Incident #106

ATIC NO. ----

AF NO. ---

REPORT NO. ---

DATE OF REPORT ----

TIME OF [illegible] 1610-1655

SHAPE similar to falling aircraft

SIZE ----

COURSE earthward

NO. IN GROUP 2

SOUND -----

PHOTOS ----- REMARKS -----

DATE OF INFO 5 Mar 48

LOCATION Bakersfield, Calif

SOURCE male civilian

DATE IN TO ATIC -----

COLOR Seemingly on fire, black and red smoke trailing

SPEED -----

ALTITUDE -----

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED -----

TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground

MANEUVERS ----

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jun 52)

[redacted]

Incident #106-- Bakersfield, California -- 5 March 1948

While this report taken alone, with allowances made for subjective reporting, could be considered as applying to a disintegrating meteorite, the occurrence of at least three very similar incidents (see # 107, 108, 109) at the same location, over a time interval of a few days, is sufficient to make this hypothesis completely untenable.

The description applies more closely to the "star shell" (a projectile which after disintegration emits a parachute to bring instruments safely to the ground), with which this investigator was familiar during the war, than to anything else.

[redacted]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 106

1. Date 5 March 1948
2. Time 1610 - 1655
3. Location Bakersfield, California
4. Name of observer [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer N/S
6. Address of observer Bakersfield, California
7. Place of observation From ground, southwest toward Buena Vista Lake, Calif.
8. Number of objects Two
9. Distance of object from observer 10 - 12 miles
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude N/S
12. Speed N/S
13. Direction of flight Earthward
14. Tactics N/S
15. Sound N/S
16. Size N/S
17. Color Seemingly on fire, black and red smoke trailing behind
18. Shape Similar to falling aircraft
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails Brownish-white smoke and debris trailing
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Behind a water tower, which was an obstruction to the view
26. Remarks: Comments of [redacted] and other witnesses to this sighting contained in attached supplement.

(over)

Object appeared to be a burning fabric airplane
covered in smoke and left a brownish-white plume
of smoke which suddenly stopped and disappeared.
Seconds later what appeared to be a parachute was seen
drifting to the east. Object was 10-12 miles distance

Note: Hq. 4th AF is of the opinion that this
activity could be attributed to marker flares

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Ltr frm Hq 4th AF, dated 11 Mar 48, subject: "Investigation of Flying Disc"

AFOIR-CO-5 1st Ind.

2 APR 1948

Department of the Air Force, Hq. USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2
Intelligence
Hamilton Field, California

4AFDA-3/1208-I

SUBJECT: Investigation of Flying Disc. MAR 11 1948

TO: Chief of Staff
United States Air Forces
Washington, D. C.
ATTN: Directorate of Intelligence
Air Intelligence Requirements Branch

1. Incident reported on 9 March 1948, this headquarters, per telephone call from Sgt A. M. Larsen, Sheriff's office, Bakersfield, California.

a. Observation by Mr. [redacted], Bakersfield, California, of two objects falling to earth from unknown source on 5 March 1948 between 1610 and 1655 hours. Description of objects similar to falling aircraft with smoke and debris trailing. Observation made at Bakersfield with objects sighted southwest toward Buena Vista Lake, California.

b. Observation by Mr [redacted] employee of the Pacific General Electric Company, Bakersfield, California, of two objects which fell to earth from unknown source north of Bakersfield, California, 8 March 1948. One object seemed to be on fire with red and black smoke trailing behind.

2. Informant [redacted] stated that searching parties, aircraft and rescue units have made numerous attempts to locate these reported objects without success.

3. Investigation of incident has been initiated by this headquarters. Report will follow.

[redacted]

DONALD L. SPRINGER
Lt. Colonel, USAF
AC of S, A-2

Information to:
ADC, Mitchel Fld, N.Y.
FBI, San Francisco
G-2, Sixth Army
ONI, San Francisco (12th Nav.Dist)

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2
Intelligence
Hamilton Field, California

4AFDA-3/1203-I

SUBJECT: Investigation of Flying Disc. Mar 11, 1948

TO: Chief of Staff
United States Air Forces
Washington, D. C.
ATTN: DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Air Intelligence Requirements Branch

1. Incident reported on 9 March 1948, this headquarters, per telephone call from Sgt A. M. Larsen, Sheriff's office, Bakersfield, California.

a. Observation by Mr. [redacted], Bakersfield, California, of two objects falling to earth from unknown source on 5 March 1948 between 1610 and 1655 hours. Description of objects similar to falling aircraft with smoke and debris trailing. Observation made at Bakersfield with objects sighted southwest toward Buena Vista Lake, California.

b. Observation by Mr. [redacted], employee of the Pacific General Electric Company, Bakersfield, California, of two objects which fell to earth from unknown source north of Bakersfield, California, 6 March 1948. One object seemed to be on fire with red and black smoke trailing behind.

2. Informant [redacted] stated that searching parties, aircraft and rescue units have made numerous attempts to locate these reported objects without success.

3. Investigation of incident has been initiated by this headquarters. Report will follow.

/s/ Donald L. Springer
DONALD L. SPRINGER
Lt. Colonel, USAF
AC of S, A-2

Information to:
ADC, Mitchel Fld, N.Y.
FBI, San Francisco
G-2, 6th Army
ONI, San Francisco (12th Nav.Dist)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.9

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff
Intelligence
Hamilton Field, California

UNCLASSIFIED

4AFDA-3/1208-I

SUBJECT: Investigation of Flying Discs

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Information from the Sheriff's Office, Bakersfield, California, revealed that numerous calls from residents in Bakersfield concerning peculiar objects in the sky over Bakersfield, predicated an investigation by their office and contact with A-2 Headquarters Fourth Air Force.

On 13th March 1948, two informants, Mr. [redacted], and Mr. [redacted], stated that they observed a flying object which appeared to be consumed in fire, and left a brownish-white plume of smoke, which suddenly stopped and disappeared. Seconds later, what appeared to be a parachute, was seen to be drifting to the east.

The object, as described, appeared to be a burning fabric airplane, consumed in smoke. Observations were made in Bakersfield of object to the south and southwest, approximately ten to twelve miles distance, around 1600 hours on 5 March 1948.

On 13th March 1948, informant, Mr. [redacted], stated that he observed an object at 0830, 8 March 1948, due north of Bakersfield, approximately five miles distance. The object was a large, orange-red ball of fire, somewhat larger than a small airplane, appeared to remain static for approximately thirty seconds, then split and continued to burn; each visible as a burning half. A parachute, with a black object hanging was then observed to fall, drift to the east and disappeared into the hills east of Bakersfield.

On 13th March 1948, two informants, Mrs. [redacted], secretary, Haberfelde Building, Bakersfield, California, and Dr. [redacted], dentist Haberfelde Building, Bakersfield, California, stated that they were in [redacted], on the morning of 9 March 1948. Mrs. [redacted] was a patient of Dr. [redacted]. Both informants stated that they observed a flaming object which appeared at first to be a very small airplane. Orange red flames seemed to envelope the object with considerable black smoke trailing in a zigzag manner for approximately 4,000 to 5,000 feet. The object was observed at 1,000 feet, approximately due north of Bakersfield, seven to ten miles distant at approximately 0830 hours.

Informants further stated that the object disappeared behind a water tower, which was an obstruction to their view, and was near the ground. Both informants watched for an explosion, thinking that it would explode upon reaching the ground, but nothing unusual was noted.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

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A-2 COMMENT:

Although there is no evidnece to substantiate the following, it is the opinion of this headquarters that this activity could be attributed to marker flares. Any further developments, or evidence obtained, will be forwarded this headquarters from the Sheriff's Office, Bakersfield, California.

EVALUATION

Of Source	Of Information
C	3

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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.