

SECRET

2 June 1953

UNCLASSIFIED

Newry, Mississippi

## Description

On the night of 2 June 1953 at approximately 2:51 hours a Soviet T-29 type aircraft No. 1951 was on a round-trip flight from Birmingham, Ala. to Tuskehoochee, Alabama. The aircraft was on a course approximately 90 degrees magnetic heading in a westerly direction at an altitude of 3000 feet. The aircraft was 1 1/2 miles south-southeast of Newry, Mississippi, when a white-green light attracted the pilot's attention. The light had the appearance of an aircraft navigational light and was estimated to be from 3 to 7 miles from the aircraft. The object was visible an estimated 12 to 15 seconds. The pilot thought the light was an aircraft's navigational light and that it seemed to be on a parallel course with the aircraft. The light seemed to brighten and the pilot, thinking it was an aircraft tailing him, started to change course to avoid collision. At the time the object appeared to blink, as at the beginning of a searchlight, and at the same time the light was turning in a greenish-white color and leaving a trail of fire and sparks similar to a 4th-of-July sparkler in flight. After approximately 2 seconds of this flash, the object disintegrated into a ball of fire.

## Discussion

The AFSC command astronomer states that the object observed was a meteor. The fact that the object appeared to blink was probably caused by the motion of the aircraft as it turned to avoid collision.

## Conclusion

No astronomical interest.

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