UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #225

(Also 23 Nov late 1947

DATE OF INCIDENT 3 or 4 Nov 1948

LOCATION 10 mi. E Vaugn, N.M.

SOURCE Army Col

DATE RECEIVED AMIC

TIME OF INCIDENT 2200 MST

NUMBER Bright White

SHAPE Ball

MANNER Descended slowly

SIZE Basketball (1' diameter)

ALTITUDE 400-500'

COURSE Vertical

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED

NO. OF OBSERVERS 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

SOUND

MANEUVERS Slow Vertical Descent

PHOTOS SKETCHES

(Preliminary AMIC Form 329)
(OSI Pam 50)

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Incident #225 -- near Vaughn, New Mexico -- latter part of 1947
3 or 4 November 1948
23 November 1948

It is difficult to ascertain whether the objects described in this incident belong to the general group of "New Mexico green flashes," or not. The description here is sufficiently different from the majority to indicate that they do not: the characteristic green color is not mentioned.

It is improbable, however, that the three separate sightings, all occurring at approximately 2200 hours and in the same locality, can be explained as astronomical phenomena. Furthermore, the stated altitude and distance are entirely out of keeping; this fact might be discounted as an illusion, common in the observation of fireballs, if the instance were isolated. The weight of the evidence, however, inclines to the conclusion that the objects were man-made devices and part of some scientific experiments, so common in that section of the country.

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

452.1 AKADB

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: M.C.I.

1. Reference is made to letter, Intelligence Division, CSGID 452.1, 25 March 1948, subject as above and to Control No. A-1917.

2. Attached Summary of Information, same subject as above, this Headquarters, dated 20 December 1948, is forwarded for your information and any action deemed necessary.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Eustis L. Poland
EUSTIS L. POLAND
Colonel, GSC
AC of S, G-2

1 Incl
As stated

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE: 20 December 1948

PREPARING OFFICE: Office of the AC of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fo[illegible]uston, Texas

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL [illegible]VALUATION

OF SOURCE:		OF INFORMATION:	
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	A	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	1
USUALLY RELIABLE	B	PROBABLY TRUE	2
FAIRLY RELIABLE	C	POSSIBLY TRUE	3
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	D	DOUBTFULLY TRUE	4
UNRELIABLE	E	IMPROBABLE	5
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN	F	TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED	6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following information has been received from the Fourth Army Intelligence Liaison Officer, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, dated 6 December 1948:

"Colonel [redacted], Inf., Executive, New Mexico Military District reports as follows:

"'On 3 or 4 November 1948 at approximately 2130 hours, I observed a ball of light, reddish white in color, 1 foot in diameter, falling vertically. The ball burst 100-200 feet from the ground in a spray of reddish color which extinguished before reaching the ground. This occurred about 400 yards north of the road on which I was driving. The location was approximately 10 miles east of Vaughn, New Mexico, on Highway 60. (B-2)

[redacted] "'On 23 November 1948 at approximately 2130 hours, I was driving west on Highway 60, about 10 miles west of Vaughn, New Mexico. I observed a ball of light, descending vertically, which burst 100-200 feet from the ground. The conditions and appearance were the same as occurred on 3 - 4 November.' (B-2)

"Colonel [redacted] stated that he did not report the incidents as he thought they might have been connected with some Air Force exercises. He further stated that he heard no sound or saw no aircraft during either incident, which is understandable as he was travelling in a closed automobile. Weather conditions were clear." (B-2)

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DISTRIBUTION: C/S, AIC; BIO, El Paso; File.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—80306-1

Incident: 225

Colonel [redacted] first observed an unusual aerial phenomena during the latter part of 1947. This occurred in the vicinity of Vaughn, N. M. The phenomena appeared approximately 400-500 ft above the ground when first observed and was descending slowly and steadily in a vertical manner toward the earth. It appeared slightly larger than a basketball, bright white in color like a miniature sun. At a point approximately 200 feet above the surface of the earth, the object appeared to explode although no noise was apparent. By this time the Colonel had stopped his automobile and had gotten out to watch the object. The explosion or disintegration appeared to be taking place some 40 to 60 yards distant and still no noise was noticed. At this time the fragments assumed a fiery red color and descended toward earth like numerous sparks being extinguished before touching the ground. At the time Col [redacted] was on Highway 60, near a railroad and separated from the vicinity where the fragments were landing by a fence. He did not cross the fence or investigate further.

On 3 or 4 Nov 43 at approximately 2130 hours he observed a ball of light, reddish white in color, 1 foot in diameter, falling vertically. The ball burst 100-200 feet from the ground in a spray of reddish color which extinguished before reaching the ground - this occurred about 400 yards north of the road on which he was driving - 10 miles east of Vaughn, N. M. - Highway 60.

On 23 Nov 1948 at approximately 2130 hours, Col [redacted] was driving west on Highway 60 - approximately 10 miles west of Vaughn, N. M. He again observed a ball of light descending vertically. It burst 100-200 feet from the ground - Conditions and appearance were the same as on 3 and 4th Nov.

Col [redacted]

On the last 2 sightings/saw no aircraft and heard no sound which is understandable since he was traveling in a closed automobile. Weather conditions were clear.

EVALUATION B-2.

See Incident # 223 for details

23 Nov 48

civilians, Pioneer Flights[illegible], were interviewed by T/A MARTIN A. [illegible]. This interview was conducted at Pioneer Mission Operations, Fifteen Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico. [redacted] advised that at 2135 hours, 5 December 1948, they were approaching Los Vegas, New Mexico, in a C-47 type aircraft at an altitude of 9,000 feet, with a compass heading of 272 degrees. They observed directly ahead and slightly above their altitude, in the vicinity of the Manzanos Mountains, a phenomena which first appeared as a bright white flash, then an object came into view which was described as being a whitish, orange color. This object at first appeared to be coming directly toward their aircraft, then curved downward and disappeared from sight. The object was in view for only a few seconds and no estimate could be made of the size or distance of the object. Both [redacted] and [redacted] were of the opinion that it would have been impossible for anyone in the passenger compartment to have observed this phenomena. [redacted] stated that she did not observe this object and added that to the best of her knowledge all of the passengers were asleep.

NOTE: It is to be noted that there is a discrepancy in the color of Capt. [redacted] initial report and that obtained by interview.

5. On 9 December 1948, Colonel [redacted], Infantry, Civilian Component Affairs Officer, New Mexico Military District, was interviewed in his office, Building 345, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico. The interview was conducted by [redacted] Jr., and [redacted]. Colonel [redacted] stated that he had first observed the phenomena during the latter part of July. This occurred in the vicinity of Vaughn, New Mexico. The phenomena appeared to be approximately [illegible] feet above the ground when first observed and descended slowly and steadily in a vertical manner toward the south. The object appeared to be slightly larger than a basketball, bright white in color. Like a miniature sun. Upon reaching a point approximately two hundred feet above the surface of the earth, the object receded to a point although no noise was apparent. Colonel [redacted] stated he immediately attempted to reach the object. At this time two explosions, or detonations, appeared to be taking place some forty to sixty yards distant, and still no noise was noticed. At this time the phenomena assumed a slow and deliberate manner with its movements again, being extinguished before reaching the ground. Colonel [redacted] stated that he was on Highway 60 at this time, near a railroad and approximately from the vicinity where the fragments were landing by a fence. Colonel [redacted] did not cross the fence or investigate further.

6. Colonel [redacted] stated that on [illegible] December 1948, an article appeared in the Albuquerque Tribune concerning the incident previously described. Upon investigation it was determined that the original statement on Highway 60, near Vaughn, New Mexico. All three of these incidents occurred at approximately 2100 hours. Col. [redacted]

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also advised that as far as he knew no numbers were being held by the National Guard or the Reserve Units in New Mexico.

[redacted]: Colonel [redacted] did not report any of these incidents, but upon receiving information of similar occurrences having been observed, did volunteer the information contained in this report.

7. On 9 December 1948, Dr. [redacted], Director, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed in his office by Special Agent [redacted]. Dr. [redacted] produced his credentials which indicated that during the 2nd World War he was Technical Director, Operations Analysis Section, Hq., 2nd Air Force, and is closely associated in an official capacity with Dr. H. H. [redacted], Executive Director, Committee on Geophysics and Geography, Research and Development Board, Pentagon, Washington, D. C. In connection with this capacity he has a current and a top secret clearance by the Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

8. Dr. [redacted] explained the behavior of meteors and stated that these phenomena being investigated could not be explained or be considered as meteors. He advised, in view of the unexplained Kingman, Tennessee, incident, the occurrence at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and the unexplained returning rail in Florida, that had not been explained, that the present phenomena should be investigated and an attempt be made to identify them.

9. On 13 December 1948, Dr. [redacted] gave a statement concerning an incident, which he witnessed at 9:05 P.M., on 12 December 1948. Dr. [redacted] statement is included as Incl. No. 1.

10. On 11 December 1948, Major [redacted], 4th Army Liaison Intelligence Officer, Sandia Base, New Mexico, advised S/A [redacted] that there were no meteors in this area, and no experiments involving the use of rockets or flares.

11. On 12 December 1948, Col. [redacted], Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico, was interviewed by S/A MELVIN H. [redacted]. Col. [redacted] advised that he knows of no aerial meteors, and feels that in the event that there were, he would be so advised.

At Brownsville, Texas

12. On 7 December 1948, [redacted] Williams Air Force Base, Chandler, [redacted] AF-9001, was piloted by [redacted] accompanied by Major [redacted] was [redacted] The co-pilot was [redacted] and the flight engineer was [redacted]. All of the above personnel were stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, and were enroute from San Antonio,

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[illegible]

[illegible]

1. Basic communication and inclosures (renumbered) [illegible] for your information and for such action as you deem necessary.

2. Attention is particularly invited to the report of [illegible] Inclosure No. 2, and to his letter to the District [illegible] Officer of Office of Special Investigations, dated 17 December [illegible], Inclosure No. 3.

3. The undersigned concurs in the recommendations [illegible] Paragraph 1 of Inclosure No. 2; we are locally placing [illegible] first and second recommendations enumerated therein.

HAROLD A. GUNN
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

3 Incls
1-Rpt of Investigation
(24-8 (12 pgs)
2-Incl 1 to Rpt (24-8
(3 Pgs)
3-Incl Letter Hr Dr.
[illegible] 17th Dist
OSI dtd 15 Dec 48 (2 pgs)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

AFOSI INSPECTOR
17th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL
KIRTLAND AFB, KIRTLAND FIELD,

13 Dec

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomenon)

TO : Commanding Officer
Kirtland Air Force Base
Kirtland Field, New Mexico

1. The attached report is forwarded as a matter of information and whatever Action the Commanding Officer may deem advisable.

2. It is recommended that two (2) copies of the enclosed report be forwarded by the most expedious means to the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

1 Encl:
Rpt of Invest re subj

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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, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.