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Incident #225

ATIC NO.	----	DATE OF INCIDENT	23 or 24 Nov 1948 (Also 23 Nov 19[illegible] late 1947
AF NO.	----	LOCATION	10 mi. E Vaugn, N.M.
REPORT NO.	---	SOURCE	Army Col
DATE OF REPORT	----	DATE IN TO ATIC	----
TIME OF SIGHTING	2200 MST	COLOR	Bright White
SHAPE	Ball	SPEED Estimated Measured	Descended slowly
SIZE	Basketball (1' diameter)	ALTITUDE Estim. Measured	400-500'
COURSE	Vertical	LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED	-----
NO. IN GROUP	1	TYPE OF OBSERVATION	Ground
SOUND	----	MANEUVERS	Slow Vertical Descent
PHOTOS	---	SKETCHES	-----

Flares

Temporary ATIC Form 329
([illegible] Jan 52)

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1

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

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.

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

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 for details

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[redacted]

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

452.1 AKADB

20 December 1948

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, 23 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 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

22

CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION	DATE 20 December 1948
PREPARING OFFICE Office of the AC of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas	

SUBJECT

Unconventional Aircraft

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

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., [redacted], 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)

"'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. DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

225

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WD AGO FORM 1 JUN 47 568

NCIO 23 Dec 1947

St Elmo's fire?

Ja som potom povedal, že skúsime, či bude horieť celá hlaveň a dal som pušku držiac ju za pažbu nad hlavou a v tom začala na nej horieť všetko, čo bolo železné. Normálne modrým plamienkom, skákajúc plameň asi 1 cm alebo pol centimetra vo smere vetra, a trochu ho hnajúc do hora po železe vo smere vetru.

Nato povedal ašpirant FS Gnepa, že pôjdme do kasárne FS aby sa nám niečo nestalo. Podotýkam, že bol v tej dobe silný vietor od severozápadu a 4 minuty to prestalo lebo sme odišli ďalej brehom a vietor nás minul dvíhac sa do výšky k vedľajšiemu brehu.

Z celej tejto záležitosti sme nepísali nič, aby nás niekto neoznačil za takých, že veríme v strašidlá alebo niečo podobné.

Jedná sa o skutočný 1000% zážitok preto sa bojím, že nebude to brané v úvahu ako švanda alebo fejton.

(Dňa 11. 8. 1988.

Ctený pane.

Dovoľujem si Vám zaslať tento poznatok a teším sa na Vaše posúdenie tejto záležitosti.

Bolo to koncom r. 1947 asi 23. decembra, kedy som slúžil u Finančnej stráže v úseku Dukly pri Medzilaborciach na východ. Slovenska v ČSSR, kde pri výkone hraničnej strážnej služby, ktorú som konal s respicientom Gneprom, že asi o 01³⁰ hod. popolnoci, keď sme šli na [illegible] z hranice do kasárne F.S pod hranicou asi 800 m začaly nám z ničoho nič horeť hlavne na puškách a všetko čo je z kovu.

Najprv horely hlavne pušky, potom a pár vterín minutu aj kovy na puškách a iné kovanie.

Keďže sa jednalo o [illegible] jav, dali sme pušky (z [illegible] zbraň) [illegible] z respicient FS Gnepra, keď zbadal že aj jeho puška po vrchu hlavne

Adresa: [redacted]

ČSSR. dopravné oddelenie.

S pozdravom Jednotne za mier!

[redacted]

horí modrým plamienkom
len to tak syčalo vo smere vetra
ako pri sváraní el. oblúkom
dal-zložil pušku hlavňou dole
k snehu a keď mu začal horeť
aj záver, bacil pušku do snehu.
Ja som pušku otočil tiež hlavňou
dole a že jestli strieli, aby nikomu
nebolo ublížené. V tom mi na puške
hlaveň zhasla a horela mi patka,
kovanie a záver pušky a tiež aj kov-
ové gombíky na plášťoch, to len takými
malými modrými plameňkami.
Ako sme tak stáli s čiastočným
prekvapením, zrobili sme aké také
približné opatrenie, pri čom som
zistil, že to musí ísť s vetrom
t.j. taká nabitá vlna vetra, lebo
ako sme manipulovali s puškami
tak moment zhasly a keď sme išli
ďalej na plecia za remeň, zasa začaly
horeť hlavne i to zatým len dopoly
hlavne a ďalšie na puškach nič
a potom znovu začaly horieť celé
pušky t.j. železné časti na nich.

./.

Rec summer 68

Polták František
DOPRASTAV Vrútky
ČSSR dopravné oddelenie

August 11, 1968

Dear Sir:

We are asking permission to sent you this information, and I am glad of your opinion of this matter.

It was about the end of 1947, approximately December 23, when I served (at the Financial Guard) in a section of Dukla in Eastern Slovakia in the CSSR, where at the end of the border guard watch, which I performed with a representative of Gnep, that at approximately 0130 hours when we were skiing toward the border to the FS barracks, about 800 m from the border the barrels of our rifles began to burn us with all the force at their command, and the rest of the metal parts along with them also began to burn.

First the rifle barrels burned from a few seconds to a minute, then the breeches on the guns and their metal fittings began to burn.

Since we were concerned with an unusual phenomenon, we put the rifles down (from the back of the weapon), and when the FS Gnep representative noticed that his rifle burned with the wind in a small blue flame only fluctuating with the wind direction like an electric arc weld, he fired the gun with the barrel down into the snow, and when the breech began to burn him he threw the rifle into the snow. I also stuck my rifle into the snow with the barrel down so that if it fired it would not hurt anybody. At this point my gun's barrel was extinguished, but the stock, the fittings and the breech of the gun also burned me, even the metallic lips on the casing burned with the same kind of small blue flames.

As we stood in such partial surprise we took such measures at which I ascertained that this must come from the wind, i.e., such as a charged wave, for as we manipulated the rifles the moment they were extinguished, and when we put them on our shoulders with the slings, the barrels began to burn again, i.e., the iron parts on them. Then

I said we ought to try to see if the entire barrel would burn, and I put my gun over my head, holding it by the stock, and then everything iron on it began to burn normally with a small blue flame about 1 cm or 1/2 cm blowing off in the direction of the wind and it was driven up a little along the iron in the wind direction.

At this point my companion said we should go to the FS barracks so nothing would happen to us. I do say that at that time there was a strong northwest wind, and after 4 minutes it stopped, or we went down a slope, and the wind passed us, turning upward to an adjacent slope.

We have not written anything about this entire matter so that no one would think we were seeing ghosts or something similar.

I ~~am~~ would be glad for one thing about this true 1000% experience, that it will not be considered as a joke or sensationalism.

With greetings only for peace!
Poltak Frantisek