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LAF-1208-I
Incident
9 September 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

Mr. Ward L. Stewart, 1242 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California, was interviewed 8 September 1947 at his place of employment, the Hearst Mining Building, University of California, concerning flying objects he reported to have seen on 29 July 1947 while with Captain William H. Ryherd of the 415th AAF BU (RT). Mr. Stewart stated in substance that he was a 1st Lt in the Reserve and that on the 29th of July 1947 shortly after 12 noon he and Captain Ryherd had just landed from a routine training flight when Captain Ryherd called Mr. Stewart's attention to an unidentified flying object that was following a P-80 aircraft at a terrific rate of speed. Mr. Stewart estimated the P-80 to be flying at approximately 250 miles per hour on a preliminary approach to landing at Hamilton Field. In Mr. Stewart's estimation the object he saw following the P-80 maintained a speed of three to four times that of the aircraft. A moment later a second object appeared and flew a course described as something similar to a fighter aircraft's maneuvers when accompanying heavier ships, or a left to right movement, over the object first sighted. Mr. Stewart stated that this maneuvering continued until the objects were out of sight. He estimated the time to be approximately 15 seconds, the course approximately 120 degrees. Mr. Stewart could not estimate the size of the objects nor actual altitude, though he did not believe them to be beyond six thousand feet. Mr. Stewart described the objects as being milky white in color, and unlike any conventional type aircraft he had ever seen. When questioned whether he was familiar with the Navy "Flapjack", Mr. Stewart stated that he was, and that he was certain the objects he reported seeing were not of this nature.

AGENT'S NOTES: Mr. Stewart is a former officer of the U.S. AAF and a B-29 pilot of considerable experience. Mr. Stewart does not convey the impression of being the kind of person who would "imagine" that he was seeing objects, nor has he any apparent desire for publicity. Mr. Stewart is in charge of machine shops at the University of California, Berkeley, California.

LESLIE S. HUBBARD, S/A, CIC ADC LAF

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