

Incident #225

UNCLASSIFIED

Also 23 Nov
late 1947

DATE OF REPORT 3 or 4 Nov 1948

LOCATION 10 mi. E Vaughn, N.M.

SOURCE Army Col

DATE IN TO APIC

COLOR Bright White

MODE Descended slowly from

ALTITUDE 400-500'

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED

TYPE OF SURFACE GROUND Ground

MANNER OF SLOW Vertical Descent

Flares
Pat H. ...

UNCLASSIFIED

Library, WIC para 379
(7-14-52)

[Redacted]

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, 35, 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, 185, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

UNCLASSIFIED

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 instances 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

7-3712-122

UNCLASSIFIED
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:

1 Incl
As stated

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

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOO DIT 3205.10

SENT NO 225

UNCLASSIFIED

225

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE
20 December 1948

PREPARING OFFICE

Office of the AC of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Ft. Worth, Texas

SUBJECT

Unconventional Aircraft

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:	OF INFORMATION:
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . . . 1
USUALLY RELIABLE	PROBABLY TRUE 2
FAIRLY RELIABLE G	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, roddish white in color, 1 foot in diameter, falling vertically. The ball burst 100-200 feet from the ground in a spray of roddish 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 30. (B-2)

"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)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

CO, AIC; BIO, El Paso; File.

WD 568

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 48 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 ja. [redacted]

civilians, Pioneer Flight 203, were interviewed by C/A SWIN W. W. This interview was conducted at Pioneer Airline Operations, Airland Air Force Base, Airland Field, New Mexico. [redacted] and [redacted] advised that at 2135 hours, 5 December 1944, they were approaching Las Vegas, New Mexico, in a C-47 type airplane at an altitude of 9,000 feet, with a compass heading of 072 degrees. They observed directly ahead and slightly above their altitude, in the vicinity of the Panhandle Mission, a phenomenon 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 airplane, then arched downward and disappeared from sight. This 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 phenomenon. [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]'s initial report and that obtained by interview.

5. On 9 December 1944, Colonel [redacted], Infantry, Civilian Component Officer, Las Vegas Military District, was interviewed in his office, Building 202, Airland Air Force Base, Airland Field, New Mexico. This interview was conducted by [redacted] Jr., C/A [redacted], USA, and the writer. Colonel [redacted] advised that he had first observed an unusual aerial phenomenon during the latter part of 1944. This occurred in the vicinity of Yuma, New Mexico. The phenomenon appeared to be approximately four or five hundred feet above the ground when first observed and described itself as steadily in a westerly manner toward the earth. The object appeared to be slightly larger than a beachball, bright white in color, like a miniature sun. Upon reaching a point approximately 500 feet above the surface of the earth, the object appeared to explode although no noise was apparent. Colonel [redacted] stated his intention and got out to catch the object. At this time the explosion, or disintegration, appeared to be taking place some forty to fifty yards ahead, and still no noise was noticed. At this time the object appeared to glow red color and descended toward earth like a meteorite, being extinguished before touching the ground. Colonel [redacted] stated that he was on Highway 650 at this time, near a railroad and separated from the vicinity where the fragments were landing by a fence. Colonel [redacted] did not cross the fence or investigate further.

6. Colonel [redacted] advised that on 11 December 1944, [redacted] in the vicinity of [redacted]. [redacted] advised observations were in the same vicinity of the original phenomenon at Highway 650, near Yuma, New Mexico. All three of these incidents occurred at approximately 2130 hours. Col. [redacted]

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

NOTE: 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 1943, Dr. [redacted], Director, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed in his office by Special Agent MELVIN R. HUNT, Sr. Lt. JAG 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. S. LAMBSON, Executive Director, Commission on Geophysics and Geography, Research and Development Board, Pentagon, Washington, D. C. In connection with this capacity he has a secret and a top secret clearance by the Air Materiel 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 Memphis, Tennessee, incident, the occurrence of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and the proclaimed meteorites fall in Russia, that has not been explained, that the present phenomena should be investigated and an attempt be made to identify them.

9. On 13 December 1943, Dr. [redacted] gave a statement concerning an incident, which he witnessed at 9:03 p.m., on 12 December 1943. Dr. [redacted] statement is included as Incl. No. 1.

10. On 11 December 1943, Major [redacted], 4th Army Liaison Intelligence Officer, Santa Fe, New Mexico, advised S/A [redacted] that there were no maneuvers in this area, and no experiments involving the use of rockets or flares.

11. On 12 December 1943, Col. [redacted], Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico, was interviewed by S/A MELVIN R. HUNT, Sr. Col. [redacted] advised that he knows of no aerial maneuvers, and feels that in the event that there were, he would be so advised.

AT WHEELER, ARIZONA

12. On 7 December 1943, [redacted] reported that William Air Force Base, Chandler, [redacted] 4th Army Liaison Intelligence Officer, Santa Fe, New Mexico, advised S/A [redacted] that there were no maneuvers in this area, and no experiments involving the use of rockets or flares.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

3
SUBJECT: Ltr fr 17th Dist SGT, KAFB, to CG, KAFB, dtd 12 Dec 48
Sgt: Unknown (Aerial Photographer)

CG
1st Ind
HEADQUARTERS, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, NM
The Commanding General, SAC, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio

1. Basic communication and inclosures (renumbered) for your information and for such action as you deem necessary.
2. Attention is particularly invited to the report of Dr. Lincoln [redacted] Inclosure No. 2, and to his letter to the District Commanding Officer of Office of Special Investigations, dated 13 December 1948, Inclosure No. 3.
3. The undersigned concurs in the recommendations of Paragraph 4 of Inclosure No. 3; we are locally placing in the first and second recommendations enumerated therein.

3 Inclos:
1- Rpt of Investigation
1- 24-8 (12 pgs)
2- Incl 1 to Rpt 24-8
(3 pgs)
1- Incl letter fr Dr. [redacted]
CG 17th Dist
Dtd 15 Dec 48 (2 pgs)

EAROLD A. GUNN
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

1
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
LON DUN 5209.10

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR OF
17th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL
KIRTLAND AFB, KIRTLAND FIELD, NEW MEXICO

13 Dec 48

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Photograph)

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 expeditious means to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

1 Incl:
Rpt of Invest re subj

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AS 5 YEAR INVESTIGATION
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

cy mdr: 11, Dec 48
rg

UNCLASSIFIED

KWAS 303