant Rock", approximately 700 yards N.E. of where the boat in which Mr. RIVERA and party were anchored.

3. On 24 June 1949, in an interview with Mr. DON HEAPHY, a mechanic on a 1- by 3-foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel, Ames Laboratory, Moffett Field, California, the following information was obtained: On 24 May 1949, at 1700 hours, P.S.T., approximately 2 to 2 1/2 miles upstream from the mouth of the Rogue River,

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19D OSI 24-14

DETAILS (cont'd)

3. (cont'd)

Oregon, in a boat anchored approximately midstream, about the same distance East of the town of Gold Beach, Oregon, an object was sighted about 5000 feet above the ground in a direction approximately 60° reading clockwise from North. Object appeared to be about 1 to 2 miles away. Mr. HEAPHY observed the object about 30 seconds with the naked eye at which time he could see only a bright glitter, like a round mirror standing on edge with no apparent motion. Just as the object began to move, RIVERA handed HEAPHY a pair of 8-power Navy type binoculars through which HEAPHY viewed the object. With the binoculars the object resolved into a pancake-like shape, somewhat thicker in the center than in the edges, perfectly flat on the bottom with a small fin or vane arising about midship and growing gradually higher to the rear ending flush with a trailing edge as the object traveled. Flat surface was parallel to earth. The object appeared to be made of metal, aluminum or some other shiny metal, and while it appeared oval it could have been perfectly round in plan section. There appeared to be no opening or protuberances of any sort other than the fin already described. Object appeared to be 25 to 30 feet in diameter. It was traveling in a southeasterly direction, about 170° clockwise from North. It executed no maneuvers; no lights, no propellers, no landing gear or any method of propulsion that could be seen or heard. There were no clouds and the sun was at HEAPHY's back at the time of sighting. The trailing edge of the object as it traveled appeared to be somewhat wrinkled and dirty looking. HEAPHY ventured that these might have been vents but said he could not see them well enough to say for sure. With HEAPHY and RIVERA in the boat at time of sighting was Mrs. ROY McBETH, wife of a druggist at Ione, California; Mrs. WILLIAM McBETH, wife of a Standard Oil distributor at Gold Beach, Oregon; and Mrs. GILBERT RIVERA.

NOTE: Mr. HEAPHY and Mr. RIVERA stated that their attention was drawn to the object by its glittering as at the time they were engaged in looking upstream to see if they could spot any feeding fish on the surface. It appeared to this agent that RIVERA was a very reliable person, not at all easily excited; in fact, prone to be rather blase or indifferent. HEAPHY appeared to be a sober, well rounded person, very mature and not easily swayed by someone else's opinion.

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19D OSI 24-14

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Will obtain weather report for Gold Beach, Oregon, area on date of sighting of object.
2. Will make interviews with people to evaluate reliability of observers.
3. Will check airline scheduled and unscheduled flights in Gold Beach, Oregon, vicinity on date of sighting.
4. Will check local flight schedules of privately owned or military aircraft that might have been in that vicinity on date of sighting.
5. Will check possibility of testing devices used by some Government agency aloft in that area.
6. Will obtain signed statements from observers.
7. Will check radar stations for sightings of any objects at that time and place.

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

1. Will contact Mrs. ROY McBETH, through husband ROY McBETH, a druggist at Ione, California, and obtain statement re sighting of object. No other address known.

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 20, MCCHORD AFB

AT GOLD BEACH, OREGON

1. Will interview Mrs. WILLIAM McBETH, Gold Beach, Oregon, and obtain statement re sighting of object.

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UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JEM/fmm

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

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21U

27 July 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE, Incident, Rogue River, Oregon
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Reference is made to report of investigation by Special Agent HARRY M. LEE, this office, subject as above, dated 27 June 1949.
2. Inclosed for your information is pending report of investigation by Special Agent CHARLES E. BROOKS, DO #19, dated 20 July 1949.
3. Investigation is continuing in other OSI Districts and reports will be forwarded your office upon receipt in this office.

1 Incl
R/I dtd 20 Jul 49
(in dup)

Cy to: Hq OSI

Jerome M. Braun
JEROME M. BRAUN
Acting District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT REGULAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.10

ORIG FILE COPIES TO:	INITIALS
RECORDS SECT, AGO HQ BR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAB BR <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>GM</i> <i>MCIAXS</i>
EXTRA CO Y RETAINED	
VALUE OF PAPER -- CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERMANENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NON RECORD

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JUL 28

Allen - I've looked in both reels
 5 & 88 and I only find material
 on this case in reel 5 & that
 is on the sighting by the fishing
 party. I can't find any
 thing on that date in
 Reel 88 at all.

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 24 Nov 45 05:00	10. CONCLUSION AIRCRAFT
2. SOURCE Civilian	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS No data presented to indicate object could NOT have been an A/C.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
3. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	Object was round, silver in color and about the size of a C-47. Object flew in a straight flight. Object was coming from the East but later turned to the South.
5. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground - Visual	
COURSE SE	
PHOTOS Yes No	
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE Yes No	

FORM 4

7-54 (70E) Previous edition of this form may be used

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DD

Ura

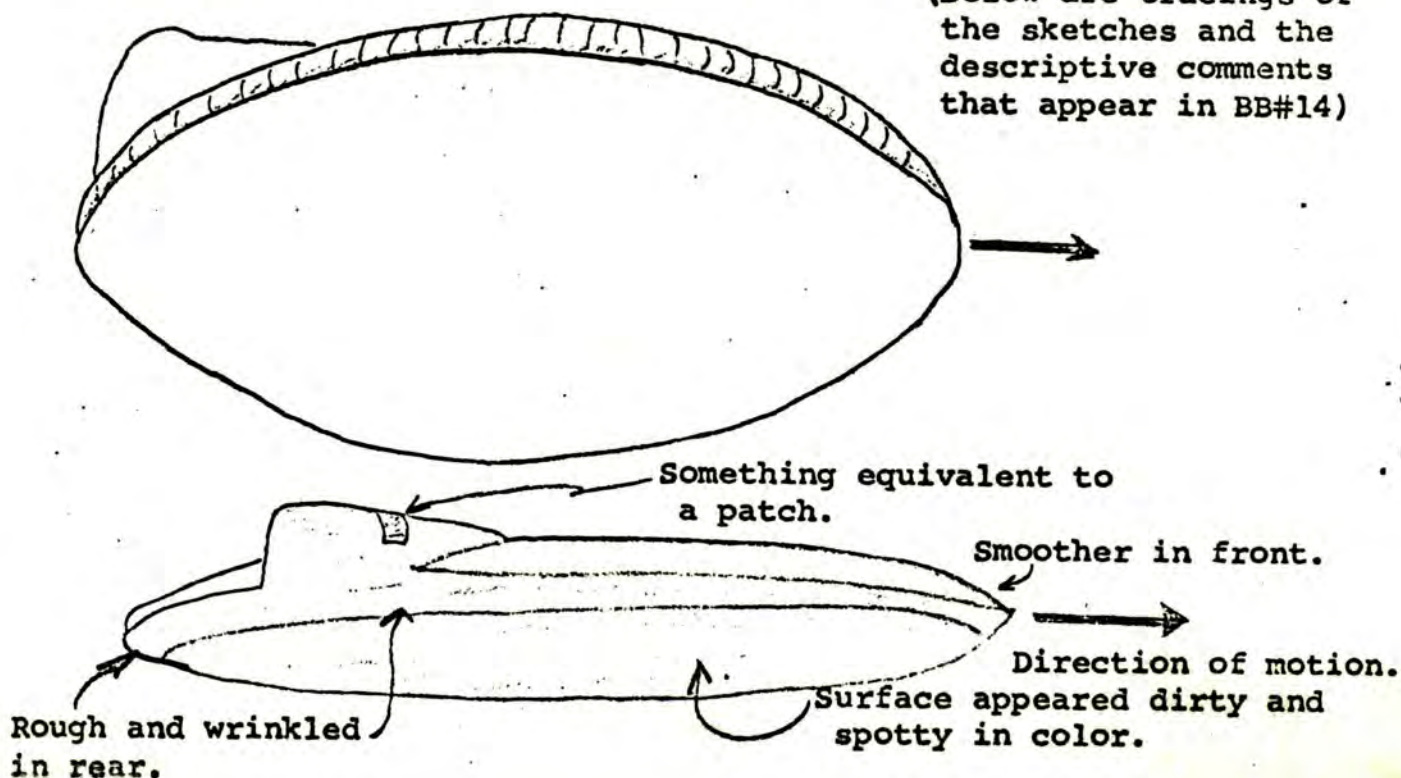
Films

ADDENDUM: ROGUE RIVER, OREGON; MAY 24, 1949; 1700 HRS LOCAL TIME

The case referred to in the text , in which aeronautical engineers of an aeronautical laboratory sighted an object, is case X in BB#14. I picked this case out of the "twelve good" UFO reports because it seemed most interesting. According to BB#14 , this was a multiple witness sighting of over a minute (to several minutes) duration and one of the observers used binoculars to observe the object. The drawing presented in BB#14 is rather detailed, and certainly does not resemble a conventional aircraft. The summary of the report, as given in BB#14, along with the sketches, are presented below:

An employee in the supersonic laboratory of an aeronautical laboratory and some other employees of this lab, were by a river, 2 1/2 miles from its mouth, when they saw an object. The time was about 1700 hours on May 24, 1949. The object was reflecting sunlight when observed by naked eye. However, he then looked at it with 8-power binoculars, at which time there was no glare. (Did glasses have filter?) It was of metallic construction and was seen with good enough resolution to show that the skin was dirty. It moved off in a horizontal flight at a gradually increasing rate of speed, until it seemed to approach the speed of a jet before it disappeared. No propulsion was apparent. Time of observation was 2 1/2 to 3 minutes.

(Below are tracings of the sketches and the descriptive comments that appear in BB#14)



Clearly if this report is taken at face value something unusual was present in the skies of someplace (to be revealed shortly) on May 24, 1949. However, in the UFO business one quickly learns not to take reports at face value but to dig as deeply as possible. It's not that I wouldn't "trust" the Battelle Institute investigators who reported this case (and I certainly wouldn't suggest that they made this case up ; after all, it was their job to explain cases if possible, not to invent unexplainable cases), but the summary is so short that certainly some details have been left out. In order to recover these details I have searched the files of Project Blue Book and of the Office of Special Investigation (OSI) of the Air Force. (These UFO related files have all been collected by the National Archives, Washington, D.C., and are available, with names of witnesses deleted, on microfilm.) The Blue Book (BB) files are in chronological order, and a chronological list of all cases is available. On this list are two reports dated May 24, 1949. Specifically, in the case list one finds the following information:

(from the list of 15-31 May, 1949 sightings)

Date	Location	Observer#	Evaluation*
24	Rogue River, Bend, Oregon (missing) [†]	XXXXXXXX Multiple	Other (KITES)
24	Rogue River, Oregon	(deleted)	AIRCRAFT

* The evaluation is the object that was sighted according to the BB staff . This evaluation was certainly not binding on the Battelle investigators .

† Here I have handwritten in the word "missing" to duplicate the situation actually found in the case list.

When a personal name was given it was crossed out before the microfilm copy was made. The X's preceding the word "Multiple" may cover up the name of one of the witnesses.

As indicated in the list, the multiple witness sighting of that date was missing from the case files. The single observer sighting evaluated as "aircraft" is not missing however. This pair of cases posed an interesting problem (which was not resolved until I had found the case in the Office of Special Investigation files (OSI files)) because the time given in the "aircraft" sighting was listed as "approximately 1700 hours" and the location given was 1 1/2 miles up the Rogue River from (i.e., East of) Gold Beach, Oregon. This distance would be about 2 1/2 miles from the mouth of the river where it empties into the Pacific Ocean. Because of the coincidence in time (1700 hrs) and place I could not decide at first whether or not this case reported an independent sighting of the same object as reported in the first case (which was presumably the one referred to in BB#14 - multiple witness, 2 1/2 miles up a river, 1700 hrs). Of course the most puzzling thing about the listing of these two cases was the

difference in identifications ("kites" vs "aircraft"). If these cases referred to the same sighting of a single object, how could the identifications be so widely diverse? The second case, which was in the BB files, contained a copy of an OSI investigation of a Mrs. (name deleted; call her Mrs. A) who lived in Gold Beach. In her interview she stated that "at approximately 1700 hours, 24 May 1949, she and four other persons* while fishing on* the Rogue River near Elephant Rock* approximately 1 1/2 miles* above the highway bridge near Gold Beach, Oregon, sighted an object described as being round in shape, silver in color, and about the size of a C-47 aircraft. When first brought to Mrs. A's attention by one of the other witnesses. the object appeared to be three or four miles away. It was coming from the east, but later turned to the southwest. It appeared to be travelling at the same rate of speed as a C-47. It made no noise, left no exhaust trail, and made no maneuvers. The interviewee stated that she was not familiar with aircraft; therefore she could not estimate with any accuracy the speed or altitude at which the object was travelling. Mrs. A made the comparison between the object and a C-47 because she is familiar with that type of aircraft. Her son has pointed out C-47's to her as they flew over Gold Beach." This interview of Mrs. A was carried out on August 8, 1949 by Special Agent R. Hauser. The BB case card, which includes a short summary of the case, stated the following conclusion (or evaluation): AIRCRAFT. The reason for this identification as given as follows: "No data presented to indicate object could NOT have been aircraft." Although the sighting time and the rough description of the object seen by Mrs. A matches the time and general description of the object reported in Case X of BB#14, there is no way to positively connect these two reports from the evidence in the Blue Book files alone.

what about the missing case? A search of the OSI files turned up the original references on the missing case: the interviews of the witnesses including Mrs. A. Moreover, information in the OSI files essentially establishes the credibility of this case and shows that the BB staff erred significantly in their analyses. The two cases should be combined into one and should be listed as unidentified (as the Battelle Institute investigators realized).

The first report of this sighting was made on or just before June 14, 1949, to the Security Officer of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics at Moffett Field in California. This officer requested an investigation, which was subsequently carried out by Special Agent C.E. Brooks and others during the following months. On June 24 agent Brooks interviewed a Mr. (name deleted, call him Mr. B) in the Drafting Section of the National Advisory Committee, at Ames laboratory, Moffett Field. This interview

*Underlining by this author

revealed the following information: " On Tuesday, 24 May 1949, at 1700 P.S.T., Mr. B and 4 other persons, while fishing 2 miles upstream (East) of the mouth of the Rogue River, at approximately the same direction and distance from the town of Gold Beach, Oregon, sighted an object which is described as follows: when first sighted it appeared to be a glitter about 4 miles away laterally, at some 5000 feet above the ground which at that point was at sea level or approximately so. The object was then examined through a pair of 8-power Navy type binoculars. Observation time about 90 - 120 seconds. Object appeared round and shiny, something like a fifty-cent piece, viewed from below and to one side. Object's color was silvery and it appeared round in plan view. The object seemed to be solid with no visible openings and was about 30 feet in diameter as nearly as could be judged. Just before Mr. B handed the glasses to Mr. (name deleted - call him Mr. C) the object made a turn on its vertical axis with no tilting or banking and started to move in a southeasterly direction. There was no sign of exhaust or propellor; no driving force could be seen or felt and no sound was heard. The object at no time contacted or came any closer than 5000 feet, approximately, to the earth, and when last seen was disappearing in a southeasterly direction, accelerating to an approximate speed of a jet plane. There were no protuberances other than a slight fin which seemed to start amidship and come back flush with the trailing edge viewed as the ship drifted. No radio antenna or windows, port holes, or any other protuberances, gaps or openings were visible. The only land mark near the sighting point was a rock formation locally known as "Elephant Rock" (underlining by present author), approximately 700 yards N.E. of where the boat in which Mr. B and party were anchored."

On June 24, Agent Brooks also interviewed Mr. C, a mechanic "on a 1 by 3 foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel." at Ames Laboratory. This interview revealed the following information: "On 24 May 1949, at 1700 hours P.S.T., approximately 2 to 2 1/2 miles upstream from the mouth of the Rogue River, Oregon, in a boat anchored approximately midstream, about the same distance East of the town of Gold Beach, Oregon, an object was sighted about 5000 feet above the ground in a direction approximately 60° reading clockwise from North. Object appeared to be about 1 or 2 miles away. Mr. C. observed the object about 30 seconds with the naked eye at which time he could see only a bright glitter, like a round mirror standing on edge with no apparent motion. Just as the object began to move, Mr. B handed Mr. C a pair of 8-power Navy type binoculars through which Mr. C viewed the object. With the binoculars the object resolved into a pancake-like shape, somewhat thicker in the center than in the edges, perfectly flat on the bottom with a small fin or vane arising about midship and growing gradually higher to the rear ending flush with a trailing edge as the object travelled. Flat surface was parallel to the earth. The object appeared to be made of metal, aluminum or some other shiny metal, and while it appeared oval it could have been perfectly round in plan section. There appeared to be no opening or protuberances of any sort other than the fin already described.

Object appeared to be roughly 25 to 30 feet in diameter. It was travelling in a southeasterly direction, about 170° clockwise from North. It executed no maneuvers; no lights, no propellers, no landing gear, or any method of propulsion could be seen or heard. There were no clouds and the sun was at Mr. C's back at the time of the sighting. The trailing edge of the object as it traveled appeared to be somewhat wrinkled and dirty looking. Mr. C ventured that these might have been vents but he said he could not see them well enough to say for sure. With Mr. B and Mr. C in the boat at the time of the sighting was Mrs. D, wife of a druggist at Ione, Calif.; Mrs. A, wife of a Standard Oil distributor at Gold Beach, Oregon, and Mrs. X." (I believe this is in error; Mrs. X should have been Mr. D, the husband of Mrs. D., as further interviews revealed.)

"NOTE: Mr. B and Mr. C stated their attention was drawn to the object by its glittering as at the time they were engaged in looking upstream to see if they could spot any feeding fish on the surface. It appeared to this agent that (either B or C) was a very reliable person, not at all easily excited; in fact, prone to be rather blase or indifferent. Mr (C or B) appeared to be a sober, well rounded person, very mature and not easily swayed by someone else's opinion."

Agent Brooks was not satisfied with the information in the above "casual interviews" and on August 2, 1949, obtained the following signed statements:

(Mr. B) "On 24 May 1949, at approximately 5:00 P.M., while fishing with several friends about two and a half miles up the Rogue River from Gold Beach, Oregon, my attention was drawn to an object in the sky by Mr. D, one of the members of the party. To the naked eye this object appeared circular and standing on edge. I then focused a pair of 8-power Navy type binoculars and saw that it was indeed circular and that we appeared to be looking upward at the bottom side of it. As nearly as possible to tell, the object appeared about 5000 feet in altitude, and not more than a mile away. When I first observed it, object was moving very slowly. As I put the glasses on, it made a turn to the South, with no banking or leaning, and picked up speed. I then handed the glasses to Mr. C in order that he might see the object. Observed through the glasses the object appeared to be made of silvery metal, either completely circular or somewhat oval. It was thin near the edges and thicker in the center. A triangular fin appeared to arise amidship and extended to the trailing end of the object viewed as it traveled. There were no openings visible and no sound was heard. There appeared to be no engines or motors, no landing gear, no other protruding parts other than the fin already described. The object was in sight for

approximately one (1) minute. Sun was at our backs and there were no clouds.

(Mr.C) " While fishing with a party of friends about two and a half miles up the Rogue River from its mouth at Gold Beach, Oregon, at approximately 5:00 p.m., 24 May 1949, my attention was called to an object in the sky. The object was to the East of us about one (1) mile, at approximately 5000 feet altitude. With the naked eye little but a glare and a silvery glint could be seen. But after watching it for approximately one minute and a half I was handed a pair of 8-power binoculars by Mr.B. It was then possible to see that the object was roughly circular in shape and appeared to be 30 to 35 feet in diameter. It had somewhat the cross-sectional appearance of a pancake, being thicker in the center than at the edges. A small triangular fin started approximately in the middle and grew gradually higher to the rear as the object traveled. When first sighted the object was moving very slowly. As I watched it through the glasses , it picked up speed and when it vanished from sight approximately 90 seconds later, it was traveling as fast or faster than a jet plane. As far as could be seen, it had no openings or protuberances of any kind other than the fin and there was neither sight nor sound of any driving force. It was a clear day and no clouds in the sky, and the sun was at our backs as we watched the object which vanished in a southeasterly direction, mostly south. "

Agent Brooks also obtained statements from six other people who had known one or the other of the witnesses for periods of time ranging from several months to several years. These character references concluded with statements such as " inclined to take seriously any statement Mr./// might make", " inclined to place considerable reliability in anything Mr.//// might have to say", etc.

The above interviews and signed testimonials were obtained by agent Brooks at Moffett Field and Sunnyvale , California on Aug.2, 1949. Several days previously, July 26, 1949, in a completely separate interview, agent T.H. Kelley obtained the following signed statements from Mr. and Mrs. D. of Ione, California:

(Mr. D)"During the latter part of May 1949, at approximately 1630 in the afternoon, while fishing in a boat on the Rogue River near Gold Beach, Oregon, together with (list of people deleted: assumed to be Mrs. A, Mr.B, Mr.C) and my wife, my attention was attracted by a silvery object in the sky, traveling at a height of approximately 5000 feet in a southerly direction. The object, circular in formation as a silver dollar, traveled without sound at a speed greater than a high speed or jet plane. Mr.B and Mr.C used a binocular to view the object which was visible to the naked

eye for approximately two minutes. Not using binoculars I could not make out any irregularities of formation, or whether the object had a motor or motors, landing gear, or other items usually connected with a plane. It had no appearance of the conventional plane but in size would be of the diameter of the fuselage length of the DC-3 plane. I have fished in the general area a number of years and have observed various type planes flying in this area, but have never observed anything of this nature before."

(Mrs. D) " While on vacation near Gold Beach, Oregon , during the latter part of May 1949 and while fishing from a boat in the Rogue River in the late afternoon, my husband, Mr. D , called the attention of the group to a silver object , circular in shape, crossing the sky at a high altitude and at a high rate of speed. I could not estimate its height and its size was as large as a large passenger plane though shaped like a shiny circular disk. No sound was heard and it crossed our range of vision in two or three minutes. The day had been clear, visibility was good, and the sun was just setting. Other occupants of the party who observed the object were (names deleted ; assumed to be Mrs.A, Mr. B, and Mr.C) and my husband. There was no sound and the object traveled on a direct course."

Several days after agent Brooks obtained the signed statements from Mr.B and Mr. C., agent Brooks compiled the documents he had obtained to that time and sent copies to the OSI headquarters, several other places, and to Wright-Patterson AFB (the headquarters of Project Blue Book - actually Project Grudge at the time of the sighting). He had marked his file "closed" even though he had not at that time obtained a statement from Mrs. A. Several days later, on Aug. 8, agent Hauser interviewed Mrs. A in Gold Beach, obtaining the information given on page 49 of this Addendum. Although this interview was subsequently included in the file compiled by agent Brooks (and is to be now seen on the microfilm copy of that file), the Blue Book (or Grudge) investigators didn't realize the connection between the sighting of Mr.B, Mr.C, and Mr. and Mrs.D and that of Mrs. A, even though the estimated times were the same (about 1700 hours) and the locations were virtually identical (near Elephant Rock in the Rogue River, Oregon) !! Thus, in the BB files these two cases should be combined into one, and, moreover, the identifications should be deleted!!! (It certainly couldn't have been both an aircraft and a "kite".)

During his investigation agent Brooks compiled the following supplementary information: the weather charts for the area indicated the coast was clear on the date of the sighting; the San Francisco

Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) , the Oakland Airport, and the San Francisco Airport all agreed that there were many local carriers (about 160) that could have flown over the Gold Beach area but that less than 1% of these file flight plans, so it would be useless to try to locate a flight that could account for the sighting; the Sixth Army and the Twelfth Naval District Intelligence did not possess radar installations near enough or powerful enough to have recorded anything at Gold Beach at that time; the Air Force Early Warning Radar Stations in the Bay Area were not powerful enough to reach as far north as Gold Beach and these stations did not report anything as unidentified on the date of the sighting; the 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group at Silver Lake , Washington did not have Gold Beach under radar coverage.

Of all the above listed supplementary information, the only part of direct interest, since there was evidently no radar coverage , is the confirmation of the witnesses' claim that the weather was clear.

However, agent Brooks did dig up an interesting bit of information which led to the "final identification" according to Project Blue Book (or Grudge). Quoting Brooks' report:

Edwards
 "On Aug. 2, 1949, Air Force radar installations at Treasure Island and the military reservation at Fort Baker, both in the San Francisco area, send aloft radar testing devices known as "kites" twice each day, at around 1000 and 1600. These devices are of aluminum sheet, approximately 5 feet on a side, roughly diamond shaped and containing a double set of triangular fins on the top side. These are carried aloft by gas filled balloons approximately 2 feet in diameter when they leave the earth. When these devices reach high enough altitude, the expanding gasses cause the balloons to burst and the devices known as "kites" fold and drift earthward. It is possible that one of these devices from one of these radar installations may have blown as far north as Gold Beach, Oregon, on 24 May, 1949."

340 Apparently the BB (or Grudge) investigators accepted the "possibility" that one of these devices could have drifted Northward by about 340 miles on May 24, 1949. (Note: typical balloon ascension rates put a balloon at bursting altitude within an hour after launch.) If the 1600 launched balloon had reached Gold Beach by 1700 it would have travelled roughly 340 miles per hour. If the 1000 launched balloon had reached Gold Beach it would have only had to travel 1/6 as fast. Of course, if a balloon launched on a previous day had reached Gold Beach (without bursting and without leaking sufficiently to drop to the ground), it could have moved quite slowly. The investigators "only" had to ignore the statements

of four witnesses, two of whom used binoculars (Mrs. A. was not included in the report identified as "kites"), that the object was circular to accept the "kite" explanation. A radar kite is a carefully folded aluminum sheet which is like a cube with its corners pushed inward to the center of the cube. This folding turns the "cube" into a collection of "corner reflectors" for radar. The outline of such a device could be square, rectangular, or hexagonal (probably a distorted hexagon), but never circular. When the balloon bursts the kite "folds" and drifts earthward. It is difficult to image a piece of aluminum that must weigh at least several hundred grams drifting, with no balloon support, for over 300 miles.

Of course the argument that the witnesses saw a radar kite launched in San Francisco presupposes that the wind direction was correct. However, as I found out by calling the weather center (Ashville, North Carolina) the winds at Oakland California and at Medford, Oregon (about 80 miles East of Gold Beach) were out of the Northeast at all altitudes from about 1000 feet to about 30,000 feet. Specifically, the angles of the direction with respect to North(= 0°) and measured clockwise were in the range 180° to 270° at Medford at 1300 hours and 1900 hours local time. At Oakland the winds ranged from about 100° to about 300° at various altitudes at 1300 and 1900 hours local time on May 24, 1949. Thus the winds would have tended to carry any windborn object toward the southwest, not northward! This information may have been available to the BB#14 investigators (Battelle) and may have helped them decide that the object was not a radar kite. (Had they decided it was, they obviously wouldn't have included it as one of the "twelve good unknowns". This wasn't the only time that the BB#14 investigators reversed the decision of the BB or Grudge investigators.)

To aid in the study of this sighting I have compiled a table of the grosser features of the various statements and interviews. The reader will note that the estimated times (duration) and distances varied somewhat, but were all comparable. All witnesses agreed on the general shape and color. Apparently the object was of an angular size that was large enough so that the witnesses could determine its circular shape even without binoculars. It was compared in angular size to that of "a large passenger plane" (Mrs. D.) and of "a C-47" as it flies over Gold Beach. These estimates are subjective, but suggest angular sizes comparable to 0.1 to 1 degree (0.0017 to 0.017 radians; for comparison, the angular size of the moon or the sun is about 1/2 a degree).. At the very least the object must have been of an angular size of a minute or two (1/60 = 0.017 degrees to 2/60 = 0.034 degrees) since the normal resolution of the bright adapted eye is on the order of

TABLE A : ROGUE RIVER, OREGON, 24MAY1949;1700 PST

Person and Place	Direction to Object	Distance to Object (Estimate)	Height (Estimate)	Shape	Size (Estimate)	Speed (Estimate)	Duration of View	Color	Other Details
INTERVIEW JUNE 24:									
Mr. B (Moffett Field)	East to South-east	4 mi.	5000 ft.	Round like 50¢ piece	30 ft. dia.	slow to fast	90-120 sec.	silvery	Turn with no tilt or banking; no protrusions other than fin near trailing edge; no ports. Used binoculars.
Mr. C (Moffett Field)	N60°E to S10°E	1 to 2 miles	5000 ft.	like pancake	25-30 ft.	not moving to moving	30 sec. naked eye; then with binoculars	shiny metal	Binoculars resolved object into pancake shape with fin. Thicker at center. Apparently wrinkled or "dirty" trailing edge; no sound, etc.
SIGNED STATEMENTS AUGUST 2:									
Mr. B (Moffett Field)	East to South-east	not more than 1 mile	5000 ft.	circu- lar or oval	-	slow then sped up	approx. 1 minute	silvery metal	Same details as in interview. 50
Mr. C (Moffett Field)	East to SSE	about 1 mile	5000 ft.	like pancake	30-35 ft.	slow to fast	90 sec. naked eye; then with binoculars for 90 sec.	silvery	Same details as in interview.
SIGNED STATEMENTS JULY 26:									
Mr. D (Ione, Calif.)	(traveling in south-erly direction)	-	5000 ft.	silver dollar	length of DC-3 fuselage	fast	two minutes	silvery	Didn't use binoculars no sound or irregularities of formation
Mrs. D (Ione, Calif.)	-	-	high altitude	circu- lar	pas- senger plane	fast	two or three minute	silver	No sound
INTERVIEW AUG 8:									
Mrs. A (Gold Beach)	east to south- east	3 or 4 miles	-	circular	C-47 over Gold Beach	fast	-	silver	No sound; no exhaust

1/2 to 1 minute of arc, and the object was apparently resolved by the eyes of five people. The 8-power binoculars would have made details down to 1/8 or so of the diameter of the object apparent to the viewers using binoculars (Mr. B and Mr. C).*

An object that is 1 minute of arc in angular size would be 1/60 of a degree or (1/60) of 0.017 radians or 0.00028 radians in angular size. This corresponds to 0.28 feet in linear size if 1000 feet away, about 1 1/2 feet if 1 mile away, and about six feet if four miles away.

These sizes calculated above are based upon the minimal expected angular size for resolution of the object into a circular shape with the naked eye. However, if the estimates of Mrs. D and Mrs. A are more nearly correct, then we should use an angular size comparable to 0.1 degree or 0.0017 radians. The linear size estimates are now about 1.7 feet if 1000 feet away, 8.4 feet if 1 mile away, and 33 feet if about 4 miles away. This last size estimate agrees with the numbers given by Mr. B and Mr. C, and probably with the fuselage length estimate given by Mr. D. However, their estimates were purely qualitative since they had no distance estimates to work from. It is unfortunate that the interviewers didn't think to obtain rough angular size estimates (such as the size of a pea at arms length, etc.) from the witnesses.

Despite the difficulty (or impossibility) of obtaining size estimates from the data presented in the OSI files, it seems clear that the object seen by five people was not an ordinary aircraft and, moreover, the detail reported by two observers who used binoculars (not just one as implied by the BB#14 summary) rules out other readily identifiable aerial phenomena. Thus I believe that this case must remain unexplained.

*Note: Relatively recent studies by military investigators specializing in visual detection and recognition of military targets and other studies concerned with the presentation of visual information on TV type displays have shown that detection of a target against a somewhat "contrasty" background requires that the angular size of the object subtend roughly one "eye resolution element", which is about 1 minute of arc or about 1/3 of a milliradian. For the shape of an object to be barely recognizable requires about 1.5 - 2 resolution elements along any major axis of the object (if it is square or circular it has no major axis; in any other case the orientation of the object will be barely detectable with 1.5-2 resolution elements along its major axis). For objects with non-simple surfaces (e.g., projections, etc.) it is barely possible to differentiate between classes of comparable non-simple surfaces if there are about 4 resolution elements along any major extension. Thus, for example, to distinguish between a plane and a blimp seen at great distances would require that the plane be seen in such a way that the

fuselage subtends several resolution elements and the wings subtend several resolution elements. An object with a structured surface can usually be identified (either by the observer or by an analyst studying an accurate report by the observer) when there are 6 - 8 resolution elements along any major extension and several elements along any minor extension.

The requirements for typical visual detection, determination of object orientation, object class differentiation, and object identification, are of interest in analyzing this report because here we have a case of an object for which the angular size was sufficient that not only could the observers detect it, but they were also able to assign a general shape (circular or oval) with the naked eye. The ability to make this statement about its shape with the naked eye implies that the angular size of the object was such that it subtended at least two resolution elements in its major dimension. It probably subtended more, but two is sufficient to allow me to make the following point: with the binoculars the angular size was "amplified" by a factor of eight, meaning there were at least about 16 resolution elements across the major dimension of the object, many more than necessary for identification if identification were possible!