Incident #225

DATE OF OBS. 23 or 24 Nov 1948 (Also 23 Nov 1948 late 1947

PLACE OBS. 10 mi. E Albany, N.Y.

SOURCE Army Col

DATE TO AFIC ---

COLOR Bright White

CHARACTER Descended slowly

ALTITUDE 400-500'

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Slow Vertical Descent

DATE OF ACT. ---

AZ. OB. ---

EL. OB. ---

RANGE OF ACTIVITY ---

TIME OF ACTIVITY 2200 EST

SHAPE Ball

SIZE Basketball (1' diameter)

COURSE Vertical

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ---

PHOTOS ---

SKETCHES ---

Temporary AFTC Form 329
(1 Jan 52)

[redacted]

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Incident #225 -- near Vaughn, New Mexico [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.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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

In Reply
Refer To: AFS 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

-3812-12

3-4 Nov

No. 225: No date given. Object sighted within 15 minutes of release time of pilot balloon soundings at Albuquerque at low altitude, 500 feet. Exploded in red spray at 200 feet. This exact phenomena occurred on three different occasions at the same time which would seem to eliminate possibility of burning weather balloon.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

latter part of 47 Incident No. 225

1. Date and Time of Observation: 3 or 4th Nov 48 - 2130 hours & 23 Nov 48
(All sightings occurred approx 2200 hours)

2. Where Sighted: 10 miles east of Vaughn, N. M. - Highway 60 on 3 or 4th Nov 48

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

4. Name and Address of Observer: Col [redacted] Inf., Executive, New Mexico Military District

5. Occupation and/or hobbies: As above

6. Attention Attracted by: N/S

7. Number of Object(s) Seen: 1

8. Size of Object(s): 1 foot in diameter

9. Color of Object(s): bright white changing to bright fiery red color as it exploded

10. Shape (Sketch if Possible) ball

11. Nature of Luminosity: "like miniature sun"
(directed beam of light?)

12. Altitude of Object: From 500 ft when first observed to 100-200 ft
(estimated) from ground where it burst in a spray of reddish color

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer: 40 to 60 yds on one sighting and about 400 yds at another

14. Estimated Speed of Object: Slow descent

15. Time in Sight: N/S - Had time to get out of car and watch object which appeared to explode 40 to 60 yds in front of him at an altitude of 200 ft.

16. Tactics: slow vertical descent

17. Sound Made by Object(s): none - although he was within 40 to 60 yds of obj. & outside of car. See "Details" at Albuquerque, N.M.

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) Vertical descent

19. Apparent Construction: fireball

20. Effect on Clouds: N/S - weather clear

21. Exhaust Trail (Color of): N/S

22. Manner of Disappearance: exploded - fragments assuming a fiery red color which descended toward earth like numerous sparks but extinguished before reaching ground

23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting: Clear

24. Peculiarities Noted: Noticed always around 2200 hours - in the vicinity of Vaughn - Highway 60

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

12-694

17

UNCLASSIFIED

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, 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:

Eustis L. Poland

1 Incl
As stated

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

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

CENTINO 225

UNCLASSIFIED

225

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED [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., Executive, 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)

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IDENT NO 325

UNCLASSIFIED

225

DISTRIBUTION: CG, AMC; BIO, El Paso; File.

[redacted]

WD AGO FORM 1 JUN 47 568

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—53396-1

[redacted]

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 Hayes 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]s 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.

On the last 2 sightings Col [redacted] 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

civilians, Pioneer Airlines, were interviewed by S/A MELVIN T. [illegible]. This interview was conducted at Pioneer Airline Operations, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico. [redacted] and [redacted] advised that at 2135 hours, 5 December 1957, they were approaching Las Vegas, New Mexico, in a C-97 type airplane at an altitude of 9,000 feet, with a compass heading of 272 degrees. They observed directly ahead and slightly above their altitude, in the vicinity of the Montezuma Mission, a phenomena which first appeared as a bright white flash, then an object came into view which was described as being a brilliant 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 phenomena. Miss [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. VAN HOOK's initial report and that obtained by interview.

5. On 9 December 1957, Colonel [redacted], Infantry, Civilian Component Affairs Officer, [illegible] Military District, was interviewed in his office, Building [illegible], Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico. This interview was conducted by S/A JOHN J. [illegible], Jr., S/A MELVIN T. [illegible], and the writer. Colonel [redacted] advised that he had first observed an unusual aerial phenomena during the latter part of 1957. This occurred in the vicinity of Vaughn, New Mexico. The phenomena appeared to be approximately four or five hundred feet above the ground when first observed and descending slowly and steadily in a vertical manner toward the earth. The object appeared to be slightly larger than a basketball, bright white in color, like a miniature sun. Upon reaching a point approximately one hundred feet above the surface of the earth, the object appeared to explode although no noise was apparent. Colonel [redacted] stopped his automobile and got out to watch the object. At this time the explosion, or disintegration, appeared to be taking place more fully as many parts flicked, 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. Colonel [redacted] stated that he was on Highway 60 at this time, near a railroad and approximately 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 either 3 or 4 November 1957, on again on 23 November 1957, he observed the similar phenomena as described previously. These sightings were in the same vicinity of the original phenomena on Highway 60, near Vaughn, New Mexico. All three of these incidents occurred at approximately [illegible] hours. Col. [redacted]

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also advised that as far as he knew no recovery were being held by the National Guard or the Roswell Field in New Mexico.

Colonel [redacted] did not report any of these incidents, but upon receiving information of similar orders not having been observed, did volunteer the information contained in this report.

7. On 9 December 1948, Dr. [redacted], Director, Institute of Meteorition, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed in his office by Special Agent [redacted]. Dr. [redacted] produced his credentials which indicated that during the 2nd World War he was Technical Director, Operations Analysis Section, 8th Air Force, and is closely associated in an official capacity with Dr. H. S. MUDDIMAN, Executive Director, Committee on Guided Missiles 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 Material 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 added, in view of the unexplained Memphis, Tennessee, incident, the occurrence at Fort Worth, Fort Monroe, and the predicted meteorites fall in Angola, that they had not been explained, and the present phenomena should be investigated and an attempt be made to identify them.

9. On 13 December 1948, Dr. [redacted] gave a statement concerning an incident, which he witnessed at 9:00 p.m., on 12 December 1948. Dr. LA PAZ's statement is enclosed as Incl. No. 1.

10. On 11 December 1948, Major [redacted], 4th Army Liaison Intelligence Officer, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, advised S/A H. C. [redacted], that there were no rumors in this area, and no complaints involving the use of rockets or flares.

11. On 12 December 1948, Col. [redacted], Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, New Mexico, was interviewed and by S/A MELVIN H. [redacted]. Col. [redacted] advised that he knew of no secret rumors, and feels that in the event that there were, he would be so advised.

AT CRANDON, ARIZONA

12. On 7 December 1948, S/A [redacted] reported from Williams Air Force Base, Chandler, Arizona, [redacted] Major [redacted], who piloted by [redacted] (Major [redacted] was the pilot of the plane [redacted] was w/Lt. R. C. [redacted]). All of the above personnel were reported to be stationed at Williams Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, and were enroute from San Antonio,

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BASIC: Ltr fr 17th Dist OSI, KAFB, to CO, KAFB, and 1st Ind
Subj: Unknown (Aerial Phenomenon)

CO
1st Ind
HQ SPECIAL AFBC, Kirtland Air Force Base, Kirtland Field, N. Mex.

TO: Commanding General, ARDC, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio

1. Basic communication and inclosures (renumbered) forwarded for your information and for such action as you deem necessary.

2. Attention is particularly invited to the report of Dr. [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. We understand concurrence in the recommendations contained in Paragraph 4 of Inclosure No. 3; we are locally placing emphasis on the first and second recommendations enumerated therein.

3 Incls:
1-Rpt of Investigation # 24-8 (12 pgs)
2-Incl 1 to Rpt #24-8 (3 Pgs)
3-Incl letter fr Dr. LaPuc to CO 17th Dist OSI dtd 13 Dec 48 (2 pgs)

ELROID A. GUNN
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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

13 December 19[illegible]

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomenon)

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.

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl:
Rpt of Invest re subj

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DOD DIR 5200.10

cy made 14 Dec 19
rt

UNCLASSIFIED

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.