Incident # 258

NTIC NO. —

DATE OF INC 17 Feb 1949

AF NO. —

LOCATION Gandia Base, N. M.

TYPE OF RPT. —

SOURCE T/Sgt USA

DATE OF REPORT —

DATE IN TO ATIC —

TIME OF OBS. 0552

COLOR Orange Red as Fire

SHAPE Globular with Tail

SPEED Similar to P-80

SIZE 1/3 Half Moon

ALTITUDE 10,000'-15,000'

COURSE Northwest to Southeast

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 5 to 7 Seconds

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

TRACKS —

DELIVERY Straight Descending course of 35° to 5°..

PHOTOS — SKETCHES —

Astro (meteor)

Astro

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[redacted]

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

452.1 AKADB

28 February 1949

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: M.C.I.

1. Reference letter Intelligence Division, GSUSA, CSGID 452.1, 25 March 1948, subj. "Unconventional Aircraft," and to Control No. A-1917.

2. Inclosed Summary of Information, this office, subject and file as above, 28 February 1949, re unidentified flying object sighted from Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17 February 1949, is forworded for your information and any action deemed necessary.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
As stated

EUSTIS L. POLAND
Colonel, GSC
AC of S, G-2

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[redacted]

S/I, AC of S, G-2, Hq Fourth Army, 452.1 AKADE, 28 Feb 49, subj, "Unconventional Aircraft"

(10) Exhaust trail: Blue flame, 4 to 5 times length of object.

"2. Transit measurements taken at 0730 showed following readings:

(a) Appearance:
Vertical azimuth: 35° 01' 00"
Horizontal azimuth: 221° 30' 09"

(b) Disappearance:
Vertical azimuth: 05° 00' 03"
Horizontal azimuth: 166° 29' 00"

(c) Time in passage: 5 to 7 seconds.

"3. The observer, M/Sgt MITCHELL, formerly an anti-aircraft gunner, stated that the object looked like a plane hit by AA fire, gliding out of control on a long angle to earth. He further stated that it was in range of a multiple .50 cal. AA weapon."

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE 28 February 1949

PREPARING OFFICE
Office of the AC of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

SUBJECT

Unconventional Aircraft
452.1 AKADB

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:		OF INFORMATION:	
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	A	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	1
USUALLY RELIABLE	B	PROBABLY TRUE	2
FAIRLY RELIABLE	C	POSSIBLY TRUE	3
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	D	DOUBTFULLY TRUE	4
UNRELIABLE	E	IMPROBABLE	5
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN	F	TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED	6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The following report has been received from Fourth Army Intelligence Liaison Officer, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17 February 1949:

"1. An unidentified flying object was sighted from Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 17 February 1949. Detail of sighting follows.

(a) Observer: M/Sgt John P. MITCHELL, 8456 M.P. Co., AFSWP.

(b) Time of sighting: 17 Feb 1949, 0552 hours.

(c) Location of sighting: Sandia Base.

(d) Weather: Clear. No clouds. ½ moon in western zenith.

(e) Witnesses: None.

(f) Photographs: None.

(g) Object sighted:

(1) Number: One.

(2) Shape: Globular as a ball with trailing tail.

(3) Size: Compared to half moon in sky, object about 1/3 size of moon.

(4) Color: Orange red as fire. Trailing tail blue as gas flame.

(5) Speed: Undetermined. Said to be like F-80 Jet plane.

(6) Heading: NW to SE.

(7) Maneuverability: No deviation from descending course of 35° to 5°.

(8) Altitude: Estimated by observer 10,000 to 15,000 feet. Measurements 35° on appearance to 5° at disappearance.

(9) Sound: None identifiable. Considerable motor noise at Kirtland AFB drowned out other possible sound.

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INCIDENT NO. 258

1. Date of Observation 17th Feb 48 Date of Interview 28 Feb 48

2. Exact time (local) 0552

3. Place of Observation Sandia Base, Albuquerque, N. M.

4. Position of observer ground

5. What attracted attention to object -

6. Number of objects 1

7. Apparent size Compared to half-moon in the sky at the time, the object appeared about 1/3 its size

8. Color of object orange red as fire

9. Shape Globular (as ball) with trailing tail

10. Altitude 10,000 to 15,000 ft (35° elevation when first sighted)

11. Direction from observer Appeared 221-1/2° Disappeared 166-1/2°

12. Distance from observer

13. Direction of flight of object(s) NW to SE

14. Time in sight 5 - 7 seconds

15. Speed Undetermined but like P-80 aircraft

16. Sound and odor Not distinguishable

17. Trail Blue tail (as gas flame) 4 - 5 times length of object

18. Luminosity

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers Straight descending course of 35° to 5°

21. Manner of disappearance Vertical azimuth 05° 00' 03" Horizontal azimuth 166° 29' 00"

22. Effect on clouds

23. Additional information concerning object

24. Weather conditions Clear, no clouds. 1/2 moon in western zenith

(over)

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Incident: 258

Name and address of observer: M/Sgt John P. Mitchell, 8456 Mp P. Co., AFSWP

Occupation and hobbies: M/Sgt - formerly an anti-aircraft gunner

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

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

M/Sgt John P. MITCHELL sighted a globular shaped object with a trailing tail about 1/3 the size of a half-moon in the sky. The color was orange red as fire and the trailing tail was blue like a gas flame. Speed was like a P-80 jet plane and the heading was NW to SE. There was no deviation from a descending course of 35° to 5°. There was no identifiable sound. Considerable motor noise at Kirtland AF Base drowned out other possible sound. It first appeared on a vertical azimuth 35° 01' 00" and horizontal azimuth of 221° 30' 09" according to transit measurements taken at 0730. It disappeared on a vertical azimuth of 05° 00' 03" and a horizontal azimuth of 166° 29' 00". Time in passage was 5 to 7 seconds. The exhaust trail was blue flame 4 to 5 times the length of the object. M/Sgt MITCHELL stated that the object looked like a plane hit by AA fire, gliding out of control on a long angle to earth. He further stated that it was in range of a multiple.50 cal. AA weapon."

See incident 255 & 255A of same date

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