

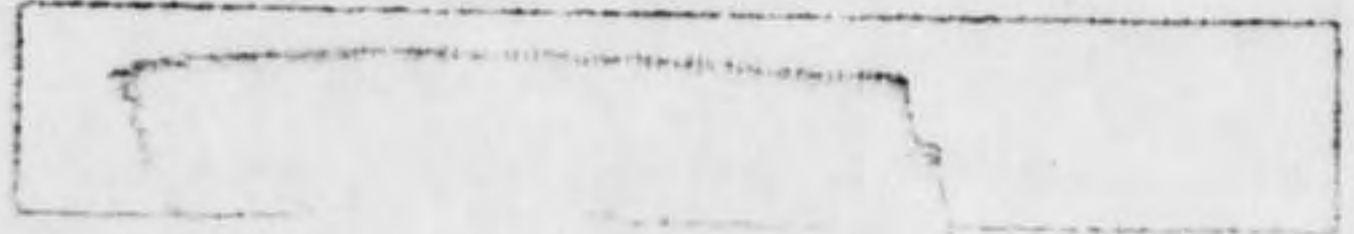
Incident # 253

NAME OF UNIT 17 Feb 1949  
 LOCATION San Diego Base, N. C.  
 SOURCE 1/Sgt USA  
 DATE IN TO ATIC ---  
 TIME OF DAY 0552  
 COLOR Orange Red as Fire  
 APPEARANCE Globular with Tail  
 DURATION 1/3 Half Moon  
 DIRECTION Northwest to Southeast  
 NO. IN GROUP 1  
 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground  
 TRAJECTORY Straight Descending course of 35° to 5°..

*Astro(meteor)*

*~~Astro~~ (3)*

ATC Form 329 (Rev 52)



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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

3-173

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452.1 AKADB

28 February 1949

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

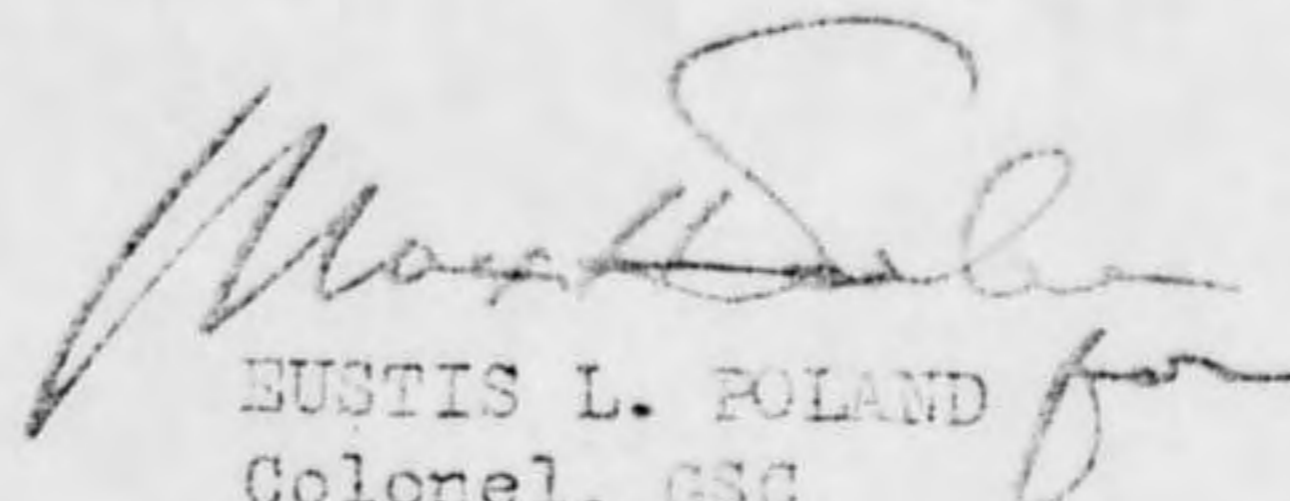
TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: M.C.I.

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 forwarded 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]

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S/1, 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:  $35^{\circ} 01' 00''$

Horizontal azimuth:  $221^{\circ} 30' 09''$

(b) Disappearance:

Vertical azimuth:  $05^{\circ} 00' 03''$

Horizontal azimuth:  $166^{\circ} 29' 00''$

(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."

(B-2)

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SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE 28 February 1949

PREPARING OFFICE

Office of the AG 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.  $\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{1}{3}$  size of moon.
  - (4) Color: Orange red as fire. Trailing tail blue as gas flame.
  - (5) Speed: Undetermined. Said to be like P-80 Jet plane.
  - (6) Heading: NW to SE.
  - (7) Maneuverability: No deviation from descending course of  $35^\circ$  to  $5^\circ$ .
  - (8) Altitude: Estimated by observer 10,000 to 15,000 feet. Measurements  $35^\circ$  on appearance to  $5^\circ$  at disappearance.
  - (9) Sound: None identifiable. Considerable motor noise at Kirtland AFB drowned out other possible sound.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION

1-DI, GSUSA; 1-CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB; File

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INCIDENT NO. 258

1. Date of Observation 17th Feb 1948 Date of Interview 23 Feb 1948
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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Name and address of observer: M/Sgt John P. Mitchell, 8456 M<sup>g</sup> 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:**

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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