PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 24 Jun 47	2. LOCATION Portland, Oregon
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION UNIDENTIFIED
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Five or Six	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 45-60 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Round object with tail, about 30 ft in diameter. About five or six objects banking in the sun, had no particular formation. Source stated that the needle on a compass wavered from side to side while the objects were in sight. No sound.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

Incident No. 68 — 24 June 1947, Daytime, Cascade Mountains, Washington. A prospector reported sighting five or six round objects with tails, 1000 ft overhead, heading S.E., and banking in the sun. The objects were in sight 45-60 seconds, and alleged to be thirty feet in diameter. They made no noise. While the objects were within sight, the observers compass fluctuated wildly. He states that he read of a former sighting (incident No. 17) also occurring on 24 June 1947, and submitted this report solely to add credence to the person who provided that story. While there appears to be an attempt on the part of the observer to infer that these objects were possibly the same as those reported in (incident No. 17), there are several major differences, notably as Dr. Hynek points out (app.B), that these objects had tails, and that the inferred size, as determined from the estimated distance, is quite different. Dr. Valley (App D) has pointed out and Dr. Hynek concurred that it is difficult to take seriously the peculiar action of the compass for this would imply fantastically large magnetic fields.

AIC Opinion: From the limited evidence submitted, it is impossible to reach a definite conclusion. However, two possible psychological factors are readily apparent; one, the observer stated he submitted this report solely because he had read several days following his observation of another sighting. Therefore, he very likely either consciously or inadvertently may have attempted to conform his report to that recounted in the newspaper; and two, he colored his report with inference of huge magnetic fields, as to the implications of which he was obviously uninformed.

UNE 24, 1947 CASCADE MOUNTAINS, WASHINGTON (KEYHOE-1950 P 24) 1 WITNESS 00
A PORTLAND PROSPECTOR NAMED [redacted]ON, WHO WAS WORKING UP IN THE CASCADE 01
OUNTAINS, REPORTED FIVE OR SIX DISK-SHAPED OBJECTS BANKING IN THE SUN. HE 02
ATCHED THEM THROUGH HIS TELESCOPE SEVERAL SECONDS. THEN HE SUDDENLY NOTICED 03
HAT THE COMPASS HAND ON HIS SPECIAL WATCH WAS WEAVING WILDLY FROM SIDE TO 04
IDE. (JOHNSON INSISTED HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THE FAMOUS REPORT ON THIS SAME 05
AY, BY [redacted] (O.V.), WHICH WAS NOT BROADCAST UNTIL EARLY EVENING.) 06
********** 07

[redacted]

Incident #68 -- Portland, Oregon -- 24 June 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident, which should be considered together with the Kenneth Arnold case (#17), which occurred on the same day, and in which similar discoid objects were observed. (The present objects appeared to have tails, however; another major difference between this and the Arnold incident is the inferred size of the objects, as determined from the estimated distance.)

It is difficult to take seriously the peculiar action of the compass, for this would imply fantastically large magnetic fields.

[redacted]

METHOD II. Direct use of Earth's Magnetic Field.

One observ (incident 63) noticed a viole motion of a hand-held compass. If we assume from this that the objects produced a magnetic field, comparable with the Earth's field, namely 0.1 gauss, and that the observer found that the object subtended an angle θ at his position, then the ampereturns of the required electromagnet is given by

$ni = \frac{30\ R}{\theta^2}$ where R is the range of the object.

For instance, if R is one kilometer and the object is 10 meters in diameter, then ni = 1 billion ampere-turns.

Now if the object were actually only 10 meters away and were correspondingly smaller, namely 10 cm in diameter, it would still require 10 million ampere-turns.

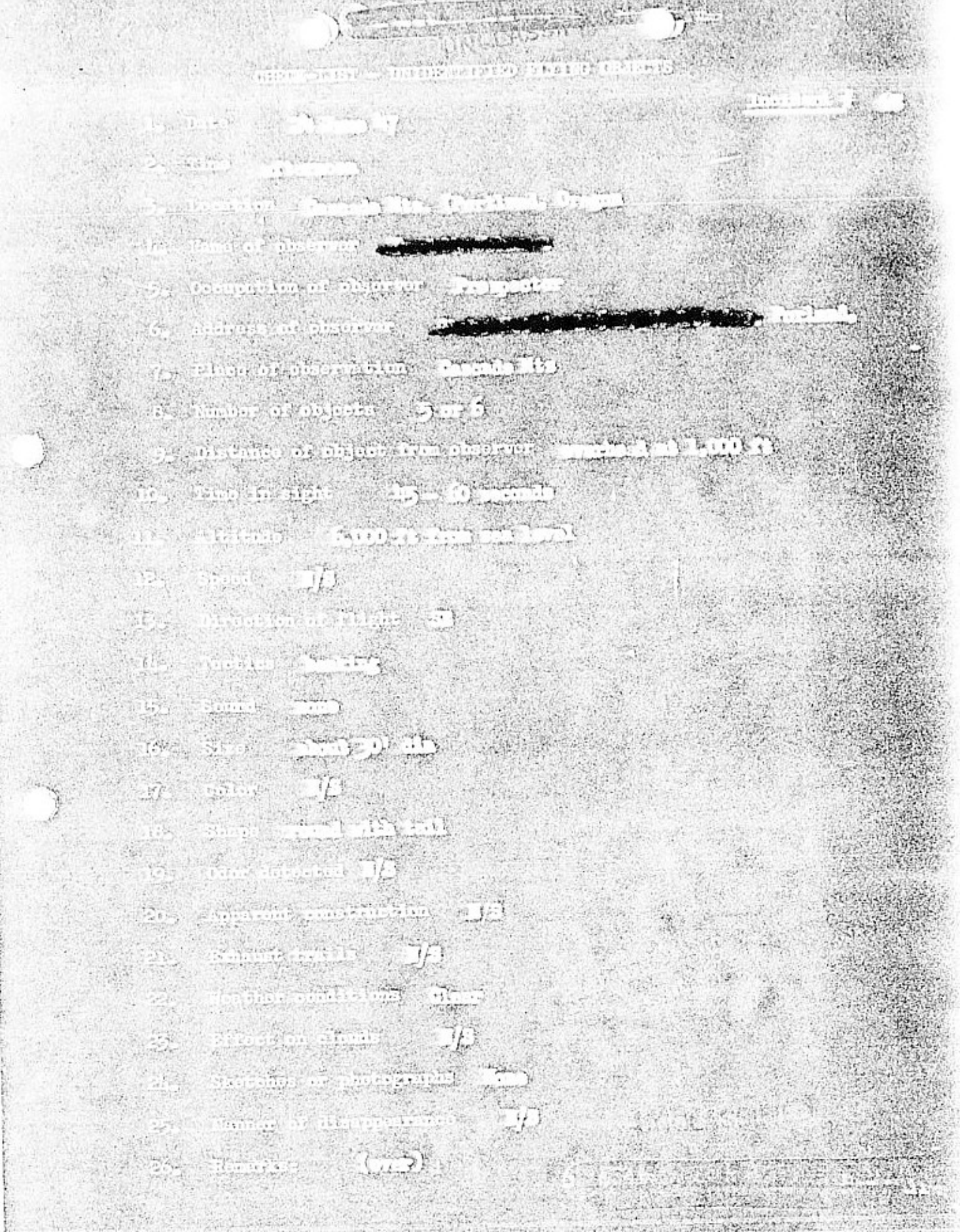
These figures are a little in excess of what can be conveniently done on the ground. They make it seem unlikely that the effect was actually observed.

Now the Earth's magnetic field would react on such a magnet to produce not only a torque but also a force. This force depends not directly on the Earth's field intensity but on its irregularity or gradient. This force is obviously minute since the change in field over a distance of 10 meters (assumed diameter of the object) is scarcely measurable - moreover the gradient is not predictable but changes due to local ore deposits. Thus even if the effect were large enough to use it would still be unreliable and unpredictable.

APPENDIX D

Dr. G. E. Valley

Some Considerations Affecting the Interpretation of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects



While prospecting in the Cascade [illegible] 5,000 ft above sea level he noticed a reflection. Upon looking up he saw a disc proceeding in a southeasterly direction. Upon sighting it he placed his telescope to his eye and observed it for some 45 to 60 seconds. At the time the disc was sighted it was banking in the sun. He observed 5 or 6 but concentrated on one. Said they did not fly in any particular formation and he estimated them to be about 1,000 ft from where he was standing. He estimated that they were around 30 feet in diameter and that they had a tail. They made no noise. He noticed that the combination compass and watch in his possession reacted in a very peculiar manner, the hand waving from one side to the other but that this condition corrected itself immediately after the discs had passed out of sight.

NOTE: Informant appeared to be very reliable and advised that he had been a prospector in the States of Montana, Washington and Oregon for the past 40 yrs.

With 129 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained satisfactorily, as pointed out by Ford Corporation and the Air Material Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendix VII and VIII).

Air Material Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Wright Field)

(22 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, and size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, but probably would not have been considered unusual or reported had there been no publicity.

APPENDIX B

Project Grudge

Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibited few common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporting witnesses, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the U.S. Rankin Incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following sections of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,

111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 235.

[redacted]

Incident #74 -- cancelled -- see #68

[redacted]

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 228.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 176, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 166, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

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JUNE 1947 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
Summer 47-48	Madeline Merchant File (INFO)		
June	Hamburg, New York(CASE MISSING)	Civilian	A/C
June	Seattle, Washington (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
2	Rehoboth, Delaware (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Other (MISSILES)
10	Hungary (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
12	Weiser, Idaho	Erickson	Other (CONTRAILS)
14	Bakersfield, California	Rankin	Birds
20	Montgomery, Alabama	Mutliple Military	Balloon
21	Spokane, Washington	Overman	Balloon
22	Greenfield, Massachusetts	Civilian	A/C
24	Mt Ranier, Washington	Arnold	Other (MIRAGE)
24	Boise, Idaho	Whitehead	Astro (STAR/PLANET)
24	Portland, Oregon	Johnson	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Rockfield, Wisconsin	Beuscher	Insufficient Data
28	Illinois	Not Stated	Insufficient Data
28	Lake Meade, Nevada	Armstrong	Balloon Cluster
28	Des Moines, Iowa	Bays	Other (UNRELIABLE RE
29	Las Cruces, New Mexico	Kauke/Zahn/Rockwood	Balloon
30	Boise, Idaho	Donofrio	Astro (SUN DOG)
30	Williams AFB, Arizona (Grand Canyon)	McGinty	Astro (METEOR)
Late June	Maury Island, Washington	Dahl	Other (HOAX)
June/July	Oakland, California	Ballard	(INFO ONLY)
Summer 47	Condon, Oregon	Herman	Info Only

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