UNCLASSIFIED [redacted] Incident #231

PROJECT 10672 RECORD CARD

ATIC NO. ----- DATE OF INFO 1 Jan 48

AF NO. ---- LOCATION Abilene, Tex

REPORT NO. ---- SOURCE Male Civilian

DATE OF REPORT ----- DATE IN TO ATIC -----

TIME OF SIGHTING 0125 & 0130 CST COLOR Bright blue green

SHAPE like bell with fan shaped glow SPEED No apparent speed Estimated / Measured / Estimated / Measured

SIZE ---- ALTITUDE -----

COURSE ----- LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 2 sec

NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION -----

MOON ---- MANEUVERS stationary

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES -----

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Insuff Info

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #231 -- Abilene, Texas -- 1 January 1943

This incident has no astronomical explanation.

The fan-shaped glow that extended momentarily from the horizon to the zenith suggests a man-made disturbance -- electrical or explosive. The green color is the only characteristic that might connect this incident with the "New Mexico green flashes"; the rest of the description does not.

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[redacted]

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

Incident No. 231

1. Date and Time of Observation: 1 Jan 48 1:25 A. M. & 1:30 A.M.

2. Where Sighted: Abilene, Texas

3. Observer's Position: ground
(i. e., ground, air, control tower, etc.)

4. Name and Address of Observer: [redacted]
Abilene, Texas

5. Occupation and/or hobbies: N/S

6. Attention Attracted by: glow on the horizon - due west of Abilene, Texas (direction of White Sands Proving Grounds)

7. Number of Object(s) Seen: 1

8. Size of Object(s): N/S

9. Color of Object(s): Bright blue green

10. Shape (Sketch if Possible) Like bell with a fan-shaped glow surrounding

11. Nature of Luminosity: Like flare
(directed beam of light?)

12. Altitude of Object: N/S - observed on the horizon
(estimated)

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer: N/S - could not be estimated

14. Estimated Speed of Object: No apparent speed

15. Time in Sight: 2 seconds

16. Tactics: - remained stationary

17. Sound Made by Object(s): No sound

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) No flight perceived

19. Apparent Construction: flare-like

20. Effect on Clouds: Clear sky

21. Exhaust Trail (Color of): Fan-shaped glow seemed to surrounded object

22. Manner of Disappearance: N/S

23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting: Clear sky

24. Peculiarities Noted: See

25. Summary of Incident: (over)
(See attached page)

Incident: 231

Information regarding this sighting taken from a letter of [redacted] addressed to Mr [redacted] Abilene, Texas, in regard to Mr [redacted] query regarding a phenomena he witnessed the night of 1 Jan 48 at approximately 1:25 A. M. and again at 1:30 A. M.

Object was described as a fan-shaped glow which originated from a large bell on the horizon and which extended to the meridian due west of Abilene, Texas, in a perfectly clear sky. Phenomena was of 2 seconds duration. Five minutes later it was seen again for the same length of time. No sound was heard.

Mr [redacted] thought the phenomena could possibly be attributed to:

(1) Disturbance of an electrical system such as transformers blowing out, or

(2) Experiments at White Sands Proving Grounds which are due west of Abilene.

NOTE: Inquiry at Holloman AF Base, Alamagordo, N. M., revealed that research work at night and on Sundays does not involve the use of any lighting device or flares such as described in the various reports submitted. See Incidents

See Incident #223 for details

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Fort Worth 1, Texas

1948, January 7

Mr. [redacted]
Abilene, Texas

Dear [redacted]

The brilliant blue green glow which you report as seen due west of you at 1:25 A. M. and again at 1:30 A. M. January 1st, could hardly be any kind of astronomical phenomena that I know of.

I am more inclined to think that it was either (1) some sort of disturbance of an electrical system such as transformers blowing out; or, (2) experiments at the White Sands Proving grounds which I believe are exactly in that direction from you.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. [redacted] of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque and if he is not under any restriction as to military secrets, perhaps he can tell us whether possibility number 2 applies. As to possibility number 1, [redacted] right there in Abilene, connected with the West Texas Utility Company, ought to be able to find out for us whether there was any kind of electrical trouble which I doubt could have been more than 10 or 15 miles away.

I note you say that the glow seemed to be fan shaped, originating from a large bell on the horizon, extending to the meridian, due west of you in a perfectly clear sky lasting about two seconds each and extremely bright blue green; also, that you heard no sound.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

c:sm-wl
copy to Dr. [redacted]

Mr. [redacted]

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

KAFB 3571

No. 231: Another glowing green flare just as described above.

HEADQUARTERS
AIR WEATHER SERVICE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply
Refer To: AWS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

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

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Fort Worth 1, Texas

1948, January 7

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Abilene, Texas

Dear Mr. [redacted]

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Yours sincerely,

/[redacted]

cem-wl
copy to Dr. [redacted]

Mr. [redacted]

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

223

KAFB 3571

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.