Incident No. 10 — 4 July 1947, 2004 hours, Boise, Idaho. An airline pilot and crew watched from the air two groups, (5 and 4 in number) of objects described as thin and smooth on the bottom and rough on top, silhouetted against sunset and flying "loose formation." They followed them for forty-five miles; therefore, had them in sight for approximately ten minutes. No further information was submitted.

ATIC Opinion: Since the sighting occurred at sunset, when light conditions change rapidly and illusory effects are most likely, the objects could have been ordinary aircraft, balloons, birds, or pure illusion. Insufficient information.

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Incident #10 -- Boise, Idaho, 4 July 1947

There appears to be no astronomical explanation for this incident.

One minor lead is suggested: observation was made at the time of sunset, when light conditions are changing rapidly. Disappearance of the object might have occurred simply because of the changing visibility. It is the time of day when illusory effects are most likely to occur, and it might not be out of the question that the objects actually were other aircraft.

Despite these conjectures, no logical explanation for the incident seems possible at this time.

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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, 238.

   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, 178, 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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THE UNITED AIR LINES

EMMETT, IDAHO CASE

PROJECT SAUCER CASE NO. 10

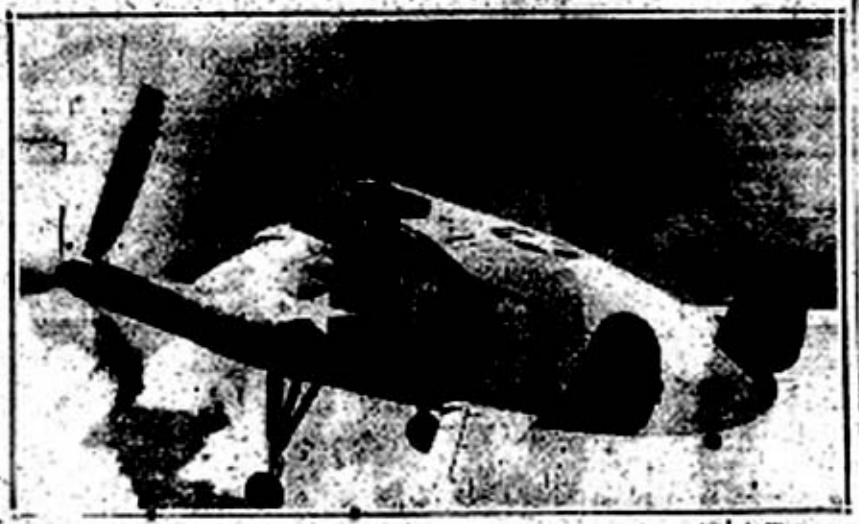
WHAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN APRIL 27, 1949

(THE FIRST PROJECT SAUCER REPORT)

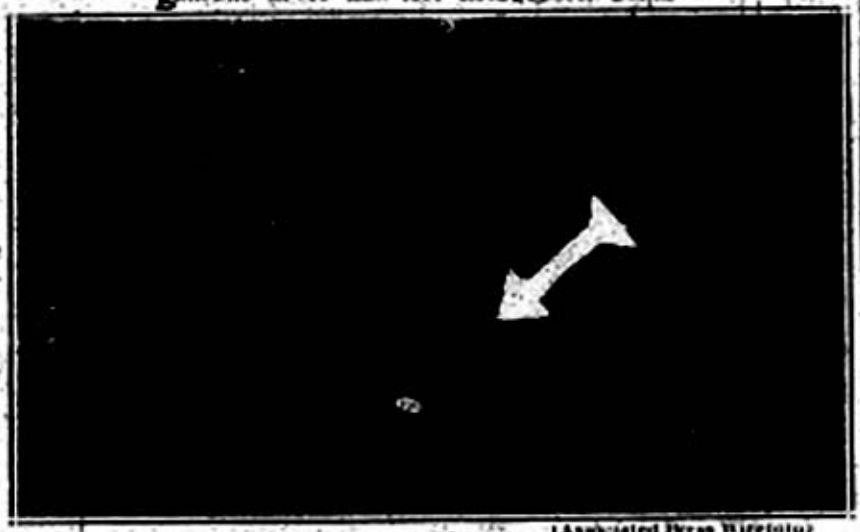
AND DECEMBER 27, 1949

(THE FINAL PROJECT SAUCER REPORT)

TO MAKE THE AIR FORCE CHANGE ITS TUNE?



The Navy's "Flying Pancake"—the V-173—is the only craft that could answer the description of the flying discs. But Navy officials say the Pancake never has left Bridgeport, Conn.



(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Foto of flying disc made by Coast Guardsman Frank Ryman.

Airliner Sees Saucers; Army, Navy Stumped

Washington, D. C., July 5 (AP).—Military and scientific experts here had only bleak looks and shoulder shrugs today at a new rash of "flying saucer" reports.

Researchers of the Army, Navy, and a government observatory agreed on one thing: They "don't know what it's all about"—or so they said.

Told that the crew of an airliner flying over Idaho last night had reported seeing a formation of the mysterious saucers skimming through the skies, an Army Air Forces officer repeated, a little wearily, that it could not be the new Navy "Flapjack" plane.

"We have no experimental aircraft of that nature in Idaho—nor anywhere else. We're mystified."

The Navy had no suggestions to offer beyond a statement from its naval observatory here which said that none of the staff had sighted anything resembling the flying saucers.

The observatory added that from the descriptions so far given the discs would "not seem to be astronomical phenonema."

Concerning a picture taken at Seattle yesterday, a University of Washington physicist said that as the object in the picture was unidentifiable, the photograph proved only "that some reflected light affected a photographic plate."

Flier Tells of Seeing The Flying Saucers

(The following is an eyewitness account by a United Air Lines pilot, Capt. E. J. Smith of Seattle, of how he chased a strange group of objects sighted last night in the sky over Boise, Idaho.)

By CAPT. E. J. SMITH

Seattle, July 5 (U.P.)—As our flight, No. 105, took off from Boise, Idaho, at 8:01 P. M., Pacific time, the tower jokingly warned us to to be on the lookout for flying saucers.

My copilot, Ralph Stevens, also of Seattle, was in control shortly after we got into the air. Suddenly he switched on the landing lights.

He said he thought he saw an aircraft approaching us head-on.

(Continued on page 12, col. 7)

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Airliner Sees Those Saucers

(Continued from page 2)

I noticed the objects then for the first time.

We saw four or five "somethings." One was larger than the rest and, for the most part, kept off the right of the other three or four similar, but smaller, objects.

Since we were flying northwest—roughly into the sunset—we saw whatever they were in at least partial light. We saw them clearly. We followed them in a northwesterly direction for about 45 miles.

Then I called the attendant at the Ontario, Ore., radio tower, giving an approximate location and course for the objects. The attendant acknowledged our call, went outside to look, but was unable to see anything like what we described.

Finally the objects disappeared in a burst of speed. We were unable to tell whether they outsped us or disintegrated.

Couldn't Catch 'Em.

We never were able to catch them in our DC-3. Our air speed at the time was 185 miles per hour. Through the Boise air tower we radioed another United plane to see if it had seen anything. That plane, flying eastbound into the night, had not sighted them.

Because we were following the objects at roughly the same altitude, we can't say anything about their shape except that they were thin and were smooth on the bottom and rough-appearing on the top.

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Detroit News 5 July 1947

BLINK LIGHTS

The entire crew of a westbound Boise-to-Seattle United Air Lines plane reported they had seen nine flying discs near the airline's route over Emmett, Ida.

Capt. E. J. Smith, of U. A. L. Flight 105 which left Boise at 9:04 p. m., said that his co-pilot, First Officer Ralph Stevens, blinked the transport's landing lights in the belief the discs were other aircraft.

Blinking landing lights during a night flight is a pilot's signal of warning to other aircraft that a plane is flying in the same area.

Smith said it was eight minutes after takeoff from Boise that Stevens and himself saw five discs, flying what appeared to be a "loose formation."

They called Marty Morrow, stewardess, to the cockpit to verify that they were actually seeing the discs, said Smith, and she agreed they were there.

Then they saw four more of the discs, three clustered together, and a fourth flying "by itself, way off in the distance."

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(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Capt. E. J. Smith, United Air Lines pilot, tells of seeing flying discs while on flight from Boise, Idaho, to Portland, Ore. Copilot Ralph Stevens uses phone in background.

True or False, 19th State Sees 'Saucers'

Menace or mirage, world-spanning weapon or a wave of wonderful nonsense, the flying saucer—the dazzling disc that skims through the air at speeds up to 1,200 miles an hour—was reported from a 19th state yesterday. That was the state of Maine, where a radio program director reported 12 of the discs spinning northward.

New reports of the baffling phenomena kept pouring in from western states, where the strange discs first were spotted.

Army intelligence in Washington, D. C., took the flood of reports seriously enough to begin an investigation. Among the witnesses officers will want to question are two pilots of an airliner who saw a group of the speeding discs from their plane.

But scientific men still scoffed. One of them yesterday tagged the eyewitness reports examples of "mass hysteria."

Pentagon's G-2 On Trail of Saucers

From THE NEWS Bureau

Washington, D. C., July 6.—Army Intelligence has begun the job of dicing out the facts on the outburst of "flying saucers" reported flitting over widespread parts of the nation, but to date remains completely mystified.

The News learned that the saucers are definitely not connected with any U. S. experimental military project.

A War Department source revealed that the G-2 section (Intelligence) went to work a year ago on reports of other strange objects flying around the skies and came to the conclusion—never fully verified—that they were meteorites of some description.

But the reputable witnesses who have reported seeing the saucers in the last few days have given rise to groping concern at the Pentagon. Intelligence agents in the

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True or False, Maine Is 19th to See 'Saucers'

(Continued from page 1)

field have been instructed to examine eyewitnesses and make every effort to determine the cause of the strange events.

Flier Tells of Chasing The Flying Saucers

(The following is an eyewitness account by a United Air Lines pilot, Capt. E. J. Smith of Seattle, of how he chased a strange group of objects sighted last night in the sky over Boise, Idaho.)

By CAPT. E. J. SMITH

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Finally the objects disappeared in a burst of speed. We were unable to tell whether they outspeed us or disintegrated.

Couldn't Catch 'Em

We never were able to catch them in our DC-3. Our top speed at the time was 265 miles per hour.

Newsman and Wife See Idaho Discs

(The following dispatch is by John C. Corlett, Idaho manager for United Press, a newspaperman of 15 years' experience.)

By JOHN CORLETT

Boise, Idaho, July 5 (U.P.)—Just before dusk last night, as my wife and I and two friends were relaxing after dinner, a tiny white disc—one of the mysterious "saucers"—scudded across the sky at a terrific speed.

We were entertaining friends and were relaxing in the garden when my wife suddenly pointed skyward, and cried: "Look!"

In just about the time it takes to turn your head the silver object was nearly out of sight.

Both my wife and I, and our guests caught a glimpse of the tiny object.

During the last few days we had discussed the various news stories carried about the discs, and frankly, I had been a bit skeptical of them. But the disc was unmistakable, even in the three or four seconds' time during which he had a chance to see it.

More Than a Myth

The disc traveled at a high rate of speed. It appeared first in the northwestern sky, apparently coming from the general direction of the Oregon-Washington line, and traveled southeast.

There was no noise. The sky was clear, and we could not be mistaken a cloud for the thing we saw.

At one point in its progress the disc was almost directly overhead. It was flying fairly low. I'd guess at about 10,000 feet.

Until last night I didn't believe in them. But now I know that those stories aren't just a myth.

Maine Reports Seeing 'Em, Too

Augusta, Maine, July 5 (U.P.)—The Civil Aeronautics Administration office said it had received a report that a dozen of the mysterious sky discs had been seen over the city.

The CAA said Dan Kelly, program director for radio station WRDO here, advised that he saw about 12 objects he believed to be discs.

19 States Join Saucer Derby

"Flying Saucers", speeding through the air, have been reported from Texas, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado and Arizona.

The South was represented by Louisiana, Kentucky, Georgia and South Carolina. The East followed with Maine, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Nebraska, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana also ran.

Flying Star Lands in Ohio

Circleville, Ohio, July 5 (U.P.)—Fields in Pickaway County, which have been following the flying saucer mystery, became excited today when Sherman Campbell found a strange object on his farm.

It was in the form of a six-pointed star, 50 inches high and 48 inches wide, covered with tinfoil. It weighed about two pounds. Attached to the top were the remains of a balloon.

The Port Columbus Airfield weather station said the description tallied with an object sent by the Army Air Forces to measure wind velocity at high altitudes by the use of radar.

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(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Capt. E. J. Smith, airlines pilot, holds up dinner plate to show Stewardess Toni Carter what flying discs looked like. They're seen at Chicago Airport after arrival yesterday.

Warm Saucer Falls At Parsonage in Wis.

(Continued from page 1)

air gun and gun head of a National Guard air unit at Sioux Falls, ordered a National Guard pilot already in the air to try to run down the object. The order was transmitted by radio within a few minutes after the object reportedly was seen. The pilot sped across the sky in the direction of the reported disc, but returned back that he couldn't find it.

Mustangs Find Nothing.

The search search of northwestern skies for discs was made by eight P-51 Mustang fighter planes and three B-29 bombers armed with [illegible] cannon. The planes, from Portland, Ore., made a four-hour search after three discs were reported by observers from the ground during the same period.

More of the flying saucers were reported late today by a former Army Air Forces pilot to the Great Falls Army airbase in Montana.

Officials applied an available explanation to new if they could supply an answer to the puzzle.

Report Eight Saucers Landed in Idaho

Spokane, Wash., July 6 (AP)—Eight flying saucers were reported today to have made a landing on a mountaintop near St. Maries, Idaho, in full view of 10 persons.

Mrs. Walter Johnson of suburban Dishman said the saucers came down on timber there Thursday evening but had not been reported until she returned home today.

The saucers were seen to fall near Butlers Bay on the St. Joe River six miles west of St. Maries, where Mrs. Johnson was visiting her parents.

She said they came into view at an extreme speed, traveling from south to north. Suddenly they slowed, she said, and then "fluttered like leaves to the ground."

You, Too, Can See Saucers

Not all those who reported seeing distant discs are suffering from spots-before-the-eyes. Howard W. Blakeslee, science editor of the Associated Press, yesterday offered this comforting explanation:

At any distance, close to the limit of how far a person can see, all objects appear round or nearly so. This law of sight confers both small things seen nearby and large things at great distance.

Blakeslee has seen flying saucers himself—over Long Island Sound. "They were round, bright and moving fast," he writes. "But they were no mystery, because they were light reflected from airplanes that identified themselves when they came near enough to be seen distinctly."

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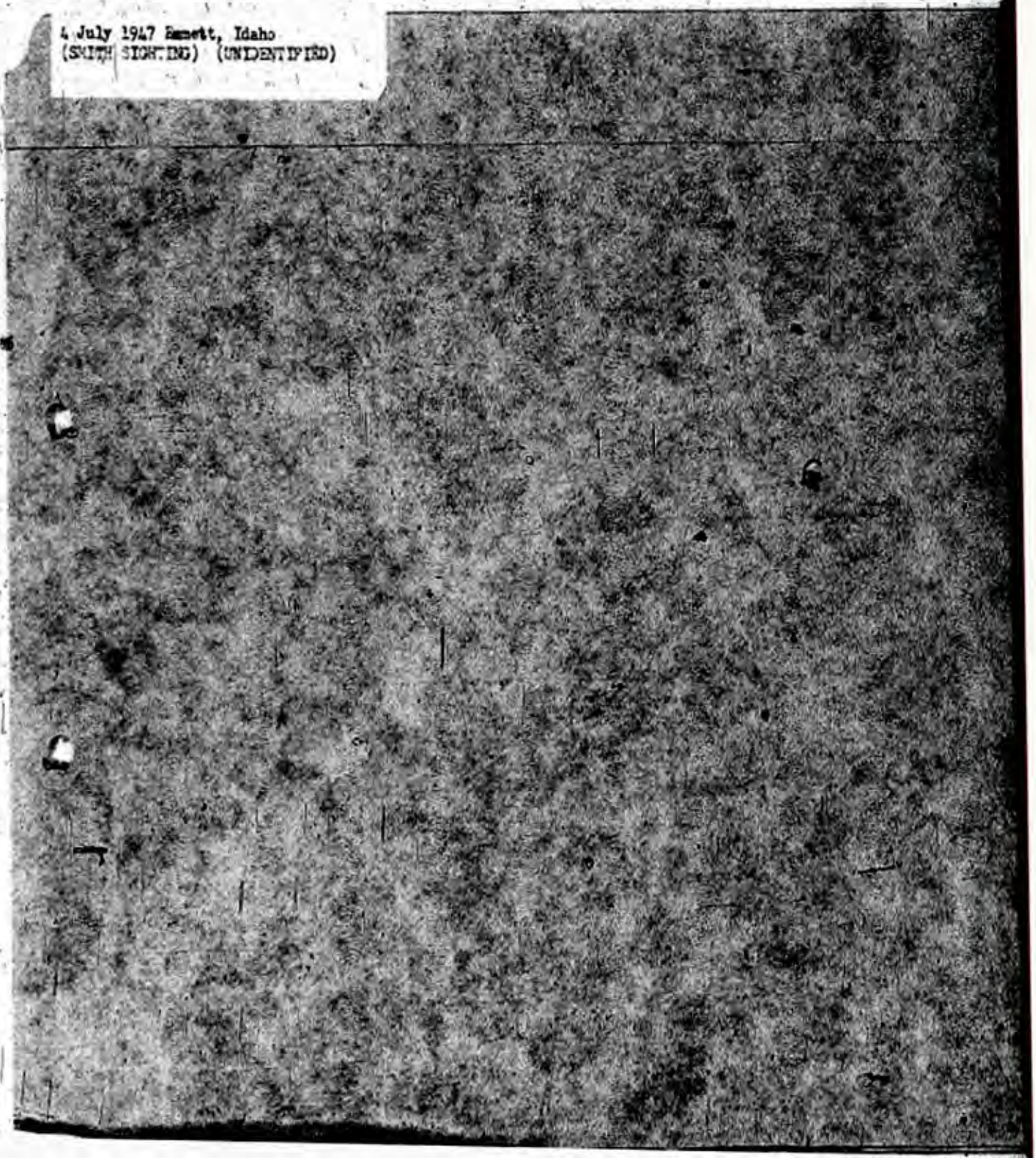
4 July 1947 Emmett, Idaho
(SMITH SIGHTING) (UNIDENTIFIED)