

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 15 Jan 62		2. LOCATION Las Cruces, New Mexico		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical Meteor ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0524 GMT 15/1224		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 sec		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE W-E	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Greenish-white object emitting sparks. Traveled on a horizontal path and was brighter than any planet.				11. COMMENTS Witness indicated that it was a meteor. Description fits that of a classic "fireball." There is no evidence available in this report which indicates that the object was not a meteor.	

1962

"MYSTERY LIGHTS"--as mentioned in Las Cruces Sun-News

In case it should be of any interest to anyone, I happened to be photographing a satellite at 12:16 U. T. on January 15. At the conclusion of the transit I happened to look to the north and saw the most brilliant "fireball" I have ever seen. It was a greenish white and seemed to be emitting sparks and was far brighter than any of the planets. I noted the time on our master clock as 12:24 U. T. This meteor (or meteorite) was traveling west to east and faded from sight due north of me. (NNE) It was going almost on a horizontal path, very slightly slanting downward, and was only about 10 degrees above the horizon when sighted. No red flash as reported by Officer Garcia--also no objects circling in the sky were noted. I don't think we need fear that it was a flying saucer.

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Mystery Lights
Seen Flashing
Over Las Cruces

12:24 U. T. Fireball

More unidentified flying objects were spotted over Las Cruces early today, making this the third incident in about a year and a half.

Officer Dan Garcia reported he saw a "red flash" traveling in the direction of the Organ Mountains about 5:25 a.m.

He said he later observed a white light stationary in the sky, then "circle around" before disappearing. The police department reported similar sightings were reported further north from here.

The radio at White Sands Missile Range told the local department that an aircraft over Las Cruces enroute to El Paso "was just missed by a falling star."

Police here said the sightings were to be checked further by the base.

U F O ANALYSIS SHEET

DATE 15 JAN 1962 LOCATION LAS CRUCES, N.M.
 DATE TIME GROUP LOCAL 15/0524 GMT 15/1224
 PHOTO YES NO ☒ PHYSICAL SPECIMEN YES NO ☒
 SOURCE MILITARY CIVILIAN ☒ TYPE OF OBSERVATION VISUAL
 LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 SECONDS NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1 COURSE W to E
 SATELLITE: IN ORBIT: VERIFY YES: ☒ NO: DECAY:
 ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA METEOR POSSIBLY METEOR
 STAR OR PLANET OTHER
 AIRCRAFT BALLOON
 INSUFFICIENT DATA OTHER
 REFLECTION INVERSION PRESENT PHOTO ANALYSIS
 SUN DOG LENTICULAR CLOUD PHYSICAL SPECIMEN ANALYSIS

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING:

A GREENISH WHITE OBJECT EMITTING SPARKS WAS SIGHTED TRAVELING FROM WEST TO EAST. THE OBJECT WAS TRAVELING ON A HORIZONTAL PATH AND WAS BRIGHTER THAN ANY PLANET. THE OBJECT APPEARED AT 1224 Z. ON 15 JAN 1962 AND WAS IN SIGHT FOR 4 SECONDS.

EVALUATION: CASE CATEGORY: PROBABLY METEOR.

CONCLUSION: THE WITNESS WHO REPORTED THIS OBJECT INDICATED THAT IT WAS A METEOR. THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN FITS THAT OF A CLASSIC "FIREBALL". THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AVAILABLE IN THIS REPORT WHICH INDICATES THAT THE OBJECT WAS