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Incident No. 77 - 3 July 1947, 1430 Hours, South Brooksville, Maine.

This observer, an "astronomer", heard a loud roar and with difficulty observed at 50° elevation approximately ten very light-colored objects traveling N. W. The group is reported to have covered 1 1/2° angular diameter in the sky, bunched together with no regular formation. He calculated that at a distance of 10 miles the objects would have a speed of 1200 MPH; that their width must be 100 feet across and due to their color, would be barely visible. He also estimated the object would have a width of fifty feet at five miles with a speed of 600 MPH. He believed they were aircraft of some type, owing to the loud roar. In his letter he asked, "have any meteorites been reported?"

AMC Opinion: It is believed that the observer should have been able to rule out the possibility of meteorites. Reducing the estimate of distance, and correspondingly reducing the required size to that of objects such as birds or insects, then the speeds become very modest. If the objects were actually five to ten miles distant, and responsible for the "unusually loud roar", it is expected that numerous other reports would have been received from this section of Maine, which is thickly populated.

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Incident #77 -- South Brooksville, Maine -- 3 July 1947

There is nothing to suggest an astronomical origin of the objects cited in this unusually well-reported incident. Inasmuch as the sightings were made by an "astronomer" (although this investigator has never heard of him), one can presume that any astronomical implications would have been noted. The observer's question "Have any meteorites been reported?" is puzzling, because he should have been able to rule out that possibility himself. The estimated speed is all that would suggest meteors, and the absence of smoke trails and the general tenor of the description seems to rule out the objects' having been daylight meteors.

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Code 110A  
NRL

7 August 1947

MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: "Flying Saucers"

TO: Asst Chief of Air Staff-2  
Collection Branch, AAF  
Washington 25, D. C.

1. The inclosure is an excerpt from a letter to Dr. E. Tousey, Micron Waves Section Head, Naval Research Laboratory, from Mr. John F. Cole, pertaining to some unidentified objects which Mr. Cole reports to have seen some time prior to the first reports of "flying saucers" in the New England area.

2. Dr. Tousey states that Mr. Cole is a well-known astronomer and a reliable observer as a result of his training.

3. The inclosure is in addition to information contained in previous letters to your office taken from interviews at the request of Lt. Col. G. D. Garrett, AAF A-2.

1 Incl.  
Excerpt fm ltr to  
Dr. Tousey<sup>2</sup>

WILLIAM P. KELLEN  
Major, Air Corps  
AMC Liaison Officer  
Naval Research Laboratory

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DOWNGRADED  
INTERVAL: 100  
DECLASSIFY

Excerpt from letter of Dr. H. Tousey from  
Mr. John F. Cole

South Brooksville, Me.  
July 28, 1947.

Having in mind the ridicule which has been heaped on those innocent or perhaps gullible individuals who have reported disks, I would be a little cautious in interpreting. But it is safe to say truthfully, that something unusual attracted my attention, and I was in a perfectly sober condition, barring the mild stimulation, afforded by cool spring water filtering through North Haven greenstone cracks. It should be easy to determine if the "disks" were a new type jet plane, or bomber, or rocket. The fact that it was July 3, about 2:30 P.M. (summer time) or Greenwich Civil time 1830 might suggest that they were engaged in some naval demonstration from Eastport, Bar Harbor or Belfast. The group appeared to be at an altitude of about 50° -- I suffer from a mild cervical arthritis--but my eyes are well corrected for astigmatism and hypermetropia, and I doubt if my cerebral cortical lesions are sufficiently advanced to affect my balance. What first made me look up was the unusually loud roar and I was surprised not to see a well defined group of planes quite near. Instead I had to look rather sharply to see the bunch of very light colored objects, in a general northerly direction and travelling roughly in a NW (true) direction. This was reasonably correct, as I was on Cox's hill, and looked over towards Backwood's Mount, that is the conspicuous flat top planated hill at Harborside. The group could hardly have covered more than 1 1/2° angular diameter in the sky, and bunched rather closely with no regular formation. There might have been 10, I couldn't say and with 90° of arc spread, would easily be within the limit of visibility for discreet objects. As a group they were going so as to cover 30° of arc, estimated of course, in perhaps 10 or 15 seconds. If one of them, say, subtended 1/10°, with a possible wing spread of 100 feet, it would put it at a distance of over 10 miles, and quite invisible for a light object. Besides, with 30° arc of travel at a 10 mi. distance would be roughly 5 miles in 15 seconds or 20 mi. per minute or 1200 mi. per hour!--rather fast for a bomber--hl. A 50 ft. object, at 5 miles dist. would be about 600 mi. per hr.--also fast going. The only concrete evidence of form appeared on the left tangent of the group--two dark shaped forms: which may have been tail wings. Doesn't the Douglas bomber have these? And since they were in no regular formation, but seemed among themselves to be moving irregularly like a swarm of bees, why shouldn't all of them have shown wings? The loud roar suggests they may have been much closer, and rather small. The sky background was hazy blue, and the sun behind me. One plane towing a lot of balloons, I believe, would have been easily recognized. Have any meteorites been reported? At that time of day, has there been any abrupt change of radio field strength? or ionization?

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CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 77

1. Date 3 July 1947
2. Time 1930 Z
3. Location South Brooksville, Ms.
4. Name of observer Mr. John F. Cole
5. Occupation of observer astronomer
6. Address of observer South Brooksville, Ms.
7. Place of observation near Harborside, Maine
8. Number of objects 10
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight N/S
11. altitude N/S
12. Speed 600-1200 MPH
13. Direction of flight NW (true)
14. Tactics N/S
15. Sound Loud roar
16. Size 50 to 100 feet wide
17. Color light-colored
18. Shape only concrete evidence of form appeared on left tangent of the
19. Color/dot pattern - two dark shaped forms  
N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs one
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks (over)

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[REDACTED]

An unusually loud roar attracted the observer and upon looking up he saw a group of very light-colored objects at an altitude of about 50° bunched rather closely with no regular formation. The group could have covered 1-1/2° angular diameter in the sky. There might have been 10 As a group they were proceeding as to cover 30° of arc estimated of course in 10 to 15 seconds. If one of them subtended 1/10° with a possible wing spread of 100 ft it would put it at a distance of over 10 miles, and quite invisible for a light object. With 30° arc of travel at a 10 mi distance would be roughly 5 miles in 15 seconds or 20 mi per minute or 1200 mi per hour. Rather fast for a bomber. A 50 ft object at 5 miles dist. would be about 600 mi. per hr - also fast going. The only concrete evidence of form appeared on the left tangent of the group - two dark shaped forms. These could have been tail wings. But since they were in no regular formation, and seemed to be moving irregularly like a swarm of bees why shouldn't all of them have had wings? The loud roar suggests they may have been much closer and rather small. The sky background was hazy blue with the sun behind. One plane towing a lot of balloons, the witness thought, would have been easily recognized.

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DE WENCK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GEMINI REPORT,

## DEWIGHT HOGAN

## 1. Astronomical

## a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 40, 49, 50, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,  
95, 96, 97, 98, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 219, 222, 226, 240,  
247, 248, 250, 254, 256, 258, 267, 269, 280, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292,  
295, 298.

## b. Fair or low probability:

#11, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 45, 50, 63, 67, 80, 85, 93, 100,  
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 145, 146, 166, 167, 170, 182,  
189, 200, 208, 220, 230, 240.

## 2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

## a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#7, 13, 22, 41, 42, 52, 54, 55, 61, 62, 67, 67, 112, 124, 146,  
150, 153, 158, 162, 165, 166, 168, 169, 180, 181, 183,  
189, 191, 192, 199, 200, 202, 180, 200, 204, 205, 206, 208,  
200, 201, 208, 210, 217, 222, 224, 227, 230.

## b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 72, 106, 207,  
208, 209, 220, 270, 281, 286.

## c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):

#29, 68, 123, 124, 129, 144, 164, 180, 189, 214, 223, 231, 234.

## 2. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

## a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#28, 44, 45, 47, 51, 57, 72, 88, 87, 88, 92, 99, 110, 117, 128,  
135, 137, 137, 139, 143, 140, 177, 179, 181, 204, 251, 253,  
270, 274, 285.

## b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#2, 3, 10, 17, 21, 25, 27, 40, 51, 62, 68, 69, 83, 85, 86, 88, 71,  
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 100, 121, 202, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185,  
200, 172, 186, 185, 186, 193, 207, 211, 223, 224, 225, 226,  
277, 236, 241, 242, 243, 245, 246.

## JULY 1947 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
July	Tempe, Arizona (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
July	Oak Ridge, Tennessee (FOLDER)*	Presley (PHOTOS)	Other (Development Flaw)
3	S. Brookville, Maine	Cole	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Mt Jefferson, Washington	Bohne	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon Area	Multiple	Other (Chaff)
4	Portland, Oregon	Evans	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	Hayward	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	Dwyer	Insufficient Data
4	Seattle, Washington	Ryman	Balloon
4	Emmett, Idaho (FOLDER)*	Smith	UNIDENTIFIED
4	West Trenton, New Jersey	Marshall	Astro (Meteor)
6	Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California	Burniston	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Hollywood, California	Corey	Insufficient Data
6,7,8	Warren, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
6	Clay Center, Kansas	Browning	Astro (SOLAR REFLECTION)
6	Birmingham, Alabama	Livingston	Other (Fireworks)
7	Shreveport, Louisiana	(PHOTO)(NOT IN FILE)	Insufficient Data
7	East Troy, Wisconsin (CASE MISSING)	Harston (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Soax)
7	Lakeland, Florida	Mil and Civ	Insufficient Data
7	Muroc AFB, California	Griffin (MODEL)	Other (Psychological)
7	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	Wise	Balloon
7	Phoenix, Arizona (FOLDER)*	Saito	Balloon
7	Oakdale, California (CASE MISSING)	Rhodes (PHOTO)	Other (Soax)
7	Arlington, Virginia	Civilian	Insufficient Data
7	Omaha, Nebraska	Cobb	Astro (Meteor)
8	Muroc AFB, California	Reibold (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Ashes)
8	Muroc AFB, California	McHenry, Ruvolo, Scott	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Rogers Dry Lake, California	Strapp	Balloon
9	Boise-Meridian, Idaho	Shoop, Gilkey, Balck	Balloon
9	Midland, Michigan	Johnson visual	Balloon
9	Grand Falls, Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	(PHOTO)(NOT IN FILE)	Other (No Image)
20	Novo Scotia & Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	Lane (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Fireworks)
23	Harmon Field, Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	Kearsey	Astro (Auroral Spectrum)
15	Between Novo Scotia & Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	Maitland, Larkin, Douglass	
10	Morristown, New Jersey	Hammaker, Abbott	
10	Harmon AFB, Newfoundland (FOLDER)*	Gullidge	
10	Codroy, Newfoundland	Jansen (FOLDER)*	
11	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	Leidy (PHOTOS)	Astro (Meteor)
11	Black River Falls, Wisconsin	Evans	Astro (Meteor)
12	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	Perry, Guyer	Insufficient Data
15	Seattle, Washington	Hanson (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Soax)
20	Cumberland, Maryland (CASE MISSING)	Graham	Balloon
21	Cengtu, China (CASE MISSING)	Kremmer (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Soax)
21	Jackson, Ohio	Civilian	Insufficient Data
29	Helena, Montana	Civilian (PHYSICAL)	Balloon (Radiosonde)
29	Hamilton Field, California	Mapes (PHYSICAL S)	Balloon (Radiosonde)
		Madden	Astro (Meteor)
		Reyherd, Stewart	UNIDENTIFIED

\* In SEPARATE FOLDER  
NO PHYSICAL SPECIMENS INCLUDED