PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 19 Apr 49 19/0900Z	2. LOCATION Williams, Arizona
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro (FIREBALL)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1-2 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer sighted a greenish-blue flash of light. It appeared to be a fireball or meteor heading to the NE. The object traveled in a straight line and disappeared behind an obstacle.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE NE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

CONFIDENTIAL (Astro (Fireball))

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SIB NO.	DATE
24-8	28 April 1949

REPORT MADE BY
LYNN C. ALDRICH

REPORT MADE AT
DO #17, Kirtland AFB

PERIOD
19-21 April 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DO #17, Kirtland AFB

STATUS
PENDING

TITLE

FIREBALL SIGHTED NEAR FLAGSTAFF
ARIZONA ON 18 APRIL 1949

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
Newspaper article from the Phoenix Gazette dated 18 April 1949

SYNOPSIS

Investigation predicated by news article in Phoenix Gazette stating a large green FIREBALL was sighted above San Francisco Peaks at 0148, 18 April 1949. Reverend [redacted], Flagstaff, Arizona advised he saw FIREBALL from Santa Fe bus eight (8) miles east of Williams on highway 66. FIREBALL was visible for one (1) or two (2) seconds at approximately 30 degrees above the horizon, traveling in an easterly or north easterly direction at 12,000 feet. FIREBALL was approximately 16 miles from observer and greenish blue in color. FIREBALL appeared to be a meteorite or ball of fire and was largest one ever seen by Informant. Observer unable to estimate speed and heard no sound. FIREBALL traveled in a straight line and mysteriously disappeared behind an obstacle. Reverend [redacted] is pastor of Lutheran Church; has been in community a number of years; is an amateur astronomer and enjoys a good reputation in neighborhood. Informant is well educated and of excellent character. Extract of weather report dated 18 April 1949, 0330 Eastern Standard Time for Prescott, Flagstaff, Winslow, Grand Canyon and Zuny, N.M., and a special Flagstaff report for 0210, obtained. Seven (7) individuals contacted and advised they knew of no one who had seen FIREBALL. Mr [redacted], night Deputy Sheriff advised he received no calls; knew of no one who saw FIREBALL except a Mrs [redacted], Sedona, Arizona. Mr [redacted] advised Mr [redacted], was driver of Santa Fe bus in which Reverend [redacted] was riding. He knew of no one who had seen FIREBALL. Mr [redacted], Greyhound Bus Lines, advised they had no buses in vicinity at time of FIREBALL, and knew of no one who had seen it. Arizona Daily Sun news article obtained and inclosed as exhibit. Mr [redacted], American Meteorite Museum, observed FIREBALL at 0148, 18 April

DISTRIBUTION

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APPROVED

DOYLE AEES
Lt Colonel, USAF
DISTRICT COMMANDER

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RAFB 3998

7-3112-17

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The observer was unable to give any further information and knew of no one on the bus or in the community who had seen the FIREBALL.

The observer, Reverend [redacted] has been a resident of Flagstaff, Arizona for a number of years and is Pastor of the Lutheran Church, 515 N Humphrey. Informant is an amateur astronomer and owned his own telescope in Michigan before moving to Arizona. Reverend [redacted] enjoys a good reputation in the community, is well educated and of excellent character.

The Prescott Sectional Aeronautical Chart is attached as an inclosure to District Office #17, Kirtland AFB.

3. On 19 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Official in Charge of the U.S. Weather Bureau Office, Post Office Building, was contacted and a certified true extract of the weather conditions (Exhibit B) at Prescott, Flagstaff, Winslow, Grand Canyon and Zuny, N.M. was obtained for 18 April 1949 at 0330 Eastern Standard Time, 0130 Mountain Standard Time. Mr [redacted] advised the Flagstaff weather is also given as of 0210 MST to show the rapidity with which the sky became overcast after the 0130 report. The Grand Canyon report is given for 2245, 17 April 1949 and 0445, 18 April 1949 inasmuch as they were the only two readings taken near the time that the FIREBALL was seen. Mr [redacted] stated he had not seen the FIREBALL and knew of no one who had.

The original extract of the weather report is attached as an inclosure to District Office #17, Kirtland AFB.

4. The following named individuals were contacted on dates shown and advised they had not seen the FIREBALL, had no calls concerning it, and knew of no one who had observed it:

19 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Staff Astronomer, Lowell Observatory
19 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Employee, Arizona Daily Sun
20 April 1949, Dr [redacted], Observatory Hill, Director of the Lowell Observatory
20 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Manager of the Telephone and Telegraph Company
21 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Editor of the Arizona Daily Sun
21 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Night Guard at the Navajo Ordance Depot, [redacted] Flagstaff, Arizona
21 April 1949 [redacted], Night Guard, [redacted], Navajo Ordance Depot

5. On 20 April 1949, Mr [redacted], Deputy Sheriff, Coconino County Sheriff's Office, Court House, was contacted and advised he was on duty in the sheriffs office from 0001 to 0800 hours on 18 April 1949 and [redacted] no calls of anyone seeing the FIREBALL. Mr [redacted] advised that his son Bill, stated a Mrs [redacted] at Sedona, Arizona had seen the FIREBALL. Interviewee knew of no one else who had observed the FIREBALL.

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[redacted]

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SYNOPSIS CONT'D:

1949, ten (10) miles north of Flagstaff while indoors sitting in bed. Informant was 50 or 60 miles from FIREBALL and observed it for two (2) seconds. FIREBALL first seen at approximately 60 degrees above horizon and faded from view at 3 degrees. Considering brilliance and closeness Informant estimated FIREBALL was 75 to 100 miles high; was round in appearance; was about the size of a 100 watt light bulb at 25 feet and bright green in color with a bluish tail. FIREBALL traveled a straight course in north westerly direction. No sound was heard; no smoke or exhaust was evident and Informant did not notice the effect on clouds. Considering FIREBALL a meteorite, would be traveling 26.2 miles per second. FIREBALL probably fell to earth north and east of Las Vegas, Nevada. Informant knew of no one who had seen FIREBALL. Mr [redacted] had been employed by Dr. [redacted] for 11 years and has been at museum for 2 and ½ years as guide and lecturer. Informant enjoys firearms and rock collecting as hobbies; has no difficulty determining color or speed; is well educated; is an amateur astronomer and of good character. The following individuals either knew of no one who has seen [redacted] or had not heard of it. Mr [redacted], Gray Mountain, Arizona; Mr [redacted] Cameron, Arizona; [redacted], Tuba City, Arizona; Mr [redacted], Grand Canyon, Arizona; Mr [redacted] MRS [redacted] and Mr [redacted], all of Williams, Arizona. Mrs [redacted], Sedona, Arizona advised she did not see FIREBALL. Phoenix Gazette news article obtained and inclosed as exhibit.

DETAILS:

1. This investigation is predicated upon a news article in the Phoenix Gazette, dated April 18, 1949 stating that a large green FIREBALL traveling in a northwesterly direction was sighted at 1:48 AM today high above San Fransisco Peaks, Flagstaff, Arizona by [redacted], Assistant Director of the American Meteor Museum.

AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

2. On 19 April 1949, Reverend [redacted], 12 West Columbus Street, Pastor of the Lutheran Church, was interviewed and advised that he was sitting in the rear of a Sante Fe bus returning from Kingman, Arizona on 13 April 1949 when he observed the FIREBALL or meteorite for one (1) or two (2) seconds at 0200. Informant was approximately eight (8) miles east of Williams, Arizona on highway 66 (designated by an X on the Prescott Sectional Aeronautical Chart, Exhibit A) when he saw a brilliant flash of light and two (2) seconds later observed the FIREBALL. The FIREBALL lighted the northern horizon and Reverend [redacted] believed it was north and east of Sitgreaves Mountain. (Approximate location shown by a circle on Exhibit A). The FIREBALL appeared to be approximately 30 degrees above the horizona traveling in an easterly or north easterly direction at 12,000 feet. Informant advised he was approximately 16 miles from the FIREBALL and that it was greenish blue in color. The FIREBALL appeared to be a meteorite and the observer advised it was the largest one he had ever seen. Informant was unable to estimate the speed of the FIREBALL and heard no sound inasmuch as he was riding near the bus engine with the window closed. The sky was cloudy and the FIREBALL had no apparent effect on the clouds. The FIREBALL traveled in a straight line and mysteriously disappeared behind an obstacle.

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[redacted]

NARS 3298

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6. On 21 April 1949, Mr W. E. BLAND, Division Superintendent of Continental Trailways, Room 23, Commerical Hotel, advised that Mr LES E. GERRY, 111 A Street, Winslow, Arizona was the driver of the Santa Fe bus in which the Reverend [redacted] was riding when he saw the FIREBALL. Mr BLAND advised Mr [redacted] was in Needles, California and was due in Winslow on the morning of the 23rd. Interviewee advised they had no other schedules arriving or departing from the Flagstaff area which coincided with the time of sighting of the FIREBALL.

7. On 21 April 1949, [redacted] 806 W. Birch, Manager of the Greyhound Bus Depot was contacted and advised they had no buses arriving or departing from the Flagstaff area which coincided with the time of sighting of the FIREBALL. Interviewee knew of no one who had seen the FIREBALL.

8. On 19 April 1949, this writer obtained a copy of the April 18th Arizona Daily Sun in which the article concerning the FIREBALL was printed, (Exhibit C), where Mr [redacted] Assistant Director of the American Meteorite Museum reported a large green FIREBALL high above San Francisco Peaks at 0148, 18 April 1949.

The original newspaper article is attached as an inclosure to District Office #17, Kirtland AFB.

ON HIGHWAY NO.66 APPROXIMATELY 40 MILES EAST OF FLAGSTAFF

9. On 20 April 1949, [redacted], Winslow, Arizona, [redacted], was interviewed and advised he observed the FIREBALL or meteorite at 0148 hours on 18 April 1949, approximately ten (10) miles north of Flagstaff, Arizona. Interviewee observed the FIREBALL from his home, in the rear of the museum, while sitting in bed. (Shown as a square on Exhibit A). Only one (1) FIREBALL was seen and Informant was approximately 50 or 60 miles away. (Approximate location of the FIREBALL is within the area covered by the rectangle on Exhibit A). When Interviewee first observed the FIREBALL it was approximately 60 degrees above the horizon and disappeared at approximately 8 degrees from the horizon. Considering the brilliance and closeness of the FIREBALL, Mr [redacted] stated it was from 75 to 100 miles high. He saw the FIREBALL for two seconds before it faded from view. The object was round in appearance, was the size of a 100 watt light bulb at 25 feet and was bright green in color with a bluish tail. The FIREBALL appeared to be traveling a straight course in a north westerly direction. However, he advised he was not positive of the direction of flight due to his angle of observation. Inasmuch as Informant was indoors with his bedroom window closed, he heard no sound. He observed no evidence of smoke or exhaust and did not notice that it affected the clouds in anyway. Considering the object was a meteorite it would have been traveling at 26.2 miles per second. The FIREBALL faded from view and probably fell north and east of Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr [redacted] advised he has seen many falling meteors, but one seen on 18 April was much larger and more brilliant than any he has seen. Informant knew of no other individuals who had seen the FIREBALL.

323 D

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[redacted]

MAPS 3218

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Mr [redacted] is employed by Dr [redacted], Director [redacted] Museum, as a guide and lecturer. He has been with [redacted] for 11 years and has been at the museum for 2 and ½ years. Informant enjoys firearms and rock collecting as a hobby, but has not devoted much time to his hobbies in recent years. Informant has no difficulty determining color or speed of objects. His attention was drawn to the FIREBALL by it's brilliance. Informant is well educated; is an amateur astronomer and of good character.

AT GRAY MOUNTAIN, ARIZONA

10. On 2 0 April 1949, Mr K.C. STANFILL, Co-owner of the Gray Mountain Trading Post was contacted and advised that he knew of no one in the community who had seen the FIREBALL.

AT CAMERON, ARIZONA

11. On 20 April 1949, Mr H.D. ALEXANDER, Manager of the Cameron Trading Post was interviewed and advised he knew of no one in the vicinity who had seen the FIREBALL.

AT TUBA CITY, ARIZONA

12. On 20 April 1949, Mr EARL BOYER, Manager, Tuba City Trading Post, advised he knew nothing about the FIREBALL until questioned by this writer. Informant inquired around among his employees and the Indians and found no one who had seen the FIREBALL or who knew anything concerning it.

AT GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA

13. On 20 April 1949, Mr WILLIAM JAMES, Assistant Chief Ranger, U.S. Department of Interior, Park Service, was interviewed and advised he knew of no one or had heard of anyone who had seen the FIREBALL. Informant inquired among the other rangers and they knew of no one who had see it. Mr JAMES advised the fire lookout stations do not open until May.

AT WILLIAMS, ARIZONA

14. On 21 April 1949, the following named individuals were contacted and advised they had not received any calls concerning the FIREBALL and knew of no one who had seen it.

Mr FRANK WELLS, Publisher of the Williams News
Mrs E.J. PERMAR, Manager of the Telephone and Telegraph Company
Mr DON MASSEY, Chief of Police

AT SEDONA, ARIZONA

15. On 21 April 1949, Mrs DUTY THOMAS, Housewife, was interviewed and advised she had not seen the FIREBALL and must have been misunderstood by Mr STANBAUGH's son. Informant knew of no one who had seen the FIREBALL.

AT CHANDLER, ARIZONA

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KAFB 3798

16. On 19 April 1949, this writer obtained a copy of the 18 April 1949 Phoenix Gazette in which the article concerning the FIREBALL was noted. (Exhibit D). The information set forth therein stated that a large green FIREBALL traveling in a northwesterly direction was sighted at 1:48 a.m. today high above San Francisco peaks by [redacted], [redacted] It was the largest and brightest he had ever seen and it lit up the entire northern part of the state.

INCLOSURES

FOR DO #17, KIRTLAND AFB

1. Exhibit A, the Prescott Sectional Aeronautical Chart based on the edition of September 1944, revised July 1948.

2. Exhibit B, the original extract of the weather report for 0330 EST, 18 April 1949, dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 20 April 1949.

3. Exhibit C, the original newspaper article from the Arizona Daily Sun dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

4. Exhibit D, the original newspaper article from the Phoenix Gazette dated at Phoenix, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

FOR CO, KIRTLAND AFB

1. Exhibit B, a carbon copy of the extract of the weather report for 0330 EST, dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 20 April 1949.

2. Exhibit C, a photograph of the newspaper article from the Arizona Daily Sun dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

3. Exhibit D, a photograph of the newspaper article from the Phoenix Gazette dated at Phoenix, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

FOR OSI, HQS.

1. Exhibit B, a photograph of the extract of the weather report for 0330 EST, dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 20 April 1949.

2. Exhibit C, a photograph of the newspaper article from the Arizona Daily Sun dated at Flagstaff, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

3. Exhibit D, a photograph of the newspaper article from the Phoenix Gazette dated at Phoenix, Arizona, 18 April 1949.

PENDING

KAFB 3298

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE No. 17, KIRTLAND AFB

AT WINSLOW, ARIZONA

Will interview Mr LES E. GEERY, 111 A Street, driver for the Santa Fe Bus Company to determine if he saw the FIREBALL and if so, obtain all essential elements of information in accordance with the outline for Project Sign.

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Kirtland 3798

Incident 323

Name and address of observer: Rev. [redacted]
Flagstaff, Arizona

Occupation and hobbies:
[redacted] Pastor
Amateur Astronomer

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Enjoys a good reputation, well educated, excellent character

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

On 19 April 1949, Reverend [redacted], Pastor of the Lutheran Church, was interviewed and advised that he was sitting in the rear of a Santa Fe bus returning from Kingman, Arizona on 15 April 1949 when he observed the Fireball or meteorite for one (1) or two (2) seconds at 0200. Informant was approximately eight (8) miles east of Williams, Arizona on highway 66 (designated by an X on the Prescott Sectional Aeronautical Chart, Exhibit A) when he saw a brilliant flash of light and two (2) seconds later observed the Fireball. The Fireball lighted the northern horizon and Reverend [redacted] believed it was north and east of Sitgreaves Mountain. (Approximate location shown by a circle on Exhibit A). The Fireball appeared to be approximately 30 degrees above the horizon traveling in an easterly or north easterly direction at 12,000 feet. Informat advised he was approximately 16 miles from the Fireball and that it was greenish blue in color. The Fireball appeared to be a meteorite and the observer advised it was the largest one he had ever seen. Informant was unable to estimate the speed of the Fireball and heard no sound inasmuch as he was riding near the bus engine with the window closed. The sky was cloudy and the Fireball had no apparent effect on the clouds. The Fireball traveled in a straight line and mysteriously disappeared behind an obstacle. The observer was unable to give any further information and knew of no one on the bus or in the community who had seen the Fireball.

INCIDENT NO. 325A

1. Date of Observation 15 April 1949 Date of Interview 20 April 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 0148
3. Place of Observation 10 Miles North Flagstaff, Arizona
4. Position of observer Ground - in house
5. What attracted attention to object
6. Number of objects one
7. Apparent size Size of 100 watt light bulb at 25 feet
8. Color of object Bright Green
9. Shape Fireball or meteorite (round)
10. Altitude 60° above horizon when first seen 8° when last seen, 75 to 100 miles high
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer 50 - 60 miles
13. Direction of flight of object(s) northwesterly
14. Time in sight 2 seconds
15. Speed (26.2 miles per second if a meteorite)
16. Sound and odor
17. Trail
18. Luminosity
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Straight course
21. Manner of disappearance Faded from View
22. Effect on Clouds
23. Additional information concerning object Appeared larger than meteors he had seen.
24. Weather Conditions See complete weather report on file

(over)

Incident 323A

Name and address of observer: Mr. [redacted], Winslow, Arizona

Occupation and hobbies: [redacted] Amatuer Astronomer

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Well educated, good character

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

On 20 April 1949, Mr. [redacted], Winslow, Arizona, [redacted], was interviewed and advised he observed the Fireball or meteorite at 0146 hours on 18 April 1949, approximately ten (10) miles north of Flagstaff, Arizona. Interviewee observed the Fireball from his home, in the rear of the museum, while sitting in bed. (Shown as a square on Exhibit A). Only one (1) Fireball was seen and Informant was approximately 50 or 60 miles away. (Approximate location of the Fireball is within the area covered by the rectangle on Exhibit A). When Interviewee first observed the Fireball, it was approximately 60 degrees above the horizon and disappeared at approximately 8 degrees from the horizon. Considering the brilliance and closeness of the Fireball, Mr. [redacted] stated it was from 75 to 100 miles high. He saw the Fireball for two seconds before it faded from view. The object was round in appearance, was the size of a 100 watt light bulb at 25 feet and was bright green in color with a bluish tail. The Fireball appeared to be traveling a straight course in a north westerly direction. However, he advised he was not positive of the direction of flight due to his angle of observation. In as much as Informant was indoors with his bedroom window closed, he heard no sound. He observed no evidence of smoke or exhaust and did not notice that it affected the clouds in any way. Considering the object was a meteorite, it would have been traveling at 26.2 miles per second. The Fireball faded from view and probably fell north and east of Las Vegas, Nevada. Mr. [redacted] advised he has seen many falling meteors, but one seen on 18 April was much larger and more brilliant than any he has seen. Informant knew of no other individuals who had seen the Fireball.

INCIDENT NO. 3138
232B

1. Date of Observation 18 April 1949 Date of Interview 25 May 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 0145
3. Place of Observation 27 Miles NE Flagstaff, Arizona
4. Position of observer Ground in Bus
5. What attracted attention to object Flash of Brilliant Light
6. Number of objects One
7. Apparent size Unable to estimate
8. Color of object Blue green
9. Shape Fireball
10. Altitude 20 - 30° - 1000'
11. Direction from observer N
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) Northeast
14. Time in sight 5-10 seconds
15. Speed Slightly slower than falling star
16. Sound and odor None heard, as observer was inside bus
17. Trail None noticed
18. Luminosity Brilliant light
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Straight course
21. Manner of disappearance Behind obstacle
22. Effect on Clouds Not noticed
23. Additional information concerning object Observer had seen many falling meteors, none this large or brilliant
24. Weather Conditions

(over)

Incident 323 B

Name and address of observer: [redacted], Winslow, Arizona

Occupation and hobbies: Bus Driver
Photography and Woodworking

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Observer is intelligent and of good character

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

On 25 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Driver for the Continental Bus System was interviewed and advised he observed the fireball or meteorite at 0145 on 18 April 1949, approximately 27 miles NE of Flagstaff, Arizona, (approximate location is within the area covered by rectangle on Exhibit A). Informant was driving a Santa Fe bus, with his window closed, and was approaching the summit of Wagon Wheel hill (shown as X on Exhibit A). Interviewee observed a sudden flash of light, and saw the Fireball from 5 to 10 seconds at approximately 20 to 30 degrees above the horizon. Only one fireball was seen and it appeared to be not over 1000 feet above the terrain traveling a straight course in a northeasterly direction. The fireball was blue green in color and informant was unable to estimate its size. The speed of the fireball appeared to be slightly slower than that of a falling star. Inasmuch as interviewee was inside the bus, he heard no sound; saw no evidence of smoke or exhaust, and did not notice that it affected the clouds in anyway. Informant advised the fireball disappeared behind an obstacle. Mr. [redacted] advised he has seen many falling meteors, but none were as large and brilliant as the one seen on 18 April 1949. Mr. [redacted] knew of no other individual who had seen the Fireball.

Mr. [redacted] been employed as a driver for the Continental Bus System approximately 5 1/2 years and has been driving the Winslow, Arizona-Needles, Calif night route for 4 years. Subject enjoys photography and woodworking as a hobby, and spends most of his off duty hours at either hobby. Informant has no difficulty determining color or speed of objects. His attention was drawn to the Fireball by its brilliance and closeness. Informant has no criminal record, enjoys a good reputation in the neighborhood, is intelligent, and of good character.

FLG

AWS 180330E

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PRC E140©50©15+ 112/51/33↑↖5/001
FLG 100©15+ 132/35/26↓1/007
INW S4 M90⊕15+ 088/56/34↓↙2/000
ZUN 30©40 112/43/33C//M *

FLG S1 0210M E30⊕15+↓↙2/ BINOVC

GCN 172245M E200⊕15+ 49/27↖2
GCN 180445M ©65©20 42/26↑4/200©

* Delete one slant that precedes the M. This character is used as a spacer to separate figures.

I hereby certify that with the exception of the above listed correction, the data listed in the reports is an exact copy of information transmitted at the time of the weather report.

Paul W. Sorenson

Paul W. Sorenson
Official In Charge
U.S. Weather Bureau Office
Flagstaff, Arizona

EXHIBIT B
FILE No. 24-8

Weather Bureau Office,
Flagstaff, Arizona

APR 20 1949

(AP) Full Leased Printer-Teletype National and State News Wire, NEA Pictures Features. The SUN'S Own Northern Arizona News Service. Eight Daily Comic Strips and Panels and Latest Serial Fiction by Popular Authors

"The Home Evening Newspaper of Northern Arizona"

ARIZONA DAILY SUN

Published Every Evening Except Saturday and Sunday

Monday, April 18, 1949 | Price 5c | FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA | Phone 21 | Vol. 3—No. 183

Large Fireball Seen In North

Seemed To Be Over 'Frisco Peaks Traveling Toward The Northwest

A large green "fireball" or meteorite was sighted going in a northwesterly direction high above the San Francisco peaks at 1:48 a. m. today, according to George D. Thompson, assistant at the American Meteorite Museum.

The museum is 40 miles east of Flagstaff on Highway 66.

"It was the biggest and brightest I have ever seen," Thompson said. "It woke me up. It cast shadows all through the museum and lit up the entire area."

He asks other persons who may have witnessed it to contact the museum and report the direction from which it came, where it went, and other data, so that a search may be started for the meteorite or fragments of it.

Persons at Garnd Canyon, Williams, Gray Mountain, Tuba City, Cameron and Flagstaff are most apt to have seen it, Thompson said.

The Phoenix Gazette

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1949

Skies Lighted By Fiery Ball

FLAGSTAFF, Apr. 18 (UP)—A "large, green fireball," traveling in a northwesterly direction, was sighted at 1:48 a. m. today high above the San Francisco Peaks, George D. Thompson, assistant director of the American Meteor Museum, reported.

Thompson said the meteorite was "the largest and brightest I have even seen. It woke me up and cast shadows throughout the museum and lit up the entire northern part of the state."

Thompson said the heavenly object was visible to persons in the Grand Canyon, Tuba City, Williams and Flagstaff area.

EXHIBIT D
FILE NO. 24-3

INCIDENT NO. 323

1. Date of Observation 15 April 1949 Date of Interview 19 April 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 0200
3. Place of Observation 8 Miles E. Williams Arizona
4. Position of observer Ground - in Bus
5. What attracted attention to object Flash of Light
6. Number of objects one
7. Apparent size
8. Color of object Greenish Blue
9. Shape Fireball or Meteorite
10. Altitude 30° Above Horizon 12,000'
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer 16 Miles
13. Direction of flight of object(s) Easterly or North Easterly
14. Time in sight 1 - 2 Seconds
15. Speed Unable to Estimate
16. Sound and odor None heard, as he was riding in Closed Bus
17. Trail
18. Luminosity Brilliant Light
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Straight Flight
21. Manner of disappearance Disappeared behind obstacle
22. Effect on Clouds None
23. Additional information concerning object Appeared to be meteorite, which was largest observer had ever seen
24. Weather Conditions Cloudy - See complete weather report on file

(over)

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JEM/fmn

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

1 June 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

1. Forwarded for your information and necessary action is a copy of Report of Investigation, subject: "Fireball Sighted Near Flagstaff, Arizona on 18 April 1949," File No. 24-8, dated 28 April 1949, from DO #17, Kirtland AFB.

2. Hq OSI has directed the 17th OSI District to forward reports directly to your office in the future.

FOR THE DIRECTOR, USAF

THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR
Captain, USAF
Acting District Commander

1 Incl
R/I dtd 28 Apr 49

WF-0-3 OCT 18 15M

[redacted]

6-2

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

BASIC: Letter, Hq 17th District OSI, dated 5 May 1949, file number 24-8, subject, "UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomena)"

File No: 24-8 3rd Ind DR/JLB/web

Headquarters 17th District Office of Special Investigations (IG) USAF, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, 24 May 1949

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

1. Exhibit A attached.

2. Future Reports of Investigation concerning aerial phenomena will be transmitted directly from this district to your headquarters.

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl
Exhibit A to Rpt
of Inv 24-8, DO 17,
28 Apr 49

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

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

5-31

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

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

DR/DEN/mcb

File No: 24-8

5 May 1949

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomena)

TO: Commanding Officer
Kirtland Air Force Base
New Mexico
ATTN: Inspector General

1. Reference is made to previous reports from this headquarters regarding the anomolous luminous phenomena which have been sighted in this area.

2. Attached hereto for your information are four (4) copies of Report of Investigation, this district, dated 28 April 1949, regarding an aerial phenomenon sighted near Flagstaff, Arizona, on 18 April 1949.

3. This is a supplemental report. Investigation is continuing and copies of future reports will be forwarded to your headquarters.

4. Request that two (2) copies of the attached report be forwarded to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, ATTN: MCIAKO-3.

Doyle Rees

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv (quad)

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

NAME OR OFFICE SYMBOL	INITIALS
FOR ROUTING AND ACTION	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

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Bsc Ltr fr 17th Dist OSI, KAFB, to CO KAFB, dtd 5 May 49, subj: "Unknown (Aerial Phenomena)"

AG 1st Ind GF/ive

HEADQUARTERS, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, 10 May 1949

To: Commanding General, AMC, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCIAXO-3

Forwarded for your information in connection with the report of investigation forwarded from this Headquarters on 14 December 1948 by 1st Ind to letter same subject as above.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Oliver M. Noland

OLIVER M. NOLAND
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

1 Incl
n/c (2 cys w/d)

2nd Ind MCIAXS/GNT/amc
MAY 20 1949

Hq AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

TO: The Inspector General USAF, 17th District Office of Special Investigations, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

1. Exhibit A, mentioned in Report of Investigation 24-8 dated 28 April 1949 forwarded by basic letter, was not received by this Command.

2. Your attention is invited to Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No. 4, dated 15 February 1949, which authorizes direct communication between Air Materiel Command and installations receiving information relative to so-called "Flying Disc".

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

F. R. Clugston Col USAF

F. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Department

Incl: w/d

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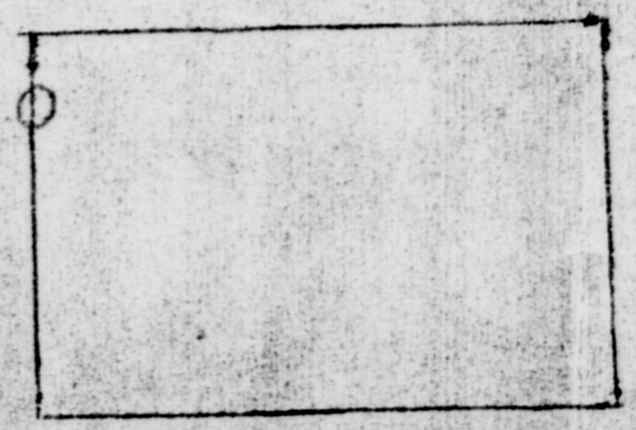
CONTROL NO.	SUBJECT: 3rd Int[illegible]ECIMAL F[illegible]LE NO.	FOLLOW UP ON
Q - 1321	Unknown (Aerial Phenomena) CONF.... 3073	DATE

FROM: 17th Distr New Mex DATED 5/24/49
TO: IAXS NO. INCLS. 1

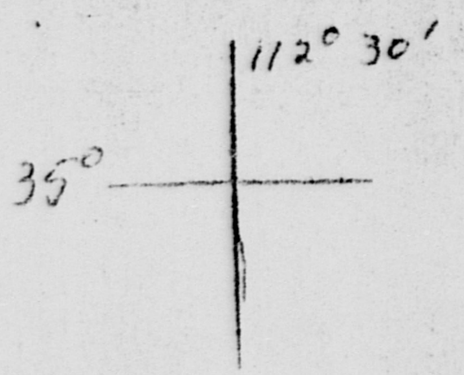
RECORDING DESK AXT-1 DATE RECORDED 5/31/49 HOUR 0900

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 IAXS	N/e	RWT	2 Jun
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY | OTHER DISPOSITION: | TRANSF AMC FOR (20 SEP F



X



PRESCOTT (K-3)
SECTIONAL CHART

111° 15'

36°

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

FILE NO. 24-8	DATE 31 May 1949
REPORT MADE BY	LYNN C. ALDRICH
REPORT MADE AT	DO # 17, Kirtland AFB
PERIOD	25 May 1949
OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DO # 17, Kirtland AFB
STATUS	PENDING

TITLE

UNKNOWN
(Aerial Phenomena)

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Report of LYNN C. ALDRICH, 26 April 1949

SYNOPSIS

Mr [redacted], Winslow, Arizona, sighted FIREBALL at 0145, 18 April 1949 approximately 27 miles NE of Flagstaff, Arizona, while driving Santa Fe bus on Highway 66. FIREBALL visible from 5 to 10 seconds at approximately 20 to 30 degrees above horizon at 1000 feet above terrain. FIREBALL traveled in straight course in northeasterly direction and was blue green in color. Observer unable to estimate speed, heard no sound and saw no evidence of smoke or exhaust. FIREBALL disappeared behind an obstacle. Mr [redacted] has been employed by Continental Bus Systems for 5½ years and has been driving Winslow-Needles night route 4 years. Informant has no criminal record, enjoys a good reputation, is intelligent and of good character.

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

astro (meteor)

DISTRIBUTION

CG, AMC, ATTN: MCIAKO-3
(Action copies)(1 Incl) 2

Director of Intelligence
USAF (1 Incl) 1

Hq OSI (1 Incl) 1

File 2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AF Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAKO-3

APPROVED

Doyle Reed

DOYLE REED
Lt Col, USAF
DISTRICT COMMANDER

FILE STAMP

[redacted]

AFOSI FORM 4
23 JULY 48

16—66438-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DETAILS:

AT WINSLOW, ARIZONA

1. On 25 May 1949, Mr [redacted], Driver for the Continental Bus System was interviewed and advised he observed the FIREBALL or meteorite at 0145 on 18 April 1949, approximately 27 miles NE of Flagstaff, Arizona, (approximate location is within the area covered by rectangle on Exhibit A). Informant was driving a Santa Fe bus, with his window closed, and was approaching the summit of Wagon Wheel hill (shown as A on Exhibit A). Interviewee observed a sudden flash of light and saw the FIREBALL from 5 to 10 seconds at approximately 20 to 30 degrees above the horizon. Only one FIREBALL was seen and it appeared to be not over 1000 feet above the terrain traveling a straight course in a northeasterly direction. The FIREBALL was blue green in color and Informant was unable to estimate its size. The speed of the FIREBALL appeared to be slightly slower than that of a falling star. Inasmuch as interviewee was inside the bus he heard no sound; saw no evidence of smoke or exhaust, and did not notice that it affected the clouds in anyway. Informant advised the FIREBALL disappeared behind an obstacle. Mr [redacted] advised he has seen many falling meteors, but none were as large and brilliant as the one seen on 18 April 1949. Mr [redacted] knew of no other individuals who had seen the FIREBALL.

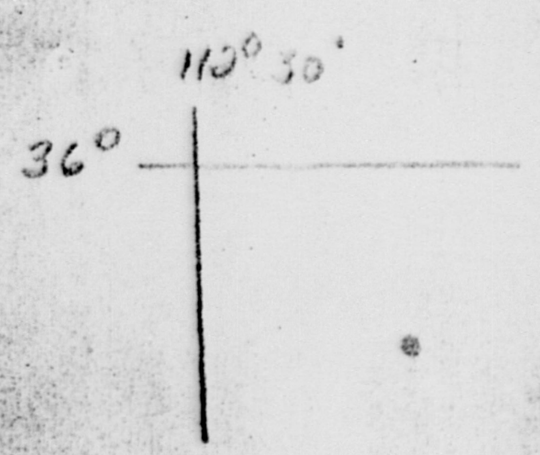
2. Mr [redacted] has been employed as a driver for the Continental Bus System approximately 5½ years and has been driving the Winslow, Arizona-Needles, California night route for 4 years. Subject enjoys photography and woodworking as a hobby and spend most of his off duty hours at either hobby. Informant has no difficulty determining color or speed of objects. His attention was drawn to the FIREBALL by its brilliance and closeness. Informant has no criminal record, enjoys a good reputation in the neighborhood, is intelligent and of good character.

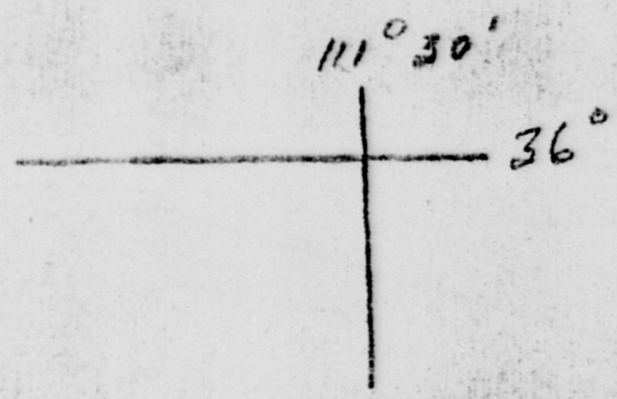
INCLOSURE

FOR DO#17, KIRTLAND AFB

Exhibit A, the Prescott Sectional Aeronautical Chart based on the edition of September 1944, revised July 1948.

- PENDING -


110° 30'
36°


111° 30'
36°

[redacted]
Wildwood, N. J.

THE LEADER, WILDWOOD, N. J., APRIL 7, 1949

Coast Guards - Police Probing Flare Source

Coast Guards and Wildwood police on Thursday began an investigation to learn the source of a flare which fell on the roof of a fish dock at Ottens Harbor.

Carl Ekstrom, who is associated with the OK Fishermen's Association, reported to the coast guards the presence of a flare which struck the roof.

Coast Guards from the Cape May base in their preliminary study expressed the belief the flare was fired from a gun at close range. They seemed to think, boats from Ottens Harbor carry flares of the same description.

Ottens Harbor is Wildwood.

7-3712-17

Ethel Evans
P. O. Box 119
Wildwood, N. J.

Philadelphia Inquirer - 11 Apr 49

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1949

Ball of Fire Seen, Believed Meteor

A brilliant ball of fire, believed by authorities to have been a meteor, was visible in a wide area of the Eastern Seaboard at 7:20 o'clock last night. It apparently landed at sea.

Two Air Force pilots, flying near Wilmington, Del., and an airport attendant at New Castle, Del. were among the persons reporting the object. Most of the other eye-witnesses to the phenomenon were in New England.

THOUGHT PLANE CRASHED

Sighting of the mysterious object by the pilots led them to report by radio to the New Castle County Airport that they believed an airplane had crashed. Delaware State Police made an extensive search, but could find no wreckage.

William F. McLaughlin, a member of the fire department at the New Castle airport, said the ball was blue-green with a tail that "seemed to be shooting red flame."

McLaughlin said that at first he thought it was an airplane afire attempting an emergency landing at the north end of the airport. But within seconds the object disappeared behind buildings.

PILOT PURSUED IT

One of the pilots, on a flight from Washington to Mitchell Field, L. I., said in a radio communication to the Civil Aeronautics Administration's North Philadelphia Airport station that he first sighted the ball of fire while flying at 8000 feet.

He said he followed the object in a downward course to 4000 feet before losing sight of it.

The second pilot was in the same area when he also viewed the phenomenon. The two aviators compared observations when both landed later at the Long Island field. Their identities were not disclosed.

SCORES OF CALLS

Scientists at Harvard University Observatory said they received scores of calls from residents of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. They said it was probable that the meteor, if it was one, crashed into the sea.

Two airline pilots were among the eye-witnesses. Ralph W. Burford, of Syosset, N. Y., and Robert C. Robson, of New York, said their plane was approaching Providence, R. I., when they sighted "the brightest flame" they had ever seen.

They estimated that the object began to disintegrate at about 4000 feet.

[1949]

20 - 30 APRIL SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
21	Ludington, Michigan	[redacted]	AIRCRAFT
21	Enid AFB, Oklahoma	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
21	Unity, Maryland	[redacted]	Other (CLOUD/CONTRAIL)
22	Cliff, New Mexico	[redacted]	AIRCRAFT
23	Sarasota, Florida	[redacted]	INSUFFICIENT DATA
23	Vicksburg, Mississippi	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
24	Arrey, New Mexico	Multiple	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Springer, New Mexico	[redacted]	Other (BIRDS)
27	Camp Hood, Texas	[redacted]dro	Other (BIRDS)
28	Tucson, Arizona	[redacted]	UNIDENTIFIED
28	Catalina Island, California	[redacted]	INSUFFICIENT DATA
28	Indianapolis, Indiana	[redacted]	INSUFFICIENT DATA
28	Homer, Michigan	[redacted]	Other (BIRDS)
28	Camp Hood, Texas	Multiple	Other (FLARES/FIREWORKS)
28	Fort Bliss, Texas	Multiple	BALLOON
30	Albuquerque, New Mexico	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCES	OBSERVER