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Incident #34, 34a-f -- Manitoba, Canada -- 13 October 1947

The reports of this incident answer to the description of a typical large meteor, or fireball. The trajectory, speed, color, and explosion are particularly convincing evidence.

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Incident #35 -- off coast of Oregon -- 12 November 1947

The information given here is too meager for a definite conclusion to be drawn concerning the identity of the objects observed. It is probable, however, that they were two parts of a meteor that had broken upon entrance into the earth's atmosphere. The length of time in sight is unduly great, but one wonders whether this might not have been grossly overestimated for psychological reasons. Otherwise, the scanty description favors the meteoric hypothesis.

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Incident #88 -- Boise, Idaho -- date unknown (probably November 1947)

Very little can be said of this incident, inasmuch as the date and exact time of observation, speed, altitude and size of object, and length of time in sight are not stated. The speed and time in sight are particularly important in forming a judgment. In the absence of this information, the most that can be said is that the object might have been a fireball.

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[REDACTED]

Incident #37 -- Phoenix, Arizona -- 1- October 1947

There is clearly nothing astronomical about this incident,
and the information given here does not suggest any other explanation.

[REDACTED]

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Incident #38 -- Hungary -- around 10 June 1947

It is extremely unlikely that the objects observed in Hungary were meteorites, unless the meager description given here is quite inaccurate. Without knowledge of the speed and trajectory of the objects, nothing definite can be said.

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Incident #39 -- Grand Falls, Newfoundland -- 9 July 1947

It is extremely unlikely that these objects were meteors, although their speed would argue for such interpretation. Had they been, however, one would expect much more brilliant light, a trail, and perhaps even detonation. Furthermore, their flight in formation argues against their being meteoric.

The meager description suggests a light phenomenon rather than material objects. Was any auroral activity reported in the region at the time? The description answers more closely to a detached auroral streamer than to anything else, but this explanation is perhaps also far fetched.

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Incident #40 — Phoenix, Arizona — 7 July 1947

No astronomical explanation seems possible for the unusual object cited in this incident.

This case is especially important because of the photographic evidence and because of the similarity of these photographs to the drawings by Kenneth Arnold (incident #17). The two incidents are separated by slightly more than two weeks, and, of course, they occurred in different localities. It is, however, perhaps more than coincidence that these two best-attested, entirely independent cases should agree so closely concerning the shape of the object and its maneuverability.

The present investigator would like to suggest that this incident, #40, being one of the most crucial in the history of these objects, be reopened for investigation. The actual camera used by Mr. Rhodes should be examined, and the original negatives preserved. Since, from the size of the image on the photograph, we can have an accurate estimate of the angle subtended by the object, this, in connection with what appears to be a fairly reliable estimate of the distance, can give us an estimate of the forces and accelerations involved in the trajectory described by Mr. Rhodes. (It is unfortunate that a competent investigator was not dispatched at once to "reenact the crime" with Mr. Rhodes and to obtain sketches of the trajectory, etc., before details faded from his memory.) It would be important to know at what

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altitude and azimuth Mr. Rhodes' camera was pointed at the time of his two exposures and the approximate time interval between exposures. Physical data like these are absolutely essential if we are to get anywhere in any basic physical explanation of these incidents.

There remains the strong possibility that the entire incident is spurious, and the invention of an excitable mind. This strengthens the need for reinvestigation; if spurious, this fact should be highlighted and even publicized, to quench enthusiasm for the irresponsible reporting of "saucers" and like objects.

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Incident #41 -- Anchorage, Alaska -- 11 July 1947

No astronomical explanation can be given for this incident.

The object apparently was a balloon, although the meager data given does not allow a definite conclusion.

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Incident #42 -- Anchorage, Alaska -- 12 July 1947

As in incident #41, no astronomical explanation can be given here.

In this incident also, the temptation is to assume that the object seen was a balloon.

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Incident #43 -- Clarion, Iowa -- 29 June 1947

This incident refers to the same sighting by the same observer as that summarized in incident #21. See that report for conclusions.

[REDACTED]

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Incident #44 -- near Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- 28 June 1947

Information given here is insufficient to indicate what was seen. If this were a totally independent observation and not one that was presumably incited by current radio reports of flying saucers, more weight could be given to it. As it is, with flying saucer talk rampant, almost anything from meteors to balloons or aircraft would be reported as saucers by an uncritical observer. It is unlikely, however, that there was anything astronomical about this incident.

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Incident #45 -- Illinois -- 28 June 1947

See statement concerning incident #44.

Information is entirely insufficient to determine whether anything of an astronomical nature was observed.

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Incident #45 -- Illinois -- 28 June 1947

See statement concerning incident #44.

Information is entirely insufficient to determine whether anything of an astronomical nature was observed.

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Incident #48 -- Greenfield, Massachusetts -- 22 June 1947

This incident does not admit of a ready astronomical explanation. The absence of a trail does not favor the meteoric hypothesis, although the speed and brilliance of the object might.

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Incident #47 -- Fairfield-Suisun Air Base, California -- 3 July 1947

This incident cannot be readily explained astronomically. The object was in sight too long to be a meteor, and the variable "reflection" and absence of any statement about trail also argue against that interpretation. It is difficult, however, to rule out the hypothesis completely, because of the lack of pertinent information and the ever-present possibility that the reporting was more subjective than objective.

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Incident #43 -- Clinton County Air Field, Ohio -- 7 January 1948

This incident must be considered with #30, 32, and 33. Combined evidence shows that the object observed from Clinton County Air Field on the evening of 7 January 1948 was undoubtedly the planet Venus.

For discussion of erratic motion related by the observers of the object, and other details, see report on incident #33.

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Incident #49 -- Danville, Kentucky -- 9 January 1948

Although the distance, time in sight, speed, sound, size, color, and construction of the object reported here are not stated, the fact that it showed a long trail and exploded makes it entirely probable that it was a fireball.

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Although the distance, time in sight, speed, sound, size, color, and construction of the object reported here are not stated, the fact that it showed a long trail and exploded makes it entirely probable that it was a fireball.

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Incident #50, 50a -- Wildwood, New Jersey -- 10 January 1948

In view of the unbalanced character of at least one of the observers (as indicated by the report of the interview), this investigator wonders how much credence can be given to the reports of the object or objects cited. For instance, the summary states that the first object was in sight 5-3 seconds, while the interview indicates 15-20 minutes. Assuming that this first incident was authentic and the shorter time correct (it evidently being the estimate given by the second observer), there is nothing in the evidence that is contradictory to the notion that the object observed was nothing more than a slow-moving fireball. The color, splitting into two pieces, and manner of disappearance all support this view.

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Incident #51 -- Oswego, Oregon -- 3 September 1947

The limited information given here does not suggest anything astronomical.

It is surprising that there was only one witness to this incident, since it occurred in a city, at a time when there was a plane in the sky.

If these objects were not ordinary aircraft at a great distance, or a cluster of balloons, then the incident must be considered together with others reporting groups of unidentified round or discoid objects, several of which occurred in this locality (e.g., incidents #6-9, 12-15).

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Incident #22, a -- Hamilton Field, California -- 29 July 1947

The objects observed here were almost certainly not astronomical, although their speed, shape, and manner of disappearance might tend to the fireball hypothesis. The lack of trail and the "tactics" pursued by the second object make the likelihood of that interpretation very slight; however, the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out if considerable allowance is made for looseness in reporting.

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Incident #53 -- near Lake Meade, Nevada -- 28 June 1947

There appears to be nothing astronomical about this incident.

According to the observer, the objects had a speed of 285 MPH and were moving on a course of 120° . Now, since the plane was moving at 285 MPH on a course of 300° , it is possible that the observed motion of the objects was only apparent (since 180° plus 120° equal 300°), and we can conjecture that a cluster of balloons (cosmic ray apparatus perhaps) was observed, the motion of which was merely a reflection of the motion of the plane.

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Incident #54 -- between Dutch coast & Norfolk, England -- 16 Jan. 1947

The object observed here was obviously not astronomical.

From the information given, it appears that this was definitely an aircraft.

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Incident #55 -- Harmon Field, Newfoundland -- 23 July 1947

If proper allowance is made for the reporting of untrained observers, it is possible that the objects observed in this incident were a minor meteor shower. The "reddish flashes of light" and "abrupt darts" would tend to this interpretation. The hypothesis hinges, however, on the statement that "a number of intermittent flashes were observed for three minutes." If this means independent flashes, it lends support to the meteoric interpretation. If it means that the same objects flashed intermittently for three minutes, that theory is ruled out. It seems more probable in view of the statement about "abrupt darts of light" that the former meaning is correct.

There is somewhat more evidence in this incident than in #57 (which is similar, and occurred just three days earlier) favoring meteors, but probably the events of these two incidents are related, and it is very unlikely that meteors could explain both of them.

According to the report of the U. S. Weather Bureau on ball lightning, it would appear that this phenomenon sometimes takes the form of luminous darts and can be red. Perhaps this could offer an alternate explanation for the incident.

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Incident w83 -- Birmingham, Alabama -- 6 July 1947

This incident has no obvious astronomical explanation.

The photograph purported to be a part of the report of the incident is not documented. There is no proof in the evidence at hand that it shows the objects described. From the word description alone, which is quite limited, the objects could be explained simply as rockets: "vertical ascent," "travelled in arc." Data is too meager for a definite conclusion, however.

If the photograph is authentic, it would be extremely valuable to know the shutter speed at which it was taken, since from this the angular velocity could be determined.

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Incident #57 -- between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland -- 20 July 1947

This incident and #56, which occurred in the same vicinity just three days apart, do not fit into the usual description pattern. In both cases, information given is meager, and in both cases the meteoric hypothesis cannot be completely ruled out, but the objects could have been rockets or even freak auroral streamers or brush discharge from ionized dust clouds. In any event, it seems unlikely, although it is not impossible, that the objects seen in this incident were meteors. The even spacing of the flashes argues strongly against the meteoric hypothesis.

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Incident #58 -- N6 of Bethel, Alaska -- 4 August 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident. The time in sight (four minutes) and rate of speed (520 MPH) seem to preclude any such possibilities.

The similarity of this incident to #10, in which several objects were seen silhouetted against a sunset, is striking.

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Incident #59 -- beyond Necker Island -- 12 September 1947

From the evidence at hand, it appears quite likely that the object observed was a fireball. Fireballs have been known to change course abruptly when splitting. The reported change to reddish hue from the previous color of incandescent light, the length of time in sight, and the manner of disappearance all lend support to this hypothesis. At sunset one can expect relatively slow-moving, nearly horizontal fireballs.

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Incident #80, a, b -- Cordroy, Newfoundland -- 10 July 1947

The descriptions given by the three observers of this object answer quite closely to that of a typical bright, "slow-moving" bolide. It is extremely likely that the object sighted here was nothing more than a fireball.

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Incident #61, 61a -- Logan, Utah -- 8 September 1947

This incident, and incident #62, which clearly refer to the same objects (witnesses were together at the time of observation) do not have an astronomical explanation.

Since it was dark, any judgment of distance can be greatly misleading, and extremely fast motion might be ascribed to closeness rather than to true linear distance.

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Incident #62 -- Logan, Utah -- 8 September 1947

This incident does not have an astronomical explanation.

See report on incident #51.

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Incident #53 -- NE of Helena, Montana -- 29 July 1947

With the exception of the color ("like polished nickel") and the lack of statement concerning a trail, the object reported in this incident might very well have been a daylight meteor. Bright meteors have been observed to move in wavy paths. The manner of disappearance ("melted into thin air") further supports this view. Time in sight and speed also check. In short, it is more likely that this object was a bright meteor than that it was anything else.

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Incident #64 -- Twin Falls, Idaho -- 19 August 1947

There is nothing astronomical in this incident.

The reported overcast sky could have made it possible for signal or search lights to be reflected from the cloud background.

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Incident #80 -- Rehoboth Beach, Delaware -- September 1946
October 1946
2 June 1947

This incident contains nothing astronomical.

It is entirely possible that the objects observed on these three separate dates were "Bumble bees," ram-jet missiles, as fired from Fort Miles by the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University. Since the hour of observation of the various sightings (and the exact day of the first two) is not given in material submitted to this investigator, positive identification cannot be made; but if these facts are known, inquiry at the above-mentioned laboratory (address: 3621 South Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland) might bring forth definite identification.

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Incident #83 -- Silver Springs, Ohio -- 7 August 1947

From all evidence, it appears that the object seen here was a bright meteor. Slow-moving meteors occur before midnight, and, while their paths are almost never "absolutely horizontal," it is quite possible that the observer could have gained this impression, since the object was in sight for only three or four seconds. Furthermore, an observer, surprised by an unusual occurrence, often tends to overestimate the actual duration of time; thus, "three or four seconds" might mean not much more than a second.

There is nothing at all in the evidence that cannot be explained under the assumption that the object was a meteor.

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Incident #67 -- near Placerville, California -- 14 August 1947

If details of the observers' statement are accurate, it would be difficult to assign an astronomical origin to the object seen in this incident. There are a few statements which, taken alone, strongly suggest that a meteor was observed: high rate of speed, "seemed to be in a shallow dive," white smoke trail, "disappeared in a puff of dark gray smoke." However, unless the description of the object (4-6 feet long and 10-14 inches wide) and the estimated distance (less than 1000 feet) are illusory, the meteoric explanation will not hold.

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Incident #69, 69a -- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania -- 6 August 1947

The reports of this incident and those of #70 refer to the same object and are typical of descriptions of relatively slow moving meteors. The speed, trail, hissing sound (after passage -- although this could easily have been a subjective reaction) and color all check with the object's having been a fireball, bolide, or large meteor.

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Incident #68 -- Portland, Oregon -- 24 June 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident, which should be considered together with the Kenneth Arnold case (#17), which occurred on the same day, and in which similar discoid objects were observed. (The present objects appeared to have tails, however; another major difference between this and the Arnold incident is the inferred size of the objects, as determined from the estimated distance.)

It is difficult to take seriously the peculiar action of the compass, for this would imply fantastically large magnetic fields.

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Incident #70, 70a -- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania -- 6 August 1947

The descriptions given of this object are typical of those of relatively slow moving meteors. See report on incident #69 for details.

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