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Case Files of Individual Sightings

File Nos. 600-848

November 27, 1949-December 6, 1950



**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

WASHINGTON: 1976

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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

DR/web

File No: (28-4) - 4

29 December 1949

SUBJECT: Green fireball sighted by Mr [REDACTED], near McIntosh,
New Mexico, on 27 November 1949
SPECIAL INQUIRY - Unconventional Aircraft

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

1AXA

27 Nov 49
New Mexico

1. Reference is made to previous reports concerning the sighting of unidentified aerial objects in the West Texas - New Mexico - Arizona area.
2. Attached are two (2) copies of Report of Investigation by Special Agent RUSSELL O. WOMACK, Jr, of this office, dated 29 November 1949, concerning a sighting of this nature.
3. This district will continue to forward all reports of this type to your headquarters.

Doyle Rees

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv (dup)

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

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7-3712-26
N.M.
green
fireball

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. (24-8) - 4	DATE 29 November 1949
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Green Fireball Sighted by Mr [REDACTED] near McIntosh, New Mexico, on 27 Nov 1949		REPORT MADE BY S/A RUSSELL O. WOMACK, JR	
		REPORT MADE AT DO # 17, Kirtland AFB	
		PERIOD 28 November 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO # 17, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - Unconventional Aircraft			
REFERENCE AFCSI Letter No. 85; Headquarters OSI file 24-185			
SYNOPSIS At about 1800 hours MST 27 November 1949 Mr [REDACTED] observed a green fireball Near McIntosh, New Mexico. At the time of the sighting Mr [REDACTED] was in an aircraft at approximately 2000 feet altitude. The object, which appeared to resemble a signal flare and was visible for about one second, descended to the earth in a vertical path and apparently burned out.			
DISTRIBUTION ✓CG ALC ATTN: MCIAXO-3 (Action copies) 2 Hq OSI 2 CO, Holloman AFB 1 FBI, El Paso, Texas 1 File 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AF Base Dayton Ohio ATTN: MCIAXO-3 APPROVED  DOYLE REES Lt Col, USAF UNCLASSIFIED Historical Commander.	
		FILE STAMP	

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DETAILS:

AT HOLLOMAN AFB, NEW MEXICO

1. Interviewed Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ C, Parachute Engineer, Headquarters, AMC, regarding an observation by him of a Green Light in the sky. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ furnished the following information.

- a. Date of sighting: 27 November 1949.
- b. Time of sighting: Approximately 1800 hours MST
- c. Place of observer: In aircraft at 105° 47' longitude and 35° 10' latitude.
- d. Number of objects: One
- e. Observable Celestial Phenomena: Nothing unusual.
- f. Distance of object from observer:
 - (1) Horizontally: 10 to 20 miles; 190° Azimuth
 - (2) Angle above Horizon: Unable to determine; observer was above object.
 - (3) Altitude: Less than 2000 ft (altitude of plane at time of sighting - 2000 ft).
- g. Time in Sight: Approximately 1 second.
- h. Appearance of Object:
 - (1) Color: Green like a one-star signal flare.
 - (2) Shape: Same as flare above.
 - (3) Apparent construction: None
 - (4) Size: Same as signal flare.
- i. Direction of Flight: Vertical
- j. Tactics or maneuvers: Vertical Descent.
- k. Evidence of Exhaust: None
- l. Effect on Clouds: No clouds.
- m. Lights: None, except it appeared to be the same intensity as a one-star signal flare.
- n. Supports: None
- o. Propulsion: Falling
- p. Control and Stability: Not applicable.
- q. Air ducts: Not applicable.
- r. Speed: Same as falling signal flare.
- s. Sound: None
- t. Manner of disappearance: Same as signal flare.

2. The following are this agent's observations concerning the observer:

- a. Name: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
- b. Address: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ New Carlisle, Ohio.
- c. Occupation: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~; formerly ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Hq, A.M.C. and as such has had great amount of experience with signal flares.

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- d. Place of business: Headquarters, AMC
- e. Hobbies: Boating
- f. Ability to determine: Excellent
- g. Reliability of observer: Apparently excellent.
- h. Former sightings: None
- i. How attention was drawn to object: Falling light
- j. Degree of fatigue: None

3. ~~Went~~ stated that there were no other witnesses.

4. A check with the Base Weather Detachment, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, revealed that weather conditions in the vicinity of McIntosh, New Mexico, were normal at 1800 hours on 27 November 1949.

5. A check with the Operations & Projects Division, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, revealed that there had been no unusual radar sighting nor had there been any testing devices released which could account for the phenomenon, on 27 November 1949. Captain ~~Richardson~~, Pilot of the aircraft from which the object was observed, stated that they received no radar inductions or unusual noises on the radio circuits.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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

DR/web

File No: (24-8) - 7

13 January 1950

SUBJECT: "FIREBALL", 27 November 1949, at 1749 hours, observed by
Lt Col CHARLES E. LANCASTER, Jr, W. W. JONES and Lt JOHN W. RAPP
SPECIAL INQUIRY - Unconventional Aircraft

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

27 Nov 49
Kirtland AFB, N.M.

1. Reference is made to previous reports from this district concerning sightings of unidentified aerial objects.
2. Attached are two (2) copies of a Report of Investigation by Special Agent Melvin E. Neef of this office, dated 5 January 1949, subject as above.
3. This district will continue to forward reports of sightings of this nature to your headquarters.

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv (dup)

Doyle Rees
DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. (24-8) - 7	DATE 5 January 1950
TITLE "FIREBALL", 27 November 1949, at 1749 Hours, Observed By: (See Page No. 2).		REPORT MADE BY S/A MELVIN E. NEEF	
		REPORT MADE AT 17th DO, Kirtland AFB	
		PERIOD 5 December 1949	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN 17th DO, Kirtland AFB	
		STATUS CLOSED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE AFCSI Letter No. 85, Hq Office of Special Investigations, File No. 24-185.			
SYNOPSIS This investigation is based upon information received from Lt Col CHARLES E. LANCASTER, Jr., Deputy Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base. Persons sighting subject interviewed and information set out in Details herein.			
DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
CG, AMC (Action Copies)	2	Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AFB Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAXO-3	UNCLASSIFIED
HQ OSI	2		
FBI, ALBUQUERQUE (Info copy)	1		
CO, KIRTLAND AFB	1		
FILE	2		
		APPROVED  DOYLE REES Lt Col, USAF District Commander.	

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TITLE (Continued)

Lt Col CHARLES E. LANCASTER, Jr.
Deputy Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, N. M.
Observed from Socorro, New Mexico.

W. W. JONES
Chief Controller
Air Traffic Control
Civil Aeronautics Administration
Observed from Control Tower, Kirtland Air Force Base, N. M.

1st Lt JOHN W. RAPP
230 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Solano Street
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Observed from Winslow, Arizona.

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation predicated upon information received from Lt Col CHARLES E. LANCASTER, Jr., Deputy Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. LANCASTER advised that while enroute to Albuquerque from El Paso, Texas, in the vicinity of Socorro, New Mexico, on 27 November 1949, at 1749, he observed a green "Fireball" that appeared to fall near Albuquerque.

AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

2. This is a joint investigation conducted by Special Agent JAMES N. KERRICK and the writer.

3. On 5 December 1949, Lt Col CHARLES E. LANCASTER, Jr., Deputy Base Commander, Kirtland Air Force Base, was interviewed and the following information obtained.

- a. Sighted at 1749 hours, 27 November 1949.
- b. Sighted from Socorro, New Mexico.
- c. One object observed.
- d. Driving in general direction of observation.
- e. Direction from observer -

Appeared	-	10° True	(EST)
Disappeared	-	5° True	"
- f. Angle of elevation -

Appeared	-	40°	"
Disappeared	-	10°	"
- g. Approximately 75 miles from observer.
- h. Time in sight - 5 seconds, possibly longer.
- i. Color - pale green to pale blue.
- j. Size of object - compared to shooting star the size of a match head.
It was as large as a washtub.
- k. Shape - round.
- l. Construction - unknown.
- m. Direction of flight - arced, East to West.
- n. Maneuver - none.
- o. Trail - 10 - 15 miles in length.
- p. No clouds.
- q. Luminosity - Bright.
- r. No apparent projections or depressions.
- s. No visible means of propulsion.
- t. Speed - Slower than meteor.
- u. No sound or odor.
- v. Faded out gradually.
- w. Colonel LANCASTER studied astronomy while in college and is considered very reliable. He stated this object was definitely not a meteorite.

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4. On 30 November 1949, 1st Lt JOHN W. RAPP, 230 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Solano Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was interviewed and the following information obtained:

- a. Object sighted at 1749 hours, on 27 November 1949.
- b. Object observed from 35° 05' N, 110° 50' E.
- c. One object observed.
- d. Attracted by bright flash.
- e. Direction from observer - 3 o'clock.
- f. Angle of elevation - 30°
- g. Distance from observer - unknown.
- h. Time in sight - 3 - 4 seconds.
- i. Color - bright blue white.
- j. Size - egg at arms length.
- k. Shape - egg shape, large end foremost.
- m. Construction of object - unknown.
- n. Direction of flight - East to West.
- o. No tactics or maneuvers.
- p. Long orange trail of sparks.
- q. No clouds.
- r. Luminosity - like a phosphorus flare.
- s. No projections or depressions observed.
- t. No visible means of propulsion.
- u. Speed - 3 - 4 seconds to cover 15° - 20°.
- v. No sound or odor.
- w. Manner of disappearance - dwindled out.
- x. Lt RAPP is considered to be reliable and appears self-assured.

5. On 12 December 1949, Mr. W. W. JONES, Chief Controller, Air Traffic Control, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Kirtland Air Force Base, was interviewed and the following information was obtained:

- a. Object was observed at 1749 hours on 27 November 1949.
- b. Object was observed from 106° 36' E, 35° 4' N. control tower at Kirtland Air Force Base.
- c. Only one object was observed.
- d. Attention attracted by flash of light.
- e. Direction from observer -
 - Appeared - 165°
 - Disappeared - 170°
- f. Angle of elevation -
 - Appeared - 50
 - Disappeared - 30
- g. Distance from observer - unknown.
- h. Time in sight - 1 - 2 seconds.
- i. Color of object - blue white, magnesium flare.
- j. Size of object - lead pencil eraser at arms length.
- k. Apparent construction - unknown.
- l. Direction of flight - 165° to 170° from North.

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- m. Tactics or maneuvers - Sloping descent.
- n. Evidence of trail or exhaust - none observed.
- o. Effect on clouds - no clouds.
- p. Luminosity - bright as magnesium flare.
- q. Projections and depressions - none observed.
- r. Means of propulsion - none observed.
- s. Speed of object - 5 to 7 degrees per second.
- t. Sound or odor - none.
- u. Manner of disappearance - went out, then came on in smaller size, same brilliance, then sputtered out.
- v. Mr. W. W. JONES has in the past proven to be a very reliable observer.

- CLOSED -

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