

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

DETAILS:

1. This investigation predicated upon information received from Mr. [REDACTED], New York Life Insurance Company, [REDACTED] as, Albuquerque, New Mexico. [REDACTED] advised that at 1935 hours MST, on 4 December 1949, he had observed a green Fireball in the northeastern sky. It was visible for only two or three seconds and was the size of a marble at arms length.

2. This is a joint investigation conducted by S/A JAMES N. KERRICK and the writer.

3. On 5 December 1949, Mr. [REDACTED], Salesman, New York Life Insurance Company, 1309 Los Lunas Avenue, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed and the following information was obtained:

- a. Time and date of lighting: 1935 hours MST, 4 December 1949.
- b. Point of observation: $106^{\circ} 36'$, $35^{\circ} 4'$
- c. Number of objects: One (1)
- d. What attracted observer's attention: The movement of the object.
- e. Direction from observer: 40° from true North
- f. Angle of elevation: Unknown
- g. Distance from observer: 8 to 10 miles.
- h. Time in sight: 2 to 3 seconds.
- i. Color of object: green
- j. Size of object: marble at arms length.
- k. Shape of object: Round
- l. Apparent construction: Unknown
- m. Direction of Flight: Nearly horizontal, East to West.
- n. Tactics or maneuvers: Slopping descent
- o. Evidence or trail or exhaust: None observed
- p. Effect on clouds: No clouds
- q. Luminosity: Very bright
- r. Projections and depressions: None
- s. Means of propulsion: control and stability: Unknown
- t. Speed of object (MPH): Unable to estimate.
- u. Sound and oder: None
- v. Manner of disappearance: Appeared to go out like a person blowing out a candle.

4. On 5 December 1949, the following information was received through Mr. [REDACTED] Security Operations, Atomic Energy Commission, Los Alamos.

- a. Time and date of lighting: 1935 hours MST, 4 December 1949.
- b. Point of observation: $106^{\circ} 20'$ West, $36^{\circ} 6'$ North
- c. Number of objects: One (1)
- d. What attracted observers attention: Movement of the object

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

File 24-0

Subj Anomalous luminous phenomena

21 Mar 51

"meteorites when more exhaustive air and ground search is made, I do not feel that the effort expended by the Air Force in conducting such searches would have been wasted. Meteorites recovered soon after their fall have, at present, a military value far in excess of the scientific importance they have always had...."

3. ACTION: This District Office is not taking any action other than forwarding this report in accordance with AFOSI Letter No. 85, dated 23 October 1951. In the event that there are any new developments of consistent facts pertaining thereto, they will be forwarded in accordance with the distribution of this report.

1 Incl
Sect Aero. Chart
(S-4)

RICHARD G. COX
Lt. Col., USAF
District Commander

cc: ANO (dup) w/incl
AFSWC

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

AIR MAIL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
15TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

File No. 14-0

12 March 1951

SUBJECT: Memorandum from the Inspector
General, dated 11 March 1951, March 6, 1951

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference is made to the attached Spot Intelligence Report, subject as above, dated 21 March 1951.

2. Mr. LYNN LARZ is of the opinion (see short paragraph of Dr. LARZ's statement, attached report) that a photographic coverage of the area in which the report from the March 6 fall should have landed may provide data of value to the Air Force. The 15th District OSI has not expressed an opinion concerning this matter but contact was made with Headquarters, Special Inspector General, in an attempt to secure photographic coverage. The Director, Security and Intelligence, Special Weapons Command, after a check of his facilities, advised this office that such a mission could not be accomplished by his command due to a shortage of equipment and personnel.

3. Reference to the fourth paragraph of LARZ's statement, attached reports that while he advised Dr. LARZ that the 15th District OSI does not cover the area recommended as that Air Force personnel be assigned to ground search in the area in which refueling impact appears to have occurred.

4. The attached report is forwarded for your information and review. It is requested that this District be informed if your Headquarters deem it advisable to secure photographic coverage of the area as outlined on the attached map.

1 Encl.
Spot Intel Rpt, 11 March 51
1/1 Encl. thereon

RICHARD G. GAZ
Lt. Col., USAF
District Commander

GR: AMG

LOW COPY TO THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D. C.
100-100000

M-17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4 DEC 49

UNCLASSIFIED

17

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY
Office of the AC of S, G-2
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

000.9 AKADB-I

30 December 1949

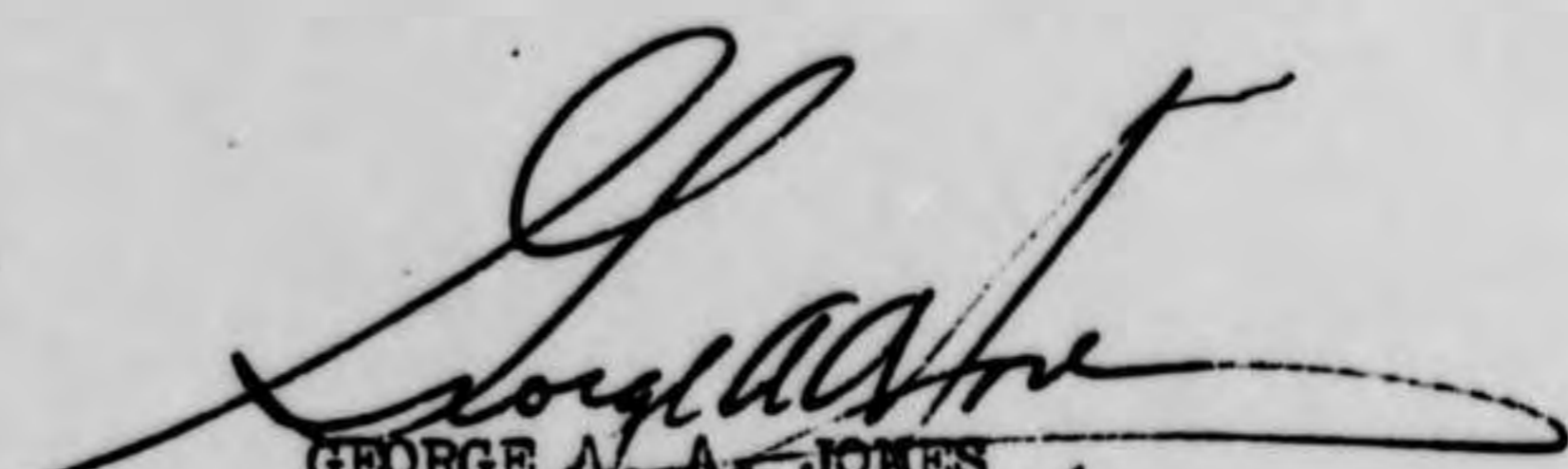
SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCI

The following report(s) re unidentified aerial phenomena observed at Cimarron County, Okla, on date and time indicated, forwarded for your information:

<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Lt Col: [REDACTED]	4 Dec 49	2035

1 Incl
As stated


 GEORGE A. A. JONES
 Colonel, GSC
 AC of S, G-2

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS
DOB

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

521

7-3712-26

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No. _____

1. Date of observation 4 December 49 Date of Interview 12 Dec 49
2. Exact time of observation (local) 2035 hours CST
3. Place of observation: Rural district in southeastern part of Cimarron
(Map Coordinates) County, OKIA, about 25 mi southeast of Boise City, Okla.
4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location or - give details:)
Was facing east, unlocking left front door of car. Car facing observer.
Fireball was to north on observer's left.
5. What attracted attention to object: Lighted up the area.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping: One (1)
7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist
at arms length): 1/4 size of the moon
8. Color of object: Bright green
9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object): _____
Egg shape - Roman candle effect.
10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon - 0° at horizon, 90° overhead):
From 60° to 30°
11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from north): From 360° to 350°
12. Distance from observer (distance to town, bldg, etc., over which object
appeared to be): Unknown
13. Direction of flight of object (s): North to west.
14. Time in sight: Between one and two seconds.
15. Speed (time to cover given angular distance): Unknown
16. Sound and odor: No sound or odor for 3 or 4 minutes after.
17. Trail (color, length, width, persistence, etc.) None noted
18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of
brilliance): Object lighted up landscape.
19. Projections (fins, wings, rads, antennae, canopies, etc.): None
20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc - sketch of flight path): None-
Straight flight.

INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION (Cont'd)

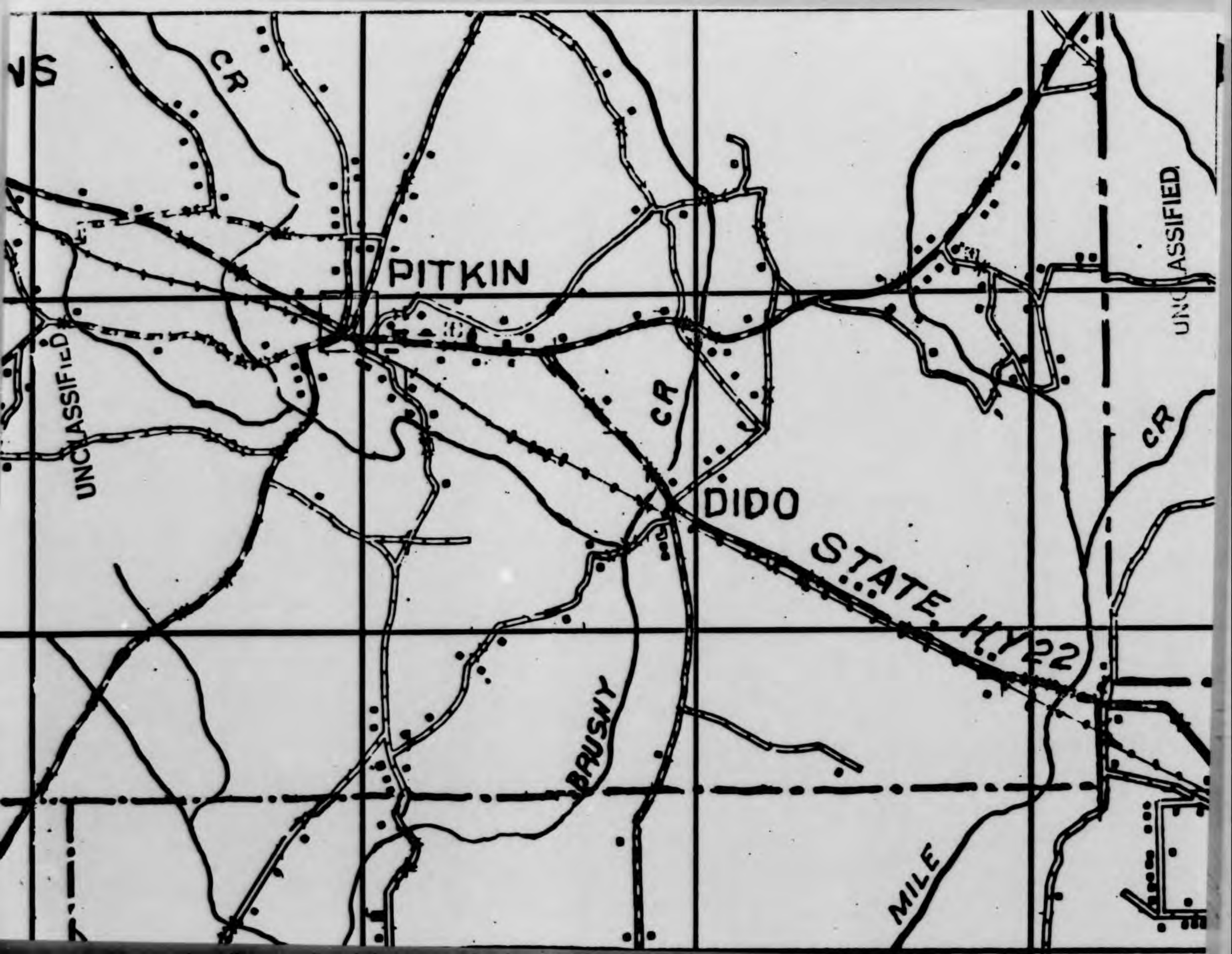
Incident No. _____

21. Manner of disappearance: Burned out suddenly.
22. Effect on clouds: No clouds in sight.
23. Additional information concerning object: After green light disappeared, there seemed to be red burning ashes for fraction of a second. Green light went out before reaching ground.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting: Clear - full moon.
25. Name and address of observer: Lt Col [REDACTED], Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Occupation and hobbies: [REDACTED], Sandia Base, New Mexico. Hobby: Sports.
Comments of interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer (check neighbors, police dept, FBI records, employer, etc.)

Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material? No glasses worn. Viewed through clear atmosphere.

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

**UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED**



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4 DEC 49
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UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
AND
3380th TECHNICAL TRAINING WING
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI

8 DEC 1949 G-4

(T) 000.9:

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: ~~MCLANS-5~~
1A XA

Reference Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No. 4, Hqs. USAF, Directorate of Intelligence, Washington 25, D. C., subject, Unconventional Aircraft, dated 15 February 1949, and, TWX, this Hqs., number 12088, attached is final report on incident mentioned in referenced TWX.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Cecil F. Martin
K
CECIL F. MARTIN
MAJOR, USAF.
ADJUTANT

1 Incl
Air Intel Info Rpt (in dup)

mr

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

UNCLASSIFIED



516

1-3712-26

COUNTRY U.S.A.	REPORT NO. 1	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT		
AREA REPORTED ON AIRSPACE, VICINITY OF HAMMOND, LOUISIANA	FROM (Agency) WING INTELLIGENCE, KEESLER AFB, MISS.	
DATE OF REPORT 5 December 1949	DATE OF INFORMATION 4 December 1949	EVALUATION F-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) CAPT. ORVAL H. WICKELSON	SOURCE Major [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Hq USAF, Air Intelligence Requirements Memo No. 4, dtd 15 Feb 49 "UNCONVENTIONAL ACFT".		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>At 1635 hours on 4 December 1949, while enroute from Dallas, Texas to Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, in a C-47 aircraft, Major [REDACTED], pilot of the aircraft, sighted an unidentifiable object in the vicinity of Covington and Hammond, Louisiana. The report was corroborated by the co-pilot and crew chief of the C-47. The object was reported as being spherical in shape, silver in color, and at approximately the same altitude as the aircraft in flight -- 5500 feet. The observer was unable to determine the size of the object, or distance from the aircraft, but he stated that the apparent size was about that of a half-dollar placed on the windshield of the aircraft. The object was coming toward the aircraft from one (1) o'clock (300 degrees) at an undetermined speed, seemingly faster than a jet aircraft. The first impression of the observer was that it was another aircraft in the distance, so he started to change his own course. The object veered across the path of the aircraft at a high rate of speed, then seemed to stop and bob up and down in position. After having been in view for approximately three (3) minutes, the object showed another burst of speed and faded from view. In this movement, the object crossed the observers field of vision in about one (1) second. The observer could distinguish no definite sounds coming from the object because of the sound of his own aircraft. There was no exhaust visible and no distinguishing features were noted.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">1 Weather Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">516</p>		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR		
<p>2 cys: CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio 2 cys: CG, ATRC, Scott AFB, Illinois</p>		

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) INTELLIGENCE OFFICE KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISS	REPORT NO. 1.	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES
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1. Date of Sightings: 4 Dec 49.
2. Time of Sightings: 1635 hours CST.
3. Where Sighted:
 - a. Air
 - (1) Traveling in C-47 aircraft, 180 MPH, altitude 5500 feet, direction 90 degrees.
 - (2) Between Covington and Hammond, Louisiana
 - (3) Object sighted coming in at one (1) o'clock
 - (4) 30 degrees 30 minutes north, 90 degrees 15 minutes west.
4. Number of Objects: One object only sighted
5. No celestial phenomena reported at this date and time.
6. Distance of object from observer:
 - a. Exact distance unknown laterally
 - b. On the horizon
 - c. Object appeared to be at the same altitude as aircraft -- 5500 feet.
7. Time in sight: Object remained in sight approximately three (3) minutes.
8. Appearance of object:
 - a. Object appeared to be silver in color.
 - b. Spherical in shape.
 - c. Apparent construction unknown.
 - d. Size:
 - (1) Exact size unknown.
 - (2) Observer stated apparent size was that of a half-dollar placed on the windshield of the aircraft.
9. Direction of flight: Object appeared to be maintaining a course of 300 degrees.
10. Object was traveling in a straight line at a high rate of speed, then seemed to stop and bob up and down in position. It then showed another burst of speed and disappeared from view.
11. There was no evidence of any exhaust.
12. There were no clouds in path of object.
13. Negative.

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR. SEC. 1.5**

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) INTELLIGENCE OFFICE KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISS	REPORT NO. 1	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
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14. Unknown.
15. Unknown.
16. Unknown.
17. Unknown.
18. Exact speed unknown. The observer stated that it was going faster than a jet aircraft.
19. Observer could distinguish no definite sounds coming from the object because of the sound of his own aircraft.
20. The object veered across the path of the aircraft at a high rate of speed, then seemed to stop and bob up and down in position. Then, with another burst of speed, it faded from view.

Relative to the Observer

1. Name of observers: [REDACTED] A
2. Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico.
3. Occupations: [REDACTED]
4. Stationed at Walker AFB, Roswell, New Mexico.
5. Pilot on Active Duty.
6. Unknown (USAF Officer)
7. Unknown (USAF Officer)
8. Observer's attention was drawn to object by glint of light. First impression was that it was another aircraft in the distance.
9. Witnesses: 1st Lt. [REDACTED] and S/Sgt [REDACTED]
Addresses: Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico.
Reliability: Unknown
10. Observer is [REDACTED] at Walker Air Force Base and seemed to be intelligent and well qualified to make above statements.

General

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions is attached as Inclosure 1.
2. Winds aloft report included in Inclosure 1.
3. An aircraft, traveling in the opposite direction, was sighted. Attempts by Major [REDACTED] to contact said aircraft were unsuccessful.
4. Possible releases of testing devices in the vicinity are unknown by this office.
5. Object faded from view while still aloft.

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DDI DIR 5200.10

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

UNCLASSIFIED

- e. Direction from observer: 30°
- f. Angle of elevation: unable to estimate
- g. Distance from observer: unknown
- h. Time in sight: one-fifth of a second
- i. Color of object: green
- j. Size of object: unknown
- k. Shape of object: round
- l. Apparent construction: unknown
- m. Direction of flight: East to Northeast
- n. Tactics or maneuvers: sloping descent
- o. Evidence or trail or exhaust: none observed
- p. Effect on clouds: not stated
- q. Luminosity: very bright
- r. Projections and depressions: not stated
- s. Means of propulsion: control and stability: not stated
- t. Speed of object (MPH): Unable to estimate
- u. Sound and odor: none
- v. Manner of disappearance: just disappeared behind mountain.

5. The observers, Mr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], are employees of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. It is believed that their observations are reliable.

- CLOSED -

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) INTELLIGENCE OFFICE KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISS.	REPORT NO. 1	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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- 6. Negative
- 7. No photographs were taken of object.
- 8. Signed statement of observer will be forwarded direct by observer from his home base.
- 9. Negative.
- 10. Negative.



ORVAL H. MICKELSON
Captain, USAF,
Wing Intelligence Officer

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

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—
31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

UNCLASSIFIED

**WEATHER DETACHMENT 26-5L
26th Weather Squadron
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.**

5 December 1949

00093

SUBJECT: Surface Synoptic Situation and Winds Aloft, 4 December 1949

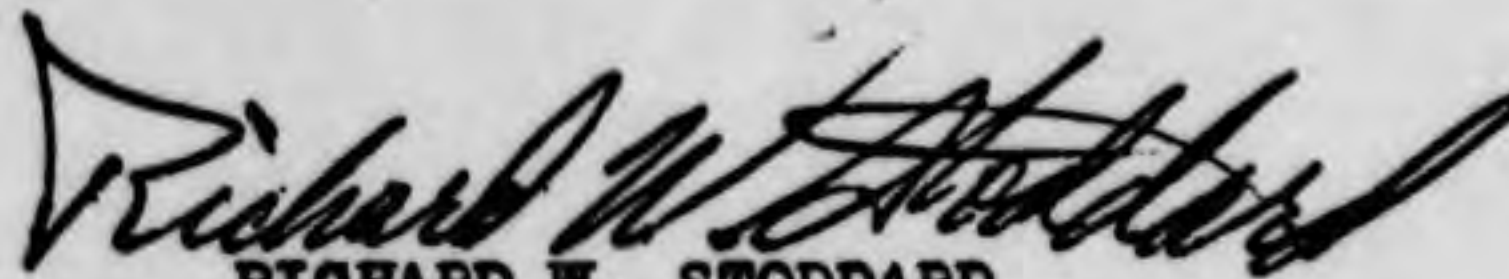
**TO : Base Intelligence Officer
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.**

1. No synoptic weather observations are made at the actual point in question, i.e. 90 degrees 15 minutes west and 30 degrees 30 minutes north; the closest observations being those at New Orleans some 35 miles south. The general synoptic situation for the area was as follows:

a. A cold front oriented northeast southwest had moved across the area approximately five hours earlier replacing the Maritime Tropical air with cool, dry Continental Polar air. There was a thin scattered layer of cirrus at 30,000 feet and occasional scattered patches of strato-cumulus at 3,000 feet over the area. Surface visibility was ten miles. Surface winds were from the northeast at 10-12 knots.

b. Winds aloft for the area were the following: At 2,000 feet wind from 30 degrees at 20 knots, 4,000 feet from 30 degrees at 10 knots, 6,000 feet from 30 degrees at 10 knots, 8,000 feet from 340 degrees at 10 knots, 10,000 feet from 340 degrees at 10 knots, 12,000 feet from 320 degrees at 15 knots, Remainder of winds up to 35,000 feet are from a general 320 degrees at 40 knots, increasing to 70 knots at 35,000 feet.


2. Regarding celestial phenomena, the air almanac shows that the planet Venus would be at an angle of approximately 30 degrees above the horizon at an azimuth of 220 degrees from the north at 1635 C. There were no other stars or planet of sufficient magnitude to be visible at that time.



**RICHARD W. STODDARD
Major, USAF
Commanding**

DOWNGRADED AT 3 MONTH INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED



[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE
AND
3380th TECHNICAL TRAINING WING
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI

G-4

(T) 000.93

5 JAN 1950

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCIAO-3

Reference AF Form 112 Part I and II submitted with letter, File (T) 000.93, subject, Unconventional Aircraft, this headquarters, dated 8 December 1949, statements of observers are submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Cecil F. Martin
CECIL F. MARTIN
MAJOR, USAF.
ADJUTANT

- 3 Incls
- Incl #1 Statement [REDACTED]
- Incl #2 Statement Lt [REDACTED]
- Incl #3 Statement S/Sgt [REDACTED]

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

UNCLASSIFIED

516

[REDACTED]

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
: ss
COUNTY OF GRAVES)

UNCLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, authorized to administer oaths in cases of this nature, Major [REDACTED], Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 50th Bomb Wing (M), Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico, and upon being warned of his rights under the 24th Article of War and upon being sworn according to law, deposes and says:

"On 4 December 1949 at approximately 1635 hours while on a flight from Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth, Texas, to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, in a C-47 type aircraft, I observed a spherical type object approaching at our level from about one o'clock. The object was approaching at a terrific rate of speed and appeared to be approximately 5 or 10 miles away. At first observation, I believed that it was an approaching aircraft and made an effort to turn off the auto-pilot when the spherical object came to an abrupt halt and changed course. The object then moved at a terrific rate of speed in a northerly direction across our route. It seemed to accelerate and decelerate with amazing rapidity. Also it was noticed that the object appeared to be bobbing up and down and at times was absolutely stationary. Our position at the time was approximately 10 to 15 miles north of Lake Pontchartrain between Hammond and Covington on a heading of 100 degrees. My co-pilot was asked by me if he saw what I did. He said he did. We observed the object for approximately two minutes and then I called the crew chief from the rear compartment of the aircraft to come up to the pilot's compartment. He observed the object in the same manner as the co-pilot and myself. It is believed the object was observed by the co-pilot and myself for approximately four minutes. The spherical type object was last seen on a northeasterly heading at which time it disappeared as suddenly as it appeared. I tried to reconcile the phenomenon by believing that it was a reflection from another aircraft due to the hazy conditions and the position of the late afternoon sun; however, I have never observed any type aircraft perform in such an unorthodox manner."

Further deponent sayeth not.

[REDACTED]
Major, USAF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 15 day of December, 1949, at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico.

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

Paul S. Givens

PAUL S. GIVENS
Captain, USAF
Summary Court

UNCLASSIFIED

1961 /

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)

: ss.

A F F I D A V I T

COUNTY OF CHAVES)

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public to administer oaths in cases of this nature, 1st Lt [redacted] 53, 66 Food Service Squadron, Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico, and upon being sworn of his rights under the 24th article of the Constitution and upon being sworn according to law, deposes and says:

"On the 4th day of December, 1949, at about 1635 hours while on a routine flight from Carswell Air Force Base, Ft Worth, Texas, to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi in a C-47 type aircraft, I, along with [redacted] and S/Sgt [redacted], saw an object in the air which we were unable to identify. At a point between Hammond and Covington, Louisiana, and approximately in the location known as the Covington Danger Area, Major Whitker and myself occupied the pilot and co-pilot's seat respectively of our aircraft. Our altitude was 5600 feet and our compass heading was 100 degrees. Suddenly I noticed Major Whitker staring into the distance up ahead and slightly to the right. I looked also in this direction and immediately spotted a bright, round object converging upon us from about a one o'clock position. It was at the same altitude level as our plane and was traveling at a terrific rate of speed. My first deduction was that this object was a fighter type aircraft glowing from the reflection of the late afternoon sun; however, it moved faster than any I had ever recalled seeing. Observing it approaching, we were tempted to alter our course but at about this time the unidentified object changed its course so that it crossed over in front of us. It also seemed to come to an abrupt stop and appeared to bob up and down. Here I could see that it was perfectly spherical in shape and very bright. Major Whitker asked me if I saw what he saw, to which I replied that I did; asking me, "What do you suppose that is?" I answered, "I don't know." He signaled for the flight engineer (S/Sgt [redacted]) to come forward and view the spectacle. He did so but he too was unable to identify the weird object. The three of us watched as it accelerated and decelerated with miraculous rapidity. It changed course again and went in a northeasterly direction. Watching, it disappeared with great suddenness, just as though a light had been turned out. I estimate the length of time that I observed all this to be three minutes."

Further deponent sayeth not.

[Redacted signature block]

1st Lt, USAF

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 15 day of December, 1949, at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico.

Paul S. Stevens

PAUL S. STEVENS
Captain, USAF
Serving Court

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Incl 2'

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
: ss
COUNTY OF CHAVES)

A F F I D A V I T

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, authorized to administer oaths in cases of this nature, Staff Sergeant [REDACTED], Hq 2 Hq Squadron, 509th Air Base Group, Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico, and upon being warned of his rights under the 24th Article of War and upon being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

" I was the engineer on AF Airplane No. 43-15566, a C-47 enroute to Keesler Field, Mississippi, from Carswell Air Force Base on the 4th day of December, 1949. Major [REDACTED] was the pilot of the afore-mentioned airplane and 1st [REDACTED] was the co-pilot. While I was occupying the navigator's seat, [REDACTED], at approximately 1635 hours, approximately 40 miles West of Keesler Field, called my attention to a round, shiny object approximately six to eight miles in front of us at approximately 4000 feet altitude. Said object was bright, round and of a shiny nature and seemed to be traveling at a high rate of speed in the same direction our airplane was going. Major [REDACTED] asked me if I saw this object to which I replied in the affirmative. I watched this object for approximately two minutes before it disappeared. I was at the time and am still uncertain as to what the object was. I believe it could have been a reflection."

Further deponent sayeth not.

[REDACTED]

Hq 2 Hq Sq, 509th Air Base Gp
Walker Air Force Base
Roswell, New Mexico

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 14 day of December 1949, at Walker Airforce Base, Roswell, New Mexico.

Paul S. Givens

PAUL S GIVENS
Captain, USAF
Summary Court

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Incl 3'

[REDACTED]

CONTROL NO. 4055 SUBJECT: LTP Sighting of Unidentified Object DECIMAL FILE NO. 10-28-49 FOLLOW UP ON _____ DATE _____

FROM: Mitchel AFB NY DATED 10-26-49
 TO: MCIAXA NO. INCLS. 0

RECORDING DESK HCISXD DATE 10-28-49 RECORDED _____ HOUR 1430

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 <u>MCIAXA</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Hwy</u>	<u>21 Oct</u>
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY _____ OTHER DISPOSITION: _____

TRANSMITTAL
 AMC FORM NO. 10-2
 123 NOV. 47
 SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

CONTROL NO. F-119 SUBJECT: TWX Unconventional Aircraft DECIMAL FILE NO. _____ FOLLOW UP ON _____ DATE _____

FROM: Keesler AFB Miss DATED 1-5/49
 TO: IAXA NO. INCLS. 0

RECORDING DESK SKD-1 DATE 12/5/49 RECORDED _____ HOUR 1315

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 <u>IAXA</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Hwy</u>	<u>6 Dec</u>
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY _____ OTHER DISPOSITION: _____

TRANSMITTAL
 AMC FORM NO. 10-2
 123 NOV. 47
 SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

CONTROL NO. F-119 SUBJECT: TWX Reported Unidentified Flying Object DECIMAL FILE NO. _____ FOLLOW UP ON _____ DATE _____

FROM: Maxwell AFB Ala DATED 12/5/49
 TO: IAXA NO. INCLS. 3

RECORDING DESK SKD-1 DATE 12/5/49 RECORDED _____ HOUR 0900

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 <u>IAXA</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Hwy</u>	<u>3 Dec</u>
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY _____ OTHER DISPOSITION: _____

TRANSMITTAL
 AMC FORM NO. 10-2
 123 NOV. 47
 SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

UNCLASSIFIED

MAXWELL FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

RL:nmv

6 DEC 49

MXF 319

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attention: MCIAXE-9

1AXA

1. Reference letter Headquarters USAF, subject: Reporting of Information on Flying Discs, dated 6 February 1949, the following report is submitted:

a. At 1720C, 4 December 1949, Major S. C. Whitkers, pilot of AF 5566, a C-47, enroute from Carswell AFB, Texas to Keesler AFB, Mississippi, notified Maxwell FSC that he had observed an unidentified flying object over Covington, Louisiana at 1635C 4 December 1949. The object was described as one sphere shaped, bright silver color, about the size of a half dollar. When first sighted the object appeared to be approaching AF 5566 head-on at an altitude of 5500 feet and the speed was estimated to be in excess of 600 miles per hour. When first observed the object was traveling West and approximately 30 seconds later it changed course abruptly to the South. During the 3 to 5 minutes of observation by the pilot and crew the object went through a series of rapid decelerations and accelerations and made several sharp changes in direction and altitude. No vapor trails were visible during the time of observation. The outstanding characteristic as quoted by the pilot, "It appeared to bounce all over the sky".

2. The weather at the time of the report was 30,000 scattered, 10 miles visibility, temperature 67, dew point 57, surface winds from the Northeast at 13 miles per hour, altimeter setting 30.29.

3. The entire crew of AF 5566 were Major S. C. Whitkers, pilot, 1st Lieutenant P. H. McDavid, co-pilot, and S/Sergeant C. Thomas, engineer. All the above crew members observed the object reported. Home station of the pilot and crew: Walker AFB, New Mexico.

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12-12

UNCLASSIFIED

MKF 319

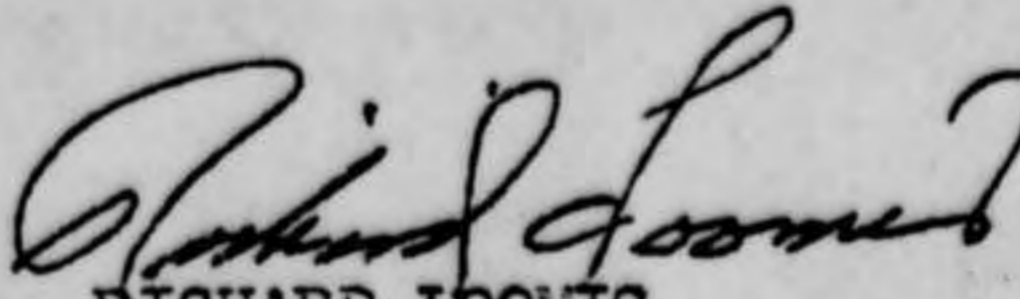
Maxwell Flight Service Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 6 December 1949
subj: Report of Unidentified Flying Objects

4. Photos and sketches of the unidentified object are not available.

Info copy to:
Chief of Staff
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Director of Intelligence

Commander
Military Air Transport Service
Andrews AFB
Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Chief, Intelligence Division

Commanding Officer
Flight Service
Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: A-2


RICHARD LOOMIS
Lt. Col., USAF
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

EJC015

OPOP JEDC

ES3

OPOP JEP ZVA

OPOP JEDC JEPNT 222

DE JESC 01

OP 050330Z

FM CO FLIGHT SVC MAXWELL AFB ALA

TO JEDC/CG AIR MATERIEAL COMMAND WRIGHT PAT AFB OHIO ATTN MCIAXO-3

JEPNT/HQ FLIGHT SVC WASH DC ATTN A-2

AF GRNC

SUBJECT: REPORTED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

A. OVER COVINGTON LA 1635C

B. 30,000 SCATTERED VIS 10 MILES

C. MAJOR S.C. WHITKERS 1ST LT P.H. MCDAVID S/SGT C. THOMAS

ALL THESE WITNESSES STATIONED AT WALKER A.F.B. NEW MEXICO.

D. NONE AVAILABLE

E. NONE AVAILABLE

F.

1. ONE

2. SPHERE SHAPE

3. ABOUT THE SIZE OF A JET FIGHTER

4. SILVER

5. 800 MI. P.H.

7120
Rec'd 90:15
old
NAN
(H. Col. Kenstreet)

UNCLASSIFIED

3

AF GRNC

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5. 800 MI. P.H.

12-6

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

516

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

19

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
17TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

UNCLASSIFIED

DR/WEB/mm

File No. (24-8) - 8

15 February 1950

SUBJECT: Fireball Sighted at Capitan
New Mexico, on 4 December 1949

TO: Commanding Officer,
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

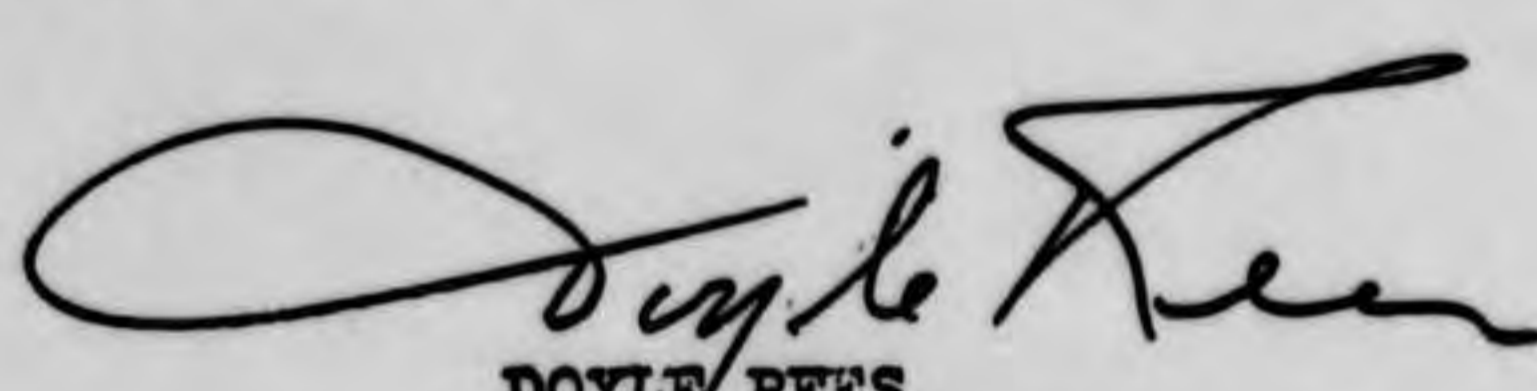
*4 Dec 49
Capitan, New M.*

1. Reference is made to previous Reports of Investigation from this district concerning sightings of unidentified aerial objects.

2. Attached for your information is one (1) copy of a Report of Investigation by Special Agent Paul L. Ryan of this office, dated 8 February 1950, our file (24-8) - 8, concerning an observation of this nature.

3. Investigation of unidentified aerial objects is being continued by this office, and copies of future reports will be forwarded for your information.

1 Incl:
Rpt of Inv


DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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7. VERY MANEUVERABLE IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

8. 5500 FT

9. NONE

UNCLASSIFIED

10. NONE

THE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT WAS SEEN BY THE CREW MEMBERS OF AN AIR FORCE C47 THAT WAS ENROUTE FROM FT WORTH, TEXAS TO KEESLER AFB BILOXI AMISS. THE CREW MEMBERS STATED THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE APPROACHING THE AIRCRAFT HEAD ON BUT SUDDENLY TURNED TO A HEADING OF APPROX 180 DEGREES AND DISAPPEARED. DURING THE THREE TO FIVE MINUTES THE OBJECT WAS VISIABLE A RAPID ACCELERATION AND DECELARATION WAS NOTICED IN THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL POSITION.

LONGITUDE

4. 3.2 OBJECT
5. NONE
6. UNKNOWN
 - A. Laterally
 - B. ON HORIZON
 - C. APPROX 5500 FT
- 7 APPROX 3 MIN
8. A. SILVER
 - B. SPHERE
 - C. UNKNOWN
 - D. SIZE OF HALF-DOLLAR AS SEEN THROUGH WINDSHIELD ON C-47
9. 335 DEGREES
10. HORIZONTAL THEN FLUTTERING
11. NONE
12. NONE
13. LUMINOUS
14. NONE
15. NONE
16. NONE
17. NONE
18. MPH UNKNOWN PD COMPARE TO FASTER THAN JET ACFT PD CROSSED AREA OF VISION WITHIN ONE SECOND PD
19. NONE
20. SPURT OF SPEED THEN SEEMED TO STOP THEN SPURT OF SPEED TAKING APPROX ONE SECOND TO FADE FROM VIEW CROSSING PATH OF ACFT PD

RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER

1. F. M. WETTER MAJOR USAF CMA 5711A
2. WALKER AFB CMA ROSWELL CMA NEW MEXICO
3. USAF PILOT

Mc 1 S

AT

K

RCS

PP JEDC

DSAS MS-2

PP JED ZVA

PP JEDC JEDMC 222

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DE JEDK 2

P 050600Z

FM CG KEESLER AFB MISS ✓

✓
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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10 ✓

TO JEDC/CG AMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO ATTN MCIAXC-3

INFO JEDMC/CG ATRC SCOTT AFB ILL ✓

AF GRMC

██████████ G-4-12000 RE AIR INTEL REQUIREMENTS MEMO NO 4

CIA SUBJ UNCONVENTIONAL ACFT CMA FOL RPT IS SUBMITTED

GENERAL

1. 4 DEC 49

2. 1300

3. 111

(1) C-47 183NPH 5500 NINETY DEGREES

(2) BETWEEN COVERINGTON & HAMMOND LA

(3) ONE O'CLOCK

516

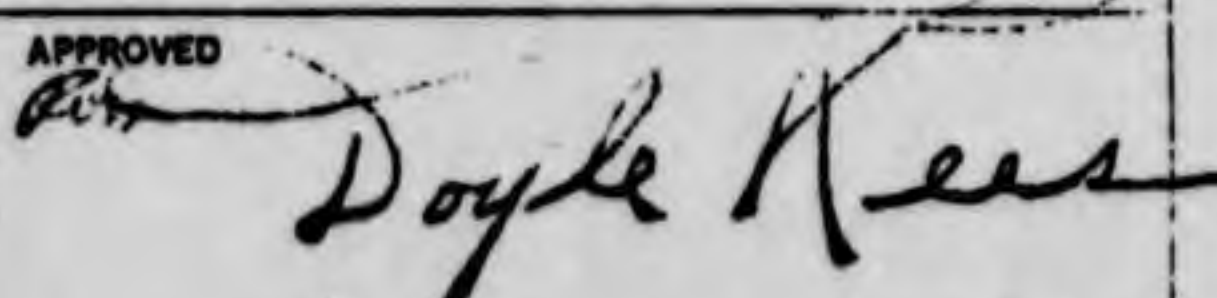
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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. (24-8)-11	DATE 12 December 1949
TITLE UNKNOWN AERIAL PHENOMENON Sighted by Mr. ██████████ Civilian Employee, Holloman AFB, At 1040 hours, 5 December 1949.		REPORT MADE BY S/A RUSSELL O. WOMACK, JR.	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY (UNKNOWN AERIAL PHENOMENON)		REPORT MADE AT 17th DO, Kirtland AFB	
REFERENCE AFCSI Letter No. 85, dated 12 August 1949.		PERIOD 6 December 1949	
SYNOPSIS <p>This investigation is submitted in compliance with AFCSI Letter No. 85, dated 12 August 1949, to report all sightings of unidentified flying objects. Mr. ██████████, Civilian Employee, Holloman Air Force Base, observed an unusual aerial phenomenon at 1040 hours, 5 December 1949. ██████████ was interviewed and all pertinent information was obtained.</p>		OFFICE OF ORIGIN 17th DO, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS CLOSED	

*Holloman AFB, 4:30 p.m.
6 December 1949*

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

DISTRIBUTION ✓ CG, AMC, ATTN MCIAXO-3 2 Hq, OSI 2 Director of Intelligence USAF (Info) 1 FBI, El Paso (Info) 1 File 2	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General, AMC ATTN: MCIAXO-3	FILE STAMP
APPROVED  DOYLE REES Lt Colonel, USAF <i>District Commander</i>		UNCLASSIFIED

7-3712-26
A

File #3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

DETAILS:

1. This investigation predicated upon a directive, AFCSI Letter No. 85, dated 12 August 1949, to report all sightings of unidentified flying objects:

AT ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO

2. Mr. ~~██████████~~ was interviewed on 6 December 1949, concerning his sighting of an unusual aerial phenomenon and the following information was obtained:

- a. Date of sighting: 5 December 1949
- b. Time of sighting: 2240 hours MST
- c. Where sighted: 105° 58' West, 32° 57' North.
Observer was driving in a vehicle and observed object through the windshield.
- d. Number of objects: One
- e. Observable celestial phenomena or planets that may account for the sighting: None
- f. Distance of object from observer:
 - (1) Horizontally: Appeared to be about 8 miles.
 - (2) Angle of elevation above horizon: Unable to determine in degrees but stated it was very low over mountains to the east of Tularosa.
 - (3) Altitude: Unable to determine.
- g. Time in sight: One second.
- h. Appearance of object:
 - (1) Color: Blue with yellowish red toward the tail.
 - (2) Shape: Streak of light.
 - (3) Apparent construction: Unable to determine.
 - (4) Size: Appeared to be a little longer than the length of a new lead pencil viewed from 6 feet.
- i. Direction of flight: East to West.
- j. Tactics or maneuvers: Described a smooth arc downward from East to West.
- k. Evidence of exhaust: None (Tail of object had a yellowish red appearance and seemed to be quite long.)

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- l. Effect on clouds: No clouds visible.
- m. Lights: None (Luminosity was greater than that of Venus).
- n. Support: None
- o. Propulsion: Unable to determine.
- p. Control and stability: Described a smooth arc, was not erratic in its flight.
- q. Air ducts: None visible.
- r. Sound: No sound.
- s. Manner of disappearance: Appeared to hit the ground in the northern part of Tularosa, New Mexico. Stayed bright until it appeared to hit the ground.

t. Notes relative to observer:

- (1) Name of observer: Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
- (2) Address: Tularosa, New Mexico
- (3) Occupation: Engineering Aide with Geodetic Survey Section.
- (4) Place of business: Holloman Air Force Base.
- (5) Pertinent hobbies: None
- (6) Ability to determine: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
- (7) Reliability of observer: According to his supervisor, Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ he is a very reliable individual.
- (8) FLORES has never before observed a phenomena of this nature and he was not suffering from fatigue at the time of sighting.
- (9) Witnesses: None

3. Check with authorities at Holloman AFB revealed that there was no radar in operation at the time of this sighting, that weather conditions were normal, and that there had been no testing devices released which could account for the sighting.

▼ CLOSED -

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-A

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. (24-8) - 8
DATE 8 February 1950

REPORT MADE BY
S/A PAUL L. RYAN

TITLE
Fireball Sighted at Capitan
New Mexico, on 4 December 1949

REPORT MADE AT
17th DO, Kirtland AFB

PERIOD
5 December 1949, 24 January 1950

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
17th DO, Kirtland AFB

STATUS
CLOSED

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
Lead Sheet, Hq. 17th DO, dated 6 December 1949

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by District Commander, 17th District, Office of Special Investigations, Inspector General, United States Air Force, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, upon receipt of information in his office regarding a falling gree-blue object in the vicinity of Capitan, New Mexico. A search of the designated area was conducted with negative results.

- CLOSED -

DISTRIBUTION
CG, AMC (Action cy) 1
Hq OSI 2
CO, Cambridge Research Laboratories 1
File 2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO
CO, Walker AFB

FILE STAMP

APPROVED

Doyle Rees

DOYLE REES
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander.

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DETAILS:

1. Investigation predicated upon receipt of report by District Commander, 17th District, Office of Special Investigations that a fireball was reported to have fallen in the vicinity of Capitan, New Mexico.

AT CAPITAN, NEW MEXICO

2. Mr. PHIL BLAISE, Deputy Sheriff, Lincoln County advised the writer telephonically on 5 December 1949 that a falling fireball had been observed in this vicinity by a Mr. [REDACTED].

3. Mr. [REDACTED], was contacted on 5 December 1949 and related the following information: At 1930 to 1945 hours while driving east from Carrizozo, New Mexico accompanied by his wife their attention was attracted to an intense bluish-green light at about an angle of 40° as viewed from inside their car. This light appeared as one (1) object and in shape appeared to resemble a teardrop or raindrop. As this object neared the ground it appeared to increase greatly in size. The [REDACTED]'S position at this time was $33^{\circ} 37'$ North and $105^{\circ} 45'$ West. This object disappeared at approximately 2° True at the horizon from this position. No sound or odor was noted. A trail of bluish-green light in width the same size as the fireball and tapering off to a point was observed. The luminosity was very brilliant. The distance from the observer according to his estimation was about five (5) miles. The speed was very slow. No projections or pins were in evidence. At the time of sighting the object was in a dive and disappeared either into or behind a mountain peak. The weather at this time was very clear, no clouds. The date of this observation was 4 December 1949.

4. The writer ascertained that the reputation of [REDACTED] is good in this community. The persons interviewed regarding [REDACTED] were all local citizens and it appeared from their remarks that his character and reputation for veracity are excellent.

5. In a check of the community for possible other witnesses to this phenomenon, Mr. [REDACTED] Patient, United States Marine Hospital, stated to the writer that he observed this strange light at the same time as [REDACTED] E. Questioning of [REDACTED] elicited substantially the same information obtained from [REDACTED] with the exception of location. [REDACTED] location at the time of sighting was $33^{\circ} 30'$ North and $105^{\circ} 34'$ West. First seen at an elevation of about 40° and disappeared at 330° from his position. Inasmuch as [REDACTED] is a patient in the hospital and not known in Capitan, no attempt was made to check his reputation for veracity.

6. A careful scrutiny of the location from where the object disappeared was negative in regards to any evidence.

AT CARRIZOZO, NEW MEXICO

7. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office was notified to contact the writer upon receipt of any information pertaining to any object on the ground in this vicinity.

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8. Mr. F. C. ATWOOD, Deputy Sheriff, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office informed the writer that riders of various ranches covered this region at regular intervals. These riders were instructed by ATWOOD to report anything unusual.

- CLOSED - UNCLASSIFIED

-3- UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4 Dec 51
CAMP COHO

UNCLASSIFIED

26 March 1951

Subject: Anomalous Luminous Phenomena
The Fireball of 1951, March 6, 11:34

To: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MOLS

The attached Spot Intelligence Report, dated 21 March 1951, and copy of letter to Headquarters OSI, dated 22 March 1951, are forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate.

- 2 Incls
- 1. Spot Intl Rpt dtd 21 Mar 51 w/incl Sect Aero Chart
- 2. Cy of Ltr to Hq OSF, dtd 22 Mar 51

JAMES F. X. O'CONNELL
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

Copy to:
Hq OSI w/o atty incls

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 2 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5800.10

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
17TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

File No. 24-9

21 March 1951

NOT INVESTIGATIVE MATTER

SUBJECT: Anomalous luminous phenomena
The fireball of 1951, March 6, 1433

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Although this incident does not fall within the purview of AFOSI Letter No. 65, dated 23 October 1950, nevertheless, the publicity incident to this matter and the search conducted by Dr. LINCOLN LAPAZ, Director Institute of Meteoritics, has been such that it is believed the facts advanced will be of interest, and in accordance therewith distribution is being accomplished.

1. SUMMARY: An anomalous luminous phenomenon occurred 6 March 1951 at approximately 1433 hours. The reports of this phenomenon were gathered by Dr. LINCOLN LAPAZ, and a search was made to determine whether or not there were resultant physical evidence of a meteorite. The physical evidence of a meteorite, if such was a meteorite, has not been discovered. Visual observations have been related to points of intersection covering an approximately rectangular area three (3) miles by six (6) miles and within an area contiguous to Tularosa, New Mexico. Search continued by LAPAZ.

2. DETAILS: Dr. LINCOLN LAPAZ, Director, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, gathered all available sighting data of the phenomenon and has attempted to recover any physical residual evidence of more particularly delineated in a report of Dr. LAPAZ:

The March 6 fireball is the last in the long series of incidents occurring in northeastern New Mexico and the closely adjacent portions of Texas and Colorado. Of this series, only three fireballs produced any meteoritic phenomena and, therefore, were initially regarded as almost certainly descending meteorite falls. The first of this trio was the fireball of January 30, 1949 in the Lovell-Cookson region, which was the subject of intensive study by the O.F.I. and the Institute of Meteoritics and other interrelated agencies. In spite of the fact that the area of fall was precisely and accurately located and that this area was not only searched for several weeks immediately after the fall, but also has been repeatedly

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File 24-0
Subj Anomalous luminous phenomena

21 Mar 51

searched place, no meteoritic fragments have been recovered to date. The second of the trio was the detonating fireball of December 4, 1949 in the Grand, Colorado region, from which, in spite of long continued careful search, no meteorites have been recovered. The fireball of March 6 completes the trio and bids fair to conform to the pattern set by the two earlier falls, in that searches initiated in the accurately delimited area of fall within 24 hours after the appearance of the fireball have discovered no meteorites to date.

The detonating fireball of March 6 was of exceptional magnitude, rivalling the record-breaking meteorite fall of 1948, February 18 in Kansas and Nebraska, from which over a thousand fragments have been recovered, in the intensity of the light and sound effects produced. The fireball of March 6 was seen at a distance of 140 miles by an observer crossing glaring snow-fields in bright sunlight. As regards the remarkable sound phenomena produced on March 6, they have been so fully reported on by the news agencies as to require no comment here. Transit measures on carefully made observations of this fireball indicate that it remained luminous to a very low level in the atmosphere. Hence, if it were a normal meteorite fall, the probability would be very great that solid masses survived to fall to the earth. Furthermore, because of the great size and luminosity of the fireball, it seems likely that the largest surviving masses would be of such size as to punch out easily visible craters in the earth. Yet in this, as in the two earlier cases, no trace either of meteorites or of the effects of meteoritic impact on the earth has been found.

In view of the very puzzling nature of the three major incidents discussed above (and of many other unexplained minor incidents of similar nature), I wish to repeat the recommendation I make in the case of the Lubbock and Grand fireball falls, namely, that the O.S.I. arrange to secure photographic coverage of the area in which fragments from the March 6 fall should have landed. (Preferably the photo-reconnaissance missions should secure stereo coverage of the area outlined for me in the Four Corners region under the direction of Colonel James C. Staub, Maj. USAF, ESC/Opns, Photo and Recon.)

After a careful study has been made of the photographs of the fall area (an elliptical region with axes of 3 and 5 miles, respectively, the major axis extending from about Lat. 36° 24', Long. 104° 10' to Lat. 36° 31', Long. 104° 11', see Appendix (5-4) Sec. here. Chart), it is strongly recommended that sufficient air force personnel be assigned to ground search to insure exhaustive search of all areas in which meteoritic impact appears to have occurred.

In making these recommendations, I am chiefly influenced by the possibility that the incidents in question may not be meteoritic in nature. However, in the event that by direct judgment is scrutinized by recovery of

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
DATE 08-28-2008 BY 60322 UCBAW/SJS