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PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE
27 Nov 1949

2. LOCATION
Mt. Palomar, California

3. DATE-TIME GROUP
Local
GMT Varied

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS
☐ Yes
☒ No

6. SOURCE
Civ

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION
Varied

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS
Varied

9. COURSE
Varied

12. CONCLUSIONS
☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon
☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft
☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical
☒ Other Equip. malfunct.
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Flying discs first observed near the observatory at Mt. Palomar, California. A recording geiger counter was so activated at the time of these sightings, that it went completely off scale.

11. COMMENTS

EVAL: Equipment malfunction. A complete re-check of the counter was accomplished and a faulty fuse clip was found.

FORM 331 REV 26 SEP 48

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UNCLAS

340 65954
Address reply to
Director and refer to:
ONR: Pasa/WNA: lw
All
Serial SC-3064
23 Dec 1953

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
PASADENA BRANCH
1030 E. Green Street
Pasadena 1, California

[redacted]

FROM: Director, Office of Naval Research Branch Office, Pasadena

TO: Chief of Naval Research (Code 346)

SUBJ: Details on old report of unusual phenomena; forwarding of

REF: (a) ONR/Wash Restr ltr ser 30402 dtd Dec 1952
(b) ONR/Pasa Restr ltr ser C0616389 dtd 23 Nov 1949
(c) NEL Conf ltr ser C570-388 dtd 30 Jan 1950

Encl: (1) 1 cy of reference (b) w/encls

1. At the request of reference (a) an effort has been made to discover additional information concerning recurrences of the type reported by this office in November 1949, reference (b). Dr. A. B. Pooke, of the Navy Electronics Laboratory, reports that no further incidents were observed although the equipment was operated at Palomar until about a year ago.

2. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for the convenience of LCDR F. L. Thomas. It is believed to be a full account containing all that was known at the time. Subsequently, the only development known to this office came in January 1950 when, in response to further reports of erratic equipment behavior, the apparatus was returned to NEL for a detailed check. A faulty fuse clip was found. According to reference (c), "very slight jarring of this clip produced a visible arc together with a spurious signal indicated on the aural alarm and an aberration of the recorder pen".

3. If further details are required this office will endeavor to supply them.

S/ T. H. TEMPLETON

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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Incl 3

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C ONR: LA/TCT: ijz
O All-Research
P Serial No. 60-10389
Y

[redacted]

U. S. NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
LOS ANGELES BRANCH
1030 E. Green Street
Pasadena 1, California

UNCLASSIFIED

Nov 23 1949

FROM: Commanding Officer, Office of Naval Research, Pasadena

TO: Chief of Naval Research

SUBJ: "Flying Discs"; report on.

Encl: (1) NEL ltr 442, P210-432, ABT:dtd, 7 Nov 49
(2) Graph showing the time of day at which off-scale motion of the Geiger Counter recorder occurred.
(3) Graph showing the frequency of occurrences on a calendar basis
(4) Summary and Observations, by ONR, Pasadena personnel
(5) Narrative of Flying Disc reports during the period 14-24 Oct 49 in the vicinity of Mt. Palomar, California

1. The attached reports of alleged "fling discs" in the vicinity of the observatory on Mt. Palomar, California, are forwarded for information.

2. The Commanding Officer, ONR, Pasadena, personally investigated these incidents and while he does not have a belief that these were actually flying discs, he is at a loss to explain the phenomena.

S/ T. C. THOMAS

Copy to:

NEL, San Diego
Com-11

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ENCL (1)

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U. S. NAVAL ELECTRONICS LABORATORY
San Diego 52, California

Please Address reply to:
"The Director"
Refer to File Number:
413
P210-433

7 November 1949

Commander Eugene Bollay
Los Angeles Branch
Office of Naval Research
1030 E. Green St.
Pasadena, California

Dear Commander Bollay:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of yesterday, the complete set of times at which the counting equipment on Mt. Palomar indicated extremely high counting rates, is as follows:

14 October	1320	18 October	0400
	2330		1015
15 October	0720		1633
	1320	19 October	0420
	2030		2040
16 October	0330	20 October	none to 1500
	0900	21 October	0720
	1330	24 October	(1930-2000
	2200		not accurately
17 October	0300		determined
	0720		
	1140		
	1545		
	2155		

In working with the quipment Wdneaday following the airplane tests one signal similar to the unknown one occurred while moving the main 110 volt connecting plug.

Following this one occurrence we were unable to reproduce the phenomena. We are completely at a loss to find any reasonable explanation for the equipment behavior. We certainly appreciate your cooperation in arranging for flights on Wednesday.

Sincerely,
S/ ALFRED B. FOCKE

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SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

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In the opinion of the personnel of ONR, Pasadena, the objects sighted were probably conventional aircraft which appeared to be abnormal in design due to lighting conditions.

The tripping of the Geiger counter mechanism is unexplainable. Ordinary circuit interruptions, mechanical and/or electrical disturbances, in the vicinity of Mt. Palomar are apparently not the cause. It is physically possible for someone to operate the controls on a Geiger counter so as to have the recording pen go off-scale. It is thus possible, but most unlikely that some member of the Observatory staff has been playing a practical joke.

The attached graph (Encl. 3) showing frequency of these Geiger counter off-scale motions, is of some interest. It will be noted that there was a definite peak of these occurrences on the 17th October. The graph (Encl. 2) showing the time of occurrences during the day gives a random distribution.

At the time of preparing this report, none of the scientists who have been interrogated (ONR, Pasadena; California Institute of Technology, and the Naval Electronics Laboratory) has been able to offer a satisfactory explanation of these phenomena.

In the appended reports the question arises as to the degree of reliability of the three persons whose stories are reported. This is a difficult thing to do, but the evaluation of ONR, Pasadena, is as follows:

Mr. Harley C. Marshall - Moderately reliable

Mr. B. B. Traxler - Highly reliable

Mr. George Adamsky - A low degree of reliability

The personnel of the Observatory and of the California Institute of Technology who jointly operate the Observatory with the Carnegie Institute, have made urgent requests that no publicity be given. They are afraid that if stories were published, it would give adverse publicity to the Observatory, which they are most anxious to avoid. Accordingly, it is strongly urged that these stories not be made available to the press.

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NARRATIVE OF FLYING DISC REPORTS DURING THE PERIOD OF 14-24 October 1949 IN THE VICINITY OF MT. PALOMAR, CALIFORNIA

Abouth the 16th October 1949, one of the scientists at the California Institute of Technology reported to the Office of Naval Research, Washington, that he had heard a fantastic story of flying discs being observed near the Observatory at Mt. Palomar; the unusual feature of the report being that a recording Geiger counter was so activated at the time of these sightings that it went completely off-scale. If true, of course, this meant possibly that the flying discs were powered by some form of atomic energy. Two different men at the Palomar Observatory had witnessed these incidents. Contact was made with Dr. Alfred B. Focke of the Naval Electronics Laboratory, who was operating the recording Geiger counter on a continuing basis. Dr. Focke went to Palomar to investigate the stories, and brought back the tape showing the unusual oscillations of the pen. Dr. Focke could offer no explanation - although he was skeptical of any flying disc theory.

The eminent physicist, Dr. H. V. Kohor, of the California Institute of Technology, was consulted and he gave as his opinion:

(a) It was not likely that the reaction of the Geiger counter was the result of an atomically powered plane, inasmuch as the pen went off-scale and returned to scale in a matter of seconds; whereas the polluted air from an atomic engine would tend to linger in the vicinity for some minutes.

(b) It was most likely that the electrical relaying or amplifying mechanism of the Geiger counter had been activated by a plane's radio, altimeter, or radar mechanism. This was particularly true if the Geiger counter and amplifier were not shielded.

Dr. Focke of NEL reported that the Geiger counter and its mechanism was not completely shielded, and he agreed that it was most probable that the plane's altimeter or radar had tripped the mechanism of the Geiger counter.

In the meanwhile, an effort was made to find out if planes from the Naval Air Station at San Diego had been in the vicinity of Palomar on the dates in question, i.e., the 14th and 17th October. A negative reply was recieved but this was not considered conclusive for any one of a number of reasons, including the fact that the planes may have been operating from some other field.

Arrangements were made for a plane to fly over Palomar and use its altimeter and radar to see if it would acitvate the Geiger counter. This was on/or about 21 October. Upon receiving a negative reply as to any unusual behavior of the Geiger counter, plans were made with Commander, Air Force, Pacific Fleet, for a series of flights to be made at various times and altitudes in the vicinity of Palomar, using radio, altimeter, and radar. Both conventional and jet planes were used. These tests were run on 9 November 1949. The results were completely negative, i.e., the Geiger counter made no unusual recording during any of these nearby flights.

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A STATEMENT BY Mr. HARLEY C. MARSHALL

(Mr. Marshall is Manager of Public Relations - a man of about 48 years of age, who has been with the Palomar Observatory since July 1937.)

On 14 October 1949, at about 1315, Mr. Marshall left the Observatory and started to drive down the Mountain to his home. The weather was good, clear overhead, some clouds about 45° from the horizon and below. After going a short distance down the road, he observed some objects proceeding in a northwesterly direction, height about 5,000 feet above him, i.e., about 10,500 feet above sea level. Because of the unusual appearance of these objects, and of the unusual sound, he stopped his car and got out to have a better look. He reported that he observed no wings or tail structure, the objects, numbering about 16 or 18, were flying in a perfect formation - a V of V's and moving very rapidly. The sound was similar to that of jets, but not quite the same. (Mr. Marshall has had occasion to observe all types of aircraft frequently, and is cognizant of all usual types.) In a matter of seconds the planes disappeared to the northwest. He described them as being of silver-like color; no vapor trails were observed. Due to the high speed of motion, sound appeared to be about 35° to 40° behind the line of sight.

Shortly after this incident Mr. Marshall called Mr. Traxler and advised him of what he had seen. A short time later Mr. Traxler went into the room of the Power-house where the recording Geiger counter, placed there by the Naval Electronics Laboratroy, was located, and noticed that the pen had made an off-scale motion to the right, some time before. The time appeared to be approximately 1315, i.e. the same time at which Mr. Marshall had observed the unusual objects overhead. An effort was made to report the incident to the Naval Electronics Laboratory that week-end, but contact could not be made with interested authorities. Dr. Focke of NEL was advised of the situation on the following Monday and commenced his own investigation.

It should be noted here that this Geiger counter had never gone off-scale before, except when it was usually operated during calibration tests.

A STATEMENT BY MR. B. B. TRAXLER

(Mr. Traxler is the Assistant superintendent (Electrical) for the Observatory and has been with it since 1935. He is a man of about 40 years of age.)

Mr. Traxler was first involved in the flying saucer story when he noted the operation of the Geiger counter as mentioned in the above report of Mr. Marshall. Although he is an electrician of considerable ability and responsibility, i.e., he operates and maintains the complicated electrical apparatus of the Observatory including the big telescope, he could offer no explanation as to the action of the Geiger counter.

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On Monday morning, 17 October 1949, at about 0720, Mr. Traxler was in the Power-house where the Geiger counter is located. While looking out of the window he saw a small black object without visible projections, going in a southwesterly direction at a high rate of speed. The sky was clear except for clouds which were beginning to form at a level estimated at about 1,500 feet above the Observatory, i.e., about 7,000 feet above sea level. The object was beneath the cloud cover. At first he was very reluctant to state what he thought he had seen. He said that at first he thought it might have been a bird. After making his observation he turned to the Geiger counter and noted that it had just jumped off-scale. The pen of the recorder returned to normal in a matter of seconds.

Mr. Traxler also reported that he had observed about a week later (possibly about 21 October 1949) a large object going in an easterly or southeasterly direction at a very high speed. It occurred at about 1430. Although he could see the object clearly, there were no projections whatever in the way of wings or tail surfaces. He observed it for about 8 seconds before it disappeared. No vapor trail was left by the object. He described it as being elongated, but slightly curved like a banana. No aberration of the Geiger counter was noted during this incident.

A STATEMENT BY MR. GEORGE ADAMSKY

(Mr. Adamsky is the propriator of Palomar Gardens Gardens Cafe, Junction of Henshaw AND Palomar Roads, Valley Center, California.)

While the representatives of ONR, Pasadena, And the Naval Electronics Laboratory were proceeding to Mt. Palomar to investigate the flying saucer story, they stopped at the Cafe at the foot of the mountain, which is operated by Mr. Adamsky. Quite by coincidence Mr. Adamsky told of a number of unusual observations made by him. Outside his cafe are two Miniature observatories containing a 15 inch and 6 inch telescope. A number of different stories were told by Mr. Adamsky, among which the following are pertinent.

He stated that recently he had seen, on Friday, 21 October, at about 1430, a cigar-shaped object, pointed at both ends without projections, and was apparently well stabilized. The altitude 7,500, was estimated for the object. The object was dark in color and appeared to be 500 feet or better in length. After standing still for an appreciable length of time, it headed upwards at a terrific rate of speed, leaving no vaport trail. This observation was made with the naked eye. It should be noted that this observation appears to have been made about the same time that Mr. Traxler of the Palomar Observatory sighted a similar object.

About two years ago Mr. Adamsky had observed an object through one of his telescopes. He stated that the object came in, was relatively still for a while, and then disappeared rapidly. The object appeared to be round and had around it a ring of some sort, such as the planet Saturn. When the object was first sighted the outside ring seemed to rotate, and upon the objects getting away, the center part appeared to rotate in a direction opposite to that of the ring surrounding it.

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C O P Y

Mr. Adamsky showed the visitors a newspaper clipping, where he had addressed a local Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon meeting, narrating one or two stories of his unusual observations of flying saucers. When he asked the gentlemen present if any of them had ever observed similar objects, fully 25 Or 30 of the members present acknowledged immediately that they had seen similar objects, but had been reluctant to report them for fear people would think they were "off the beam".

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Info Desired:

1. Name & date of paper
2. Name of [illegible] & time, place
3. Can we get copies of clippings

Albuquerque Tribune & Journal

23 JUNE - 1950

[illegible] Abilene, Texas on the 23 June 1950 at 7:40 p.m. "Fireball in the sky" - plane in area at time might have caused sighting vapor trail [illegible] the setting [illegible] To [illegible] from [illegible] at [illegible] - seen nothing unusual.

24 June 1950 - Albuq Journal

30 Sept - 1950

"Winged Oval Seen Near Sandia Crest" - flying orange colored oval with 2 wing like rays seen Saturday night by Mr. and Mrs. Alec Duran 1305 West Marble, Alb. N. Mex. Seen for 20 minutes

1 Oct 1950 - Albq. Journal

Files of Albuquerque Paper checked and above sightings found. Check was made ± three days of date [illegible] was detected.

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(1) Personalities

W. W. Carter, Ph.D. in physics from Cal Tech. Did work at Mt. Wilson Observatory. In Weapons Division at Los Alamos

H. T. Gittings, Jr. - BS in physics from University of Arizona. Inequipment lab at Los Alamos.

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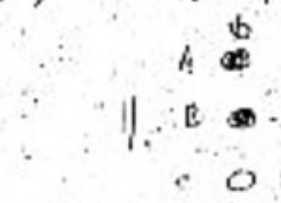

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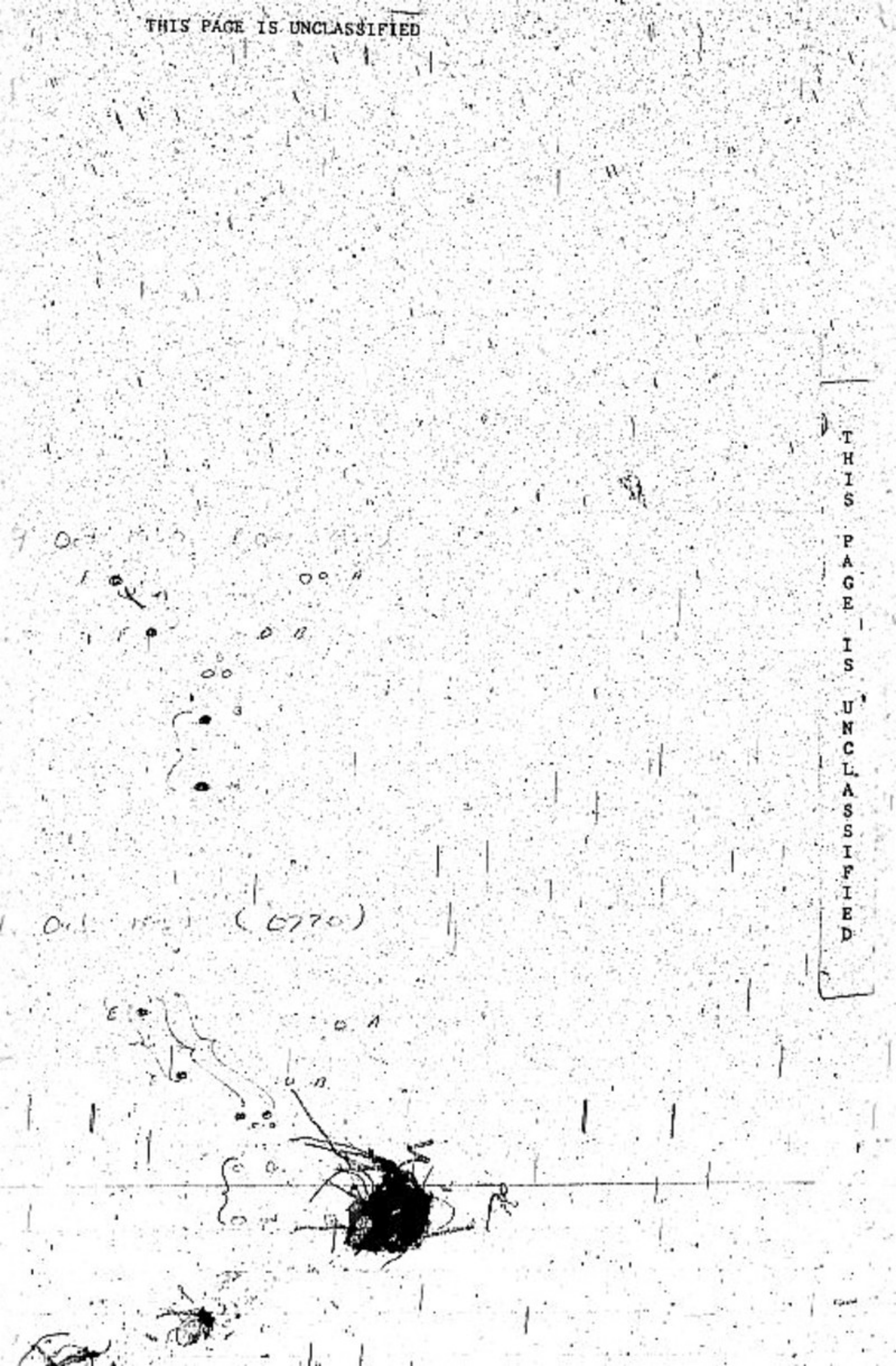

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Memorandum for Record 29 December 1952

Subject: Preparation for trip to Los Alamos, N.M., and the West Coast

1. At approximately 1330 on 29 Dec 52, Capt Ruppelt called Lt Col Paul H. Butman (telephone: Sterling 58000- Extension 221), Division of Military Application, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. Purpose of the call was to coordinate the visit to Los Alamos. Col Butman has previously been briefed on the possible correlation between detection of radiation from unknown sources and unidentified flying objects by Capt Ruppelt during a visit to AEC approximately two weeks ago. Col Butman was requested to contact Los Alamos laboratories and request that Mr. Carter, Mr. Gittings, and Mr. Simmons come to Albuquerque for the interrogation if possible. In this was impossible, it was requested that Capt Ruppelt and Lt Olsson be given a clearance to talk to them at Los Alamos. Col Butman stated that he would wire to Los Alamos and that they wire back directly to ATIC stating which of the two plans would be followed. (i.e., Whether we would meet them at Los Alamos or Albuquerque.) Col Butman was also informed that the Sandia Corporation had also requested a briefing and that ATIC planned to do this on either the sixth or seventh of January. Col Butman stated that it would be alright for ATIC to make direct contact with these people to arrange for a briefing.

2. At approximately 1500 on 29 Dec 52, Capt Ruppelt called Lt Glen D. Parrish, Director of Intelligence, 34th Air Division, Kirtland AF Base. The purpose of the call was to advise Lt Parrish that Capt Ruppelt and Lt Olsson would be in Albuquerque on Sunday, 4 Jan 53, and to inquire as to whether or not it would be alright to hold a meeting in Lt Parrish's office. Lt Parrish stated that it would be alright and that he was anxious to have us come down. Lt Parrish was also asked to contact Mr. William R. Perret, Division 5111, at the Sandia Corporation, who wrote the letter to ATIC requesting a briefing. Lt Parrish was asked to inform Mr. Perret of the proposed briefing and to have Mr. Perret wire ATIC as to a final date.

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Memorandum for Record 15 December 1952

SUBJECT: Call to Los Alamos, New Mexico

1. On the evening of 15 Dec 52, Capt E. J. Ruppelt called Mr. Homer T. Gittings, Jr., of 1537B 41st Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico (Tele: 24880). The purpose of the call was to contact Mr. Gittings in regard to some previous data that Capt Ruppelt had obtained about a correlation between the visual sightings of UFO and radiation from unknown sources. Previous to this, Capt Ruppelt sent Mr. Gittings a registered letter requesting the data, but the letter was returned as unclaimed. Mr. Gittings explained that when the letter arrived, he had been out of town and the post office had gotten mixed up on his instructions to hold any mail and had returned the letter.

2. Although not too much data could be obtained over the telephone, Mr. Gittings did shead some light on some of the questions that had been asked in regard to the correlations. In the first place, a Mr. W. W. Carter of 2228 34th Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico, phone 22263, was the person who knew people at Mt. Palomar who had also seen unidentified aerial objects at the same time they had detected some radiation. Contrary to previous beliefs, Mr. Carter was not there at the time and only heard of the incident through personal letters from these people at Mt. Palomar. Mr. Gittings stated that he was sure that Mr. Carter could give us the names of the people at Palomar and there is a possibility that they are still there. The other gentleman involved in the sightings at Los Alamos is a Mr. Stan Simmons. Mr. Gittings stated that between 1 Oct 51 and 1 Oct 52 he had picked three or four definite indications of radiation from unknown sources and that several of them had correlated with newspaper articles within two hours. He was not sure how many Mr. Carter obtained.

3. In describing the nature of the radiation which had been picked up, Mr. Gittings stated that "they picked up a vertical component - a particle that penetrated three thin walled tubes and the roof of the building". The tubes are 5/8 inches in diameter and 2 inches on center. He stated that they had checked all sources of radiation from the laboratory and that this type of radiation was far out of line for any cosmic activity.

4. Mr. Gittings was asked to obtain more information on the type of equipment that was used to get the radiation, the exact dates and time of all indicated radiation, and a little bit of background on each of the people. He was also told that personnel from Blue Book would try to contact him personally within the next two or three weeks to obtain all of this information.

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Memorandum for Record 15 December 1952

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CG ATIC

DATE-TIME GROUP: 021400Z DEC 52

PRECEDENCE FOR: ROUTINE

ACTION

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE

IDENTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION

TO: DIV OF MILITARY APPLICATION
US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
1901 CONSTITUTION AVE WASH 25 DC

INFO:

Killed by order of Col Bower
2 Dec 1952.

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA FOR LT COL P M BUTMAN

Reference telephone call from Maj I. Herman on 1 Dec 52. After briefing by Col Bower and Capt Ruppelt of this Center on unidentified flying objects at Los Alamos on 23 Oct 52, Dr. W. H. Crew arranged a special meeting with a small group of people from the laboratory. Several of these people had evidence that there was a possible correlation between sightings of unidentified flying objects and unusual radiation detection. Among this group were a Mr. Carter and a Mr. Homer T. Gittings, Jr. The preliminary data obtained from these people has been studied and it is now believed advisable to contact them again and get more details to determine whether or not ATIC should make a more complete study of the subject. It is requested that if it can be arranged, a meeting with these people be set up for the morning of 10 Dec 52. The expected duration of the meeting will not be more than four to five hours. ATIC personnel will be Maj Edgar W. Gregory, II, who has an Air Force Top Secret

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YR
DECLASSIFIED AFTER
DOD DIR 5200.10

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CG ATIC

DATE-TIME GROUP: 021400Z DEC 52

[redacted]

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION | INFORMATION

☐ BOOK MESSAGE | ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS | CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION | CLASSIFICATION

TO:

INFO:

clearance, and Capt Edward J. Ruppelt, who has an Air Force Top Secret and an AEC "Q" type clearance. Request reservations be made on morning Careo Airlines flight and that ATIC be advised who to contact if requested meeting can be arranged.

UNCLASSIFIED

T52-19517-1

[redacted]

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, where required)

E J Ruppelt

CAPT E.J. RUPPELT/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL: ATIAA-5

TELEPHONE: 65365

OFFICIAL TITLE: ROBERT E. KENNEDY, MAJOR, USAF AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL

DD FORM 1 MAY 49 173 REPLACES WD AGO FORM 11-28, 18 JUN 1948, AND WD AGO FORM 0001, 1 APR 1948, WHICH MAY BE USED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

RECOMMENDATION:

8. That Capt E. J. Ruppelt and a member of the Section Office be placed on seven days TDY to Los Alamos, New Mexico; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Lobbins AFB, Georgia.

COORDINATION:

ATIAA-5	Capt Ruppelt, Ch, Aerial Phenomena Section _____	1 Dec 52
ATIAA	Maj Herman, Ch, A/C & Prop Branch _____	1 Dec 52
ATIA	Col Bower, Ch, Tech Analysis Div _____	1 Dec 52
ATIM	Lt Col McKenzie, Comptroller _____	1 Dec 52
ATI	Brig Gen Garland, CG, ATIC _____	1 Dec 52

[redacted]

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CSAF ITEM 6 (RESTRICTED)
SECURITY INFORMATION
TO ATIAA-5 RUPPELT
FR AFOIN-2A2 FOURNET
REF OUR PHONE CONVERSATION 3 NOV. LCDR

XT 237
4 Nov 52

ACTION

THOMAS OF ONR HAS MADE INQUIRY RE 2 REPORTS FROM PALOMAR EARLY 50. HOLLOWAY REMEMBERS SEEING THEM BUT THEY ARE NOT AVAIL HERE NOW. THOMAS IS WRITING TO PASADENA OFFICE A OF ONR, FROM WHICH REPORTS ORIGINATED, AND ASKING FOR COMPLETE CYS. HE WILL ADVISE ME OF DEVELOPMENTS AND I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. INCIDENTALLY HOLLOWAY STATES THAT LIDELL EVINCED QUITE A BIT OF INTEREST THESE REPORTS WHEN FIRST RECD. HOWEVER UPON DECIDING THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS A SHORT CIRCUIT IN COUNTERS HE PROMPTLY BURIED IT WITH THE OTHER EXPLAINED" REPORTS HOLLOWAY NOW EXHIBITS INTEREST IN OTHER SIGHTINGS OF SIMILAR NATURE WHICH YOU HEARD ABOUT AT LOS ALAMOS.
END CSAF ITEM 6 (CRESTRICTED)

Holloway is in ONR Comm Ref study group. He is a great skeptic —

DOWNGRADED AT
DECLASSIFIED AT
DOD DIR 5200.10

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SUBJECT: Visit to WADC 4 Nov 52

Facts and Discussion

1. On 4 Nov 52 Capt E. J. Ruppelt and Lt R. M. Olsson visited Col Hood, chief of the Nuclear Powered Aircraft Branch of WADC. Previous to this visit, Col Hood had contacted ATIC in regard to certain sightings of UFO's at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, in which he and a Naval officer had attempted to obtain correlation between sightings and peaks in radiation backgrounds.

2. Col Hood stated that in Jul 50, the person who was then head of the Physics Department at Vanderbilt University (Col Hood could not recall his name, but stated he would find out and notify ATIC) said that he believed there might be some correlation between sightings of UFO's and increases in radiation. Col Hood and a Naval officer became interested and attempted to correlate these occurances.

3. To effect this correlation, they went to a radar site at the Knoxville Airport (now an ADC AC&W Squadron - he did not know for sure whether or not it was ADC at that time) and got a copy of their log of unknown tracks. They then got the records from several radiation monitoring stations in the Oak Ridge area and attempted to make a correlation. Their attempts to correlate the data were not too successful. The radiation detection equipment that was used was the standard equipment set up to monitor the background count in four separate areas at the laboratory. One type of counter measured alpha radiation and one type gamma radiation (these were not the directional type of coincidence counters used at Los Alamos). Col Hood stated that approximately three times per month, peaks would be recorded on the tapes, sometimes on either the alpha counter or gamma counter and sometimes on both simultaneously. They took these peaks and the unknown radar pickups and in some cases were able to correlate them. No written record was made or kept, consequently, the percent correlation is not known.

4. Col Hood gave the name of a Mr. Ed Bettis of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory who could possibly give more details. Mr. Bettis is an electronics specialist on the NEPA project.

5. The possibility of detecting the passage of a nuclear powered aircraft was discussed. Col Hood stated that ground counters would definitely register if such an aircraft passed overhead. He said that if he remembered correctly, it had been computed that the aircraft being designed in the U.S. would give 1 Rontgen from an altitude of 50'. This is not dangerous if taken instantaneously. (For persons continually exposed, 1/80 of this is the limit.) This 1 Rontgen at 50' drops off with the square of the distance or $R = k/d^2$. He stated that naturally the shielding determines how much radiation would be detected. On an unshielded missile the level would rise by a factor of 10^8. As far as can be determined, this would be the only way to detect a nuclear powered aircraft as the configuration is completely conventional.

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

SECURITY INFORMATION

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6. The possibility of instrumentation was discussed. Col Hood said that during 1950 an airborne counter had been devised and attempts were made to use it in the wing tank of an F-47 at Oak Ridge. As far as he knew, this was never done because they could not get a powerful enough power source. He stated he didn't believe an airborne system would be too successful because the area that would give radiation would be too localized. His idea on instrumentation was to utilize a magnetometer in an effort to establish whether or not a reported object was material or not. (Contrary to what we've been told, he believed a magnetometer could be easily obtained that had a fairly long range - up to 50 to 75,000', if not more.) He suggested a setup of several types of instruments all cross checking each other, a magnetometer, a directional coincidence counter for radiation and radar.

7. During his visit to ATIC this summer, Col Hood had mentioned the fact that his branch was interested in Einstein's latest theories on a relationship between gravity and lines of magnetic force(???). His branch has contacted Einstein and obtained the names of several people whom he thought could pursue this idea further and determine how his theory could be utilized for power. The Office of Flight Research is now contacting these people to see whether or not they would accept a study contract.

8. Col Hood's suggestion was that we go ahead with a limited instrumentation program now. His idea was that the cost would be low and he believes we could get at least preliminary data that we could expand on. He offerred ATIC any aid his branch could give.

Conclusions

9. The only conclusion is that these people made a very preliminary type of study on the correlation of unknown radar pickups and rises in radiation. There is definitely nothing to "get our teeth into". Again, however, there are indications that there may be some correlation present.

10. The use of a magnetometer may be feasible to determine whether a material object is present and if this object is in any way utilizing the earths magnetic field in any way.

Recommendations

11. More details on the incidents at Oak Ridge should be obtained. Mr. Bettis and the head of the Physics Department at Vanderbilt University should be contacted to see if any correlations have been attempted since 1950.

12. Someone at WADC should be contacted to learn more about magnetometers.

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3 November 1952 EJR/jos/ATIAA-5
Box 9586
Hq 1125th FAG (ATIC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

Mr. Homer T. Gittings, Jr.
1537B 41 Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Gittings:

When Col Bower and I were at Los Alamos on 23 Oct giving the briefing on unidentified aerial phenomena, we discussed the correlation between sightings of UAP and the detection of certain types of radiation. At that time, we unfortunately didn't get too many details down on paper as we were too busy talking. Upon returning to Dayton, we discussed this correlation with several people and fortunately a great deal of interest has been aroused. I was wondering if it would be possible for you to collect all of the details you can get concerning the visual sightings and the radiation detection on both the incidents at Palomar and at Los Alamos. We are now attempting to run down your reports to the Los Alamos security people and the Navy reports at Palomar. We may not be able to find them, however, and would like to have what you can dig up.

The following are some of the details we would like to have on each incident, if you can get them:

1. Description of visual sighting including shapes, apparent speed (fast, hovering, etc.), time of day sighted, dates, etc.

2. Description of type of radiation detected if it is known, how time this radiation was detected correlates with the visual sighting, type of equipment used, etc.

3. Persons who made visual observations and instrument readings, and a little bit about their experience or background. We would like to have their names if they don't mind; we'll be sure that they don't get out. This information is necessary so we can show that the persons making the observations were experienced in their fields. I believe some instrument readings were correlated with newspaper reports. In these cases forget about the observer, but if you can remember which newspaper the visual sighting came from, we can check back on the source.

4. Any comments you might have as to conclusions reached, checks made on the possible origin of the radiation, etc.

5. Any additional information you may have or can think of that might be of interest.

I almost forgot to add that we would also like to have a list of dates, times and locations you or any of your friends detected an "unidentified radiation" you could not correlate with a visual sighting and we will check all of the local newspapers in an attempt to dig up correlations for you. I checked the list of October of 1950 dates that one of the people at the meeting gave me, and we had nothing. This doesn't mean anything, however, as our files are far from complete in covering sightings at that time.

I realize that all of these requests are going to cause you and your people a great deal of extra work. We would appreciate anything you can give us, however, as we fully intend to follow this through, up to the point of setting up a net of visual and instrumental locations if necessary. Your information will be used to determine just how far we will go. As I said before, your names will not be brought into this but we would like the names of the persons involved in case we have to check farther on some points.

The idea of air sampling has been brought up on several occasions, and we'd like to get your collective opinions on this. Would air sampling give the same, better, or no results compared with the equipment that was used in the incidents we discussed?

If you think all of the above data is too much to get into a letter or you would rather not put it in a letter, we can come back down to see you. We could meet you in Santa Fe or at one of your homes. I'm going on leave for 10 days beginning 10 November, so it would be after that. If you want to do this, let me know by collect wire. The address is Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Attn: ATIAA-5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The reports on the project, that your group requested, have been forwarded to Lt Parrish, Director of Intelligence, 34th Air Division (Defense), Kirtland. He will pass them on to you. As I told you at the meeting, he is acting as the focal point for all reports in the area.

If you people have any further data you want, feel free to write and ask for it. If it is classified, we'll get it to you through channels.

I'm sending this registered because, although it is not classified, we wouldn't want it to get out.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD J. RUPPELT
Captain, USAF

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED November 1952

Subject: Trip to Los Alamos on 23 October 1952

FACTS AND DISCUSSION

1. On 23 October 1952, Col D. L. Bower and Capt L. J. Ruppelt of ATIC presented a briefing at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. After the briefing Col Bower and Capt Ruppelt met with seven people from the lab who were interested in the subject of UFO's.

2. Previous to this meeting, several of the members of the group had met Capt Ruppelt and Maj J. H. Herman at a meeting of the Civilian Saucer Investigators in Los Angeles. At that time these people mentioned having some data on a correlation between the detection of some type of radiation and visual sightings of UFO's.

3. At the 23 Oct 52 meeting at Los Alamos more details on the above mentioned subject were obtained. The first incident occurred several years ago at the Mt. Palamar Observatory in California. A series of Geiger counters had been set up to study cosmic ray activity. One person involved in the study happened to be outdoors when he saw a V of V's of shiny objects go over. He immediately went inside the observatory and found that the counters had just "pinned" (i.e. gone up to a maximum reading). This naturally aroused the curiosity of the people on the project and they agreed that if it ever happened again they would look outside. Some time later it did happen and they looked out and observed a dark object passing over head.

4. The Navy, it was a Navy cosmic ray contract, supposedly investigated, wrote a report, and concluded that this way was all due to a circuit failure. The people operating the equipment also checked and are claimed to have flatly denied this saying that due to the cirquitry it would be impossible for similar failures to occur in all the circuits at the same time.

5. Shortly after this occurence, one of the persons involved in the incidents at Palamar moved to Los Alamos. He continued to be interested and also interested some friends in setting up the same type of equipment on their own time. They did this and they also detected unknown radiation. In two instances, they were able to correlate these with newspaper reports of the sighting of an UFO. In these instances the people could not get outside to observe and had to depend on newspaper reports of UFO's for correlations.

6. Similar observations of radiation from an unknown source were made on:

1 Oct 50	-	1921 MST
2 Oct 50	-	1401 MST
4 Oct 50	-	2305 MST
9 Oct 50	-	0855 MST

The equipment was kept in operation until December 1950 with no more pick-ups. At that time the equipment was dismantled. (Note: The above was checked in

[redacted]

SECURITY INFORMATION UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC Blue Book file but there was no record of any incidents on these dates. This does not mean very much, however, since it is known that a lot of the incident files were destroyed about this time.)

7. A photograph of one of the gieger counter set-ups, a diagram of the set-up, and copies of the traces of records are shown in the attachments to this report.

8. It should be noted that all of the people involved in this are qualified scientists working at Los Alamos. They have checked every possible source of the radiation they can think of and cannot account for it. They have discussed this with many people including well-known scientists visiting Los Alamos and there is no ready explanation, either for the source of the radiation detected or the correlation between visual sightings and the radiation.

9. Reports of these incidents were made to the Security Force at Los Alamos and supposedly were to be forwarded to the Air Force. As far as can be determined, they were never received at ATIC.

10. Along these same lines, attention can be called to the fact that a Colonel from WADC visited ATIC several months ago and reported that the same thing had happened at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

CONCLUSIONS

11. The accounts of these incidents are still rather vague, too vague, to draw any definite conclusions as to whether or not further action should be taken to investigate all radiation monitoring stations in the U.S. to determine if more correlations are present.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is recommended that:

a. All possible details of the Los Alamos and Palamar sightings be obtained. This can be accomplished by attempting to locate both the reports made by the Navy (paragraph 4) and the Security Force at Los Alamos (paragraph 9) reports. In the meantime the people at Los Alamos should be contacted to get their complete story both as a cross check on the reports and in case the reports cannot be located.

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[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

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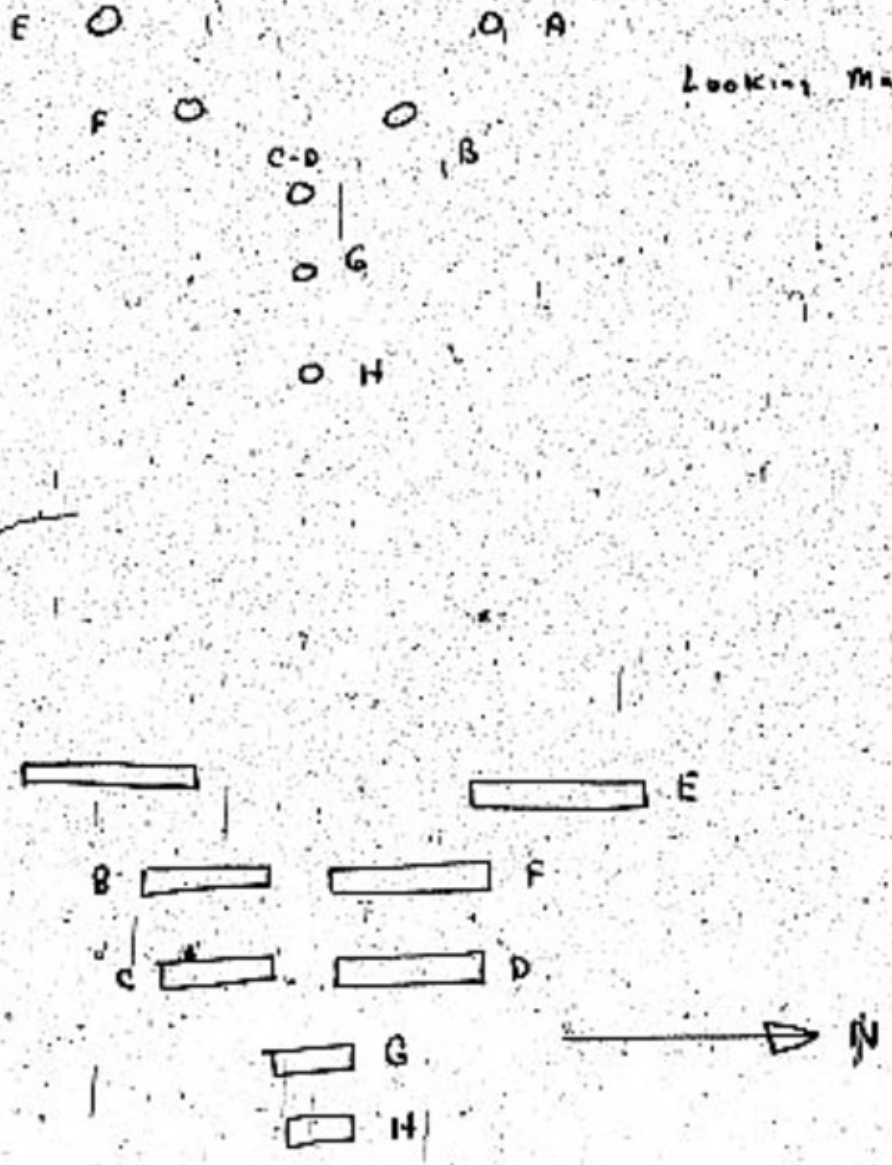

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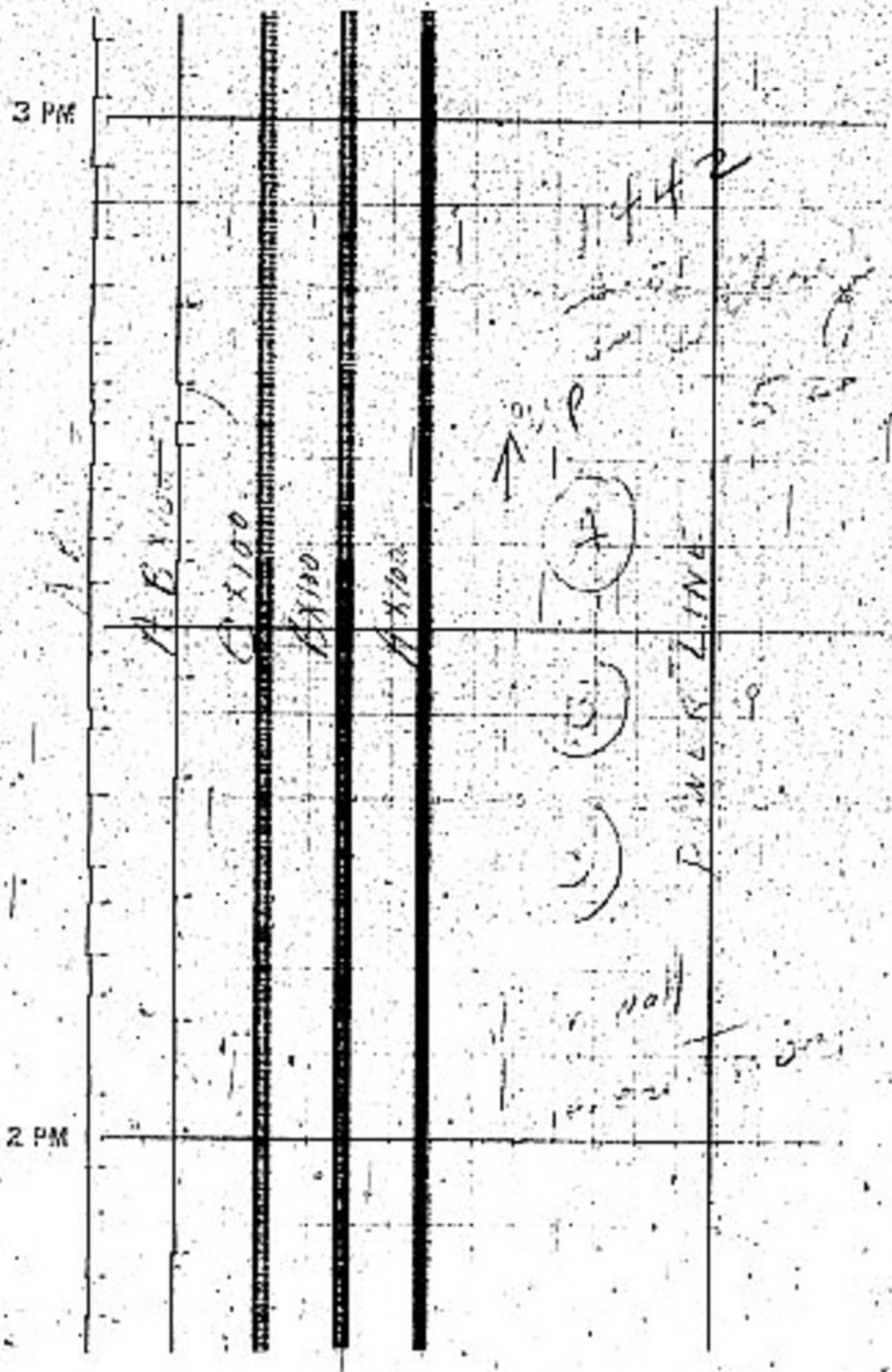

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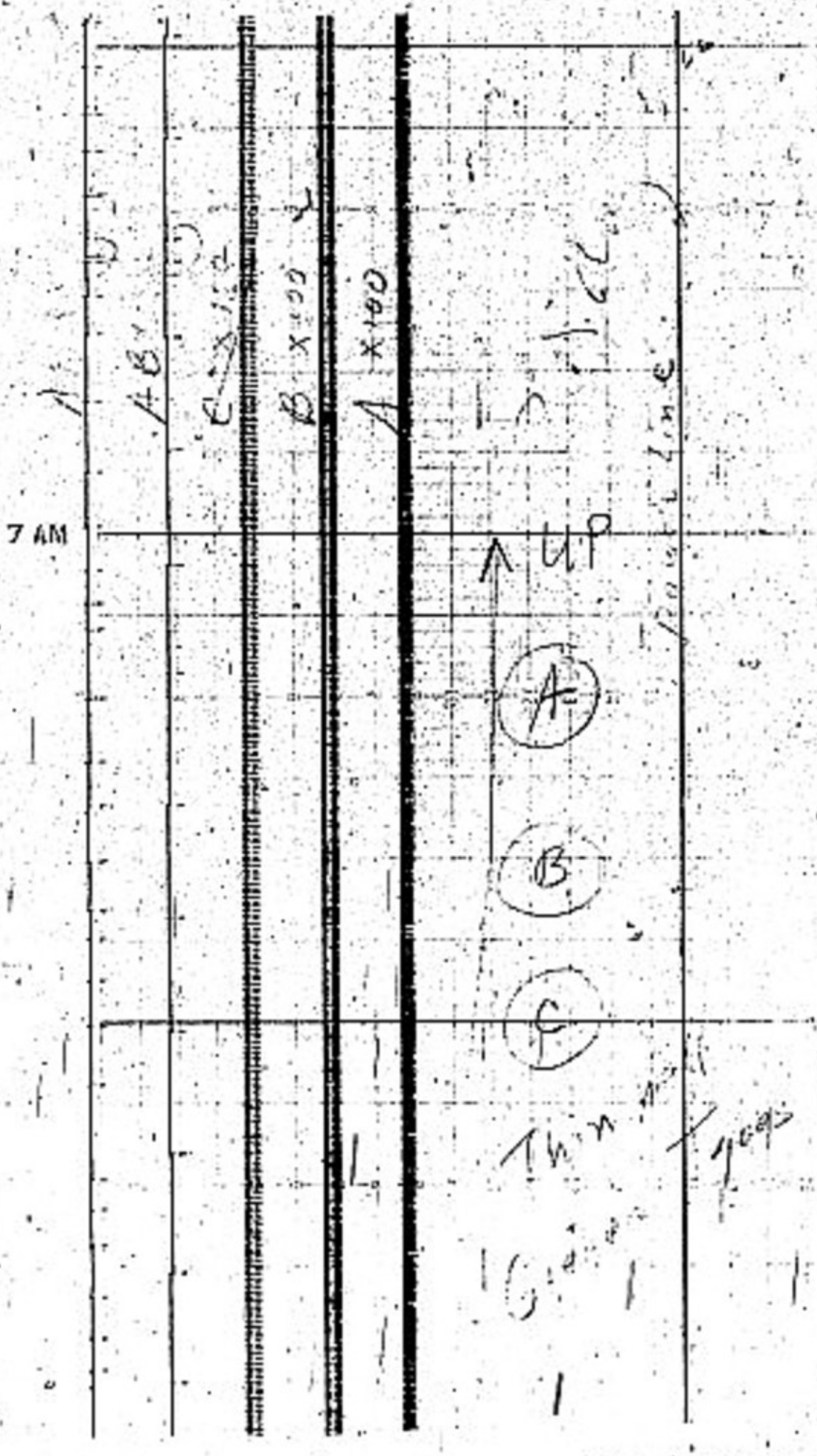

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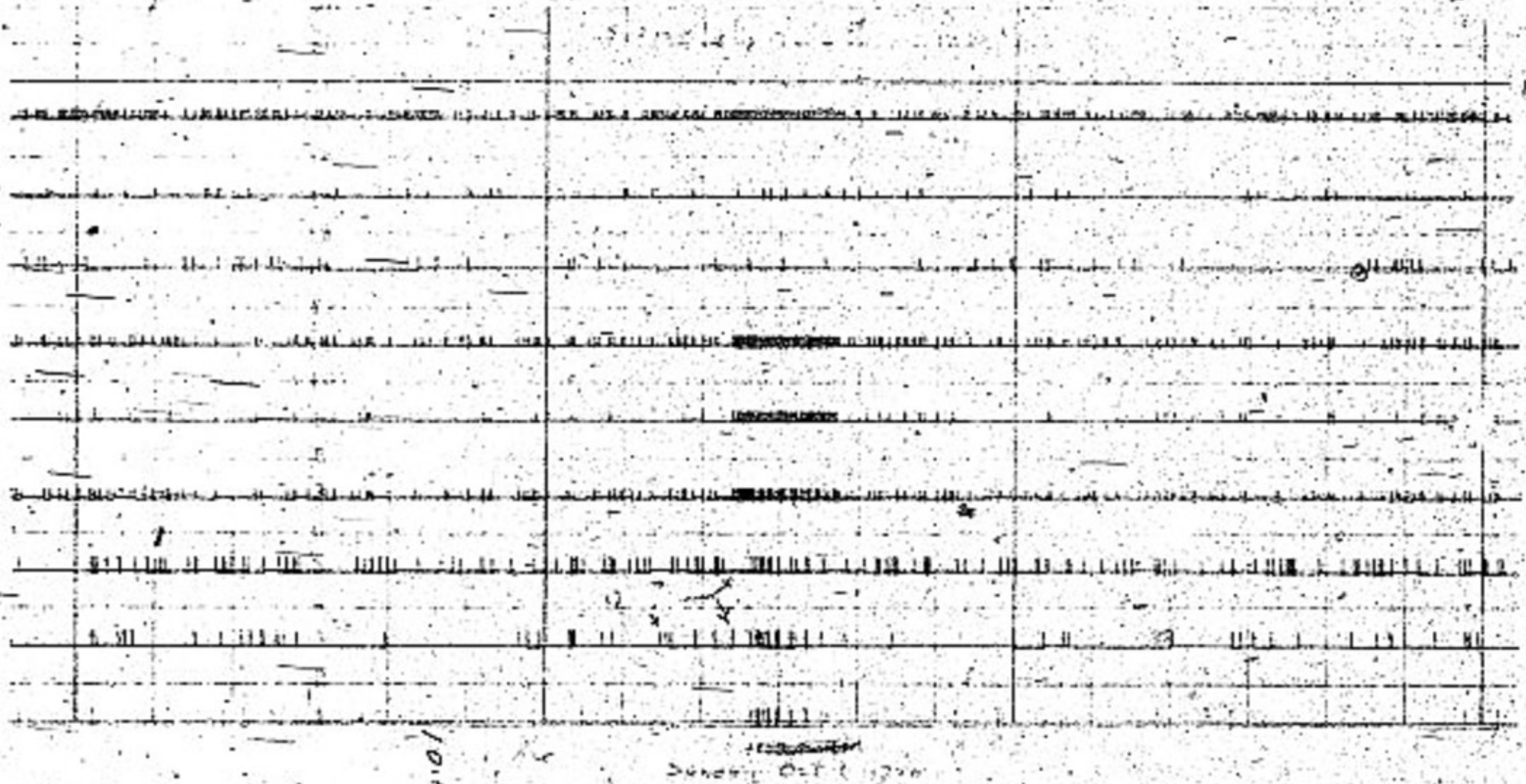

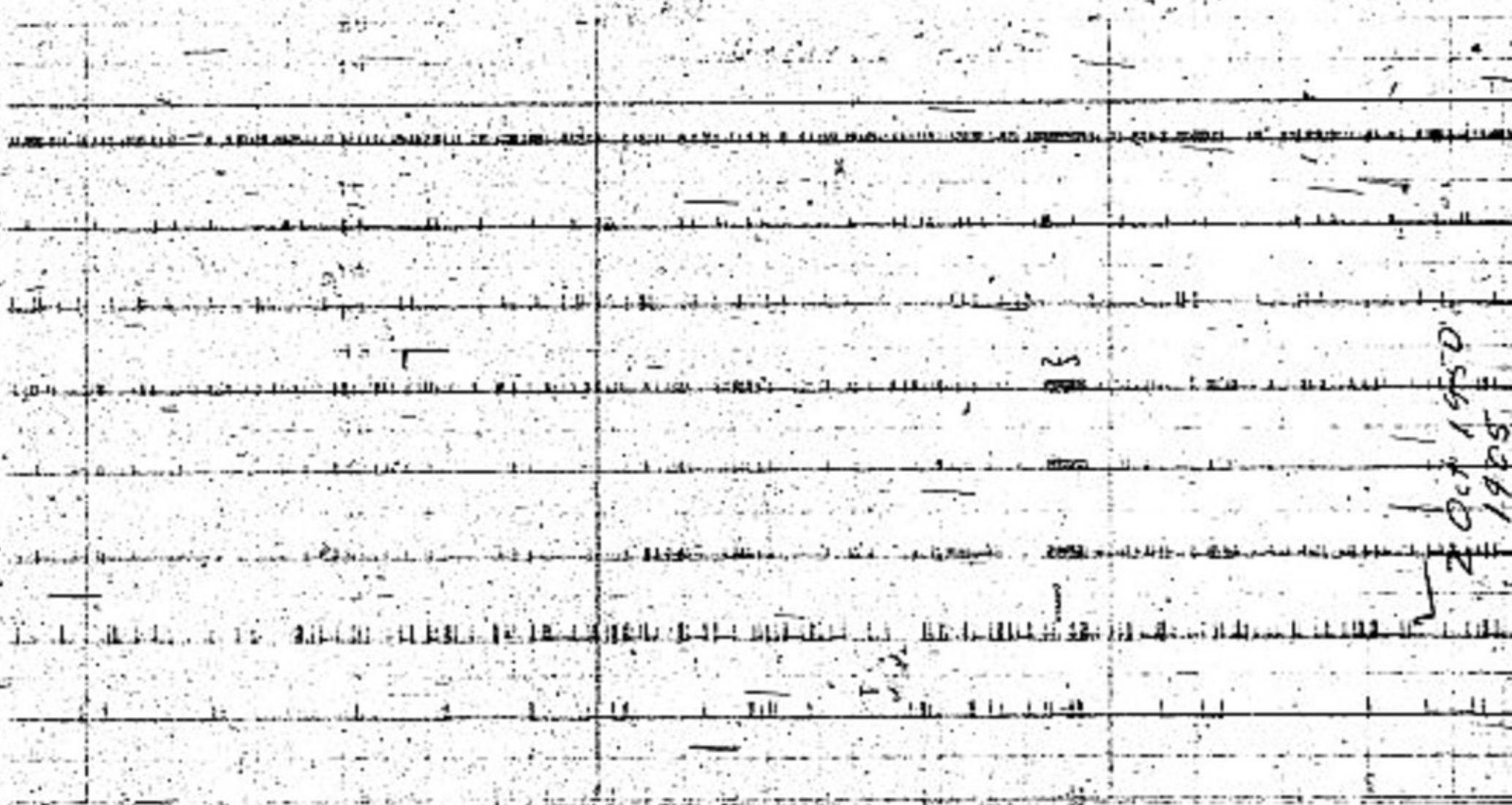

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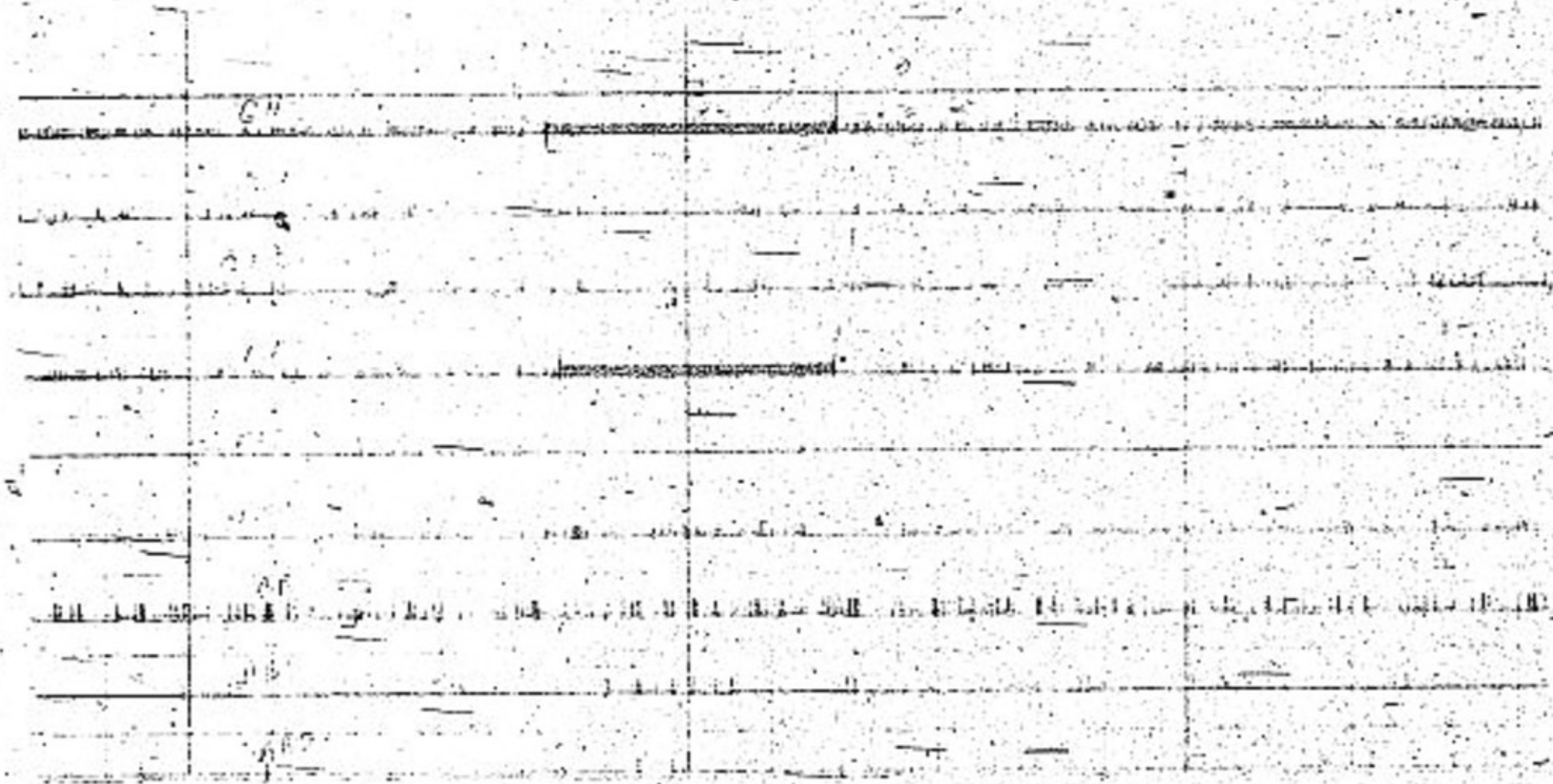

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY
(Contract W-7405-ENG-36)
P.O.Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico

In reply refer to
ADSP

21 August 1952

Division of Military Application
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
1901 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Lt. Col. P. M. Butman

Dear Col. Butman:

As you undoubtedly know, this Laboratory holds a bi-weekly colloquium for its staff members, one purpose of which is to keep us in touch with technical and scientific developments in parts of the country other than Los Alamos. To this end I thought that perhaps the Air Force might care to give us a talk on the technical and scientific aspects of their studies concerning so-called "flying saucers". If you think they might, would you be good enough to make inquiry through appropriate channels in Washington?

I wish to make it perfectly clear that the Laboratory claims no official cognizance in this field of activity; but it is my belief that our staff members would be extremely interested in a discussion of the serious and scientific aspects of the Air Force's studies of the "flying saucer" phenomena. I do not suggest that anyone be asked to make a special trip for the purpose of addressing our Colloquium; but would hope that someone engaged in this work might be passing through Albuquerque and could stop off at Los Alamos for this purpose.

Any approach which you may initiate will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

William H. Crew
Assistant Director for
Scientific Personnel

WHCrns

cc: Santa Fe Operations Office
N. E. Bradbury via Ralph Carlisle Smith, LASL

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

9 Sep 52

Brigadier General William M. Garland, USAF
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear General Garland:

In accordance with our discussion of August 29th in Washington, the attached letter is submitted for your attention as you requested.

On the strength of your informal indication that ATIC could probably accommodate the request of the Los Alamos Staff Members for a colloquium on "flying saucers", I am taking the liberty of so notifying Dr. Crew at this time.

Since you will note the Los Alamos request is posed at the convenience of ATIC, I would appreciate very much a member of your staff contacting Dr. Crew directly to arrange details. A copy of any further correspondence on this matter will be sufficient for this Division to arrange the appropriate visitors' clearances to Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Paul M. Butman

PAUL M. BUTMAN
Lt Colonel, USAF
Division of Military Application

Enclosure:
LASL Ltr, Aug 21, 1952

cc: Dr. Crew
Santa Fe Operations

Dr. William H. Crew
Assistant Director for Scientific Personnel
P.O. Box 1663
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Crew:

Reference is made to your letter of 21 August 1952, (ref: ADSP) to Lt Col P.M. Butman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission requesting an Air Force briefing on unidentified aerial phenomena or "flying saucers".

The Air Technical Intelligence Center would be very glad to present a briefing on unidentified aerial objects to the bi-weekly colloquium held by your laboratory. Within the next few weeks, personnel from this Center will be making a trip to the west coast and will plan to stop off in Los Alamos. At the present time no definite date can be set, but as soon as plans for the trip are finalized you and Col Butman will be contacted, clearances arranged and a final date set.

It is believed that such a briefing will be of great value to ATIC in that a group of qualified scientists such as those at Los Alamos always have excellent ideas on various technical and scientific aspects of the problem of unidentified aerial objects.

Sincerely yours,

falling fragment. After discharge of fragments, objects lifted, continuing formation and disappeared at extreme height.

Fragments were very hot to the touch and samples were obtained after a cooling period. Radio transmission to Tacoma headquarters were impossible due to excessive static. Radio was in excellent condition and weather conditions good. Witnesses returned immediately to Tacoma and turned over cameras and film to superiors. Estimated at that time that 20 tons of debris dropped.

Second Incident - ?

One object as previously described came from somewhere and circled bay at approximately 10 degree bank and disappeared in large cumulus cloud formation. Re-e timate of extent of debris and additional samples taken.

Samples and information was obtained by my Intelligence Officer.

Major Sanders - S-2 McChord Field
Captain Davidson - Army Intelligence - Hamilton Field, California
First Lt. Brown - Army Intelligence - Hamilton Field, California
Lt. Col. Donald Springer - 4th Air Force Intelligence (There is a 4th Air Force Report)

Crash and death of Captain William L. Davidson (Pilot) and First Lt. Frank W. Brown in B-25 unclassified mission, McChord Field to Hamilton Field, accident occurring at Kelso, Washington, August 1, 1947. The crewmen saved via parachute, were M/Sgt. Elmer L. Haff, Tech. 4th Grade Woodrow D. Mathews.

Theory of Crash - sabotage ?

Davidson and Brown handled complete interrogation of Maury Island incident and were known to have been carrying large quantities of the fragments and the recorded information. It is my information thatphotographs taken of this incident are still available.

Newspaper accounts of aircraft crash at Kelso:

August 2, 1947 - The Tacoma Times
August 3, 1947 - Sunday Journal, Portland, Oregon
August 3, 1947 - Chicago Sunday Times

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

FROM
GARLAND COMMANDING GENERAL AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

031545Z OCT 52 ROUTINE

UNCLASS

TO: DR WILLIAM H CREW
ASST DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LAB
LOS ALAMOS NEW MEXICO

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-10-3-E

Reference telephone call from Capt Edward J. Ruppelt of ATIC to Miss Stibbert on 1 Oct 52. Col Donald L. Bower and Capt Edward J. Ruppelt will be in Los Alamos on 23 October 52, to give briefing on unidentified aerial objects. Request ATIC be advised whom to contact and scheduled time of briefing.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

DONALD L. BOWER, COLONEL, USAF
CHIEF, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

UNCLASSIFIED

CAPT E.J. RUPPELT/vs
ATIAA-5 66365

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, MAJOR, USAF
AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

FROM
GARLAND COMMANDING GENERAL AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WIRGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

031530Z OCT 52 UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

TO ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIV OF MILITARY APPLICATION
WASHINGTON 25 DC

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-10-4E FOR LT COL PAUL M BUTMAN

Reference your request to Gen Garland for briefing on unidentified aerial objects at Los Alamos. Col Donald L. Bower and Capt Edward J. Ruppelt of ATIC will be in Los Alamos on 23 October 1952 to give briefing. Dr. Crew of Los Alamos has been advised of this date. Request clearances be initiated.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

DONALD L. BOWER, COLONEL, USAF
CHIEF, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

UNCLASSIFIED

CAPT E. J. RUPPELT/vs

ATIAA-5 65365

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, MAJOR, USAF
AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL