

As for the White Sands sightings, the AF explanation speaks of "lights seen by planes patrolling the area." This is the first mention anywhere of planes; all the newspaper accounts said lights were seen by two two-man jeep patrols - by one at 3 a.m. and by another at 8 p.m. the same day (Nov. 3). Didn't the AF know about the jeeps? Did it know about them and prefer to ignore them, and why? Or were they merely being careless about their \$10,000 facts? Were the lights also seen by planes? Whatever the reason for this discrepancy, we can test the AF conclusions only against the reports of the jeep observers. Says the AF: "The reports of the plane pilots were apparently explainable by the planet Venus in an unusually favorable position for observation, or by cloud formations around the moon." So far as the jeeps are concerned, the first explanation is all wrong and the second is preposterous. Venus is NEVER visible at all at 3 o'clock in the morning, and on November 3 it had set at 7:30 p.m., half an hour before the second jeep patrol saw anything. As for the alternate explanation suggested, the soldiers' descriptions of what they saw (page 2) indicates that such celestial acrobatics of "cloud formations around the moon" (in New Mexico's notoriously clear skies) were never seen before nor since.

The West Texas reports were only hours old when sightings were made independently by two Army patrols in the old A-bomb testing range outside of the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. The first incident occurred at 3 a.m.; a two-man jeep patrol, consisting of Spl. [redacted] and Pfc [redacted], watched a "very bright" egg-shaped object, about 75 - 100 yards in diameter, descend from the sky until it was about 50 yards above the old atom bunkers; then it went out. Suddenly it flared up again brilliantly, "like the sun, then fell in an angle to the ground and went out." No traces were found, and no unusual effects on the jeep were noticed. Seventeen hours later, at 8 p.m., Specialists 3/c [redacted] (sic) and [redacted] saw a "bright 200 or 300-foot light" hanging motionless about 50 feet above an old bunker; the light "took off at a 45-degree angle" and started blinking; then it disappeared. None of the men in either patrol had known of the Levelland reports.