

1950-51(?)

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## **Ball of Fire Seen In Southern Skies**

**Object, Visible 500 Miles,  
Quickly Burns Out**

NEW ORLEANS, June 23 (UP).

—A great ball of fire visible for 500 miles burned for a few seconds high in the southern sky tonight and then glimmered out, leaving a curving trail of glowing vapor.

R. M. Kiser, senior air traffic controller of the Civil Aeronautics Administration here, said the gleaming object was seen from Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Houston, Tex., and a plane 250 miles southward over the Gulf of Mexico.

In Jackson, Miss., City Fireman Bert Kyzar said: "It looked like a grapefruit and was spouting fire like a roman candle and was followed by a white vapor trail. It made a loop and then a white light came on."

A. E. Aime, United States weather forecaster here, said he saw an object of "tremendous brilliance" in the western sky at 7:40 p. m. C. S. T. "It was more brilliant than any meteor I have ever seen," Mr. Aime said. "It burned out in two or three seconds. It left a long, white smoke or vapor trail, which is something else I have never seen a meteor do."

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7-3912-29



**RESTRICTED**

30-211

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY AIR MATERIEL AREA**  
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

OCAI/GGH:pjh

96

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCAI

28 June 1950

**SUBJECT: Intelligence Report**

**TO: Commanding General**  
**Air Materiel Command**  
**ATTN: MCIA**  
**Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**  
**Dayton, Ohio**

1. The attached intelligence report is forwarded as an item of possible interest.

**FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:**

*George G. Hamilton*  
GEORGE G. HAMILTON  
Captain, USAF  
Chief, Intelligence Section  
Personnel and Administration

1 Incl *NW*  
Intelligence Report, 308th  
Reconn Group, TAFB, no date.

*File*

*306.4*  
*cont*

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

**UNCLASSIFIED**

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**OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
308TH RECONNAISSANCE GROUP (WEATHER)  
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma**

**SUBJECT: Intelligence Report**

**TO: Commander  
Military Air Transport Service  
Andrews Air Force Base  
Washington 25, D.C.**

**ATTN: Director of Plans, Intelligence Division**

1. Reference radio this Headquarters, dated 241800 CST, June 1950, (essentially restated in paragraph two below).

2. At 231940 CST June 1950 crew members flying a routine "Pelican" weather reconnaissance mission over the Gulf of Mexico noted what appeared to be a huge ball of fire falling in a spiral descent from a height of at least 50,000 feet. The accompanying brilliant light faded at 20,000 feet. A bluish colored smoke or vapor trail followed the object and persisted for twenty minutes. The weather at the time was CAVU with a few scattered thunderstorms on the horizon to the south and east. Estimated position of sighting 25° 45' N, 89° 45' W. Position of aircraft at time of sighting 27° 00' N, 86° 00' W.

3. Pertinent excerpts from crew member reports:

"I looked out and saw a flaming trail in the sky which was definitely not a falling star. As it fell it made a twisting trail in more or less the shape of an "S". It started at a height of 50,000 feet or over and faded out at around 20,000 feet. The flame, vapor, light or whatever it was, remained visible in the sky for around one half an hour."

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**Scanner.**

"I noticed a bright streak in the sky off our left wing that appeared at first to be a falling flame. It grew greatly in brightness and size and appeared to be in a spiraling descent. I believe it was at great height and distance. I observed same for fifteen minutes."

**T/Sgt.**

**Engineer.**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

X45



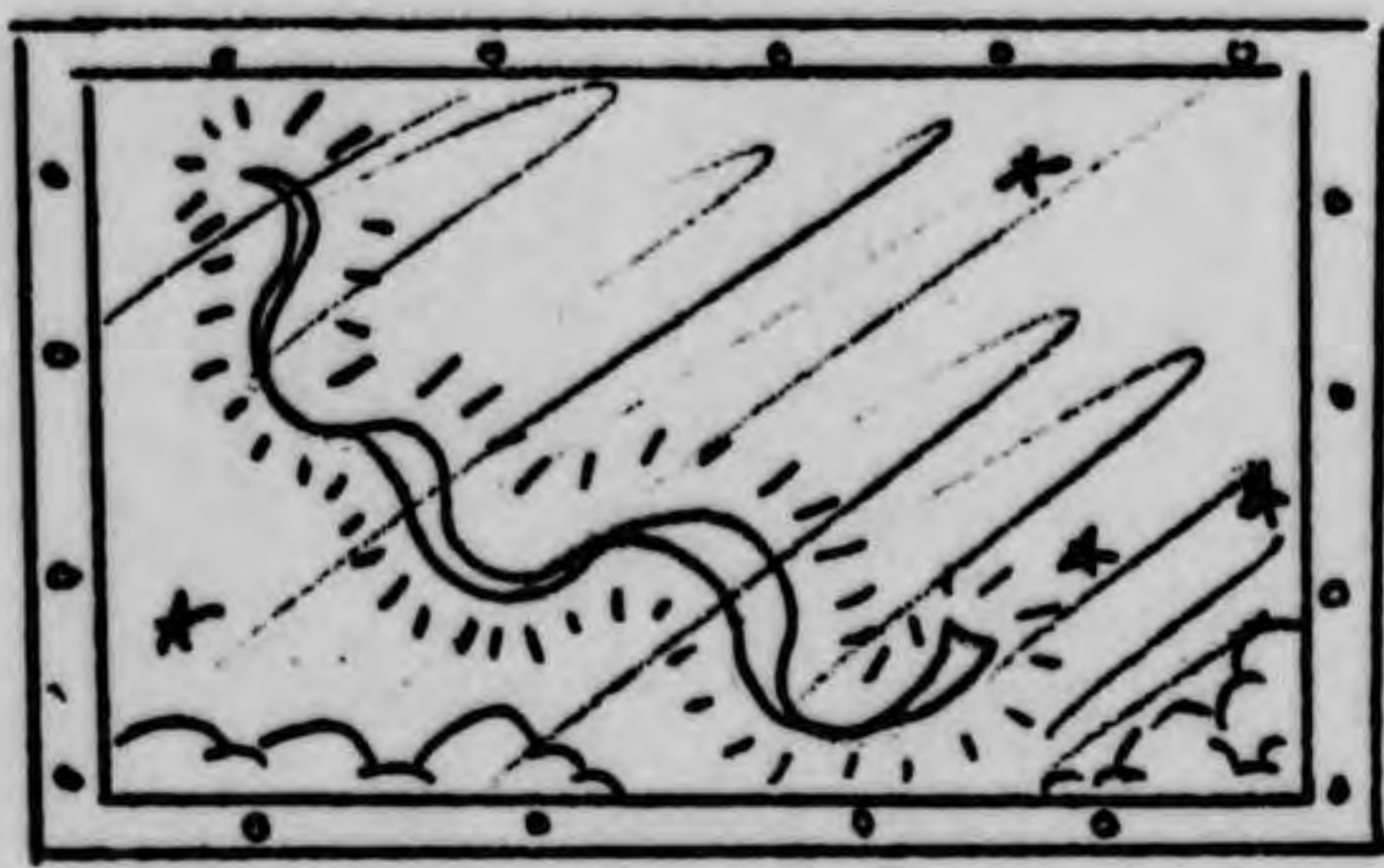
[REDACTED]

"A very bright zigzag path of light which appeared to extend from a base of 30 miles to a height of 50-70 miles. It remained visible for approximately 20-30 minutes, seeming to elongate itself in an upward motion, and then later seeming to dive toward the earth."

Sgt. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Radio Operator

"At 1940 CST, 24 June 1950, flying on a routine Pelican at 10,000 feet, course about thirty degrees, ground speed 173 knots, position 26°50'N 86°05'W, a brilliant light was observed high in the sky at what seemed a great distance at a relative bearing of about 80°. The light proceeded earthward at what seemed a slow rate and in a curving erratic path leaving an extremely bright glowing trail. After about a minute and a half the light disappeared but the trail continued to glow blue-white with undiminished brilliance for another fifteen minutes after which it faded slowly to a soft blur and finally dissipated at about 2000 CST."

Appearance from Navigator's window.



"At this time the portion of the sky in which the phenomenon occurred had turned dark enough for most of the stars to be visible. Skies in the immediate vicinity were clear but a few thunder storms on the horizon, especially to the South and East, gave off intermittent flashes. (These flashes were quite yellowish in contrast to the blue-white glow of the observed light.)"

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[REDACTED]



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A series of fairly accurate radio fixes were obtained which showed the aircraft at the following positions:

1940 CST - 26°50'N	86°05'W	
1944 CST - 27°06'N	85°56'W	(Turned to heading of 326°)
2000 CST - 27°30'N	86°40'W	

A series of visual bearings taken on the light trail during this period showed it to be over the vicinity of 28°45'N, 89°45'W."

**1st Lt., USAF  
Navigator**

**LEWIS L. HOWES  
1st Lt., USAF  
Intelligence Officer**

cc - OCAMA Int Division

10:01

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HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY  
Fort McPherson, Georgia

AJACI-5 360.33

29 June 1950

SUBJECT: Unconventional Object in Air

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

Attention: LCI (Control No. A-1917)

Inclosed herewith is information re flying objects sighted in  
Mobile, Alabama.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:  
S/I dtd 26 Jun 50,  
w/newspaper clipping,  
dtd 25 Jun 50

*John Meade*  
for JOHN MEADE  
Colonel, GSC  
AC of S, G-2

*Fi*  
*506.5*



SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE

26 June 1950

PREPARING OFFICE

Field Area Office No 6, P O Box 1384, Mobile 8 Alabama

SUBJECT

Fireball Seen Over Mobile  
(Mobile Press Register)  
25 June 1950

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

- COMPLETELY RELIABLE . . . . . A
- USUALLY RELIABLE . . . . . B
- FAIRLY RELIABLE . . . . . C
- NOT USUALLY RELIABLE . . . . . D
- UNRELIABLE . . . . . E
- RELIABILITY UNKNOWN . . . . . F

OF INFORMATION:

- CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . . . 1
- PROBABLY TRUE . . . . . 2
- POSSIBLY TRUE . . . . . 3
- DOUBTFULLY TRUE . . . . . 4
- IMPROBABLE . . . . . 5
- TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED . . . . 6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

# Fireball In Sky Over City Apparently Was Meteorite

Mobilians who saw that "ball of fire" in the Western skies early Friday night and thought their eyes were deceiving them need not worry about their eyesight—it really happened.

*25 June*

Wire services reported the phenomenon as being seen in Tuscaloosa, Fort Smith, Ark., and Fort Worth, Texas. The main testimony toward the reality of the big flash came from a National Air Lines pilot who was approaching Mobile at about 7:40 p.m.

### DESCRIBES FLASH

The pilot, Capt. James L. Hansen, reported the brilliant flash and vapor trail to the Associated Press and United Press in Jacksonville, Fla., after he finished his flight.

Hansen described the scene as a meteor-like object in the sky over Mobile that left a vapor trail. He said it was traveling "at a tremendous speed." "I couldn't  
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

(Continued From Page One)

estimate its altitude" Hansen said, "but it was high."

J. A. Ellis of Rosedale, near Tuscaloosa, Ala., reported to the Civil Aeronautics Administration's communication station there that he saw an object Friday night that seemed to be an aircraft with a ball of fire billowing from it. He reported he saw the fire "approximately 40 miles south of Tuscaloosa."

At Fort Smith, three fishermen witnessed the flash and vapor trail as they fished in a lake there. They said they witnessed the flash about 2 a.m. Saturday. It lasted several seconds and was followed by what sounded like an explosion.

### BELIEVED METEORITE

Meanwhile, the minds of Mobilians were set at rest by Weatherman Bill Tilson who said the flash was evidently a big meteorite sailing off its regular route and probably landed in the swamps of Louisiana.

Some Mobilians reported it as an explosion in the sky. Others said it looked like a speeding plane with the sun's fading red and gold rays playing tricks with its vapor trail.

A few Mobilians thought they were witnessing a flying saucer. Generally it was described as anything from a fiery ball to a streak in the Eastern skies. The vapor trail was visible in the sky for about a half-hour after the flash.

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DISTRIBUTION

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10:14 21 June

## Plane Passengers Watch "Saucer"

LOS ANGELES, June 27.—  
(AP)—United Airlines today disclosed the largest flying saucer report:

First officer David Stewart of Redondo Beach, Calif., today told a news conference that his crew of five and some 25 passengers watched a brilliantly-glowing object speed through the desert sky Saturday night. 24 JUN 68

Stewart said the object was more cigar-shaped than the previously reported pancake-shaped "saucers."

He said his ship was flying at 14,000 feet and that the object flew a parallel course for 20 miles and then faded into the distance. He estimated its speed as faster than his plane's 290 miles per hour.

7-3712-29



12  
DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1950

# Paper's Photos Show 'Saucer' in Kentucky

Louisville, Ky., June 28 (U.P).—  
The Louisville Times printed pictures today of a "flying saucer" taken by one of its own photographers yesterday afternoon.

The pictures, taken by Staff Photographer Al Hixenbaugh for WHAS-TV on movie film, included 50 feet of film in which a bright flying object showed clearly throughout.

### It Stood Still

Hixenbaugh, on assignment to take other shots for the station, suddenly heard the roar of a plane above him, glanced up and saw both the plane and the "flying disk" to its left. He said it was a large bright disk with a slight corona around it.

He unlimbered his movie camera and shot, with the object appearing motionless for about 10 seconds. "During that time," he said, "it stood still like a balloon."

Then the object began to get

smaller and finally vanished into the west. The "saucer" appeared on all the film he took, but the nearby plane was out of the picture field quickly, appearing on only about 10 feet.

Air fields here said no planes had reported seeing such a disk yesterday and the Air Force has denied repeatedly that "flying saucers" exist.

Cairo, Ill., June 28 (U.P).—Five persons in three sections of the city reported today that they spotted a "flying saucer" in the sky southwest of here at approximately the same time.

All agreed that the egg-shaped object was at a high altitude and had a chrome finish. They said it bore no resemblance to an airplane.

*June 28*

7-3712-29