

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 15 May 54 16/0622Z	2. LOCATION Salinas, California
3. SOURCE military (pilots)	10. CONCLUSION WAS ASTRONOMICAL : METEOR Reported on Newscast as definitely being a Fireball Meteor. (Lowell Thomas 17 May 54)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Bright green meteor like object greenish tail. Descending east to west. No sound. Exploded and disappeared.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION air visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☐ No	

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

15 MAY 54 16/0822Z SALINAS, CALIF

18

Multi

Called 1205+

07 22 4PT

17 MAY 1954

18 MAY 54 12 32Z

RT

ACTION

5. AT 145
2. At 14
3. At 14-2
4. R. Fili

TT

372 19

YPR243

YDB213

YYA3 61

XMA243

JWPRH A139

OO JEDEN JEDWP JEPFF JEPHO JESRO 555

DE JWPRH 4734

O 18 238Z

FM CONDR MARCH FLT SV CEN MARCH AFB CALIF

TO JEDEN/CONDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JEDWP/CONDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHO/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEPFF/CONDR MATS ANDREWS AFB WASHDC

JESRO/CONDR ORLANDO AFB FLA

/UNCLASSIFIED/UFOB

1. BRIGHT GREEN METERIER LIKE OBJECT

A. NO SIZE

B. BRIGHT GREEN

D. NO NUMBER

E. NO FORM

F. TRAVELS FROM EAST TO WEST AT DESCENDING PATH

20
30 MILES SOUTH OF SALINAS AT 9000 FEET AT 2223P 273 DEGREES

RELATIVE TO AIRCRAFT

G. LONG GREENISH TAIL

ENDING SOUND

2. DESCENDING EAST TO WEST

A. BRIGHT LIGHT

1. AIRCRAFT 273 DEGREES RELATIVE MAGNETIC BEARING FROM AIRCRAFT

UNELNO SOUND

2. DESCENDING EAST TO WEST

A. BRIGHT LIGHT

B. AIRCRAFT 373 DEGREES RELATIVE MAGNETIC BEARING FROM AIRCRAFT

C. NONE GIVEN

D. DESCENDING STRAIGHT PATH AND EXPLODED AND DISAPPEARED

E. EXPLODED

F. 5 SECONDS

3. VISUAL

A. AIR VISUAL

E. NONE

C. B26 AF44-34348 9000 FEET 135 DEGREES MAGNETIC 240 KNOTS LONG BEACH CALIF.

4. 15 MAY 1954

A. 163622Z

B. NIGHT

5. 20 MILES SOUTH SALINAS OR 121.25W 36.34N

6. MILITARY THOMPSON LT. COL AF GROUP OPERATIONS OFFICER

ANDERSON R L MAJOR AF PILOT

BACON R.J. LT AF PILOT

7. DVFR WY. FULL MOON ABOVE UNDER HAZE SEEN BY ALL

3 PILOTS

B. 6,000 FT 30 DEGREES AT 10

15,000 FT 180 DEGREES AT 10

16,000 FT 30 DEGREES AT 20

20,000 FT 50 DEGREES AT 25

30,000 FT 120 DEGREES AT 20

C. CLEAR

D. 12 MILES

16/1 57Z MAY JUPRH

FINAL GALLEY PROOF

Galley 41—THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS

observed to follow an erratic course, produced probably by the irregular shape of the meteoric body; some fireballs have been reported to change course after exploding.

The original entrance velocity, angle of entry, size, and chemical structure all influence the shape of a meteor's path and its time of survival. The apparent angle of descent as seen by the observer depends on the distance and the direction the object is moving relative to the observer. When the meteor travels parallel to the observer's line of sight, it seems much slower than when it passes the line of sight at right angles. The greater the distance between the observer and the meteor, the slower its apparent motion [13].

Some meteors move very slowly; traveling at an almost leisurely rate, they soar through the sky on a long, level path almost parallel with the earth. The slow fireballs in the great meteor procession of 1913 maintained a horizontal course over a distance of several thousand miles, from western Canada to Brazil [14].

Astronomical records show that the green meteors are usually slow. Some 230 persons reported to the Meteoritics Society that on November 28, 1953, at 6:30 P.M., a fireball moved slowly through the sky from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania. Described as blue-white-green, changing to orange-yellow-red, it was huge, disk-shaped, and vanished silently without depositing fragments [1, p. 273]. On May 15, 1954, at 11:22 P.M., more than 100 persons observed (and reported) a slow-moving fireball, blue-green changing to red, of luminosity so great that it woke sleeping people. Toward the end of its course it seemed to stop, spiraled a couple of times, and then simply vanished without leaving fragments [8, p. 336].

To summarize: Meteors can travel at low velocities and in apparently horizontal paths.

15 May, 1954
Rocky Mountain States

Meteors in the Records

The American Meteorites Society, whose members specialize in the study of meteors and meteorites, for years have collected reports of such phenomena. From a large enough number of good descriptions of a given meteor, astronomers can analyze the data mathematically and determine the meteor's radiant—the point in the heavens from which it seems to come. The meteor is then identified by its radiant and given an AMS number. The data were published in *Meteoritics*, the journal of the society, and thus made available for future research.

The records of the society for the years 1950 to 1955 list dozens of fireballs, many of them green, that were somehow overlooked by saucer enthusiasts. On August 11, 1950, during the maximum of the Perseid shower, a blue-green fireball (AMS 2336) apparently oval- or cigar-shaped, appeared over Washington, Oregon, and Idaho at 7:30 P.M. and was reported by more than 100 witnesses. So brilliant that it showed a noticeable disk, it flew in a horizontal path, silently broke into three pieces, and disappeared [S, p. 379].

September 20, the same year, was a big day for meteors. At 1:35 A.M. a giant fireball (AMS 2326) roared over southeastern Illinois from north to south, leaving a luminous train visible in five states and illuminating the sky and countryside from St. Louis to Louisville and from Memphis to Knoxville. The final detonation, over western Kentucky, was heard over an area 1000 miles square and shook buildings from Paducah to Memphis. Fragments showed over a twenty-five mile area, struck five buildings, and penetrated one roof. About fifty pounds of meteorites dropped in the area. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington. That same night about 10:45 P.M.

fireballs were reported by plane crews flying over a six-state area—Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico [9, p. 115]. Similar fireballs that vanished without trace were reported on September 28, 1953 (AMS 2331); October 4, 1953 (AMS 2329); May 27, 1954 (AMS 2337); and October 27, 1954 (AMS 2337).