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SE of Prescott, Arizona

27 November 1952

I. Description of Incident

While on a flight from El Paso, Texas, to Nellie AFB, Nevada, in a B-26 aircraft, an AF 1st colonel and his crew chief observed four quick bursts of black smoke in tandem, directly ahead of their aircraft and at their altitude. The time was 1220 PST. After about 2 minutes, three more bursts appeared then three more. At 1218 PST, three more puffs were seen to the left of their course and ahead, with three more appearing at 9 o'clock. At this time, the pilot made a 90° turn to the left. The puffs of smoke continued as the B-26 made several turns in the area. Once the puffs of smoke would have bracketed the a/c had it continued on course. At one time, the pilot flew close to the puffs and they appeared to be yellowish in color and about 30" in diameter. Exceedingly rough air was noted close to the smoke puffs.

The entire incident lasted 20 minutes.

II. Discussion of Incident

The description of the smoke puffs would lead one to believe that the B-26 had encountered flak. The area of the encounter was far from any target area, however, and since the a/c was only at 10,000' under VFR conditions, it is doubtful that even if it were in a practice area it would be continually fired upon.

III. Conclusion

Unknown

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