

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

407 U. S. Court House
Seattle 4, Washington
August 18, 1947

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: FLYING DISCS SIGHTED BY
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
SL - X

Dear Sir:

The following, in general, are the facts regarding the flying disc story that started by [redacted] which subsequently resulted in news stories by the Tacoma Times, the Boise Statesman and the Chicago Times that a B-25 carrying Army Intelligence officers was shot down or sabotaged over Kelso, Washington on August 1, 1947 because it was carrying some flying disc fragments.

The original story, as related by [redacted] was to the effect that [redacted] while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, Washington, sighted six flying discs, one of which fluttered to the earth and disintegrated, showering his boat with fragments which caused some damage to the boat and killed his dog. [redacted] wrote a letter to [redacted] of Ziff-Davis Company which publishes fantastic adventure magazines in Chicago, sending him fragments of the flying disc and relating the above story. [redacted] requested Trans-Radio News in Chicago to verify the story as related by [redacted] telegraphed [redacted] confirming [redacted] story. [redacted] then engaged [redacted] Boise, Idaho, who was the first to report sighting the flying disc and whom [redacted] had previously made a contract for a story regarding the flying disc, to come to Tacoma and check the story as related by [redacted]

[redacted] came to Tacoma, Washington July 30, 1947 and arranged for a meeting the following day, July 31, with [redacted] in his room 502, Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, Washington. [redacted] also called to attend the meeting [redacted] United Airlines Pilot who had also reported seeing flying disc fragments, and Army Intelligence to attend

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this meeting. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN of Army A-2 Intelligence from Hamilton Field, California, all met in [REDACTED] room at various times during the afternoon and evening of July 31, 1947 and discussed the flying disc story as related by [REDACTED]. The Army Intelligence Officers, Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, left about 2:00 A. M. the morning of August 1, 1947 to return to Hamilton Field, California for Air Force Day in a B-25 and were carrying some of the reported disc fragments. The left engine on the B-25 burned an exhaust stack which in turn caught the left wing afire, the wing subsequently breaking off and tearing off the tail. The B-25 crashed, killing Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN. However, the Crew Chief and a hitch-hiker parachuted to safety. Intelligence Officers at McChord Field, Washington advised there was no indication of any sabotage. The plane crashed at Kelso, Washington approximately 2:50 A. M. August 1, 1947. b7c

Five anonymous calls were received by a [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] Tacoma, between 11:30 A. M., July 31, 1947 and 5:30 P. M., August 2, 1947. The first call was to a [REDACTED] approximately 11:30 A. M., July 31, in which the caller stated that there was a meeting taking place at that time in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel concerning the disc fragments found on Maury Island. The second call was received between 11:00 A. M. and 12:00 noon, August 1, 1947 by the [REDACTED] in which the caller advised that at that moment a big meeting was taking place in [REDACTED] room number 502, Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed was carrying disc fragments and that McChord Field officials had stated it was shot down or sabotaged. The third call was received Friday, August 1, 1947 at 5:30 P. M. by the [REDACTED] Tacoma, in which the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying flying disc fragments and that the dead officers were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, A-2 Intelligence Officers at Hamilton Field, California. This call was prior to the release of the dead officers' names by Army authorities and the caller indicated that when the names were released, it would verify the information he was furnishing was correct. The fourth phone call was received at approximately 6:45 P. M., Friday, August 1 by the [REDACTED] in which call the caller stated the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence officers, they would not deny it. The fifth phone call was received by the [REDACTED] Tacoma, at 5:30 P. M. August 2, 1947 at which time the caller stated the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down and that [REDACTED] would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning. When the Army authorities released the names of the dead Intelligence officers which verified the information as given by the anonymous caller, the Tacoma Times printed this story on August 2, 1947 and carried several articles thereafter inferring that the B-25 had been shot down or sabotaged because of the fact that it was carrying disc fragments. [REDACTED] have admitted that the material which they sent to [REDACTED] had no connection with any flying discs and have given a signed statement to that effect which are being b7c

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forwarded herein. [redacted] deny, however, that they actually started the flying disc story and their actual part in the story. United Airlines pilot, [redacted] states that [redacted] on July 31, 1947, both related their original flying disc fragment story. Information gathered would indicate that the anonymous phone calls were possibly made by [redacted] in order to build up the flying disc story to the point where they could make a profitable sale of the story to [redacted] Chicago, Illinois. No facts have been developed which would definitely prove that [redacted] made these calls. However, from all facts and information gathered, it appears he is probably the most likely to have made the anonymous calls. The detailed interviews of the persons contacted in regard to this flying disc story are being set out below. b7c

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Tacoma, Washington on August 6, 7, 1947:

[redacted] Tacoma, Washington, advised that in the early part of June, 1947 he was requested by the Seattle Post Intelligencer to check on a story which he was informed had been obtained from the [redacted] at Harner, Washington. The story was supposed to have originated with [redacted] stated that the story was to the effect that [redacted] while patrolling in his boat near Maury Island, saw five or six flying discs, one of which fluttered toward the ground and finally disintegrated. Fragments of the disc were reported to have showered down on the boat of [redacted] causing some damage and killing his dog. [redacted] stated that he went to the home [redacted] Tacoma, Washington to check with him on this flying disc story. He stated that as best he could recall, this was just a few days after the first flying disc stories had appeared in the paper and was on a Sunday evening. He believed it was the early part of June. He stated that [redacted] took him in the kitchen and proceeded to talk about this flying disc story in low muffled tones. He stated that [redacted] acted rather suspicious and that shortly his wife came into the kitchen and was in a considerable rage, telling [redacted] to admit that the entire story was a plain fantasy which he had dreamed up. He stated that after his wife told [redacted] to admit the entire story was false, that [redacted] then admitted that there was nothing whatever to the story and it was an entire hoax. [redacted] stated that in view of the enraged condition of [redacted] wife, he immediately left and reported to the Seattle Post Intelligencer that the entire story was a hoax and that they should not print it in any way. He further stated that he advised the Seattle Post Intelligencer that [redacted] was a mental case and that nothing which he had reported should be carried as far as a news story. [redacted] stated that since that time he had received repeated requests from the Boise Statesman requesting information as to the flying disc stories reportedly originating with [redacted] stated that he had never, in his experience, had such pressure brought upon him to release a news story and that he repeatedly advised the Boise Statesman that the story of seeing the flying discs by [redacted] was a complete fabri- b7c

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cation and should be in no way, carried as a news story and refused to furnish any information regarding these reports. He further stated that he advised the Boise Statesman shortly before, or at the time [redacted] left Boise to come to Tacoma to check on the flying disc stories with [redacted] that [redacted] should not come as the entire story was a hoax.

The following information was obtained from [redacted]
[redacted] Tacoma, Washington, [redacted]
[redacted]

It was the Tacoma Times paper which first issued a story on August 2 and subsequent stories intimating that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington on the early morning of August 1, had been sabotaged or shot down because of the fact that it carried flying disc fragments. [redacted] stated that on Thursday, July 31, at approximately 11:30 A. M. he received an anonymous phone call in which the caller stated that [redacted] and Army Intelligence officers were meeting in room 502 of the Winthrop Hotel to check on the flying disc story from which fragments were obtained on Maury Island. [redacted] stated he turned around to speak to his editor and when he picked up the phone again the line was dead. He stated that the caller asked for [redacted] who was out at the time of the call. He stated that [redacted] called [redacted] at room 502 in the Winthrop Hotel and was advised by [redacted] that he could furnish no information as he was there on a Government mission. [redacted] stated that on Friday, August 1, between 11:00 A. M. and noon, he received another phone call for [redacted] in which the anonymous caller stated that he might have some information for him. [redacted] asked the caller if he was not the same party that had called the previous date and he said yes. The caller then related that at that moment there was a big meeting in progress in [redacted] room, 502, in the Winthrop Hotel; that the B-25 which crashed that morning in Kelso was carrying flying disc fragments from California and that McChord Field officials had stated the plane was sabotaged or shot down. The caller then hung up after making some statement to the effect that he was a switchboard operator. [redacted] stated that he went to the Winthrop Hotel on Friday about noon and found that there was no male operator on duty. He stated he then went to room 502 and [redacted] answered the door and that Captain [redacted] United Airlines pilot, was on the phone. [redacted] stated that he heard [redacted] make a statement to the effect that the information must be very strictly confidential. He stated that there were one or two others in the room besides [redacted] but that he could not identify them. He stated that [redacted] told him he could make no statement and that he had attempted to check the story with various people on Maury Island with negative results. He stated that about 3:30 P. M., Friday, he wrote a story regarding the mysterious informant and called [redacted] at his hotel room, stating that he had written this story and that [redacted] had better check it. He stated that he talked to [redacted] the United Press Wireman, Tacoma, who advised that the story sounded fantastic. [redacted] stated that about 5:30 P. M., Friday, August 1, an anonymous caller called [redacted] the

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[redacted] stating that Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN were the Intelligence officers that were killed in the crash of the B-25 and that civilians and the sheriff had been kept away from the wreckage with the Army guarding it. He stated the anonymous caller then said that the names had not been released yet by the Army and that this would verify his statements. [redacted] stated that the following morning, Saturday, August 2, the Army verified that the officers killed were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN and two days later verified that they were Army Intelligence officers. [redacted] stated that the anonymous caller again later contacted [redacted] calling him by that name, and at this time stated he did not call the [redacted] or the [redacted] and denied calling [redacted]. In this call the anonymous caller stated that, "Don't think I'm doing this for you." He then asked if the story had been put on the wire and when [redacted] said yes, the caller stated, "We want this to get back to New Jersey." The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down by a 20 m.m. cannon and that the marine plane which was recently found wrecked on the side of Mt. Rainier, having been missing for several months, had also been shot down. The caller stated to [redacted] that he should get in touch with a flyer named [redacted] with United Airlines who, he stated, was with [redacted] when they were shot at over Montana. The caller then stated, "I'll see you Tuesday. I'm going to San Francisco." [redacted] stated that he had checked with [redacted] of United Airlines who denied knowing any pilot by the name of [redacted] denied ever having flown over Montana. [redacted] stated that [redacted] received another anonymous call in which the caller stated that [redacted] would be sent to Wright Field on Tuesday and that Saturday one of the men who found fragments of the flying disc was to be flown to Alaska. [redacted] stated that in view of the fact that the information as to the Intelligence officers on the B-25 had been as furnished by the anonymous caller, had subsequently been verified by the Army, the story was released that the B-25 was carrying disc fragments returning to Hamilton Field, California and furnishing the inference that the plane had been sabotaged or shot down. [redacted] stated that about 8:00 P. M. on Sunday, August 3, he contacted [redacted] at his home, [redacted] Seattle at which time [redacted] stated he had not given any story out to the Post Intelligencer at Seattle; stated that he had gotten a telegram to call a number in Boise and when he called and found out it was the Boise Statesman, he had hung up. He stated that the Boise Statesman then contacted him, at which time he admitted he had seen the disc fragments, but that he did not take any of them. This time [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had been with [redacted] Public Relations Officer from McChord Field, all afternoon until about 3:45 P. M. [redacted] informed [redacted] that he had told the Army authorities everything that he and [redacted] knew about the flying disc fragments story from the time that [redacted] left Boise, Idaho and he had left Seattle, Washington. This time [redacted] admitted that there were some of the supposed disc fragments in [redacted] room at the Winthrop Hotel and that [redacted] had been in the room Thursday afternoon. On Monday [redacted] stated that he called [redacted] who advised that if this were not used in the paper, he and [redacted]

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██████████ would see him after lunch. ██████████ stated that about noon ██████████ and ██████████ contacted him at which time ██████████ stated that he and his son had been exploring a gravel pit on Maury Island and found some strange rock formations. He stated they picked up some of these samples and that ██████████ later saw them and they went back over to Maury Island at which time additional samples were obtained and that ██████████ sent these to a friend of his at the University of Chicago to have analyzed. They stated that they received a report and that apparently this friend had asked a newspaperman to find out where the rock formations were obtained. ██████████ and ██████████ told ██████████ that sometime after the first flying disc story had appeared, they received a telegram from Trans-Ocean Press from Chicago wanting information on the flying disc fragments. ██████████ stated that they had at no time indicated the rock formations were a part of a flying disc and that Captain ██████████ and ██████████ were not interested in the rock formations and they denied giving them to ██████████ b7c

██████████, Tacoma, Washington furnished substantially the same information that was obtained from ██████████ the ██████████ regarding the anonymous phone calls which he had received. He stated further that the first call he received was on Friday, August 1, at around 5:30 P. M. At this time the caller stated that the B-25 which crashed at Kelso, Washington was carrying disc fragments and that the two officers killed were Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, officers with Army A-2 Intelligence at Hamilton Field and that the fragments were top secret material. He stated the caller indicated that when the Army released the names of the dead officers it would verify that the information he was furnishing was correct. ██████████ stated that the second call he received at approximately 6:45 P. M. Friday, August 1 at which time the caller stated that the B-25 was definitely shot down and that if he contacted Army Intelligence A-2, the man in charge would not deny it. ██████████ stated he thought the man said to contact Colonel ██████████ but it was found out it was Colonel ██████████ who was in charge of Army Intelligence A-2. The caller further stated that the Sheriff's Office had been kept away from the crash and that no civilians had been allowed near the plane. ██████████ stated the third call he received at 5:30 P. M., August 2, and that this time the caller stated that one of the men who had been conferring with Captain ██████████ and ██████████ was taken to Alaska that day. The caller further stated that the B-25 was shot down from the air with a 20 m.m. cannon; that the Marine plane found recently on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down; that Captain ██████████ would be taken to Wright Field Tuesday morning and that a United Airlines pilot by the name of ██████████ flew with Captain ██████████ when they were shot at over Montana. The caller stated he was leaving for San Francisco and would be back Tuesday. b7c

██████████ and ██████████ both stated that they had made very little effort to question the anonymous caller to obtain his identity as they felt it was useless and that if they started questioning him he would b7c

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refuse to furnish any further information.

On August 5, 1947 Special Agent [redacted] was contacted in the resident agency office, Tacoma, Washington by [redacted]

At this time [redacted] asked if the Seattle Office was investigating the crash of the B-25 and he was informed that no investigation was being conducted by the Seattle Office. [redacted] at this time related in a rambling story that he had picked up some strange rock formations which he had forwarded to a friend of his in the University of Chicago to have analyzed and that later, in some manner unknown to him, these rock formations had been reported as being fragments of a flying disc. b7c

On August 7, 1947 [redacted] were interviewed at the Tacoma resident agency office. Both [redacted] at first denied any knowledge of how the rock formations which they had picked up to have analyzed became connected with the flying disc stories. Both denied making any statement to anyone that these rock formations were portions of a disc fragment. It was apparent from the start of the interview that [redacted] and [redacted] were not telling their complete and true connection with the flying disc story. They refused to give any definite information as to what they said or had done which caused them to become involved in a flying disc story, but gave evasive answers and repeatedly stated that they had nothing to do with it and were at a loss to understand how they became connected with the flying disc story. After considerable questioning, they stated that in the early part of June they sent to [redacted] of the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company which published the Fantasy magazine in Chicago and the Venture magazine in Evanston, Illinois, some rock formations which they had found on Maury Island. They stated they sent these formations, asking [redacted] to have them analyzed. They stated that later [redacted] wrote and asked for more samples, advising he had failed to analyze the samples. [redacted] stated they have never sent any additional samples and that the next they heard regarding the rock formations which they had sent [redacted] was when he called [redacted] and asked if the rock formations could have come from a flying disc. [redacted] stated he made some remark that they possibly could have come from a flying disc and that he immediately sat down and wrote a letter to [redacted], which was in the latter part of June in which he stated the material could have been portions of a flying disc. [redacted] claimed that he thought he told [redacted] over the phone something about being in his boat when he obtained these rock formations, but stated he could not recall what he had written to [redacted] and claimed that he passed the whole thing off as a joke. [redacted] were questioned at length in an attempt to obtain specific information as to exactly what each one had done with regard to the rock formations. However, each stated that the only thing they had done was tell [redacted] the formations could have come from a flying disc in view of the fact it appeared "that's what he wanted them to say". No definite information could be obtained from either [redacted] as to what each specifically had done to start the flying disc story. b7c

The signed statement which was obtained from [redacted] and [redacted]

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and in which they admitted the rock formations had no connection with any flying discs is being forwarded to the Bureau herewith. The statement contains no information of value and therefore is not being set forth herein. b7c

Regarding the meeting which was held in the Winthrop Hotel on Thursday, July 31, [redacted] stated that they both met there about 1:00 P. M. They stated that they all left [redacted] room about 3:00 P. M. and that [redacted] took [redacted] to Berry's Airport at Tacoma and [redacted] flew his plane to Seattle where he picked up Captain [redacted] [redacted] stated that he picked up [redacted] at Berry's Airport about 5:00 P. M. and that [redacted] came to [redacted] room about 7:00 P. M. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] left about 8:30 P. M. when he drove [redacted] to Seattle to get his car and that [redacted] went home at this time. [redacted] stated they returned about 11:30 P. M. at which time the Army Intelligence officers were in [redacted] room and that [redacted] left about midnight. He stated that he returned to [redacted] room Friday afternoon for approximately one-half hour from 2:30 to 3:00 P. M., at which time [redacted] and [redacted] were still there and neither seemed to be able to recall if [redacted] was in [redacted] room on Friday, August 1. The best that could be obtained from [redacted] and [redacted] as to what took place in [redacted] room was to the effect that most of the talk was about flying, that no one seemed very interested in the rock formations and that they had no connection as far as they knew with any flying disc. [redacted] stated that [redacted] wanted to obtain pictures of the place where the rock formations were obtained and that the Army Intelligence officers did not appear to be interested in any manner whatever. b7c

[redacted] operates the [redacted] Millwater Avenue, Tacoma, Washington and [redacted] has recently been working with him buying timber. They have also been associated with the Harbor Patrol Association at Tacoma, Washington which furnishes patrol and police protection to parts of the harbor area which are not patrolled by Tacoma police or Sheriff's officers. [redacted] Tacoma, Washington, Army serial number [redacted]. During the war he was a pilot and it is believed presently holds a Reserve Officer's commission as a Captain. b7c

Regarding the B-25 which crashed, killing Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN of the 4th Air Force, Captain [redacted] A-2 Officer, Mc Chord Field, advised that this investigation of the crash reflected an exhaust stack had burned out on the left engine which in turn caught the left wing afire and that when the left wing broke off, it also broke off the tail. The plane at the time of the crash was carrying Captain DAVIDSON, Lieutenant BROWN, the hitch-hiker and a man as Crew Chief to take care of the airplane. The Crew Chief and the hitch-hiker parachuted to safety, but Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN were killed. He stated that their investigation reflected no indication of any sabotage whatever. b7c

A check of the records of the Winthrop Hotel at Tacoma, Washington revealed that [redacted] giving his address as [redacted] Mountview Drive, Boise, Idaho rented room 502 from July 30 at 7:43 P. M. until [redacted] b7c

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[REDACTED] b7c

The following information was obtained by Special Agent [REDACTED] in interview on August 12, 1947 with Captain [REDACTED] United Airlines pilot: It should be noted that Captain [REDACTED] has previously received publicity for having supposedly seen flying discs or similar objects on July 4, last while on a routine United Airlines flight out of Boise, Idaho in company with his co-pilot [REDACTED] concerning this incident. Captain [REDACTED] states that they took off from Boise, Idaho at 3:12 P. M. and headed Northwest at 300 degrees and while still climbing at 8,000 feet, co-pilot [REDACTED] called his attention to some objects in the sky ahead of them about ten degrees left which neither one could identify. [REDACTED] states that he called a CAA radio operator at Ontario, Oregon and requested him to step outside his radio shack and see if he could see any of these objects overhead. The CAA radio operator replied in the negative. b7c

Captain [REDACTED] states that he first met [REDACTED] on July 5 in the offices of the [REDACTED] where both were being interviewed concerning their sighting of flying discs. [REDACTED] states that he next met [REDACTED] about three weeks ago in Boise, Idaho at which time he, [REDACTED] was on another flight through Boise, Idaho and had a ten minute lay-over there. On this occasion [REDACTED] was in company of Captain WILLIAM L. DAVIDSON and Lieutenant FRANK M. BROWN, Army Intelligence officers, and a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] next contact with [REDACTED] was on Thursday, July 31, last when he received a telephone call from [REDACTED] calling from Tacoma in the early afternoon at which time he asked [REDACTED] to come over to Tacoma and join him as he was investigating a flying disc story for "someone back East" and some fragments were involved which [REDACTED] might be interested in seeing. b7c After some discussion [REDACTED] agreed to join [REDACTED] in Tacoma and [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] he would fly over and pick him up at Boeing Airport at 4:00 P. M. [REDACTED] met [REDACTED] at Boeing Field at about 4:00 P. M. and they flew to Berry's Airport at Tacoma, Washington where they were met by [REDACTED]. The three of them proceeded in [REDACTED]'s car to the Winthrop Hotel where [REDACTED] was occupying room 502. [REDACTED] ordered something to eat and during this time either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] called a [REDACTED] and invited him up to the room. By this time [REDACTED] states he had learned from [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] were the participants in the latest flying disc story and [REDACTED] states that he had no previous acquaintance with either of these men before meeting them in Tacoma on this date. While in the Hotel Room [REDACTED] showed [REDACTED] a letter which he had received from [REDACTED] of the Venture Press of Chicago requesting that [REDACTED] investigate

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the [redacted] story in Tacoma. [redacted] informed [redacted] at this time that after receiving this letter he had called [redacted] by telephone in Chicago as a result of which call [redacted] had forwarded him \$200.00 expense money for covering the story. Shortly thereafter, at about 7:30 P. M. [redacted] arrived at the Hotel room and the discussion began among the four men present as to what [redacted] had seen on Maury Island. [redacted] professed reluctance to tell the story, claiming that several unfortunate incidents had occurred subsequent to his seeing the flying discs and he believed the entire incident had brought him bad luck. In this connection he stated that four or five days subsequent to his sighting the flying discs, a man called at his home and had a conversation with him the course of which [redacted] was warned to forget all about everything he had seen on or near Maury Island. In addition to that, [redacted] stated that his sixteen year old son had run away from home following the incident and had been picked up by the police somewhere in Montana. After some further discussion [redacted] finally agreed to tell his story of the flying disc incident in front of [redacted] after eliciting a promise from [redacted] that he would not discuss the matter for at least two weeks. It should be noted that [redacted] had previously told his story to [redacted]. At this point [redacted] related the incident which has already been described and which he alleged had taken place on or about June 23 or 24. While relating the incident [redacted] mentioned that he had taken pictures of the flying disc which he had seen but that the printed films were marred with white spots. When [redacted] had concluded his story, [redacted] related that he had gone the following day to Maury Island to verify what [redacted] had told him concerning the fragments and had at this time picked up several fragments and taken them with him. At this time [redacted] related that he also saw one of the flying discs hovering over the Island but that it had disappeared into a cloud. When [redacted] and [redacted] had finished telling their story [redacted] told the group that he had earlier in that evening called Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN, Army Intelligence officers and that they were on their way to the Hotel room. At this point [redacted] protested that he did not wish to tell his story before anyone else and he was advised by [redacted] that if such was the case why didn't he just leave and not be there when they arrived. [redacted] then left the room and went downstairs. [redacted] departed alone. [redacted] drove [redacted] back to Boeing Field near Seattle where [redacted] desired to pick up his own personal car, which he did. They then returned to the Hotel where they found Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROWN in room 502 with [redacted]. [redacted] met them at the door and seemed excited, explaining to [redacted] that Captain DAVIDSON had just drawn a reproduction of a freak disc which had supposedly been seen by a woman in Arizona and that this drawing was an exact reproduction of the flying disc which he, [redacted], had seen several weeks before, nearing Mt. Rainier. [redacted] states that shortly after this [redacted] seemed very anxious to tell his and [redacted] story to the Army officers. Before this was done, however, [redacted] had a discussion with Lieutenant BROWN, informing him that they had promised [redacted] not to release the story for two weeks and that if [redacted] were allowed to tell the story at this time, BROWN and DAVIDSON must agree not to release the story for one month. Following this agreement, [redacted] related [redacted] and his story of the flying discs over Maury

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Island to BROWN and DAVIDSON. Following this recitation, Lieutenant BROWN, in answer to a query from [REDACTED], said that he and Captain DAVIDSON were of the opinion that there might be some truth in the current flying disc stories, but that their immediate superiors (presumably A-2 at Hamilton Field) did not agree with them. BROWN and DAVIDSON then held a brief discussion as to whether they should return that same night to Hamilton Field and they decided that they would. All five of the men then went down to the lobby where BROWN detached himself from the group and entered a phone booth to call for a car from McChord Field. [REDACTED] also left the group and met BROWN outside the phone booth where they held a short discussion relative to the credibility of [REDACTED] story. BROWN indicated to [REDACTED] that he should attempt to find out if the story was on the level and that BROWN would call him the following day regarding this matter. The group then proceeded to the front of the Hotel at which time [REDACTED] brought his car to the front of the Hotel and took from his trunk a box of the alleged flying disc fragments picked up on Maury Island. He offered them to BROWN and DAVIDSON and when the Army car arrived from McChord Field the box of fragments was placed in the car with the officers. [REDACTED] departed alone and [REDACTED] went in search of something to eat and later returned to the Hotel for the night. b7

On Friday morning, August 1, 1947, [REDACTED] received a call from [REDACTED] informing him that a B-25 had crashed during the night and it was believed to be the same plane which BROWN and DAVIDSON were flying. Following this call [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to the Hotel room and from the room [REDACTED] again called McChord Field in an attempt to get information about the crash. [REDACTED] took the phone from [REDACTED] and spoke to a Colonel [REDACTED] identifying himself and asking if the B-25 which crashed was the only one which had taken off from McChord Field the previous night. [REDACTED] told him that it was. Following this call [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] in Chicago and informed him of the previous night's conversations and the fact that DAVIDSON and BROWN were believed to have been killed. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to discontinue his investigation of the incident and that he, [REDACTED] was no longer interested. [REDACTED] then took the phone from [REDACTED] and asked [REDACTED] if he could shed any light on the situation. [REDACTED] was unable to say what [REDACTED] reply to [REDACTED] was. Following these telephone discussions [REDACTED] says that he called [REDACTED] whom he identifies as a personal friend of his and an [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] states that he had previously made an agreement with [REDACTED] in Chicago that should he ever run across any flying disc stories which showed promise of news value, that he would contact [REDACTED] and this call was a result of that agreement. Shortly afterward, Colonel [REDACTED] called him from McChord Field stating that Hamilton Field had requested that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] submit their addresses to Hamilton Field for convenience of any Army investigation of the incident which may be forthcoming. After this call the four men went to a restaurant for lunch. During the course of this meal [REDACTED] excused himself from the table and attempted to call SAC BOBBITT of the Portland Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation with whom he claims acquaintance. BOBBITT, however, was unavailable and [REDACTED] was unable to complete the b7

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call. After returning to the Hotel room, a [redacted] called attempting to gain information, but they did not give him any. Later, a Mr. [redacted] of the [redacted] called and [redacted] spoke to him on the telephone but refused to give out any information. [redacted] further relates that while the four men were in the room at this time, an envelope was shoved under the door and that he retrieved it from the floor. [redacted] states that the appearance of this envelope seemed to startle [redacted] considerably and that in fact, [redacted] turned white as a sheet until [redacted] read the note unsigned which was a communication to the Hotel advising that a strike of Hotel employees was eminent and that guests should not expect room and telephone service much longer. Shortly after this incident [redacted] left the Hotel room after promising to take [redacted] to Maury Island the following morning, (Saturday). [redacted] and [redacted] then went out for dinner and on their return, [redacted] found a note in the box requesting him to call a certain telephone number. He did this from the Hotel room and was answered by [redacted], [redacted] who requested [redacted] to go out and call him from a pay station. [redacted] complained and was informed by [redacted] that two anonymous telephone calls had been received by him that a discussion regarding flying discs had been taking place in room 502 at the Winthrop Hotel which involved Army Intelligence officers. From the information which [redacted] had received, [redacted] was convinced that the anonymous caller must have been present at the discussion also, as [redacted] was seemingly in possession of pertinent remarks which had been made in the room. [redacted] states that he did not give [redacted] any further information and that in conclusion of the call, he returned to the Hotel room and he and [redacted] retired for the night. b7c

On Saturday morning, August 2, 1947 [redacted] received a telephone call from [redacted] in Chicago, but was unable to give him any further information. [redacted] advised him, however, that he would call him back at 2:30 that afternoon. [redacted] then called from a coffee shop nearby and [redacted] and [redacted] joined [redacted] and an unknown man in the Coffee Shop for breakfast. The unknown person was discussing some lumber business with [redacted] and left after breakfast. On leaving the coffee shop, [redacted] asked [redacted] about the negatives of the photographs which he claimed to have taken of the flying discs. [redacted] said the negatives were in the glove compartment of his car, but a search of the instant glove compartment was fruitless. The four then proceeded in [redacted]'s car to the dock where they were to embark for Maury Island. The boat, however, could not be started and the trip was postponed until later in the day. While at the dock, however, [redacted] asked to be shown the damage to the boat which had allegedly occurred when the fragments showered down on Maury Island. [redacted] pointed out what may have been repairs to the windshield and lights on the boat, but [redacted] was not personally satisfied that these repairs were made as a result of any such incident. [redacted] then drove [redacted] and [redacted] back to the Hotel at approximately 10:45 A. M. and [redacted] told them he would call them later on and that they would go to Maury Island. On returning to the Hotel, [redacted] called [redacted] at the Tacoma Times as a result of which call he and [redacted] met [redacted] at the Coffee Shop across the street from the b7c

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Winthrop Hotel. [redacted] stated that the purpose of this meeting was to try to find out something more about the anonymous phone calls which [redacted] had told him about. He and [redacted] still refused to give out any further information regarding the Thursday evening conference to [redacted] and were informed by [redacted] that the [redacted] was afraid of being scooped on the story and was going to print something on that day. [redacted] and [redacted] then returned to the Hotel and shortly thereafter received a phone call from [redacted] but the call was cut off by the switchboard operator since it was not an emergency call. [redacted] and [redacted] then returned to the Hotel lobby where they found a telegram from [redacted] asking them to call him at either Broadway or Proctor [redacted] is not sure of the exchange. [redacted] called this number, but [redacted] was not there. [redacted] states that he went then to the Western Union Telegraph Office and dispatched a collect telegram to [redacted] at the [redacted] which contained a brief resume of the incidents which had occurred and which requested [redacted] to wire [redacted] a telephone number where [redacted] could be reached after 6:00 P. M. [redacted] states that he has never received an answer to that wire. Following this, [redacted] states that he and [redacted] that he and [redacted] were sitting in the lobby of the Olympic Hotel when [redacted] entered and gave them each a copy of the latest edition of the Tacoma Times which contained a story hinting at sabotage in the crash of the Army B-25 which killed Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROCK. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] continued to occupy seats in the Hotel lobby most of the afternoon inasmuch as they were unable to receive calls in the Hotel room due to the Hotel employees' strike. He relates that he received a call in the late afternoon from [redacted] advising him to call [redacted] that evening at 7:30 as [redacted] had further information regarding the anonymous calls. [redacted] also received a telegram requesting that he call [redacted] which he did and found that it was [redacted] of the [redacted]. He refused to give [redacted] any further information at this time. However, shortly thereafter, [redacted] called from Boise and advised [redacted] that the Army had released a story through Brigadier General SHRAM revealing the confidential assignment which BROCK and DAVIDSON had been engaged on. In view of this release, [redacted] requested [redacted] to answer one question for him which was, "were they carrying any alleged disc fragments on the plane?" and [redacted] answered, "Yes, they were." Following this [redacted] called [redacted] as per his earlier request and was informed that [redacted] of the [redacted] had received another anonymous phone call at which time "the voice" said that the Army B-25 carrying Captain DAVIDSON and Lieutenant BROCK had been shot down with 20 m.m. shells and that the Marine plane found on Mt. Rainier had also been shot down with 20 m.m. shells. The voice went on to state that [redacted] would be called back to Wright Field on Tuesday. When [redacted] asked why he was giving out this information the caller replied that it was not for the benefit of the newspapers, but that he was interested in seeing that the information got back to New Jersey. The voice also informed [redacted] at this time that one of the two persons who had been talking to [redacted] and [redacted] had now left for Alaska. As a result of this latter bit of information, [redacted] decided to find out if [redacted] or [redacted] had left town. He located [redacted] at the Sunset Theatre and [redacted] came to the Hotel and met [redacted] and [redacted]. They were unable to locate [redacted] by phone and [redacted] left saying that he would try to find out where [redacted] was and that he would call them tomorrow (Sunday) and that they would go out to Maury Island at that time. After [redacted] left,

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and went to the where a met them and took them to in the There they read the latest press releases and had a discussion with regarding the anonymous phone calls. In the course of this discussion mentioned the name of Major Public Relations Officer at McChord Field as being one of the officers interested in the investigation. b7c

Following this discussion with at which time states they still refused to divulge any further information, and returned to the Hotel for the night. b7c

On Sunday morning, August 3, 1947, appeared at the Hotel room and told them that he had received a letter from which said in effect, "Take care of my business. I'll be out of town for three or four days." had a letter with him but he did not show it to or The three men then drove to secretary's house in South Tacoma and picked her up and the four of them then went to breakfast on the South Tacoma Highway. While the four of them then went to breakfast excused himself and called Major at McChord Field and arranged an appointment to meet him at the Hotel lobby at 11:00 A. M. They then took secretary to her home where picked up a typewriter and then drove and back to the Hotel. They asked him if he was going to take them to Maury Island that day and he replied that he was not. He further stated that he was sick of the entire business and that if he was ever contacted by the Army or the authorities he was going to deny ever having seen anything and claim to be "the biggest liar that ever lived". Shortly after returning to the Hotel, met Major in the lobby and they went in car to a coffee shop in South Tacoma where proceeded to tell Major the entire story of the incidents which had occurred in Tacoma regarding the and story since Thursday afternoon. Following this, took Major back to the Hotel and introduced him to and suggested to that he also tell Major the entire story of what had occurred. did so. Major after looking at the fragments which were still in the room suggested that they drive out to the Smelter near Tacoma as he believed the slag at the Smelter would bear a distinct resemblance to these fragments. The three men then drove to the Smelter and the slag was noted to be definitely similar to the fragments which and had left in the Hotel room. They then returned to the Hotel room and Major left them. After packing their bags, took to Berry's Airport where his plane was parked and then drove himself back to Seattle. b7c

About an hour after his arrival in Seattle, which was approximately 7:30 P. M., of the appeared at home with the newspaper containing the Associated Press story which had originated in Boise, Idaho in the Boise Statesman and which was written by following admission to him that fragments had been carried by Lieutenant and Captain DAVIDSON on the fatal B-25 flight. at this time continued to refuse to give any statements for the Press and told that he had placed b7c

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all of his information in the hands of the Army. [redacted] stated that a couple of days later he called [redacted] at McChord Field and asked him if there was any recent information concerning the incident. [redacted] states that [redacted] informed him that [redacted] had not yet been contacted, but that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was "setting a trap for him". [redacted] further advises that on Friday, August 8, 1947, he appeared before Lawyer [redacted] at the County-City Building, Seattle and made a deposition of the facts relating to the incidents in Tacoma from Thursday afternoon, July 31, last until Sunday morning, August 3, last. b7c

A copy of this deposition is now in possession of the writer and is being forwarded herewith to the Bureau. It should be noted that this deposition is in no way as complete as the statement taken by the writer above and any setting out of this deposition in this communication would be superfluous.

Copies of this communication are being sent to the Butte, Portland, San Francisco and Chicago Offices for their information only. Unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary, instant investigation is considered closed by this office.

For the information of the Bureau, Captain [redacted] Intelligence Officer, McChord Field, Ft. Lewis, Washington advised at the weekly O.N.I.-S.I.D.-F.B.I. Intelligence conference that the Public Relations Officer at McChord Field had received a telephone call from an individual at Army Air Forces Headquarters at Washington, D. C., during which call the Public Relations Officer was requested to obtain a signed statement from [redacted] which could be published and thus publicly close the matter. Captain [redacted] further related that he had no additional information in this matter and that he did not handle it. b7c

Very truly yours,

J B Wilcox
JACK B. WILCOX
Special Agent in Charge

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