

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : BUREAU  
 FROM : SAC, PORTLAND  
 SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS  
 SECURITY MATTER - X

DATE: 8-23-47

The following investigation was conducted at Canyonville and Myrtle Creek, Oregon on August 12, 1947.

RAY VIRGIL HATFIELD, Route 1, Box 195, Roseburg, Oregon, operator of the Tri City Airport, Myrtle Creek, Oregon, advised that on 8-6-47 at approximately 6:15 PM while instructing a student in a take off at the airport, he noticed an object east of Myrtle Creek which appeared to be from 5,000 to 8,000 feet in the air. The sky was completely clear and visibility was excellent. He stated that the object glistened and appeared to be of aluminium sheeting. Upon noticing it he had immediately taken over the controls of the plane which at that time was at 400 feet, and proceeded East in an attempt to further observe the object. He advised that the object appeared to be climbing and traveling East at a high rate of speed which he estimated on a computer in his plane as 1,000 miles per hour. He believed the object to be spherical in shape and recalled noticing a darker object to the right the first time he saw it. He observed no vapor trails nor did he hear any noise from the object. After searching the area for approximately 10 minutes HATFIELD and his student NOBLE ELLISON returned to the airport and made another landing and take off. In practically the same position at 400 feet altitude, both ELLISON and HATFIELD saw the object in approximately the same position as seen before. He estimated the sphere to be 30 feet in diameter and stated when they first observed it it appeared to be so near he could fly right to it. However, the object sighted the second time disappeared in the same manner as the first had.

It is noted that HATFIELD served as a Lieutenant JG in the U. S. Naval Air Corps for about 3½ years, flying constantly on the Atlantic submarine patrol. He is a reputable citizen in Douglas County and is reported to be a qualified pilot.

Mr. NOBLE ELLISON, Myrtle Creek, Oregon, verified the above information as furnished by HATFIELD, stating that the first object sighted had been called to his attention when HATFIELD took over the controls of the plane at about 400 feet following his take off, but that they had both sighted the object on the second take off at the same time. ELLISON described the object as a "silver ball or balloon" which he believed to be 8 miles east of Myrtle Creek, traveling East, and climbing very fast until it disappeared in approximately 45 seconds. ELLISON estimated the sphere as being 50 feet in diameter and stated in his opinion the second object appeared to climb straight up.

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