

11/00158

ATIC NO. 222 ✓ DATE OF INFO 31 1950  
AF NO. 222 LOCATION St. John's, Newfoundland  
REPORT NO. 222 SOURCE Many  
DATE OF REPORT 18 Aug 50 DATE IN TO ATIC ---  
TIME OF REPORTING Betw. 2000 & 2030 COLOR Very colorful - description, vary  
SHAPE Circular COLOR from green to yellowish cream  
SIZE --- SPEED high MEASURED  
COURSE --- ALTITUDE 10000-50000 MEASURED  
NO. IN GROUP 1 LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ---  
FOUND --- TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
PHOTOS --- MANEUVERS Performed Arc.  
SKETCHES --- REMARKS: One observer stated he was  
positive object was a meteor.

Temporary ATIC Form 329  
(2 Jan 52)

12715 (ATC 1006)

HEADQUARTERS **UNCLASSIFIED**  
NEWFOUNDLAND BASE COMMAND  
PEPPERRELL AIR FORCE BASE  
APO 862, c/o POSTMASTER, N.Y., N.Y.

44  
IG/OSI/MM/bm

IN REPLY  
REFER TO 333.5

AUG 19 1950

**SUBJECT:** Transmittal Report of Investigation  
NFBC/OSI 24-185 30 July 1950.

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

Transmitted herewith is OSI report of investigation  
24-185 for your information and disposition.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

*W. W. Bowden*

1 Incl  
OSI Report 24-185  
(2 copies)

*W. W. BOWDEN*  
Captain, USAF  
Asst Adj Gen

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

*507.12  
W.W.B.*

1950 AUG 13 45

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~~SECRET~~

C - Col Name

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24-185

31.23

(Unclassified) UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT Sighted  
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Documents & Dissemination Br, Directorate of  
Intelligence, DCS/O

Counter Intelligence Div, Office of Special  
Investigations, The Inspector General

1  
Lt Col Hold/bjm/53623  
AFCSI

Attached for your information are Spot Intelligence Reports concerning captioned subject, dated 31 July 1950, 18 August 1950, and 21 August 1950.

3 Incls

1.SIR re abv subj fr Hqs  
Newfoundland Base Command  
dtd 31 Jul 50

2.SIR re abv subj fr Hqs  
Newfoundland Base Command  
dtd 18 Aug 50

3.SIR re abv subj fr Hqs  
Newfoundland Base Command  
dtd 21 Aug 50

GILBERT R. LEVY  
Actg Chief, Counter Intelligence Div  
Office of Special Investigations  
The Inspector General

AF222591 -1

When Incl No. ~~42+18~~ (are) withdrawn  
or not attached, the classification of  
~~the information~~ on this correspondence  
will be cancelled in accordance with  
par 25e, AFR 205-1.

Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the ~~existence~~ of such  
investigative information to persons mentioned in the report  
or to other persons not ~~especially~~ entitled to such information  
may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director  
of Special Investigations, IG, or higher authority.

30 July 50  
31.23  
12 Aug 50

30 July - Meteor

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222591 -2

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

31 July 1950

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Unconventional Aircraft sighted in vicinity St. John's Nfld., 30 July 50 by Mr. Roland Hann.

**TO :** Commander  
Military Air Transport Service  
Washington 25, D. C.  
**ATTN:** Office of Special Investigation

1. Synopsis:

Various persons in the vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland have reported that on the evening of 30 July 50 at approximately 2015 hours, an unconventional aircraft was seen flying over the area North of Pepperrell Air Force Base and St. John's, Newfoundland. Detailed descriptions of the object were varied and few definite details could be established. Estimates of size, shape and speed varied widely but the general consensus of opinion was that the aircraft did not attain any extraordinary rate of speed while in sight. Some witnesses indicate that object may have struck ground in the vicinity of Pepperrell Air Force Base but to date it has not been found or reported.

2. Details:

On 31 July 50 Mr. [REDACTED] of Kings Road, St. John's, Nfld., a painter with G. R. Parsons was interviewed and reported that at approximately 2012 hours, 30 July '50, I was sitting on the top of the hill at the ball park in St. John's with my 8 year old son. He kept looking toward the buildings at Pepperrell and asking, what's this building and so on. As we looked, I saw a strange object in the sky near the area of the towers on the far side of the base. It was a blunt headed object, perhaps two or three feet in diameter, and at least 10 feet long. It was moving fast and trailing a brilliant stream of flame. It was only in sight about three or four seconds, and was gone. It seemed to appear from behind the hills.

on 31 July 50 [REDACTED], 1933-1 AAC, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld was interviewed and reported he was on 1600 hours to 2400 hours shift at White Hills, transmitter site, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld on 30 July 50. At approximately 2020 hours, he was [REDACTED] his bunk reading and heard a distinct thud as if someone had closed a jeep door or something similar, but not as sharp a sound, more

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~~SECRET~~  
Subject: Unconventional Aircraft sighted in vicinity St. John's  
Newfoundland, 30 July 50

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like something hitting the ground. He did not think it was far away. In fact, he arose and looked around thinking it might be the O.D.'s jeep on his routine check but he could see nothing.

On 31 July 50 S. [REDACTED] AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and reported that at about 2015 hours, 30 July 50 he was coming to the base in his car along Quidi Vidi Blvd. and saw an object described below come out of the overcast above the hill behind the base incinerator. It was approximately the size of a C-47 fuselage perhaps a little longer considering the flame. It broke through about 1000 feet above the top of the hill at about 45° travelling toward the ground. The object was alone. It was travelling directly toward the tower at White Hills. The first section appeared to be a yellowish cream color, the rest was the color of fire, but he could not say if it was a flame or not. The actual flame appeared to be a very hot flame and extended approximately 30 feet behind and was about 10 feet in diameter. He could see no smoke. He could hear no sound whatsoever. He noticed no effect on the clouds, it was so quick. The speed was too fast to notice any detail. He could see no wings. It was travelling at about 250 m.p.h. It disappeared down behind the White Hills transmitter site. It did not change in appearance from the time he saw it until it disappeared. It did not appear as a meteor but rather from out at sea. He has seen shooting stars but this did not appear the same. He was completely sober at the time.

On 31 July 50 M. [REDACTED] Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and reported that at about 2015, 30 July 50 he saw something that flashed in from the sea toward White Hills and died out. It looked like a meteor to him. It was approximately 4 feet in diameter and had a bright red flame behind it. It appeared circular in shape and appeared like a ball of fire. He was about 1½ miles from the object. It was in fairly level flight at about 2,500 feet. No smoke, no sound, weather was fairly clear, flame behind was short and flat, not a long trail or smoke. No wings or other lift apparent. No jet openings or exhaust ports visible. No visible control surfaces. As he watched, it descended right over the transmitter site at White Hills and went out all at once. Nothing appeared to fall and he could no longer see the object. It appeared an explosion. He has previously seen meteors but never this close to ground. He was walking toward base and facing direction at time.

3. Actions: Intelligence and Air Inspector Marshal at Newfoundland Base Command notified 31 July 1950.

*C. I. Benson*

C. I. BENSON  
Lt. Col., USAF  
Air Inspector

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

TITLE

Unconventional Aircraft  
30 July 1950, St. John's, Nfld.

FILE NO.

24-185

DATE

18 August 1950

REPORT MADE BY

S/A Ralph O. Robillard

REPORT MADE AT

Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland

PERIOD

31 July - 15 August 1950

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

D.O. #4

STATUS

R.U.C.

CHARACTER

Special Inquiry--Unconventional Aircraft

REFERENCE

AFCISI LTR. 106

SYNOPSIS

Various persons in the vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland have reported that on the evening of 30 July '50 at approximately 2015 hours, an unconventional aircraft was seen flying over the area North of Pepperrell Air Force Base and St. John's, Newfoundland. Detailed descriptions of the object were varied and few definite details could be established. Estimates of size, shape and speed varied widely but the general consensus of opinion was that the aircraft did not attain any extraordinary rate of speed while in sight. Some witnesses indicate that object may have struck ground in the vicinity of Pepperrell Air Force Base but to date it has not been found or reported.

DETAILS:

This is a joint investigation of S/A [REDACTED] and S/A [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] a painter of Kings Road, St. John's, Newfoundland was interviewed and stated at approximately 2012 hours, 30 July '50, I was sitting on the top of the hill at the ball park in St. John's with my 8 year old son. He kept looking toward the buildings at Pepperrell and asking, what's this building and so on. As we looked, I saw a strange object in the sky near the area of the towers on the far side of the base. It was a blunt headed object, perhaps two or three feet in diameter, and at least 10 feet long. It was moving fast and trailing a brilliant stream of flame. It was only in sight about three or four seconds, and was gone. It seemed to appear from behind the hills.

DISTRIBUTION

CG AMC - 2  
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ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright Patterson AFB  
Dayton, Ohio

FILE STAMP

APPROVED

*C.M. Swenson*  
CARL M. SWENSON  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Air Inspector

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District Commander.

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2.

Lt. Col. [redacted] Director of Intelligence, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated, between 2000 and 2030 local time, 30 July 1950, while in-bound to St. John's on Topsail Road, the undersigned sighted an unidentified object at about 30 to 40 degree angle above the horizon travelling in a north-westerly direction. Object resembled meteor or shooting star in general appearance but was too close (estimated 5 or 6 miles) and too low (estimated 5,000 or 6,000 feet) to be a meteor. Object was travelling in a flat arc; had brilliant greenish glow which burned out just before striking the ground at a distance estimated to have been 8 to 10 miles northwest of St. John's. Object was assumed to have been some sort of signal flare or rocket although the distance travelled and evident size of object gave a different appearance from normal signal flares.

Lt. Col. [redacted] of Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated he saw, at approximately 8:00-8:30 o'clock 30 July 1950, an aerial object shoot across the sky from southeast to northwest. He stated that it travelled in an almost horizontal line but had a definite arc. He stated that he was positive it was a meteor, the most beautiful he had ever seen.

M/Sgt [redacted] AACs Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated, at about 2015, 30 July 50 I saw something that flashed in from the sea toward White Hills and died out. It looked like a meteor to me. It was approximately four feet in diameter and had a bright red flame behind it. It appeared circular in shape and appeared like a ball of fire. I was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the object. It was in fairly level flight at about 2,500 feet, no smoke, no sound, weather was fairly clear, flame behind was short and flat, not a long trail or pointed. No wings or other lift apparent. No jet openings or exhaust ports visible. No visible control surfaces. As I watched, it darkened right over the transmitter site at White Hills and went out all at once. Nothing appeared to fall and I could no longer see the object. No apparent explosion. I have previously seen meteors but never that close to the ground.

S/Sgt [redacted] AACs, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated, at about 2015 hours, 30 July '50 I was coming to the base in my car along Quidi Vidi Blvd. and I saw an object described below come out of the overcast above the hill behind the base incinerator. It was approximately the size of a C-47 fuselage perhaps a little longer considering the flame. It broke through about 1000 feet above the top of the hill at about  $45^{\circ}$  travelling toward the ground. The object was alone. It was travelling directly toward the tower at White Hills. The first section appeared to be a yellowish cream color, the rest was the color of fire, but I could not say if it was a flame or not. The actual flame appeared to be a very hot flame and extended approximately 30 feet behind and was about 10 feet in diameter. I could see no smoke. I could hear no sound whatsoever. I noticed no effect on the clouds, it was so quick. The speed was too fast to notice any detail. I could see no wings. It was travelling at about

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250 i.a.s. It disappeared down behind the White Hills transmitter site. It did not change in appearance from the time I saw it until it disappeared. It did not appear as a meteor but rather from out at sea. I have seen shooting stars but this did not appear the same. I was completely sober at the time.

[REDACTED] 1225th Air Base Group, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated that at approximately 2000 hours, 30 July '50, I was just crossing the bridge over Virginia Waters, Pepperrell AFB going toward NBC Headquarters. I looked up and saw an object over the valley at the top of White Hills near the transmitter site. It was travelling at a rather high rate of speed and was in sight for approximately one full second. It was moving in a shallow downward arc and disappeared in the vicinity of the White Hills transmitter site. It looked as if it struck the ground. It appeared yellowish red in color, and was in appearance at that distance (one mile away) the size of a soft ball (5" in diameter). I could see no details other than that it was round in appearance. No smoke that I recall. The object appeared to be spinning and it had a considerable flame and spark trail behind it. There was no distinguishable sound. It was brightly aflame as long as I could see it.

[REDACTED] AB Group, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated that at approximately 2000 hours, 30 July '50, I was coming into Kelligrews, Nfld. from Argentia, Nfld. with my husband. We were both in the front seat and driving slowly when I saw a streak going across the sky like a lighted torch from the right to the left in front of us. It was impossible to tell the distance but the sky was overcast. It broke out of a cloud and after travelling a short way, disappeared into another cloud. It had no effect on the clouds that I could see. It appeared like a ball of fire with a long fiery tail like a comet. It was travelling at a terrific speed, or so it seemed.

Mr. [REDACTED] St. John's, Newfoundland, was interviewed and gave substantially the same report as his wife. He also stated, I have seen such items before in this area and it is not unusual. It appeared as a very brilliant ball of fire with a long trail like a comet. It appeared to be a long way off. The sky was heavily overcast and we only saw it through the break. It disappeared behind a cloud.

[REDACTED] AACS, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. was interviewed and stated, I was on 1600 hours to 2400 hours shift at White Hills, transmitter site, Pepperrell AFB, Nfld. on 30 July 50. At approximately 2020 hours, I was on my bunk reading and I heard a distinct thud as if someone had closed a jeep door or something similar, but not as sharp a sound, more like something hitting the ground. I do not think it was far away. In fact, I arose and looked around thinking it might be the O.D.'s jeep on his routine check but I could see nothing.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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M.Sgt [redacted] and the writer conducted a ground survey in the vicinity of the White Hills near the transmitter site but no material of a questionable nature could be located.

**STATUS:** Referred Upon Completion to Office of Origin.

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