

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: MAY 19, 1947

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: "LIVING DISK" CASE
INVESTIGATION

On May 5, 1947, Mr. WILL HOBBS, a reporter for the San Diego newspaper, reported that he had been contacted by Lt. Col. CHARLES W. HOBBS, Intelligence Officer, Castle Air Force Base, Merced, California, relative to an article that the newspaper might have received concerning "living disks" in the Los Angeles vicinity.

Mr. HOBBS stated a close friend of his, one WILLIAM H. BARTON, 12-A Langdon Villa, Merced, had advised him that he had observed an aircraft object, and as he is in the Air Corps Reserve, he reported same to the Intelligence Officer at Castle Field.

On the same date Mr. ROBERT BROWN, Intelligence Officer, Office of Special Investigations, Castle Air Force Base, Merced, California, advised SA MARVIN W. BROWN that he had heard that an individual had reported seeing a "living disk" at the Intelligence Office at the base but that the Intelligence Officer had not furnished the information to him. Mr. BROWN later on the same date contacted SA THOMAS W. BROWN and advised a letter written by SA JAMES J. HARRIS, Lt. Col., USA, Adjutant (Intelligence Officer) to Commanding General, Air National Guard, Merced, California, dated April 11, 1947, which contained a statement given by Mr. WILLIAM H. BARTON which read as follows: "I had observed an object from my home, located approximately one mile west of the town of Merced, on the night of April 4, 1947, at approximately 2300. My attention was directed to a glowing object of considerable intensity. I turned on the flashlight about 20 feet from the front steps and recognized the shape of this object to be in the sky in an area about 10 degrees from the surface of the earth in an easterly direction. The sky condition was clear and bright with 12 miles visibility and surface winds were reported as north-northwest at 10 m.p.h. at Castle Air Force Base. My home is approximately seven miles south of Castle Air Force Base and in an area somewhat sheltered from winds and no considerable surface wind was reported at the time the object was observed. After about ten seconds of looking into the area described previously as being the source of this object, and object was observed and the object was seen in a flash of light. The object was a bright, glowing, oval shape. It gave off a light which was four or five feet in diameter. The object was estimated as four or five feet in diameter. Color was shown as blue-white. The object was observed on two occasions, and reported to me."

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