

UFOs: A History
1952:
September - October

UFOs: A HISTORY
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1952

by
Loren E. Gross

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Also, it would be difficult to overestimate the assistance given by Marv Taylor, who shares duties with Tom Page as the Northern California director of MUFON. Marv operates the world's largest UFO exhibit and library at 86 South Green Street, Sonoma, California.

UFOs: A HISTORY

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Hynek's return.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who had spent some time in the late 1940s providing explanations for the Air Force's Project GRUDGE as an astronomical advisor, was called back to duty in September, 1952, by military Intelligence and the Ohio State professor was happy to comply. Hynek's standing with the Air Force was good. His final report on UFOs submitted in June, 1949, just before he returned to teaching, concluded that some 80% of UFO reports were due to natural causes with the residue remaining unexplained because investigations were not pursued, but this did not mean Dr. Hynek did not give each case what he believed was an adequate perusal in those less hectic days.

Arriving at ATIC at Wright Field, Ohio, Hynek learned that a new UFO investigation effort was under way called Project BLUE BOOK with a Capt. E.J. Ruppelt as its chief. The Ohio State professor was shocked at what he found. The project was: "...little more than a public-relations campaign." 1. Policy was dictated straight from the Pentagon: "Don't get the public excited; emphasize the things that are solvable, and put the kibash on cases you can't explain." 2. The situation threaten to become chaotic: "Sometimes the Pentagon would give one explanation and Wright Field another, in obvious contradiction." 3. What really irked Hynek, the scientist, was that no one at BLUE BOOK seemed to be interested in a serious dialogue about the UFO data. The circus-like atmosphere produced changes in Hynek. He began to have doubts about the sincerity of the Air Force (Which he kept to himself so he could stay with the project.), and he began to take a much closer look at the UFO reports being logged. 4.

"They're all nuts."

At BLUE BOOK Ruppelt was puzzled by a glimpse of a pattern in the UFO reports coming in. He noticed an unusual number coming from Georgia and Alabama so he suggested that the newsmen in that part of the country must be playing up the UFO mystery, however a careful check of the project's newsclipping service showed the opposite, a notable lack of enthusiasm (Press resistance was illustrated by the experience of the editor of the Wichita, Kansas, Beacon, who became fired up by the Bill Squires UFO encounter and tried to get the Associated Press newsservice to accept the story but they refused and revealed that it was their policy not to carry flying disc stories unless at least two or more witnesses could verify the sighting). 5. Ruppelt even made personal phone calls to Intelligence officers stationed at airbases in Dixie in an attempt to understand the "pattern" (He apparently had no idea of a southern shift of the UFO wave.) and the officers he talked to could not explain the increase in sightings. One Intelligence officer at Brookley AFB, Mobile, Alabama, said of UFO witnesses: "They're all nuts!" 6. The Brookley officer was evidently taking his cue from the public utterances of the men at the top. For example, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Vandenburg, after making the standard official denial that UFOs were not space ships, Russian devices, or a secret American weapon, complained to the media about: "...continued, long-range occurrence of what might be called mass hysteria about flying saucers." 7. Similarly, General Ramey referred to hysteria while talking with the press when he said that in order to avoid hysteria, its

experts were:"...attempting to accomplish a quick analysis of the problem." 8. At BLUE BOOK quick explanations were not doing the job. The project's loose identification system of rough correlations with aircraft flight plans, celestial bodies, balloon launches, etc., failed to account for more than half of the UFOs being reported! 9. Some reports were the strangest ever.

Yaak, Montana.

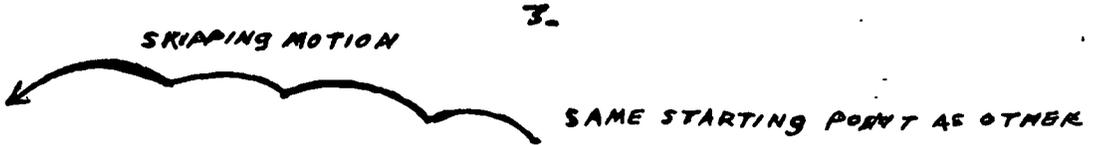
Ruppelt makes an interesting reference in his book on UFOs to a peculiar radar-visual case at a locale with the unusual name of Yaak, Montana, referring to a "dark, cigar-shaped object" of an unexplained nature noticed on August 1, 1952. Little more is given on the incident which is unfortunate since radar-visual cases are the most convincing on file. There is no Yaak case listed in Air Force BLUE BOOK records for August 1st but there is one for September 1st and it is no doubt the case referred to by the BLUE BOOK chief. The case is worth a detailed examination. While BLUE BOOK radar evaluator Capt. Roy Jones tended to shrug off the incident as some sort of atmospheric trick, Ruppelt said of the case:"What these people saw is a mystery to this day." 10. Capt. Jones wrote:"Analysis of reported information indicates that the radar targets probably were ground objects which were detected due to a mild temperature inversion condition of the atmosphere." 11. The error in dates may well have been unintentional but a look at the file shows that Capt. Jones' explanation needs all the help it can get and the Air Force would be better off if the file were completely lost. It seems there was more than one object/image, and they left vapor trails(?), some things skipping around "like saucers." Here is one statement:

"A/IC Leonard Oberierf, while on duty at the 680th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, Yaak, Montana, on the early morning of 1 September 1952, received a call from Sheepman(call sign of the 760th AC&W Squadron, Coleville, Washington) concerning a strange light in the sky, southeast from our station. I immediately went out of the building to see if I could, perhaps, see such a light. I scanned the sky in several directions before I saw a light. My first glimpse was a very bright blue light, but it lasted only about a minute then it faded into a light green. The light that I saw was in a slow moving orbit. I was startled at first so I closed my eyes and opened them again. The light was still there. I stared at it a few minutes and the light seemed at this time more of a yellow than the previous mentioned colors. I did not think anyone would believe me so I went inside the building and relieved A/IC Ramsey, who was on duty at the radar scope. He went outside and observed in the direction which I informed him." 12.

Ramsey had no trouble spotting the UFOs:

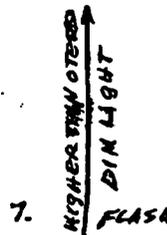
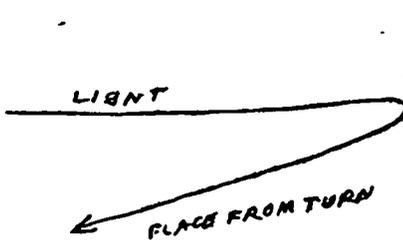
"The first light to move gave the appearance of a shooting star. This object left a thin vapor trail and disappeared without any unusual movement. About two minutes later another light moved in the opposite direction. This light was moving at a high rate of speed and going up and down with jerky movements. The movements were similar to a flat surfaced object skipping over water. The next two lights observed were at the same place as the previous two. They were side by side and remained stationary for about forty-five seconds, then began to move in every direction always remaining about the same distance apart. They disappeared in about the same place as they appeared.

"The next light moved at a very high rate of speed. It moved in a straight course for a short distance then turned almost straight up. This object turned off and dived leaving a vapor trail on the downward course.



OBJECTS WERE OBSERVED MOVING RAPIDLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS
OBJECTS WERE ALWAYS SAME DISTANCE APART.

UNCLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

YAAK, MONTANA

OBJECTS DETECTED VISUALLY

The vapor trail was light and quickly disappeared. This object disappeared behind a thin mass of clouds. Another light was observed a short time after then previous one disappeared. This object dived and and swiftly disappeared behind the same cloud, also leaving a vapor trail while diving.

"By this time it was almost daylight. A light was observed moving toward the cloud where the last object had disappeared. The light disappeared and at the same time and place a black object appeared, changed direction and moved on a downward course in the opposite direction. This object came lower than any of the others before disappearing.

"The last light observed was a short time later. This light appeared in a flash considerably bigger than the others. After the flash a small light moved upward and disappeared. This time all the targets disappeared from the radar scope." 13.

This brings up what was detected on radar. Airman Oberierf had replaced Ramsey at the radar scope. Immediately Oberierf checked that sector of the scope covering the area where the UFOs were seen:

"At this time I was scope operator and I adjusted the scope for 90 degree and 100 degree scanning. The first pip or possible target was 120 degrees, 53 miles. After that it appeared as a permanent echo. After about 10 sweeps(2 minutes) of the radar beam it completely disappeared almost the same time that it disappeared, another pip appeared, azimuth 134 degree, 73 miles. It also seemed like a permanent echo. It only stayed on the scope for 1½ minutes. These pips were at no time caused by malfunction of the radar set. At one time I was able to determine the speed if the two pips were the same target, but it cannot be possible to say that they were the same object. It was doing 20 miles in one minute or 1200 miles per hour. This pip was always inside a radius of 35 miles of the original sighting. The same pip was observed by A/2C Donald Williams within five minutes of my observation. It was daylight when it seemed to fade both visually outdoors and electronically indoors." 14.

No air traffic was within 100 miles so there no chance the targets were "hard" pips of a conventional type. The last sentence in the above quote suggests, possibly, that Capt. Jones was right, but was there a third possibility? Were there things in the sky that could fool both radar and the human eye when it pleased them? This was a question Dr. Hynek was beginning to address.

More "peculiar atmospheric conditions."

A minute after midnight, September 2nd, a number of strange targets popped up on the radar screens of the Air Traffic Control at Midway Field, Wisconsin, 20 miles from Chicago's O'Hare airport. The targets gave the appearance of local air traffic, i.e. small, light, planes. No action was taken at the time. Two hours later up to 30 strange targets were noted and the electronic returns had improved in quality. Direction of travel varied, and sometimes were erratic. A few targets were tracked 15 miles before they faded. Speed measurements of 175 miles per hour were made, typical of civilian aircraft. Of special interest was the fact that the targets were also picked up on the site's height-ranging radar, a separate instrument, which indicated an altitude of 2,000 feet. In spite of the fact the objects were being tracked by two different radars, there still some doubt they were real. Although the targets approached close as six miles to Midway, no one in the tower could see anything in the dark sky. Suspicions that the targets were due to temperature

Diagram #1

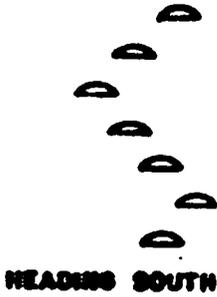


Diagram #2

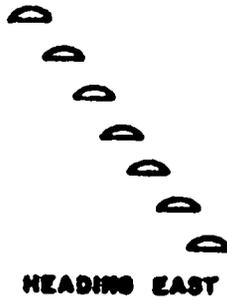


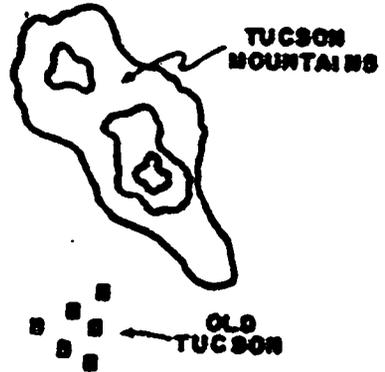
Diagram #3



(AIRCRAFT & OBJECTS
SAME LENGTH)



OBSERVER'S
POSITION → ■



TUCSON ARIZONA

2 SEPTEMBER 52

inversions were challenged by the target's behavior:

"Several of the targets were observed on radar to approach within a half mile of known aircraft in the area. In several cases, it appeared as though they were flying in loose formation or trailing local traffic. In one case, two targets were observed to 'wing' on a DC-4 flight inbound to the field from the vicinity of the Lake Shore, until approximately one mile out on final, at which point the target on the right broke away to the right and the target on the left --turned to the left." 15.

At 5:14 a.m. the Air Defense Command was alerted which authorized the scramble of two jets of the 4706th Interceptor Wing, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago. It took awhile but finally at 5:55 a.m. a pair of F-86 Sabre jets, piloted by Capt. William Maitland and a Lt. Beverly Dunhill, lifted off from O'Hare. The two jets were vectored right through the targets as shown on radar, making passes at 800 and at 4,000 feet without making contact. The Sabre jets were evidently without airborne radar since only results of a visual nature were mentioned. Pilots Maitland and Dunhill later told the newspapers:"We didn't hit anything. We didn't see anything. We went through the target showing on the scope and there was nothing there, not even a cloud." 16. The jets broke off their aerial search at 6:19 a.m. and returned to base. By 7:00 a.m. all of the mysterious targets disappeared off the scopes toward the south. The Midway radar crews were convinced the strange targets were returns from tangible bodies but their boss, CAA chief Bob Zeigler overruled them and blamed "peculiar atmospheric conditions." Zeigler may have been right since there was a less intense episode the following night(No details are available.). 17.

Another radar-visual.

Some 26 years after it occurred, a radar-visual UFO case was made public by Eastern Airline Captain John Warner, the incident not officially reported to the Air Force or Eastern officials at the time because the military was trying so hard to convince the public UFO viewers were "seeing things" and Warner was a friend of Eastern pilot Clarence Chiles whose famous "space ship" report of 1948 caused a lot of "unpleasant publicity" for Chiles.

Since radar-visuals are among the best of UFO reports and the witness seemed to be a person one can trust, this is an interesting chance to test some generalizations that one might make about the 1952 UFO wave. (If Captain Warner was making up his story, it seems unlikely he would be using other 1952 reports as an inspiration after 26 years.) If the report was "authentic,"it would fall into the following pattern:

- 1.) The weather in the area of the sighting would be very good.
- 2.) The sighting would have most likely to have occurred between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- 3.) The location of the sighting in North America, or Europe, depended on the date. Approximately, January-May:northern U.S.(Europe); June-August:mid U.S.(or Europe); September-December:southern U.S.(or Europe). (This does not take into account a second UFO wavefront in the northern U.S. and Europe in September.)

Checking the report as made by Captain Warner we find some correlations:

- 1.) The weather during the sighting was clear with unlimited visibility(CAVU).

- 2.) The time was about 10:00 p.m.
- 3.) The location was Trenton, New Jersey. This puts it close to the middle of the U.S., thinking in terms of latitude, which would mean a date sometime in the months of June, July, or August. Captain Warner could only recall that the incident took place during the Autumn of 1952. The dictionary defines Autumn as the months of August, September, and October. If our theory is correct and Warner ever remembers the exact day, the date would be an August date most likely early in the month.

The reader may have his doubts about the theory but if any more such reports become available it might be of interest to apply the test.

Before proceeding to other UFO matters, we will take time to review Capt. Warner's experience.

At the helm of a small Martin 404 passenger plane, Capt. Warner was enroute from Washington to Boston. Over Trenton at about 10:00 p.m. both he and his co-pilot noted a yellow dot of light they estimated was some 10 miles ahead and to their left at their altitude of about 8,000 feet while matching their speed of approximately 260 mph.

Since the light was glowing larger, Capt. Warner assumed it was a navigation light of an approaching aircraft so he radioed Islip, Long Island, where the New York Airways Traffic Control radar station was located, to ask about aircraft authorized to be in his area. Islip radar had no flight plans of other aircraft scheduled to be in that air corridor but did confirm that their radar showed an unidentified target where Warner saw a yellow light. By then the light had grown so large Warner and his co-pilot could make out an elliptical shape, the UFO about a mile away. At this point Capt. Warner had the impression the "other pilot" suddenly became aware of the Martin airliner and reacted, abruptly making a 30-degree climb and greatly increasing speed. As it picked up speed, its color changed from yellow to blue-white. A call to Islip by Warner alerted the Airways controllers and they radioed back that their radar showed their unknown now over Fort Dix and traveling at 800 mph.

Although Capt. Warner shared knowledge of the encounter with other pilots, and was convinced he had seen a "real" UFO, he never went public at the time because of the "climate of ridicule." 18.

September 2nd.

The uncanny resemblance of the Midway Field experience to the July, Washington D.C. radar incidents did not escape the notice of BLUE BOOK. A teletype message was shot off to O'Hare:

"REFERENCE INCIDENT ON 2 SEPT 52 IN WHICH AIRCRAFT QUOTE FLEW THROUGH UNQUOTE RADAR TARGETS. REQUEST THAT FULL DETAILS OF RADAR OBSERVATIONS INCLUDING TIME OBJECTS WERE OBSERVED, TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED, AND DESCRIPTION OF TARGETS, SPEEDS REPORTED, ALTITUDE, AND DISTANCES BE FORWARDED. ALSO REQUEST DETAILED WEATHER FROM CHICAGO AREA FROM 1800 ON 1 SEPT TO 0900 ON 2 SEPT. INCLUDE CLOUD CONDITIONS, TEMPERATURE VS ALTITUDE, AND MOISTURE LAPSES RATES. DATA IS IMPORTANT FOR USE IN EVALUATION OF SIMILAR REPORTS. IN REPLY CITE PROJECT BLUE BOOK. CAPT. E.J. RUPPELT. 19.

Results of this inquiry should have proved interesting although we have no record of it other than a brief remark in the Air Force file that states: "No

inversion condition at surface existed." 20. Perhaps the data was not as helpfull as it was hoped.

How complete are BLUE BOOK records? That is the question we will consider next.

"The chase that didn't happen."

There is nothing in BLUE BOOK files about any UFO incident in the area of Bernalillo and Frijolies canyons, New Mexico, for August 29th or any other date but how do we account for this UP story out of Albuquerque on September 2, 1952 which reads:

"The Air Force denied today that it had any planes in the air between Bernalillo and Los Alamos Friday when a jet fighter is reported to have chased 'six or seven metallic objects' over the area.

"Three pilots and a passenger in one of the planes were reported to have seen the 'dome-shaped' objects between Bernalillo and Frijolies Canyon. They were reported to have seen a jet fighter chasing the objects.

"Officials at Kirtland Air Force Base said no objects were picked up on the radar screen at the time and there was no jet fighter in the area.

"The passenger is reported to have heard Kirtland Tower giving the Air Force jet 'a course.'

"The Air Force suggested that persons who believe they have seen mysterious objects report them to the nearest security officer." 21.

There was little UFO activity on the 2nd. One might count the excitement at Morristown, Tennessee, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. when some unusual objects in the sky some three miles northeast of town flashing red and blue lights unset folks in the area. The editor of the Morristown Sun phoned the Air Force but cut his call short offering no details. No air traffic was suppose to have been in air near the town.

Riddle at Rapid City.

Was there UFOs in the Montana region in early September as suggested by the Yaak incident? A check of a map of the U.S. shows that Rapid City, South Dakota, is near the Montana state line and according to military files a disc-like thing was seen over Rapid City at 4:10 p.m. by witnesses that had better than average qualifications:

"...a disc-like object was sighted directly over Rapid City, South Dakota. The object was observed for one minute. The object was stationary and located at an altitude of approximately 13,000 feet and below the bases of existing clouds. Weather conditions on that day were: light scattered clouds with bases at 13,000 feet. Object appeared to be four to five inches in diameter and appeared to be metallic (This apparently does not account for distance perspective).

"Sighting occurred at 1610 hours (MST) and object was witnessed for approximately one minute. Object vanished. Observers were located approximately ten miles east of Rapid City, S.D. Observers are both Flight Engineers on B-36 type aircraft." 22.

Overseas.

Strange lights appeared over Bulawayo, South Africa, on this date but we have no further information.

Certainly a more interesting report was recorded at Delft, Netherlands on the 2th. The American Air Attache, Lt. Col. Lewis Wright, stationed at The Hague, spotted the story in a Dutch newspaper.

The principle in the episode was a Radio Engineer, a Mr. Nyhof, who happened to be testing high frequency cables and photographing the results as shown on meters. Mr. Nyhof was working that day on the roof of the Dutch Cable Works where he had a good view of the sky when:

"...I suddenly saw a bright silver light moving at a tremendous speed and coming from my right side...It looked like a silver V2 rocket(We had a rocket launcher just a few miles from our home during the war.). There was no sound to hear but when 'the thing' came closer it turned towards me and looked like a bright silver round plate. I thought it might be a flying saucer. As I still holded[sic] my camera, I only pushed[sic] the shutter(T 1/250 sec) without looking in the view finder because there was no time to lose. Then I looked at the field strength meter and I noticed a strong dip in the meter deflection of the indicating instrument. The saucer disappeared with a tremendous speed perpendicular to the earth surface." 23.

Mr. Nyhof took his story and photo to the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute at the city of Bilt. There members of the staff heard Nyhof tell of the incident and then examined a print of the UFO. The photo showed a bright, white, halo of light and little in the way of a discernable image of a "saucer." The "saucer" was a tiny, dark, smear.

A suggestion was offered by the Bilt people which explained the halo as the consequence of ultra violet rays which would have been invisiable to the naked eye but brilliant to the photographic plate in the camera. The deviation of the electrical instruments was attributed to the possible influence of a very strong electro-magnetic disturbance. 24.

We can see that the value of this story, if any, could be in the forementioned theories which might provide a starting point for future scientific research.

Before leaving this case, it might be mentioned that the UFO's final maneuver, a departure straight up, has been reported quite a few times over the years. UFOs are reported in a fast horizontal flightpath which suddenly changes into a vertical climb.

Tucson, Arizona.

As day turned into evening, UFO reports of significance were made in the U.S. Outside Tucson, Arizona, at Davis-Monthan AFB, at 5:50 p.m., an Air Force Sgt. by the name of Boyan Howerton, who was assigned to the 64th Bomb Squadron, was walking with a civilian friend when they both observed some flying objects in the sky. The military record states the objects were:

"...round on top, flat on the bottom and shiny silver in color. Although these objects were about 10 to 15 miles distant and at what appeared to be 50,000 to 60,000 feet of altitude, they were the same size as a B-29 or B-50 flying in the same compass quadrant roughly five miles away at 10,000 feet of altitude. The objects numbered at least seven and were arranged in an irregular S formation(See diagram #1). M/Sgt. Hoerton states that the lower elements of the formation appeared to be changing positions so rapidly that his count be inaccurate. These objects trailed no exhaust, emitted no sound, and traveled at an unestimable high rate of speed. When first observed these objects were traveling in a southerly direction, maintaining this heading for approximately 10 seconds. They changed course to an easterly direction and formation to a line stepped up in trail(See diagram #2). After approximately 5 seconds of easterly flight, the formation again changed dir-

tion, to the northeast and assumed the same irregular S formation in reverse(See diagram #3). The formation disappeared after about 10 seconds for no apparent reason. The observer says that they did not just disappear as if due to distance. These objects reflected sunlight much in the same manner as the B-29 or B-50 but seemed to have a more highly polished more efficient reflecting surface. These reflections came from the west side of each object during all turns and maneuvers." 25.

"It hurt my eyes, it was so brilliant."

If people can be believed, rainbow-colored objects danced in the heavens above Los Angeles, California, the evening of September 2nd. It could be citizens there were merely getting excited over twinkling stars but descriptions didn't quite sound like celestial bodies. A Mrs. Pearl Fuller remarked:"It hurt my eyes, it was so brilliant." 26. Another woman, unidentified, related that the UFO she saw:"...went up and down and turned colors --from silver to orange to yellow and back to silver." 27. A Gladys Ward spotted one that:"...turned white and skirted back and forth at tremendous speed." 28. A fourth woman studied the object she sighted through a telescope and later told the press the object:"...was tri-colored, with a red bottom, a white middle and a green top ...[which] moved faster than a star would fall." 29.

U.S. Atomic Energy Protective Force.

Air travel over Los Alamos was restricted of course and guards at the New Mexico facility were on the alert for aerial intruders as while as those on the ground. Two members of the U.S. Atomic Energy Protective Force were making their rounds on September 2nd at 10:15 p.m. when they detected a mysterious white light in the sky approaching from the east at an estimated 250 mph. The light gave off a glow that varied from dim to glaring. It headed south, pausing occasionally. About three minutes later another such light appeared and repeated the performance of its predecessor. 30.

September 3rd.

Little occurred during the day. In Albuquerque, New Mexico, members of the Meteoritical Society convened their annual meeting at the University of New Mexico. One of the items to be discussed was reports of mysterious green fireballs that were appearing in the nation's skies in recent months. 31. An extra big green meteor that had flashed across the southern part of the U.S. just days earlier had called attention to the strange heavenly fireworks. Dr. Lincoln La Paz, a leading authority on meteors, predicted more such celestial displays, a repeat of a phenomenon that plagued the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma, the year before. 32.

The Squyers case continued.

Two-thirty that afternoon a Capt. Myers of the Kansas Military District, HQ, Topeka, Kansas, delivered a case file on the August 25th incident to Lt. Col. George Hanselman of the 90th Strategic Recon Wing, Forbes, AFB, Topeka, Kansas. Col. Hanselman wondered what his responsibility would be concerning the investigation of the supposed flying saucer episode. He called ATIC to find out the status of the case and was told someone from BLUE BOOK would call him back. Two hours later Ruppelt's people contacted the Colonel, asking him to forward the case file and some grass samples taken from the site. He was instructed not to worry about taking further action. 33.

The Squyers case file was compiled by a 2nd Lt. Green, U.S. Army Reserve, an engineer with radio station KOMA, Pittsburgh, Kansas, who was one of the first persons to visit the site. Lt. Green had taken the soil and grass samples that ATIC requested.

4:00 p.m.

A pilot-instructor for Darr Aero Tech, an Arizona company, was six miles north of Tucson 4:00 p.m. September 3rd, when a dark elliptical shape swept into view headed south. There was no perceptible sound or smoke as the object slipped through the air. The witnesses watched as the strange body sped to a point over downtown Tucson where it smoothly turned around and retraced its approach. This happened twice before the aerial object raced out of sight to the west on a straight trajectory. A 60-year-old friend was with the pilot-instructor at the time and confirmed the sighting. The witnesses were sure the object was not a balloon. 34.

Multi-colored lights.

There were a number of sightings of multi-colored lights in the night skies over Georgia, Alabama, and California, but they are unimpressive and all reported by civilians except one sighting that was the best of the lot, an observation by Lt. Casper Remuta, USAF, a rated pilot and aircraft controller. At 10:15 p.m. Lt. Remuta was motoring along peachtree road north of Atlanta, Georgia, when a strange light much larger than a star was seen, the bright point so large it appeared to be a half inch wide at arm's length and had a discernable round shape. There were two such lights moving slowly while changing from blue to red. 35.

Unusual location, unusual witnesses.

The following is a newsstory taken from a Spanish newspaper and collected by the CIA:

"On 3 September 1952, late at night, four professors of the Seraphic Seminary in Palma, Mallorca Island, noticed a luminous disk in the sky, traveling from west to east. They said that it could not have been a shooting star and that they were giving the report as objectively as possible in its barest details to provide another item for the study of the flying saucer phenomenon." 36.

One should note that the position of Mallorca was in the Mediterranean, between southwest France and the Algerian coast, both areas of heavy UFO activity.

September 4th.

A dark disk-shaped object soundlessly sailed near GOC post PJ 33 BLACK, Sacramento, California. The witnesses' choice of the word "disk" was supported by this observation: "First view[ed] as a black line but as the thing turned a bit it gave off a shimmering silver color." 37. There was another sighting that day west of Sacramento at GOC post PH 04 BLACK, Danville, California. It moved silently and faster than a jet, appearing silver and circular, it was estimated to have been the "size of a fighter." 38.

Kutztown?

Over the airwaves Frank Edwards broadcast on the Mutual Broadcasting System a curious little item about a certain John Mittle of Kutztown, Pennsylvania, a farmer who was working in fields when a bright disk began to maneuver in the air in his vicinity. Mittle had time to grab a camera and

take pictures which, when developed, were suppose to have shown an image similar to the famous Paul Trent(Mc Minnville) photographs taken back in May of 1950. This certainly seems worth a follow up but Air Force BLUE BOOK files has nothing on the supposed incident, nor, unfortunately, is there any further data in unofficial sources. The recourse, it seems, is to try and contact Mittle or check back files of the Kutztown newspaper. 39.

The Des Vergers case, a second landing?

For many days Ruppelt and his team of investigators pondered the Des Vergers case. And now came news that seemed to give credence to the scoutmasters' testimony which had been suffering some erosion.

If this latest story could be believed, there had been a second landing close to the Des Vergers site! The witnesses came forward September 4th after hesitating a number of days.

According to a newsstory in the Florida press a Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Wells of Belle Glade, and their niece, a 15-year-old June Tent of Palm Beach; were motoring on Okeechohee Road, Palm Beach, about 7:30 p.m., August 29th, when they had a strange experience. The three were on their way to the Boulevard Drive-in theater when they noticed a bright glow approaching in the evening sky. Miss Tent told the press:

"It was in front of us way up in the sky. At first it looked like one big yellow-white light. It seemed to be drifting, slanting down. Then it got over the woods on the left side of the road and dropped straight down. When it got down closer to the ground it looked like it had more lights. And right after it landed we saw another light that seemed to hover over the spot." 40.

Because of the darkness the shape of the object was not clearly visible, but Miss Tent remarked that the object did not look like an airplane although it seemed to be the size of a large transport. To her the shape seen resembled:"...the rim of a coin..." 41.,with an arrangement of lights spaced around its edge. 42.

Mr. Wells turned off Okeechohee and on to Military Trail to see if he could approach any closer to the landing site. After driving for a short distance, Mr. Wells managed to reach a point on the highway that was an estimated block and a half from where the shrubbery in the woods was bathed in a strange bright glow. There were some tiny tots in the car along with the young girl so the Wells decided they would not leave their vehicle to investigate on foot. This "landing" was only eight miles down the road (Military Trail) from the Des Vergers "landing." 43.

The Air Force was notified about the incident but when the press requested an official comment they were told merely that the military was "investigating" and nothing else. 44. With official interest in the DesVergers case so intense at this time, one would think the site of the latest "landing" would soon be swarming with agents. We shall see, however, that the fate of this report was an odd one.

As for the Des Vergers case, some of the concern had been dissipated due to the scoutmaster's reputation, even broadcaster Frank Edwards, one of the more vigorous critics of the Air Force's UFO investigation, sent a brief note to Al Chop at the Pentagon Press Desk on September 5th urging the military to drop the inquiry because friends of his in the West Palm Beach area knew the scoutmaster and did not think him credible.. 45.

Singapore.

Otherwise on the fifth, there was nothing during the daylight hours except

a news item from half way around the world in the Singapore Straits Times. A "white plate," weird smoke trails, and what some called a "flying saucer" excited crowds in the British Federation. The Times noted that it was the second time in recent days that the population had been stirred up by aerial phenomena. 46. Not much detail can be had from the Times yet it is worth noting that during the world-wide UFO flaps reports invariably come from places like Singapore, South Africa, and Australia. This probably has a lot to do with the existence of the English language press in the areas referred to.

As darkness fell over America on September 5th, only an unspectacular incident at Los Alamos, New Mexico, was registered. The U.S. Atomic Energy Protective Force which guarded the installation at Los Alamos had been instructed to watch for, and report, "green meteors;" and at 9:37 p.m. one was seen diving straight down until it reached 15 degrees above the horizon where the round, green thing "blinked out." Like all such "green flash" objects, its life was extremely brief --three seconds. 47.

September 6th.

Helsinki, Finland.

American military sources in Europe passed along a Finnish civilian report from Helsinki. The witnesses were not especially impressive, a school teacher and several pupils in the 7-9 year old range. A pair of silvery objects, shaped like a doughnut without holes, were supposed to have been visible for 30 seconds at some distance, traveling at a steady rate east to west. The time was 8:45 a.m. 48. Giving the Finnish report interest is the fact that the same morning (exact time not known) a UFO report came from South Africa, very far to the south of Finland in the southern Hemisphere in almost a direct line. A newspaper clipping mentions:

"On the morning of 6 September 1952, a meteorologist was taking weather observations in Durban, Union of South Africa, when he saw a white object moving smoothly across his field of vision. After two more had appeared and passed in the same manner, he called a co-worker, with whom he observed three more saucers. He was able to follow one of them with a theodolite, which indicated that the object was at a high altitude. It had about the same shape as a weather balloon which was then at an altitude of only 3,500 meters. The spherical objects appeared to be at an altitude above 6,500 meters.

"Both men have been meteorologists for some time (the second man is the director of the weather bureau at Natal). Their information was written into the records of the local meteorological office." 49.

"Mystery oblong object."

Fifteen witnesses substantiated a "vision" in the sky over Enfield, Connecticut, 10:10 a.m., September 6th. Civilian Defense officials investigated and submitted a report to the GOC Filter Center situated in the city of New Haven. The principle witnesses were guards at the Osborn Prison Farm who said they heard a strange sound at the time, one they didn't recognize. (Any sort of sound is rarely reported.) Depicted as appearing as a silvery oblong object, the suggestion that it could have been an aircraft does not seem to be adequate considering the motion described. A Walter Borys was interviewed. He and another guard, George Mc Cracken, were in charge of a dozen or so prisoners working in the farm enclosure when the sound, unlike an airplane sound, drew everyone's attention skyward. Accord-

ing to Borys' story:

"The sound stopped and the object appeared to be drifting toward the earth in a zigzag course. As it descended it assumed a 'fluffy appearance,' he said. After it had dropped a considerable distance, the object stopped. There was a loud report and with a puff of smoke it shot upwards at a right angle at an incredible rate of speed. It was out of sight within seconds..." 50.

The news item in the Hartford Courant ended with:

"Borys reported the incident to Francis O. McCue, acting captain of guards, who notified farm superintendent George H. Pratley.

"Enfield CD officials, William T. Murphy and Russel Maylott, visited the farm to interview the witnesses. 'All 15 stories [they questioned the prisoners too] were consistent and agreed except for minor details,' said Murphy. He said that he had no explanation to offer about the incident which was reported to the Filter Center in New Haven." 51.

There is no hint of this incident in Air Force files!

The New Yorker article.

What had captured E.J. Ruppelt's attention at BLUE BOOK at this moment was the appearance of a major UFO article in New Yorker magazine by Daniel Lang. The article followed the usual lines of a UFO essay: a brief history; which, as always, could not be done justice to in a limited space; and a number of quotes from Air Force spokesmen. Lang had been briefed by Major Jerre Boggs, chief liaison officer between the old Project SIGN and the Pentagon in the late 1940s, and since that time Lang had made occasional inquiries about the mystery to keep up to date. Major Boggs was anti-UFO, but from Lang's notes the officer comes across more as an honest doubter than a person suffering from rooted prejudice. The Major was not even afraid to dwell on the space ship theory, something that Air Force scientific advisors had examined as a suggestion back in 1949. Apparently the Major felt compelled to discuss the idea because of the current popularity of the concept. As Major Boggs' recalled, one scientist was frustrated after looking at UFO reports since, in his learned opinion, the "flying saucers," if they were real, not only exceeded science, but science-fiction! Three main objections to the space visitor theory were conceived back then and used to discredit any alien idea. The scientists polled in the late 1940s asserted that any sort of space craft would have been large and unwieldy, incapable of zig-zagging frivolously in the earth's atmosphere as the reported flying disks. Also, any sort of space craft could not possibly carry enough fuel to operate in the dense air of our world for an adequate period after crossing the void of space. Finally, their reading of the data showed that the so-called saucers were confined to the United States, an unlikely plan of action for extraterrestrial visitors. (One need not say how both science and science-fiction have progressed over the decades since. The Air Force has quietly dropped these antique arguments.)

In general Lang's writing reflects the negative feelings of Major Boggs, his prime source, but he ended on this note: "As of August 25th [1952], Captain Ruppelt told me more competent observers than ever before have been reporting saucers." 52. Furthermore: "...there was no talk in the Air Forces of abandoning the pursuit." 53.

"This witness is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Arizona."

The chauffeur of the limo was of Scottish descent, a skeptical and conservative fellow who had been employed for 19 years by his passenger, a highly successful businesswoman who had at one time served in the U.S. Congress as a representative from Arizona. At 4:55 p.m. September 6th both persons had a UFO experience.

The limo was traveling down the Patagonia Highway in Arizona, a route that passes close to Salmarita Mountain on its way into Tucson. As the limo sped toward Tucson the local municipal airport came into view as well as the Grand Control Aircraft plant near the field. Looking out the limo window the woman suddenly noticed a very odd shape in the sky. Hardly believing her eyes, she tapped the shoulder of her driver and motioned in the direction of the "thing." The driver saw it also. The two were so impressed the vehicle was stopped so they could get out and concentrate on the phenomenon. The woman later reported the incident to the military and here is what she said she saw: "The object appeared to be tear-drop or pendant shaped, orange in color, and of unestimable size. Throughout the observation there was no evidence of a propulsion system, and no noise, trail, or flight surface." 54.

The thing seemed to be directly above the aircraft plant:

"The object appeared to be whirling on its verticle axis, and emitted a brilliant orange light. As they watched, the observers felt that the object descended toward them along a slanting path at great speed. Mrs. (...deleted) is careful to point out that not knowing the distance or size of the object she could not possibly estimate its speed, but that as it appeared to descend toward them they observed it to increase in apparent size as though its rate of speed was great. The object appeared to descend rapidly and Mrs. (...deleted) thought it was about to land at their feet. The object, however, suddenly, stopped, and without executing any sort of turn, began to ascend along the same path it had descended. It continued to ascent rapidly along a slanting path, until it became so small in the distance it could no longer be seen. In ascent its direction of whirl appeared to change from the direction of whirl during descent." 55.

In the comments of the investigating officer, Air Force Major William Beckett: "Mrs. (deleted) is intellectual, clear-minded, and determined to avoid self-deception. She must be regarded as a thoroughly credible witness." 56. The Major added: "Mrs. (deleted) is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Arizona." 57.

"Red basketball."

A man and his wife living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, would argue in favor of UFOs if asked. The couple were sitting in chairs on their patio enjoying a warm evening, September 6th, when around 9:15 p.m. a glowing red "basketball" sailed out of the southeast sky and soundlessly left their vicinity on a northeast course. The witnesses advised the military that: "The object seemed to be solid and pulsated or flickered...[and] was very red, with a red tail and moved with a 'jerky' motion." 58.

September 7th. The CIA and "facts bearing on the problem."

A measure of the importance of the UFO mystery is the action taken by the Central Intelligence Agency. The Agency had given the green light to a preliminary inquiry in August, 1952. Now, on September 7th, the first recommendations were drawn up and submitted to the organization's director. The paper is a fascinating read, keeping in mind official Air Force statements, E. J. Ruppelt's writings, and the claims of civilian critics.

The CIA recommendations were in the form of a memorandum from the Agency Director (thru the Deputy Director) to those concerned, under the heading: "Flying Saucers." The material is in outline form:

"1. PROBLEM:

To determine:

- a. Whether there are national security implications in the problem 'unidentified flying objects' i.e. flying saucers.
- b. Whether adequate study and research is currently being directed to this problem in its relation to such national security implications; and
- c. What further investigation and research should be instituted, by whom, and under what angis.

2. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

c. OSI has investigated the work currently being performed on flying saucers and has found that:

(1) The only unit of Government currently studying the problem is the Directorate of Intelligence, USAF, which has charged the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) with responsibility for investigating the reports of sightings.

(2) At ATIC there is a small group consisting of a reserve Captain [Ruppelt], two lieutenants and two secretaries to which come all reports of sightings through official channels, and which conducts investigation of the reports either itself or through consultation with other Air Force officers or with civilian technical consultants [Hynek].

(3) A world-wide reporting system has been instituted and major Air Force bases have been ordered to make interpretations of unidentified flying objects.

(4) The research being carried on is strictly on a case basis and appears to be designed solely to attempt a satisfactory explanation of each individual sighting as it occurs.

(5) ATIC has concluded an arrangement with Battelle Memorial Institute for the latter to establish a machine indexing system for official reports of sightings.

(6) Since 1947, ATIC has received approximately 1900 official reports of sightings plus an enormous volume of letters, phone calls and press reports. During the month of July 1952 alone, official reports totaled 250. Of the 1900 reports, Air Force carries 20% as unexplained and of those received January through July, 1952 it carries 20% unexplained.

3. DISCUSSION

a. OSI entered into its inquiry fully aware that it was coming into a field already charged with partisanship, one in which objectivity had been overridden by numerous sensational writers, and one in which there are pressures for extravagant explanations as well as

for oversimplification. The OSI team consulted with a representative of Air Force Special Studies Group; discussed the problem with those in charge of the Air Force Project at Wright field; reviewed a considerable volume of intelligence reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three OSI consultants, all leaders in their scientific fields, who were chosen because of their broad knowledge of the technical areas concerned.

b. OSI found that the ATIC study is probably valid if the purpose is limited to a case-by-case explanation. However, the study makes no attempt to solve the more fundamental aspect of the problem which is to determine definitely the nature of the various phenomena which are causing these sightings, or to discover means by which these causes and their visual or electronic effects may be immediately identified. Our consultant panel stated that those solutions would probably be found on the margins or just beyond the frontiers of our present knowledge in the fields of atmospheric, ionospheric, and extraterrestrial phenomena, with the added possibility that our present dispersal of nuclear waste products might also be a factor. They recommended that a study group be formed to perform three functions:

- (1) Analyze and systematize the factors of information which form the fundamental problem;
- (2) Determine the fields of fundamental science which must be investigated in order to reach an understanding of the phenomenon involved; and
- (3) Make recommendations for the initiation of appropriate research.

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Vice President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has indicated to OSI that such a group could be constituted at that institute. Similarly, Project Lincoln, the Air Force air defense project at MIT, could be charged with these responsibilities.

4. CONCLUSIONS

a. The flying saucer situation contains two elements of danger which, in a situation of international tension, have national security implications. These are:

(1) Psychological - With world-wide sightings reported, it was found that, up to the time of our investigation, there had been in the Russian press no report or comment, even satirical, on flying saucers, though Andre Gromyko had made one humorous mention of the subject. With a State-controlled press, this could result only from an official policy decision. The question, therefore, arises as to whether or not these sightings:

- (a) Could be controlled,
- (b) Could be predicted,
- (c) Could be used from a psychological warfare point of view either offensively or defensively.

The public concern with the phenomena, which is reflected in the United States press and in pressure of inquiry upon the Air Force, indicates that there is a fair proportion of our population which

is mentally conditioned to the acceptance of the incredible. In this fact lies the potential for the touching -off of mass hysteria and panic.

(2) Air Vulnerability- The United States Air Warning System will undoubtedly always depend upon a combination of radar screening and visual observation. We give Russia the present capability of delivering an air attack against us, yet at any given moment now, there may be current a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial. At any moment of attack, we are now in a position where we cannot, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom, and as tension mounts we will run the increasing risk of false alerts and the even greater danger of falsely identifying the real as phantom.

b. Both of these problems are primarily operational in nature but each contains readily apparent intelligence factors. From an operational point of view, three actions are required:

(1) Immediate steps should be taken to improve identification of both visual and electronic phantom so that in the event of an attack, instant and positive identification of enemy planes or missiles can be made.

(2) A study should be instituted to determine that, if any, utilization could be made of these phenomena by United States psychological warfare planners, and that, if any, defenses should be planned in anticipation of Soviet attempts to utilize them.

(3) A national policy should be established as to what should be told the public regarding the phenomena, in order to minimize risk of panic.

c. Intelligence problems include:

(1) The present level of Russian knowledge regarding these phenomena.

(2) Possible Soviet intentions and capabilities to utilize these phenomena to the detriment of US security interests.

(3) The reasons for silence in the Soviet Press regarding flying saucers.

d. Intelligence responsibilities in this field as regards both collection and analysis can be discharged with maximum effectiveness only after much more is known regarding the exact nature of these phenomena.

e. The problem transcends the level of individual departmental responsibilities, and is of such importance as to merit cognizance and action by the National Security Council.

f. Additional research, differing in character and emphasis from that presently being performed by Air Force, will be required to meet the specific needs of both operations and intelligence.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

a. The Director of Central Intelligence advise the National Security Council of the security implications inherent in the flying saucer problem with the request that, under his statutory coordinating authority,

the Director of Central Intelligence be empowered to initiate through the appropriate agencies, either within or without the government, the investigation and research necessary to solve the problem of instant positive identification of 'unidentified flying objects.'

b. CIA, under its assigned responsibilities, and in cooperation with the Psychological Strategy Board, immediately investigate possible offensive or defensive utilization of the phenomena for psychological warfare purposes both for and against the United States, advising those agencies charged with internal security of any pertinent findings affecting their areas of responsibility.

c. On the basis of these programs of research, the CIA is to develop and recommend for the National Security Council a policy of public information which will minimize the risk of panic.

H. Marshall Chadwell
Assistant Director,
Scientific Intelligence" 59.

The CIA then, made some rather strong charges about the condition of BLUE BOOK, complaining about its oversimplifications, its tiny size, its case-by-case approach, its lack of an effort to tackle the basic cause of the phenomenon, while taking care to point out the enormous amount of unofficial UFO reports (which the Air Force could not, or would not recognize). Donald Keyhoe would agree, but as to the main problem there was a profound difference of opinion. While Keyhoe favored the extraterrestrial theory which the CIA apparently meant when it used the words: "extravagant explanations," the agency only admitted to a concern about the Russian threat.

Gullible public?

With all this worry about the reaction of the man in the street, it is appropriate to mention an event in Canada.

A brilliant idea had occurred to W.B. Smith of Canada's classified UFO investigative effort, Project SECOND STORY. Here is his idea, and what happened subsequently, as given in a Canadian document:

"In order to ascertain the reliability of random observations and reports from the public and press of objects seen in the sky a flare of approximately 1,000 candle power was burned for one minute over the outskirts of Ottawa. Two simultaneous observations of the flare were made by transit from two locations. Location A was at the Ottawa Monitoring Station and Location B was at Uplands Airport.

"At 21:45 EST September 8, 1952 a balloon and fused flare were released from Location A. At 21:51 EST the flare ignited and burned for one minute or until 21:52 EST. The bearings obtained were as follows:

<u>Azimuth</u>	<u>Elevation</u>
Location A 46.35 degrees E. of N.	20 degrees
Location B 3.5 degrees W. of N.	12.5 degrees

"These angles would place the balloon over the Rideau Canal near Dow's Lake at an elevation of 1.1 miles.

"The flare was clearly visible from Ottawa and did not resemble a meteor or northern lights. It could not be mistaken for a star and could not be associated with the moon which was on the eastern horizon. It could not be mistaken for a plane, since it was sound-

less and flashed only for a short time from an almost stationary position.

"There was no mention of this object in the newspapers[!!!!]." 60.

The fake UFO was more than just a light. An aluminum cone beneath the light suspended by wire gave the thing a definite "flying saucer" appearance. The "flying saucer" sailed over a night baseball game and two drive-in theaters. When Smith checked with the project again on November 17th, he still had no reports from the public of his mock UFO, no letters, no phone calls, no mention in the press. This bugged Smith who, it was said, grumbled: "It would seem that people just don't watch the sky." 61.

A re-assessment.

No orders to that effect are to be found in BLUE BOOK files but the Air Force launched a re-assessment of the most promising UFO evidence in the military's possession: movie films.

The puzzling UFO movie taken near Tremonton, Utah, back on July 2nd had been screened repeatedly for Ruppelt and his advisors but it wasn't until September 8th that a full-fledged frame by frame analysis was ordered. The questions to be answered made allowances for the existence of disk-like objects. The disposition form is quoted below:

- "a. Are images made by light source or reflections.
- b. Any indication of what kind of objects could have caused images?
Is there any bird sufficiently actinic * to cause images? Could they have been caused by aircraft or balloons?
- c. What causes impression that some objects at times appear to become 2 or 3 where there was originally one, or, conversely, 2 or 3 objects at times appear to merge into one?
- d. Do all objects have same characteristics?
 - (1) Same apparent shape?
 - (2) Same color?
 - (3) Same relative size?
 - (4) Same general motion?
- e. What are shape(s), color(s), and relative size(s) of objects?
- f. To what can the 'fade-in' and 'fade-out' of the objects be attributed?
- g. What type motion is attributable to the objects (about their own axis as well as about axis of flight path)?
- h. Is there any acceleration evident in their motion along flight path axis?
- i. Can the motion of the camera (panning and joggling) be allowed for sufficiently to permit determination of the angular velocity of objects which cross the field of view? (Reference particularly the single object which crosses field; photographer states that camera was held motionless while object crossed field of view.)
- j. Determine patterns of flight from position plots for each frame, then:
 - (1) Is there any recurring pattern in the relative position of the objects?
 - (2) Do they maintain same relative positions in formation during any maneuvers, particularly violent maneuvers?
 - (3) Is relative position maintained coincidental with movement about their axes?
 - (4) If undulating motion in present among a number of objects which are maintaining a semblance of formation, do those objects undulate in phase? Ditto for tumbling motion?

* A radiant of heat or light.

- (5) Is there any indication of abrupt changes in direction of flight path through fairly large angles (e.g. 50 degrees or more during interval of 2 or 3 frames)?
- (6) Do any objects appear to remain motionless at the same time that others move about?
- (7) Can all objects be accounted for at all times or do some literally disappear while still well within field of view?" 62.

Needless to say, any answers to the forementioned questions would make interesting reading.

Questions that are answers.

Before we move on, we should note that the questions themselves provide several answers. If that does not make sense look at it this way. The official Air Force position was that "there was no pattern to UFO reports" but here we find the Air Force checking for some specific characteristics. Why would the military ask if the objects "undulated in phase," or made "abrupt turns at fairly large angles," or "literally disappear while still well within field of view!" An undulating object making abrupt turns was just such a machine being touted by the pro-UFO people! The last reference about any mysterious disappearance was a concept Dr. Hynek was only then just beginning to ponder and of which persons like Keyhoe had no inkling! We will discuss the results later in the events of December 1952.

Nothing had happened.

Meanwhile, Ruppelt was still trying to finish his investigation of the sensational DesVergers incident. The BLUE BOOK chief had definite doubts as to the scoutmaster's credibility but felt he needed to find some glaring holes in the man's testimony nonetheless. At 7:00 p.m., September 8, 1952, Ruppelt, accompanied by Lt. Olsson, landed at West Palm Beach International Airport and immediately contacted Capt. Carney, Wing Intelligence Officer who was handling the scoutmaster case locally. According to Air Force BLUE BOOK records Ruppelt asked Capt. Carney about any new developments having a bearing on the now famous case. Carney told Ruppelt that: "...to his knowledge there was nothing outstanding that had happened." 63. There was nothing said about the Wendell Wells couple or Miss June Tent! In fact there is nothing in military files about the "second landing story" even though the press said an Air Force spokesman at West Palm Beach International admitted the military was investigating. Instead of the latest landing incident, according to BLUE BOOK files, Capt. Carney briefed Ruppelt on other matters like DesVergers' complaints he had been receiving threatening phone calls from anonymous persons which urged him to "lay off his story." There is no indication either Ruppelt or Carney took such talk seriously. Carney remarked that he had told the scoutmaster to contact the FBI. Des Vergers did but later protested that Hoover's boys passed the buck to the West Palm Beach police. 64.

Grass samples.

Of greater interest was Capt. Carney's news that a rancher in the West Palm Beach area had been fascinated by the scoutmaster story and had expressed a desire to assist in the investigation. The rancher was saying that he had visited the site and he believed the grass there had been burned (Even though Ruppelt swore otherwise). Subsequently the rancher voiced a suggestion that some grass samples be taken and analyzed by a lab in St. Louis. Ruppelt's reaction was to phone the rancher and ask about this private effort. When contacted, the gentleman stated that recent rain showers had made the site too wet and as yet had dug no samples. 65. Certainly an obvious line of questioning at this point would have focused on the supposed "burned areas"

the rancher had allegedly seen. Where were they? How many? What did they look like? Instead, we are led to believe Ruppelt showed no such curiosity and ended the conversation! During the following days Ruppelt could have revisited the site, it wasn't far away, but evidently Ruppelt did not put enough credence in the rancher's talk.

The final item of Capt. Carney's briefing was the press agent retained by DesVergers. Ruppelt was advised that the agent had shown concern over the results of the background check on his client and had asked what agency would do the investigation. The man was told the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations would look into the matter and after being told that, the man had questioned Capt. Carney about Carney's personal opinion of the case, which the Intelligence officer, in keeping with official policy, fended off with a reply that made no commitment one way or another. 66.

The idea of a press agent disturbed Ruppelt and he planned to make it the first order of business the following morning to find out all he could about the man and what he was going to do. 67.

Cigar over Harrisburg.

As Ruppelt was calling it a night in Florida, at 10:00 p.m. some 35 miles northwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at the town of Shamokin, a Mrs. Lehran claimed to have seen an object shaped like a cigar: "...with an orange glow at the base." 68. It was viewed for only a few seconds.

Where are the UFOs?

Reported UFO activity for the 7th and the 8th of September was hardly worth noting. As mentioned, Canada's W.B. Smith had even tried to generate some reports with a counterfeit saucer with no luck whatsoever. A thorough search, however, turned up something in a French book.

At 4:20 in the afternoon of September 8th a spectacular daytime meteor lit up sky over the towns of Cassis and Sommier in France. A huge orange ball, the cosmic visitant spewed a luminous wake as it made the 93 mile trip between the two aforementioned towns in ten minutes. Unless there was an error in calculating the time, the phenomenon had UFO credentials. 69.

Elsewhere in Europe, in Italy, an Associated Press dispatch datelined Rome, September 8th, quoted an Italian Communist Daily that a visiting astronomer from the Socialist Block had announced no one in Russia was seeing flying saucers in the sky. 70. That was a good item for the CIA.

September 9th.

Early in morning Capt. Carney, Capt. Ruppelt, and Lt. Olsson, set out in an Air Force staff car to make more inquiries about the scoutmaster case. Their first stop was at the local FBI office where Hoover's people said they had nothing on DesVergers but did direct the Air Force investigators to the West Palm Beach police who were suppose to know something useful. At the Sheriff's they learned that the Chief Deputy, a Mr. Lawrance, and his subordinate, deputy C.B. Bowen, both knew the scoutmaster. One lawman had doubts about the saucer witness while the other expressed confidence in the fellow. 71.

Burned areas again.

While talking with the lawmen Ruppelt encountered another reference to "burned areas" and this time things became a little clearer. Ruppelt had asked about the Constable that had accompanied Deputy Partin on the night of the Des Vergers incident. What the BLUE BOOK chief heard was an eyebrow lifter. He learned that the Constable was going around announcing he would make the scoutmaster case a "big deal" by taking pictures: "...of the burned trees and the burned ground and would have half the Air Force from Washington down there investigating." 72. The Air Force file had these comments inserted here: "He

would have to fake this because nothing appeared to be burned." 73. The lawmen at the Sheriff's office took such talk by the Constable lightly, telling Ruppelt and Carney that the man was something of a character.

Air Force records say that Ruppelt's next stop was the the hardware store where DesVergers worked. The man's employer thought well of the scoutmaster and gave some examples of DesVergers' good deeds.

Since DesVergers worked as a dealer for City Services oil company, Ruppelt and Carney contacted the company representative who dealt with the scoutmaster. This individual felt DesVergers had done some odd things and, like the hardware store proprietor, gave some examples, but after listening Ruppelt made a mental note to discount the testimony since it was of a subjective nature.

Traveling across town Ruppelt met with a doctor who knew DesVergers prior to the saucer incident, having treated the man for an injury. Like the oil company representative, the doctor also thought Des Vergers had exhibited some peculiar behavior, an opinion this time that carried some weight with the Air Force investigators.

By this time it was 5 o'clock in the afternoon and the Air Force officers returned to Capt. Carney's office at West Palm Beach International. Apparently concerned about what he discovered about Des Vergers, Ruppelt decided that the scoutmaster's press agent should be questioned right away. The agent's office was phoned but someone else answered, the agent being out of town, nonetheless Ruppelt learned enough to make the call worthwhile. The BLUE BOOK chief was told the contract between the agent and Des Vergers had been terminated because of the agent's doubts about the scoutmaster's background. As it turned out Ruppelt could not take much comfort in the press agent's withdrawal since Des Vergers reacted by declaring he would go it alone in trying to sell his story, claiming that the Air Force would give him unqualified backing. (Herethé Air Force file on the Des Vergers case has an insertion that expresses complete ignorance of just how the man got such a notion.)

At about 7:30 p.m. Capt. Carney took Capt. Ruppelt to a boy scout meeting to meet the boys who had been with Des Vergers the night of the "saucer encounter." (Des Vergers was not at the meeting so he was not able to give the boys any coaching.)

The appearance of Ruppelt and Carney (Capt. Carney was in uniform) at the meeting excited the youngsters and unfortunately made them nervous. One thing that Ruppelt discovered was that when Des Vergers left the scouts to investigate the lights in the woods, the scoutmaster suggested to the boys that he might find something other than a crashed airplane and that was a flying saucer. Capt. Carney made a note of that and underlined the words. Both Ruppelt and Carney must have felt that now they were getting somewhere, yet the rest of the questioning did not prove to be so fruitful in discrediting Des Vergers. The stories told by the boys were consistent up to the point where Des Vergers walked into the woods.

The oldest boy, a 12-year-old, was somewhat uncooperative but did verify one remarkable part of the story saying he: "...saw a semi-circle of white lights about three inches in diameter going down an angle of 45 degrees into the trees." 74. After Des Vergers walked into the woods, the 12-year-old claimed he saw red lights in the clearing and the scoutmaster "stiffen up" and fall.

The next boy questioned was a year younger and made a poor impression by acting giddy and displaying little concentration.

Surprisingly, the smallest witness, a ten-year-old, gave the best interview, being logical and straight forward. He said he caught sight of a white light diving into the trees but he could not remember any details and felt the light gave the impression of being a meteor.

Both the 11 and 10-year-olds agreed that they saw the scoutmaster enter the woods and, as Capt. Carney recorded it, they:

"...could see flashlights flashing on the trees and then he disappeared for a few seconds, at least the light disappeared. The next thing they

saw was a series of red lights. They said they looked a lot like flares or sky rockets. The lights were not making any definite pattern, some of them were going up and some were going down, or going around and around in all directions. They got out of the car and ran down the road to get help. The boys stated that upon arrival at the farm house, they told the people that their scoutmaster was in trouble and to make a phone call, which the people did. Soon afterwards the people asked what the boys had seen and they told their story of the light to the people before either the sheriff or Des Vergers showed up." 75.

Capt. Carney summed up his impressions this way:

"All in all the boy's stories were rather conflicting and it was very difficult to obtain any facts. The only one fact that seemed to stand out of their minds was the facts that they did see red lights out in the palmetto grove after Des Vergers had gone in." 76.

After talking with the boys, the officers spent some time discussing Des Vergers with the scout troop chairman who was not too well acquainted with the man but did relate a couple of experiences he had which indicated the scoutmaster seemed to have some peculiar personal traits.

Before it got too late, Capt. Ruppelt, Capt. Carney, and Lt. Olsson, were driven out to the supposed saucer landing site. Their arrival at the site was timed to approximate the same time as the original sighting at the spot, about 10:00 p.m. There was no moon, which matched the conditions of the night of the incident. The Air Force car was parked at the same place as Des Vergers vehicle the evening of August 19th. The staff car driver, Sgt. Saeger, accompanied by Lt. Olsson, took a flashlight and walked into the woods to the location where Des Vergers had been "attacked." Since Olsson, Ruppelt and Carney had been to site once before, during the day, it is assumed they had not gotten lost now that it was dark and moonless. Ruppelt and Carney noticed that when Lt. Olsson reached the clearing of the "attack," his flashlight was visible from the road only by holding the flashlight seven feet above the ground. This contradicted the 12-year-old's claim that Des Vergers was visible, so visible he was seen to "stiffen up," thus it seems that the older boy's version of events might be questioned (But one should remember one thing. The red lights were suppose to have come from the saucer, according to Des Vergers, and the "machine" was above him which would put it at, and above, the seven foot level). 77.

September 9th.

Look magazine appeared on the newsstands on September 9th carrying the assertions of Harvard's Dr. Donald Menzel who attributed the radar targets and lights over Washington D.C. back in July on meteorological conditions. He also took a shot at his favorite target, the extraterrestrial theory. If the UFOs were space ships from some super civilization among the stars, why hadn't such beings contacted us by radio, an easy enough task one would think. Dr. Menzel further suggested: "If inter-planetary travelers came here they wouldn't hang around like ghosts; they'd get off their ships and have a look at us. Wouldn't you on Venus?" 78. The professor echoed some Pentagon voices: "...if an enemy were to attack us tomorrow, it might take 24 hours for the people in the target area to make up their minds whether it really was a terrestrial enemy or somebody from Venus." 79.

Dr. Menzel had met with Air Force officials back in April 1952 in Washington D.C. and tried to convince the military men UFOs were only mundane objects and events (This was two months before his well known UFO article in Look magazine). As a proponent of such a position, he encountered "strong skepticism" by those officers sympathetic to the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Undiscouraged, Dr.

Menzel continued to give talks at military and government conferences in an attempt to convert others to his views. Lyle G. Boyd, who collaborated with Menzel on the book: The World of Flying Saucers, suggested that the cool military reception to Menzel's ideas were due to being: "...better acquainted with military matters than with physical science." 80. However those who disagreed with Menzel, military and civilian, probably feel Paul Mc Carthy put it best when he wrote that Menzel's: "...explanations were qualitatively seductive but quantitatively untenable." 81.

UFO reports on September 9th.

A Mrs. Lehran of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, had her second UFO sighting in as many days. This sighting was longer and more detailed than the one the night before. It was 7:50 p.m. when she observed something for about two and a half minutes:

"It also appeared in the east and moved toward the south, but reversed its course after traveling a 'fairly short distance' and retraced the same path back toward the east where it 'went up' and disappeared." 82.

Flying formation over Morocco.

Operational Immediate teletype messages from the U.S. 5th Air Division, Rabat, French Morocco, on September 9th, alerted all major air commands to the following:

"UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS SIGHTED AT 4 RUE CETTIGNY, RABAT, 34 DEGREES, 32 MINUTES NORTH 96 DEGREES, 52 MINUTES WEST BETWEEN 2100 AND 2140 HRS 9 SEPT CURR....DAF RPT JAF ASCD DIR INTELL THIS HQ...SIGHTED DISC-SHAPED SOUNDLESS AERIAL OBJECTS HEADING NORTHWEST TURNING WEST TO SOUTHWEST. FORMATION OF 6 WHITE LIGHTS EVENLY SPACED. APPEARED AS LIGHTS IN FOG. NO BREAK IN FORMATION DURING SIGHTING. COLOSING OBSERVED OBJECTS FOR APPROX 5 SECONDS. ALT UNKNOWN. SPEED ESTD TO BE TWICE APPARENT SPEED OF T-33 ACFT." 83.

September 10th.

The morning of the 10th found Ruppelt still in West Palm Beach. There were a couple of things he could have done that day. Since the site of the Des Vergers encounter was only a few miles from the airport where he was staying, he could have, without much trouble, have gone there to check again on the alleged burned areas after checking first with the rancher who was making such a public issue about it, or he might have interrogated June Tent and the Wells about their sighting and visited the site of their experience (if he had been informed) yet none of that was to be. According to BLUE BOOK records, Ruppelt spent the rest of his visit "getting the goods on Des Vergers" apparently concerned about renewed determination of the scoutmaster after the publicity agent had abandoned his cause. If Ruppelt did anything more than nail down his facts on Des Vergers, the official record is silent on it. One would like to know the answer to the question posed to Capt. Carney by BLUE BOOK earlier, specifically, to determine if Palm Beach airport operated during the night hours, and if that was the case, whether there was any aircraft landings the evening of August 19, 1952 between the hours of 9:30 - 11 o'clock? According to Des Vergers he saw a "many-windowed" craft, so if he had seen an airplane it might well have been a large one and most likely logged by controllers in the tower.

An examination by a lab in Washington D.C. (possibly the FBI lab) showed that the scorches on the scoutmaster's cap were, very probably, made by electric sparks. This concerned Ruppelt because he had established that there was no burn on the man's cap before he entered the woods. Left unsaid by Ruppelt, but one should assume it, Des Vergers therefore could not have done the obvious if the story was a hoax and that would have been to burn the cap with a match or cigarette lighter when the

trees cloaked him from the boyscouts in the car. Somehow DesVergers would have to some way of producing electrical sparks in the woods, but why go to so much trouble? A secondary fact that Ruppelt passes over rather quickly is the assertion by the same lab that the scorches were produced when the cap was in a flat condition. The BLUE BOOK chief does not say as much, but one assumes the cap would be somewhat flat if DesVergers had taken it off to create the burns, yet according to the man's testimony he threw up his arms to protect his face as the red bolt of energy floated toward him. This no doubt would have pushed the cap back on his head, collapsing it into a more or less flattened condition. Thus the flat cap could further substantiate the scoutmaster's story and not refute it! 84.

But what really bothered Ruppelt, perhaps stunned is a better word, was the grass samples. Because the grass samples dug up during the visit to the site of the supposed UFO encounter had been inadvertently left behind in Florida when Ruppelt returned to Ohio, he had to phone the Intelligence officer at West Palm Beach and make arrangements to have the samples shipped to ATIC's agronomy lab. This meant results of an analysis had been delayed and had played no part in Ruppelt's assessment of the case until after he had received uncomplimentary information about DesVergers. 85. One morning Ruppelt received a phonecall from the agronomy lab which had a question for Ruppelt: "How did the roots get charred?" 86. This puzzled Ruppelt because he did not remember any burned grass. The lab explained that after they had knocked off all the soil from the roots to examine every bit of the clumps, they found that the roots were charred black! And that was not all. On some of the extreme tips of the longer grass blades, there was also evidence of charring so it was assumed that the blades had been bent over far enough to be touching the ground when the grass was subjected to heat. The lab had heated some live grass clumps in a pan and had duplicated the charring but it took 300 degrees to achieve the same results. Immediately Ruppelt made a few checks that might explain the heat in the ground like hot springs or chemical contamination, but discovered nothing that would provide a solution the mystery. It is critical to note that Ruppelt makes no mention of a revisit to the site. We will have more to say about that later.

One could develop a theoretical series of events that might account for the burned samples and at the same time explain the Constable's and rancher's curious assertions that the grass at the saucer site had been burned in spite of what Ruppelt firmly maintains, that no such areas existed. Just suppose the Constable and the rancher were planning a hoax and the lawman had access to the samples. In that case, all the Constable had to do then was secretly cook the samples and return them to where they were being kept. One might also suggest that the boasting about burned samples was done before Constable put the material in the oven, so that when he did, he "undercooked it," apparently failing to burn them to all outwards appearances. Perhaps the "cooking" was taking hours and he was afraid of being discovered. There is one big hitch to this theory. According to Ruppelt, someone like the Constable could not have possibly had access to the grass samples: "Only a few people handled the grass specimens: the lab, the intelligence officer in Florida, and I. The lab wouldn't do it as a joke, then write an official report, and I didn't do it. This leaves the intelligence officer; I'm positive that he wouldn't do it." 87. If the grass samples were carried from the site directly to the Air Force Intelligence office at West Palm Beach field as Ruppelt implies, then our hoax theory collapses.

*There is this note in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Astronomical Society Bulletin 52-1 of November 1, 1952, p.2: "A.S. has received the following report on the Florida-scoutmaster - burned clothing incident. The local power company states that at the place and time of incident a high voltage line and transformer were burned out and circuit control relay failed to operate to open circuit. It may be explanation of ball of fire, burned clothing and grass."

Second thoughts?

It may be the Air Force had second thoughts, or it may be due to some pressure exerted by the CIA interest in the quality of BLUE BOOK UFO investigative work, but on September 10th the chief of ATIC issued this order: "It is requested that OSI conduct an investigation into the events surrounding the sighting of a Mr. (...deleted) of radio station (...deleted), Pittsburgh, Kansas." 88. This order no doubt refers to the Squyers case which did not appear to be taken seriously by the military when first reported. It could also be that the OSI was only to investigate the background of the witness, his character, his associates, and his future plans; instead of evidence pertaining to the supposed existence of a strange machine in line with concerns with combating wild rumors and/or the mischief of the Russian secret service. Special Agent Elmer Lian of Offutt AFB, Nebraska, was assigned the task (His report was filed on October 7th).

As Donald Keyhoe remembers, the Squyers yarn was a horselaught to Lt. Colonel Seales who didn't think the case rated any special investigation and to his knowledge none had been ordered. An unnamed Intelligence officer, however, tipped off Keyhoe to some real Air Force interest in the Pittsburgh incident and suggested that Keyhoe take the next plane to Kansas to make personal inquiries. A very busy Keyhoe had other commitments but later he met with Pentagon UFO spokesman Al Chop who had proved to be a reliable source. Chop told Keyhoe the Squyers case had been listed "unexplained" and that the military had run tests on grass samples from the Kansas checking for radioactivity although the samples had been fragmented in shipment which prevented accurate analysis. 89. Apparently Keyhoe did not ask if or when more grass samples would be examined, nor did Chop volunteer any information to that effect. Nothing was divulged either about the one characteristic that had startled Rupelt about the Des Vergers samples, which may well have been the prime reason for the sudden official attention given to the Squyers case: charred roots.

September 10th results of a follow-up interview of Delbert C. Newhouse concerning his UFO movie footage taken at Tremonton, Utah, July 2, 1952, were forwarded to both the Pentagon and ATIC by the investigator, the Director of Intelligence, 24th Air Division, Hamilton AFB, California. These results are better discussed in conjunction with the technical evaluation of the images on the film and will be saved for a later period.

The missing fifth report.

Project STORK's Fifth Status Report on contract AF-1941, PPS-100 was completed on September 10th, a report that covered data received during August, 1952. The report's contents are not known because it was removed from ATIC for some unknown reason. Perhaps there is material in it still classified. The material in such reports deals mostly with the Battelle Memorial Institute's chore of improving and analyzing UFO reports.

UFO activity on September 10th.

The wife of a civilian employee of Andrews AFB, Maryland, observed something in the sky near the airfield at 2:30 p.m. Her report read:

"The object was described as shiny, metallic, elliptical with no exhaust visible and emitting no sound. Its size was roughly that of a half dollar. It was at considerable height, its angle of elevation being approximately 70 degrees in relation to the observer. The sighting lasted two to three minutes during which the object moved rapidly back and forth over a short arc. Finally the object rose rapidly and disappeared." 90.

September 11th.

"Salami."

A Miami, Florida, resident by the name of Abe Friedman looked through binoculars at something zipping through the air that had the appearance of a small "salami." A Weather Bureau official suggested that Mr. Friedman had simply seen a small cloud reflecting light. 91.

September 12th.

"Worst than Frankenstein."

The CIA's worst fears were realized September 12th when the eeriest UFO hoax ever caused nationwide amazement and was later judged by ABC news as one of the top ten feature stories of 1952.

The whole business was triggered by a spectacular meteor which blazed across the night skies east to west over a five state area of Maryland, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, a little after 7 p.m. The firey ball appeared "awfully low" to observers as it sped from horizon to horizon. The sight produced a rash of flying saucer reports to police, newspapers, and the military. As the meteor came into view over Flatswoods, West Virginia, a Mr. G. D. Hoard was out in his front yard scattering feed for his chickens so he able to get a good look at the fireball. While he watched, a bright fragment broke off, and before the meteor passed out of sight over the horizon, it exploded. 92.

On the other side of a ridgeline, some distance from Hoard's place, in a pasture at the base of craggy rise named Fisher's Hill, a 400 foot height topped by a grove of trees, five boys ranging in age from 10 to 13 were playing ball. As the bolide flashed across the evening sky it became obscured by the top of Fisher's Hill and one boy wondered whether the firey phenomenon had landed on the summit. One boy yelled: "Look, there's a flying saucer!" 93. Still another youth shouted that maybe there is a "Man from Mars" inside who will leap out and grab you! 94.

While this was happening, an A. Lee Stewart and his friend Bill Steots were nearby at a gas station. Both men had had a little to drink and were feeling good. They noticed the excited boys across the way and were within earshot of the "spaceman-saucer" yells. As a lark the two men drove up the old wagon path that led to the top of Fisher's Hill to find nothing except for a few cows in the woods. From there they went to the office of the Braxton Democrat owned by Stewart's father. Being a bit intoxicated the two concocted a wild monster tale that remains to this day enshrined in West Virginia folklore. In addition to the text, the men drew a picture of their weird boogie-man. 94. It was a typical monster yarn that makes the rounds of rural communities; like the eight foot tall smelly giant that had the entire Murphysboro, Illinois, police force looking for it in 1973; or the seven foot creature with red golf-ball eyes that suppositively terrorized the citizens of Coral Stream, Illinois, in 1974; or "Momo," a glowing orange-eyed, pumpkin-headed critter that excited the community of Louisiana, Missouri, until the joker's costume was found; to say nothing of the "enormous, moldy-smelling biped," 12 feet high and weighting a 1,000 pounds, that made local headlines around Sister Lakes, Michigan, one year until investigators discovered that the story was merely a wildly exaggerated accidental encounter between a drunk and a pair of lovers in the woods. Such tales have similar elements, big bodies, big eyes, and a bad case of B.O.

Braxton County Sheriff Robert Carr, whose office was in Sutton, was investigating a report of a "crashed aircraft" near the town of Franklin, the sighting

evidently caused by the passage of the big meteor, while talk of a "monster" at Flatwoods circulated in Sutton, so it was almost an hour before the Sheriff arrived at Fisher's Hill and climbed to the top. He had been preceded by local Flatwoods residents, Junior Edwards and Joey Martin, who searched the hilltop a mere half hour after the supposed occurrence; and a Max Lockhart, who sold appliances in town, who reached the grove of trees just before Carr. None of these men saw or smelled a thing. 95.

The Sheriff learned that there was suppose to be a number of people involved: a grown woman, Kathleen May, a 17-year-old youth by the name of Gene Lemon, and five kids. Carr began to question everyone and it was his impression the excitement was due to mass hysteria. 96.

Brief newstories appeared in the press on September 14th with more substantial ones a day later. We will postpone further discussion until that date.

Scully's work under fire.

Speaking of fabrications, the September issue of True magazine carried an article that put an end to what the author touted as the "greatest scientific hoax since the Cardiff Giant." Exposing the deception took four months and no little money. The result was some investigative work that would have impressed the CIA. Investigative journalist J.P. Cahn was enlisted by the newspaper the San Francisco Chronicle, and the magazine True, to determine if the public was being fooled by Frank Scully's book Behind the Flying Saucers published in 1950. In the two years since some 60,000 hardback copies had been sold as well as many paperbacks. The fame of the book was world-wide.

That the book was a gigantic hoax was apparent to a journalist of Cahn's caliber who called the work "loudly bad" as he picked out garbled scientific concepts, contradictions, and many rudimentary mistakes.

There were a number of things that annoyed Cahn. Some book reviewers, who should have known better, didn't give Scully's book the stinging rebuke it deserved, instead went as far as being amusedly tolerant. Henry Holt, a reputable and venerable firm and Scully's publisher, troubled itself to preface the book with impressive praise of the author, giving him high marks for probity, care, and caution.

Although Scully approached his subject with what Cahn recognized as a "pitchman's shallow glibness," the Variety columnist had a mighty ally, the snowballing mystery of UFOs which seemed to make anything possible.

Most disturbing of all to Cahn (the CIA and the military would no doubt agree) was the bad taste of Scully's humor. Wrote Cahn: "It accused military officials of our government of being a pack of liars and blackmailers." 97. True to high journalistic standards, Cahn talked to Scully in person in private to give the man a chance to offer a modified slant to his views. Cahn wrote: "Although the oral version was not one whit clearer, it was considerably more vehement, particularly the portions dealing with government officials who deny the existence of the saucers." 98.

Other UFO items for the 12th.

The Meridional News Agency reported a sighting of a UFO over the Brazilian city of Belem located at the mouth of the Amazon, but without more access to the foreign press no more can be ascertained about this incident.

BLUE BOOK files do contain a report a few lines long submitted through official channels that tell of a sighting by a Mr. and Mrs. David Kole, civilian ground observer volunteers, of a "greenish-white light with a red rim" which was under observation for 35 minutes. It was first sighted at 2:30 a.m. at Allen, Maryland. 99.

September 13th.

An item in the South China Morning Post referred to an informant in Hong Kong who was said to have seen 15 star-like lights in an arc, or semi-circular formation, sweep over the British colony at 1:45 p.m. When the lights entered a small cloud, the glowing points were not totally obscured. 100.

At 5:00 p.m. September 13th a mysterious white cigar-shaped object was seen hovering just east of the moon as seen from a site in Ft. Worth, Texas. After 18 minutes the witness claimed the object shot away toward the south so quickly he was unable to follow it with his eyes. 101.

At Riudoso, New Mexico, after dark (no exact time available) the evening of the 13th over 30 townspeople viewed a UFO which hovered a half hour over the community. The operator of an ice cream parlor, Mr. C.J. Fox, described the object as a gold-orange body as big as the full moon. At sundown it rose straight up to a higher position where it remained as a star-like point until it finally vanished. 102.

Air Force Captain Wells Hobler (inactive reserve) encountered a meteor-like body over Allentown, Pennsylvania, at 7:40 p.m. Flying a Beechcraft Bonanza, a civilian plane, at 10,000 feet, Hobler sighted a flaming orange-red "fat football" diving at an angle of 30 degree. Startled since the object appeared to be only 200 yards away, Hobler jerked at his controls to evade. He swore the object also went into a 65 degree climb shortly thereafter! 103.

Blue-white in color, a strange object flashed over Santa Barbara, California, 8:40 p.m.. It was in sight for 30 seconds as it zoomed in a flat trajectory and then rose rapidly before being lost from view by the witness. an Air Force pilot at the helm of a C-54. 104.

September 14th.

A peek at confidential military Intelligence records reveals official interest in a UFO during Operation Mainbrace, a North Sea NATO naval exercise. The witness was a Danish Lt. Commander, second in command of a destroyer, who was sailing just north of the island of Bornholm in the Baltic. It was late, 10:13 p.m., when three bluish objects in triangular formation passed by at an estimated 3,000 feet. The objects changed course from a bearing of 320 degrees to one of 240 degrees in about 7 seconds. The formation's speed was estimated at 1,500 kilometers per hour. American Intelligence commented: "Description and location indicate possible Soviet jet activity if estimates of altitude and speed are discounted." 105.

"Saucer stampedes herd."

Flying saucers hovering at treetop level --a fantasy? Well not according to scoutmaster Des Vergers, and then there was the curious testimony of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Wells, and now here have another in the same general area!

Very early Sunday morning (4:30 a.m.), September 14th, near Belle Glade, Florida, which is directly west of West Palm Beach on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee, an employee of the Everglades Experimental Station, Mr. Fred J. Brown, was preparing to feed a dozen cows. He put a stop to his work when he heard a loud humming sound he compared to the humming made by high voltage lines. This was so unusual Brown went to the Barn door and peeked outside. He could see nothing that might be causing the sound but did notice that the cows, instead of crowding near the door to be fed as was their habit, had fled to the far side of the pasture as if frightened by something. Seeing the reaction of the cows, Brown stepped out the door and glanced around, finally discovering the source of the sound when he looked up. There, up in the sky and

In a slow descent was a round object about 35 feet in diameter. It wasn't a balloon but a definite saucer-like craft with red and yellow lights, alternately spaced, in a row around the rim on the underside. Brown did not get a good look at the top and said he saw no "windows" or other such openings. The object lost altitude in an apparent controlled descent and only stopped when it reached a point about 40 feet from the ground. Since it hovered over the barn, it must have seemed even closer. According to Brown the object came within 20 feet of the treetops in the vicinity. The "saucer," or whatever, did not hover when it halted its soft fall for it then moved horizontally and was quickly lost from view. The sight "unnerved" Brown but he regained his composure and herded the cows (there were a few horses too) back to the barn where he could do some milking. He didn't get very far because the object returned, passing north to south at about 30 mph in a slight climb, bathing the barn and pasture in strong light and leaving behind an acrid odor. This was too much for the live stock which ran off for the second time, and it was too much for Mr. Brown who did some running himself, fleeing to some nearby houses to arouse the occupants to confirm he was not seeing things. The object was long gone before he got any other witnesses so he tried once again to round up the cows and finish his chores. There was no further appearances by the object but Brown's troubles were not over, the cows' milk production dropped from the usual 25 gallons to a mere 5-6. That afternoon production was still down but not by so much. When Brown talked to the press he said he didn't mind working so early in the morning in the dark and wasn't afraid of anything natural, but what he saw was something he had never in his life had ever encountered. His thought was that it was some sort of blimp but he had been puzzled by the lack of propellers, motors, or any openings. 106.

"Blue watermelon."

Possibly there is some connection with the "fat fooball" spotted at Allentown, Pennsylvania, on the 13th, when on the 14th, some 70 miles to the southwest at Middletown, Pennsylvania (outside Harrisburg), a "blue watermelon" was observed. Two civilian guards checking autos at the west gate of Olmsted AFB sighted an object in the sky they were sure was not a shooting star. It resembled, they said, a large "watermelon glowing a brilliant blue." The guards also noticed a humming sound (see story above) that stopped when the object passed out of sight. When first spotted, the "melon" was motionless, and then it rose slightly followed by a move laterally until it became obscured by the terrain. The duration of the sighting was estimated at 3 minutes. The investigating Air Force officer took note of the low visibility weather conditions at the time of the sighting which, in his opinion, would produce visible beams from any navigation lights which suggests that an aircraft was not responsible. 107.

"Dancing ball."

The comment of the witness, a school teacher, is probably the most memorable aspect of the September 14th, Fairfax, Virginia, UFO case. A "ball of white light" surrounded by a big corona was watched for four minutes. The UFO, seen at 3:15 p.m., jumped around (see drawing). The schoolteacher said she had never seen anything like it: "I was particularly impressed with the swift darting movement which gave me an idea that the object was alive and not like a mechanical device." 108.

Excitement mounts at Sutton.

Meanwhile, at Sutton, West Virginia, Sheriff Carr's office received a slew of phonecalls from "monster hunters," and representatives of the news media. Mrs. May, the only adult involved, became famous overnight. Radio and television

stations insisted on tape recordings of the woman describing the "encounter." We'll return to this story later.

More strange activity up north. A "red cigar."

A reddish "cigar" was observed to the west of the town of White Lake, South Dakota, between 7 and 7:30 p.m. September 14th. The "cigar's" longitudinal axis was parallel with the horizon as it moved west before veering south, after which it was lost from sight. Three "puffs of smoke" were spotted to the rear of the object and the observer felt the UFO may have been responsible. The witness was the Post Supervisor of the local Ground Observer Corps who insisted the object had a definite outline.

A similar object had been seen three weeks before in the same area.

The intense red color may have been from the setting sun which was only half way below the horizon. Whether it produced the rest of the phenomenon is an answer best left to the experts. No aircraft or balloons were known to be in area. 109.

"Greenish-white cigars."

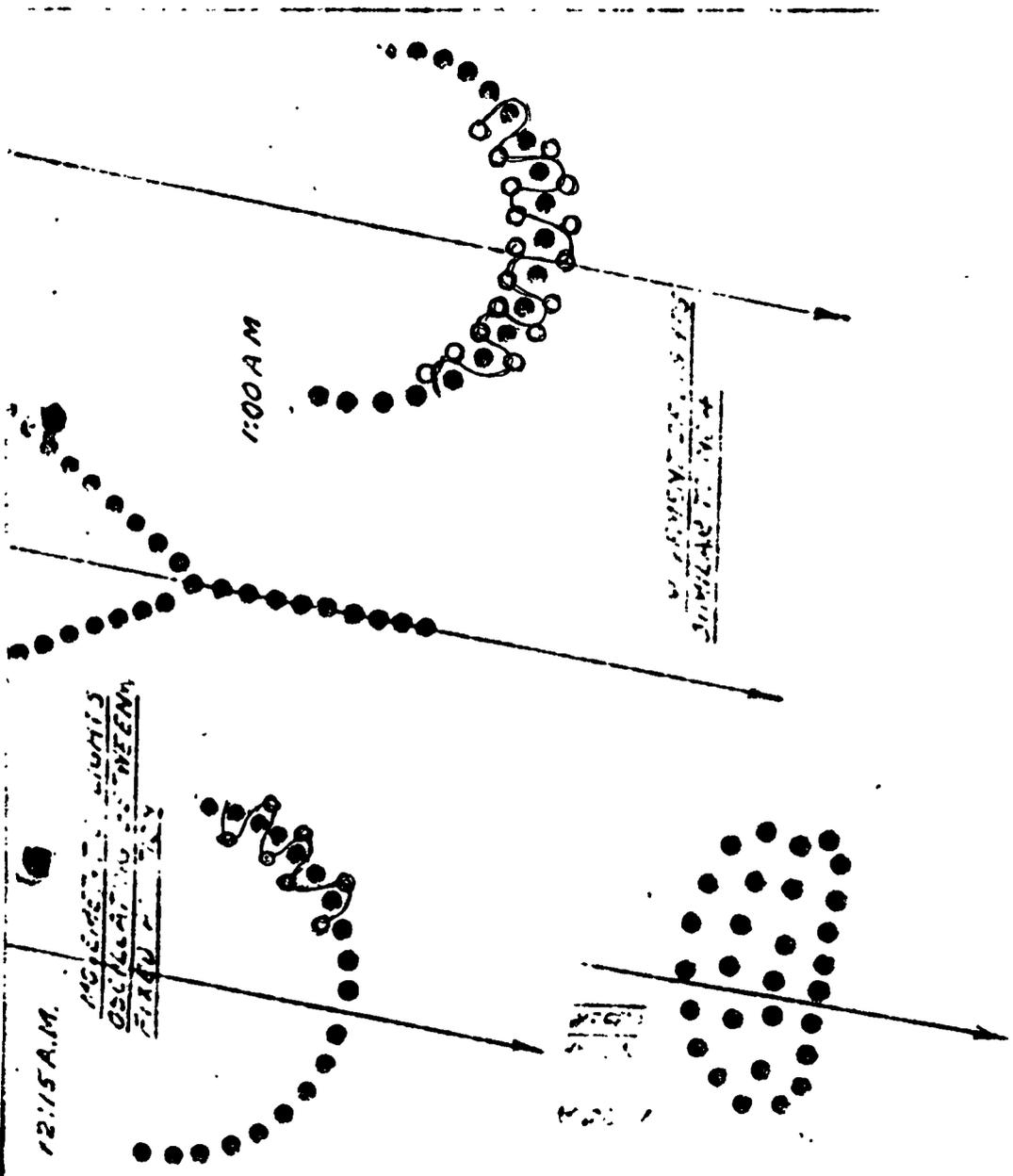
This report may be an illusion but it is too interesting to be excluded. On September 14th at 9:10 p.m. the witness was watching a movie at a Drive-in on the outskirts of Biloxi, Mississippi. The city of Biloxi, which looks out over the Gulf of Mexico, is in a region of warm, moist air and wild electric storms which may play tricks with the eye. Anyway, in the dark sky to the east of the witness in this case, a cigar-shaped, greenish-white body was seen which was so unusual the witness stopped looking at the screen and concentrated his gaze on the phenomenon. The first thing that happened was that the object, if that is what it was, began to lose its brightness, a characteristic immediately noticed since in the witness's opinion the "thing" was much brighter than any cloud. While losing its luminosity, the object changed shape to a half moon (a disk rolling over?) and climbed straight up out of sight.

After five minutes the same, or similar, object reappeared in the same spot growing ever brighter as time passed. The witness did not say what shape but the latest manifestation remained visible until 10:10 p.m. at which time it "broke up." The way the witness used the words could mean it came apart, or that it climbed straight up as the previous object. Whatever the fate of the first image/object, or the second, a third now appeared at a slightly higher position and further east. This last sky phenomenon was not seen to change in any way before the witness left the Drive-in at 11:00 p.m. 110.

Another Lubbock????

Scanning Air Force files one comes across many sketchy reports but there is one dated September 14, 1952, that is delineated elaborately. It contains some complicated diagrams and numerous sheets of typed paper concerning some strange sky activity the night of the 14th. A student of the UFO mystery would have to say that the author of the material fabricated the account after studying the famous Lubbock, Texas, incidents of August 25, 1951; or he has provided some valuable new evidence that could have a bearing on the old case.

The prime witness was a Mexican engineer (thus the fancy report), his wife, and the wife's elderly parents. The engineer and his wife were seated in an auto parked in front of their home in southwest El Paso, Texas. The wife was in the right front seat with a good view of the sky to the east. At 11:30 p.m. she caught sight of something in the eastern heavens and called her husband's attention to it. It seems that very high up a group of 12-15 lights appeared, passed swiftly overhead, and then vanished before growing smaller and reaching the horizon. It was a guess of course, but the engineer put the lights at a 10-15 mile altitude and moving at 4,000 mph. The objects seemed



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 VARIOUS FORMATIONS

to oscillate.

At 11:45 p.m. a second group seep overhead followed by a third at midnight, appearing in the western heavens in a semi-circular formation and disappearing to the south. The witness said he detected an odd shifting within the formation's left wing, movement of a sinusoidal nature of the individual elements.

The most interesting formation of the night appeared when the sixth group flashed by at 12:45 a.m. It was of a "Y" shape with the leg of the "Y" in the lead.

Group number seven, in semi-circle form, zoomed through the starry vault at 1:00 a.m. Again a sinusoidal shift was seen, on this occasion in the leading portion of the arc of the formation.

A final manifestation was observed at 1:20 a.m. when a semi-circular formation came out of the southern sky and disappeared in the same direction.

A watch was maintained for hours afterward, and the next night, but no more of the sky lights were seen. All of the lights seen had vanished abruptly without getting smaller or reaching the horizon. The witness insisted on calling the lights "spheres" and claims they were of the same size and were equally spaced.

The lights were visible through an icy haze that hung between 10,000 and 15,000 feet. It could be that the haze produced a rare illusion.

There were no "Lubbock-type" V-formations seen, unless the "Y" form is counted, but it should be remembered that one of the Lubbock formations was a semi-circle like the ones mentioned in this case. The equal spacing, equal size, the round white spots, and the brief flashby, are all similar to the Lubbock incidents. 111.

September 15th.

The continuing Flatwoods story.

Among those who flocked to Flatwoods was naturalist Ivan T. Sanderson, investigating for True magazine and the NANA newservice. Like the rest, Sanderson relied primarily on A. Lee Stewart as a source and his account was much the same to be found in the newspapers. The United Press' version read, for example:

"A short time after a meteorite --or something-- blazed across this town last Friday and seemed to land nearby, an evil-smelling, green bodied monster 12 feet tall with bulging eyes and clawy hands sent seven young citizens running for their lives.

"A. Lee Stewart, who with his father publishes the Braxton County Democrat, saw mysterious traces of whatever it was, and here's his story:

"It was about 7:15 p.m. when this meteorite, or something, was supposed to have been seen that I wandered down the street and the people told me about having seen it. Then, a little while later, this call comes in from Flatwoods, a town about five miles away.

"Mrs. Kathleen May and six boys had gone up the hill to where this thing was supposed to have landed, and they could see flashes of light --flash, flash, flash, three or four times --coming from the top of the hill.

"As they kind of eased around a little bend in the road, there, in the shadows, they saw a pair of eyes. There was a peculiar odor --a very sickening hot, stuffy smelling odor.

"The oldest boy --he's 17 --threw a flashlight on it. All the rest of them saw it too. The boy fell over backwards and all the people took to their heels and came running back to town.

"They said it was about 11 or 12 feet high, and had a shiny, metallic kind of face and protruding eyes. Its body was green. It had out-

stretched hands --sort of clawy looking hands.

"When they all got back to town, they gave the boy a dose or two of smelling salts, and called police.

"Of course," said Mr. Stewart, "the state police weren't in, but next morning the sheriff and some other people went up, and naturally I went along to investigate. I took my camera with me."

"Atop the rugged, tangled hill, there was no trace of a meteorite, but there was an area 'all trampled down,' Mr. Stewart said. He said that he could still smell traces of the peculiar odor.

"There were two tracks. They looked like skid marks, about a foot wide, car length apart, and about ten yards long, Mr. Stewart said. He said you couldn't get an auto up that hill.

"Mr. Stewart and the deputies took Gene Lemon, the 17-year-old, along with them.

"We had to coax him to go back," Mr. Stewart said. "And I tried every way to tear this story down. But they all told the same story and they all stick to it.

"I've never seen people in more fright.

"I don't know what they saw, but they sure saw something on that hill.

"Of course, at twilight, you can see lots of things. They could have seen an owl sitting up there in a tree, and put a body under it." 112.

There you have the story of the "Monster of Braxton County" as told by its chief spokesman A. Lee Stewart, in fact few others are ever quoted in regards to the incident which makes Stewart's claim that he faked the story very credible.

The sequence of events after the boys got excited over the meteor are a little vague. According to another news story filed by the United Press we can pick out some information that arranges things in the following fashion.

When the meteor passed out of sight over the crest of Fisher's Hill, two of boys playing ball, young sons of Kathleen May, went home and exclaimed about about a "flying saucer" that had landed on C.B. Fisher's farm (The UP article gives that version but Gray Barker asserts the investigating party only expected to find a meteor). The boys' mother, Mrs. May, and the two sons returned to the hill, along the way they picked up 17-year-old Gene Lemon and three of other young ball players. It might be accepted as fact that the group did climb the hill and were scared by something like an owl on a limb since Stewart, in his confession, makes no disclaimer as to that part of the story. Nor is it clear just what happened at this point if it was a hoax by Stewart. It is agreed that the first person Mrs. May and the others contacted was Stewart. Stewart was in his newspaper office in Sutton, miles away, and only arrived on the scene some 30 minutes after the incident had happened, apparently having been phoned by Mrs. May. The best guess is that Stewart decided to build on the May report there in his Sutton office, coming up with some wild details with his friend Bill Steots, and then drove back to Flatwoods to "run the show." When he arrived the others either agreed to cooperate or remained impassive as to scuples. Emotionally the witnesses did manage to work themselves up to a degree. Stewart took charge and led the first few investigators to the top of the hill a half an hour after the supposed "encounter." As we have noted, the state police and the sheriff were busy elsewhere and so they did not arrive immediately. The late arrival of authorities no doubt helped to spread the excitement, in fact, wild rumors took off.

Panic.

The day before, September 14th, a fantastic yarn appeared in the Charleston, West Virginia Daily Mail:

"About 9 p.m. a large white disc landed in a field in the suburbs, throwing off sparks as it landed. Shortly after, two figures, all in red, climbed out, and climbed up a tree. A crowd collected and watched from a safe distance. Seeing the crowd, the two figures went back to the disc, which then took off, rising very fast and disappearing into the sky. Lights on the base of the object threw a red light on the tree. After the disc had gone, a large burned spot appeared on the grass and a strong odor of sulphur lingered for a long time thereafter." 113.

Panic spreads to Wheeling.

A further report came out of Wheeling, West Virginia:

"The gas-breathing, green-eyed monster of West Virginia again was reported on the loose tonight.

"Telephone calls from anxious residents of the Vineyard Hill housing project flooded switchboards at the police department and the Wheeling Intelligence asking for confirmation of rumors that the '10-foot monster from another world' was roaming about their community.

"Police said one person asked if it were true that the 'horribly burned body of a woman' was found on Vineyard Hill and whether a policeman had been burned mysteriously about the arms.

"Detective Howard Millard, who declined a request for a policeman to stand guard duty at Vineyard Hill, said:

"The only green-eyed monster I ever saw was a jealous woman.'

"Police blamed the rumors on the active imaginations of newspaper readers who read stories about a fire-breathing monster with BO gadding about the woods near Sutton Friday night." 114.

Akron Astronomy club.

The Air Force strongly suspected that a meteor had triggered the West Virginia flap and when confirmation was received from the Astronomy club of Akron, Ohio, the military considered the case closed. The club's report is preserved in BLUE BOOK records:

"Fireball - September 12, 1952.

Direction: From about 30 degrees north of east to 30 degrees south of west.

Angle of flight: About 30 degrees from the horizontal.

Duration: 5-6 seconds.

Size: About twice the diameter of the moon at zenith, but believe the object looked larger than it actually was because it was so near the horizon.

Time: Approximately 7:00 p.m. E.S.T.

Color: Brilliant greenish white.

Shape: Egg-shaped with smaller radius in front. Bluish green at rear.

Distance: Assuming that it passed over Cumberland, Md. in the flight to Flatwoods, West Virginia, it passed within 160 miles of Akron.

Arc: Was observed while passing through an arc of approximately 45 degrees.

Length of visible flight: Based on a distance of 160 miles from Akron and an arc of 45 degrees, the flight was observed for approximately 135 miles.

Altitude: When first observed, the object was about 65 miles above the surface of the earth.
 Ground velocity: 25 miles per second.
 Actual velocity: 27 miles per second." 115.

"We're not brothering with monster stories."

Ruppelt went along with the meteor hypothesis, evidently, because he makes no mention of the story in his book on UFOs, but Keyhoe does.

Keyhoe's reaction to preliminary reports coming out of Flatwoods was to attribute the excitement to hysteria, nonetheless he kidded Al Chop about the sending of a mob of investigators to West Virginia. Chop, unamused, snapped: "You too?" 116. Chop remarked that no one at Intelligence was giving the Flatwoods flap a serious thought. A meteor had zoomed over the place and people thereabouts dreamed up the rest. That, asserted Chop, was the prevailing official position. Keyhoe could buy that, but he then choose to veer off on a more sensitive subject. Taking cognizance of the volatile press activity, Keyhoe suggested that the situation could get out of hand if authorities didn't squelch it since the menace idea had gotten a big play, particularly in the wake of the Des Vergers story. That did not budge Chop who insisted that the uproar would subside. Keyhoe rated the Flatwoods incident higher than the Des Vergers one in the menace department since it had a terrifying creature scaring the socks off the local folks so why, Keyhoe asked, sent Ruppelt to Florida and not to West Virginia? Chop repeated truthfully that the Des Vergers case was still lacking some answers.

Pressed by Keyhoe, Chop retreated to saying that BLUE BOOK did not have the funds and manpower to check "every crazy report." Keyhoe felt that answer did not hold water and noted that civilians were rushing to the scene and taking over. Did the military really want that to happen? Later, Keyhoe learned that the Air Force secured details of the Flatwoods by contacting the West Virginia police, and he heard a rumor, just a rumor, that two of the many magazine writers questioning Mrs. May and the rest of the witnesses were actually Intelligence agents acting clandestinely. After giving the situation some deep thought, Keyhoe admitted to himself that just the act of sending Air Force investigators openly would invite hysteria. 117.

Gray Barker.

Disbelief and amazement filled Gray Barker the morning of September 15th as he read the newspaper during breakfast. Barker made a living operating a film buying-booking agency in Clarksberg, West Virginia, but he had a private passion -- flying saucers. That morning in the Clarksberg restaurant Barker eyes came across a United Press story about a "flying saucer Frankenstein monster." Barker grew up on a farm near Sutton which made him a natural for conducting an on site investigation. Having done some professional writing over the years, Barker requested authorization from the publication Fate to represent that magazine, although he would have done it for free but having the commission from Fate gave him a good excuse for nosing around. Fate, which specialized in the supernatural and the bizarre, instructed Baker to proceed, so after making arrangements to be absent from his business for awhile, the would be saucer detective made plans to leave for Flatwoods on Friday, September 19th, a week late, but his efforts would outshine all others. 118.

British Interplanetary Society.

The Associated Press filed a story from London on September 15th which demonstrated how ignorance prevailed about UFOs in Europe. It seems the people overseas still considered flying saucers an American problem. The British Interplanetary Society, founded in 1933 and counting among its members many prominent scientists, both British and non-British, discussed flying saucers in the

Society's September issue of its journal. The editors explained the Society's official stand on the controversy as a preference to retaining: "...an open mind, tinged with skepticism." 119. The editors confessed that the organization would like to believe that the flying saucers were space ships but it was:

"...disturbed by the fact that flying saucers show no uniformity. According to the accounts of observers they come in a wide variety of sizes and shapes although the standard model usually spits green fire." 120.

If that was the best such a visionary and well informed group could do, one could only imagine how much the man-in-the-street in Europe knew about the UFO phenomenon.

"Suspicious object."

What may have been an indication of the southern shift was a "suspicious object" watched at Senegal, French West Africa, September 15th at 8 o'clock. An amateur astronomer by the name of M. Grivel sighted a red luminous spot in the evening sky in the constellation Scorpio. In a letter to a French astronomical Grivel described how the red spot moved slowly toward Sagittarius, stopped abruptly, paused for a moment, and then traveled north, followed by a turn toward the west. 121.

"Golden bronze ball."

A pilot for Lakeland Airways, Lynton Blow, was flying a plane near North Bay, Ontario, in Canada, on September 15, 1952, when he spotted a 30 foot wide(est.) golden bronze ball below his aircraft and moving on the same course as Blow. For almost a half hour Blow watched the speeding sphere. During one period the round object displayed an awareness of its environment, following a curving highway for miles. Finally Blow put his plane in a dive straight at the "ball." The thing quickly vanished after flashing a silvery spark. 122.

Turkey.

There is another case dated September 15th concerning a report from the country of Turkey. The report is an official document in BLUE BOOK files and it is so faded some details are unreadable. Still the material, such as it is, should be included here because of three factors: 1.) The appearance of the object was definitely saucer-like. 2.) The source of the report was three U.S. Air Force noncoms. 3.) The speed was estimated at 1,000 mph plus and the flight path erratic. The mentioned facts are the only bits of data legible. 123.

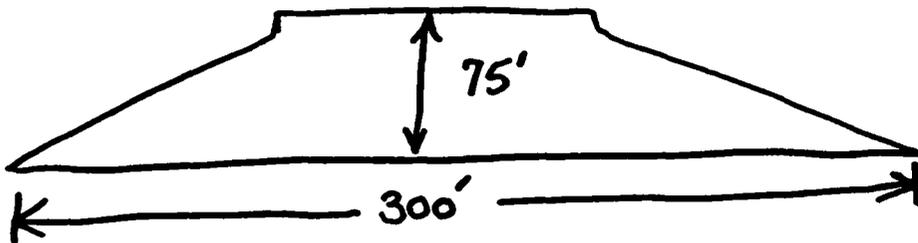
September 16th.

Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, was visited by a circular object that glowed and dimmed, and shifted back and forth. It was visible from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. by a couple of civilians located some five miles to the east of Tinker, as did an observer at the airfield during the same period. 124.

Another blue blob.

Control tower operators at Chanute AFB, Illinois, were thrown in confusion when a "blue blob" came into sight on a compass reading of 50 degrees from the tower, disappearing a couple of times during the 45 minutes it was in view. The peek-a-boo performance may have due to dense clouds because, although the sky was black, the controllers could tell there was some overcast and that on occasion a few clouds of a thin nature passed between the glowing blob and the tower which failed to veil the phenomenon totally.

The tower operators were at a loss to explain the object. Examined by binoculars, the brilliant mass was ten times the size of any star and had two satellite points of yellow light. One yellow point of light was off to the left and somewhat above the center of the blob, while a second and similar point of



Rough drawing of object seen by three USAF momcoms at a location in Turkey. The text of the report in Air Force BLUE BOOK is so badly faded it is mostly unreadable.

light was to the right and slightly below(See drawing). 125.

Mystery pair.

A pair of strange objects, perfectly round and glowing uniformly white, traveled abreast over Robins AFB, Georgia, 7:45 p.m., September 16th. The two hovered for a few minutes during their passage. Observers were mystified because the two objects were at an estimated 5,000 feet and did not give the impression of being weather balloons, in fact the airbase weather unit and the local civilian weather station at Macon Municipal Airport told investigators no balloons were released that day. An Air Force Major, a 1st Lieutenant, and a Lt. Colonel, all filed UFO reports after viewing the objects. One witness claimed:"...on two occasions, both objects emitted a small bluish flame from the underside. The emissions were 30 seconds to a minute." 126.

Intruder at post 33.

At 4:38 a.m. September 17th Cpl. Harold M. Blair, a military policeman with the 8456th Military Police Company, Killeen Base, Killeen, Texas, was on duty at guard post 33 when an unusual aerial body was observed:

"Daylight had not yet started to break as yet, and Blair was looking skyward observing the stars when he saw an object at approximately 1,000 feet altitude fly directly over his head. The object was described as about 10 feet across, and had a green fluorescent appearance across the front, and two six foot red flares protruding from the rear. The object was observed for approximately 2 to 3 seconds at an estimated speed of 700 to 800 miles per hour. Approximately 2 seconds after sighting, a peculiar sound, something like a model airplane engine, was heard. The object was traveling from southwest to northeast." 127.

Polarized light?

Further west, at Tucson, Arizona, two civilians reported six, flat, shiny, flying objects in two flights of three each. The two formations were supposed to have been flying through passes in the mountains to the north of the metropolitan area. The report had a puzzling ending, stressing that the formation was observed to have "faded from view" for some reason other than distance, another example of the "ghost-like" behavior of UFOs, something that Hynek was beginning to suspect was not due to illusion or poor observing, but to some condition controlled by the UFO. Consider this final comment of the forementioned Tucson report: "Mr. Hollingsworth was wearing dark, Polaroid glasses and was able to see the objects for a longer period of time than his wife who wore no glasses." 128. Note that Wells Alan Webb had a similar experience with observing a UFO while wearing Polaroid glasses which showed distinct dark bands around the UFO which were not visible to the naked eye. The reader is referred to Webb's book: Mars, The New Frontier Lowell's Hypothesis, pp.126-127. Should UFO watchers and surveillance cameras be equipped with Polaroid lenses?

The only other domestic item on the 17th was a short mention in the Newark Evening News, Newark, New Jersey, about a flaming red ball hovering over the city of Morris for some 20 minutes before taking off to the west. The ball was supposed to have had a "tail."

September 18th.

The 18th is notable for its foreign UFO news. The Stars and Stripes carried a story from Korea about six "spark-throwing cartwheels" seen over the front lines by United Nations ground troops. The aerial show appeared at 10:30 p.m. when the "wheels" were noticed moving in an orbit some fifteen feet in circumference. 129.

objects moved from NE. to SW.

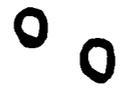
color of objects
brightening

seen from this angle
observer



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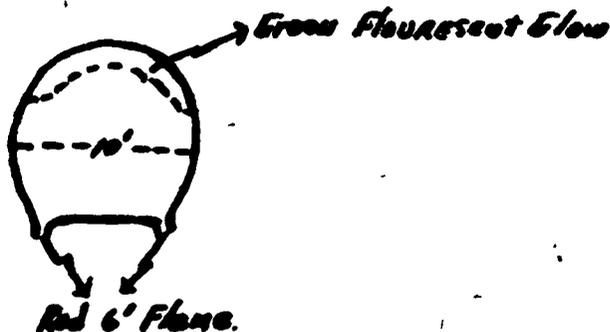
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objects brightening & changing direction
observed in bright
area



object, and had a green fluorescent appearance across the front, and two (2) six foot red flares protruding from the rear. The object was observed for approximately 2 to 3 seconds at an estimated speed of 700 to 800 miles per hour. Approximately 2 seconds after sight, a peculiar sound, something like a metal airplane engine, was heard. The object was traveling from Southwest to Northeast.

Walt has had no experience as an aircraft observer, or no experience in astronomy.

This drawing is a reproduction of the sketch made by Walt.



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Norway.

Elsewhere abroad the CIA filed a newsclipping from a Norwegian newspaper. The item was translated and printed in the agency's Intelligence bulletin:

"On 18 September, at 1400 hours, three forestry workers who were working outside Kirkanes noticed a flat, round object hovering motionless at about 500 meters altitude.

"The object appeared to have a diameter of 15-20 meters. After the workers had observed the object for a while, it suddenly flew away at great speed in a northwesterly direction.

"It appears that only these three workers saw the object; they swear, however, that their report is true." 130.

The CIA filed the above item under the subject heading: "military -Air, unidentified objects." 131.

The Russians and UFOs.

"Flying saucers over Haifa" read the small headline of a news report from Israel; a 10-12 meter long object, oval-shaped and trailing fire. The object was said to have flown 15,000 feet over Mt. Carmel on September 18th. It was a minor UFO item as UFO reports go, but it smoked out some reactions from the Russians. 132. The Russian reaction took place on October 18, 1952, so we will deal with it on that date.

The Des Vergers case, further inquiries.

The 18th also marked further inquiries about the scoutmaster case by E.J. Ruppelt. Capt. Ruppelt called Capt. Carney at West Palm Beach and asked the following questions:

"Q: Which deputy met Des Vergers coming out of the palmetto thicket on the night of the incident?

A: Deputy Mott Parkins[Partin?].

Q: Were the samples of grass that were taken 50 yds from the location of the sighting taken from a definitely shady spot or a spot that was in the same relative amount of sunshine as the point where Des Vergers claimed to have been 'attacked.'?

A: The grass samples had been taken from a point where there was approximately the same amount of shade.

Q: Was Des Vergers' hat ever washed or ironed before it was supposedly burned during the incident?

A: Capt. Carney did not know the answer to this but said that he would obtain it. He was requested to be rather discreet about this inquiry so that Des Vergers would have no idea we thought there was a possibility that the hat might have been scorched while it was being ironed. Carney stated that he would obtain the info and wire it directly to ATIC [ATIC comment]. 133.

One can see where Ruppelt was trying to understand how the roots of the grass got charred, but just how the sun could do that is not spelled out. Also, the proper course of action, the taking of many more samples, apparently is not considered.

More European action.

Up to now we have made references to UFO activity reported over Morocco and Algeria. On the 18th a report was registered a bit more to the east, at Tripoli in Libya (Tripoli is at about the same latitude as Dallas, Texas). A story taken from an English language weekly published in Tripoli quoted an Englishman who witnessed the phenomenon at 10:40 p.m. local time. The gentleman was with his wife at the moment:

"We were sitting on the balcony of the [Government Tobacco Monopoly Building] ... in Garlan, said Mr. Mallia to the Sunday Ghibli, when from the southeast at a height of some ten thousand meters, we saw a circular light approaching. It had a tail of about 20 meters long and this was also illuminated." 134.

The object was in sight about five miles when finally it vanished out of sight by making a vertical climb. 135.

A member of the Spanish Legation and his wife confirmed the sighting. They were relaxing in deck chairs in the yard of their villa when they saw the thing in the sky approach at a high altitude, dive down, and then shoot upward. It was visible to them for about seven seconds. The Spaniard's wife was the first to notice the object and said the thing left a glowing trail.

Four Italians nearby, who were also witnesses, were convinced they were viewing a meteor until the object zoomed upward. 136.

September 19th just before noon.

"What on earth is that?"

The Dishforth Aerodrome in Yorkshire, England, is adjacent to Topcliffe Naval Base. The following incident is sometimes called the "Topcliffe case." The principle witnesses were ten British officers and men that crewed a pair of four-engined Shackletons that operated out of Topcliffe for the Coastal Command. The British aviators had deplaned and were watching a twin-jet Meteor jet approach that had taken part in a North Sea NATO exercise codenamed "Operation Mainbrace." One of the British officers told an investigator for the Air Ministry:

"It was 10:53. The Meteor was coming down from about 5,000 feet. The sky was clear, visibility perfect. The meteor was crossing the airfield from east to west, when suddenly I noticed a white object in the sky. It was round and silvery and circular, and seemed to be following the Meteor at about two miles distance at a speed less than that of the aircraft but on the same course, though a little above it.

"What on earth is that?" I shouted. My friends looked up where I was pointing. One of them said might be the metal cone capping of the Meteor's engine which had come off, while another thought it was just a parachute. But while we were still watching the disc we saw it reduce speed for some seconds and then begin to come down. As it lost height, it began to flutter like a leaf or, if you prefer, oscillate like a pendulum. The Meteor swerved to circle the airfield before landing. The object began to follow it but stopped dead after a few seconds. It seemed to remain suspended in the air, revolving like a top. Suddenly it took off, accelerated and flew off westwards at a terrific speed before changing course and disappearing southeast. The whole thing lasted for about twenty seconds.

"While still in sight it seemed to change shape and become elliptical. During the short time it was revolving while stationary, we could see it shining in the sun. It then seemed to me about the same size as a pursuit plane at the same altitude.

"We are all absolutely certain that there could be no question of a balloon, or an optical illusion, or an effect produced by the Meteor's jets. It was a solid object. I have never seen anything like that

* Flight Lieutenant John W. Kilburn 31, of Egremont, Cumberland.

in the sky in all my life." 137.

The Royal Air Force takes a stand.

The forementioned incident received a good exposure in the news media since it was released officially by the R.A.F. 138. In fact, Ruppelt was approached by the R.A.F.'s representative at the Pentagon and was informed that the English military could not ignore the impressive Topcliff incident and that henceforth London would recognize UFOs as a valid mystery. 139.

A few words must be said about some photographs taken of some strange white objects by an American press photographer by the name of Wallace Litwin, a member of a large group of journalists aboard the aircraft carrier Franklin Roosevelt covering operation Mainbrace. Litwin took three photos of the object passing over the fleet and for a while the incident was stamped "unknown." Later Project BLUE BOOK compared the photos with similar photos of weather balloons and became satisfied that a balloon was the answer. Because of other reports of UFOs coming in from the region like the Topcliff sighting, BLUE BOOK made a major effort to confirm or discredit the weather balloon solution. 140. There was speculation among students of the UFO mystery that the strange sky wanderers were snooping on the Naval activity but the evidence indicates that the reports were just part of the second UFO wave moving in a general southerly direction.

"Golden olive."

A Frenchman was greatly surprised when a bright, unknown object appeared in the heavens the night of September 19th. He was driving on a deserted road in the department of Yonne, near the village of Beine. The shape and color of the object reminded the witness of a giant "golden olive." The gentleman was a licensed pilot and who, as a living, manufactured aircraft. His name was a Mr. M.R. Sommer. 141.

The evening of September 19th.

Gray Barker arrives.

The evening of the 19th Gray Barker arrived in his old home town of Sutton, West Virginia, just six miles from Flatwoods, and that Barker's investigation would be superior was apparent from the start, for the first person he ran into was a personal acquaintance who invited him to his home for a cup of coffee and where they could discuss the monster business in a relaxed atmosphere. Over coffee Barker's friend said the monster yarn got no respect from the area residences who knew the witnesses and considered them to be "highly exciteable types," and that the so-called tangible evidence, the skid marks and gummy deposits of an oil-like substance at the site, was from a tractor owned by a local farmer. 142. This little talk did not discourage Barker, but it did force him to take a more realistic approach. He resolved to check on the tractor angle aside from his plans to talk separately with each witness.

Since he had got into town late, Barker retired for the night.

September 20th.

At 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 20th, Barker was walking the streets of the city of Sutton looking for people to interview. His arrival was ill-timed in that the three people he most wanted to talk to, Mrs. May, Gene Lemon, and A. Lee Stewart, were out of town, not having returned yet from New York where the trio had appeared on the "We the People" television show to tell their story, thus Barker was reduced to discussing the incident with others like the editor of the

Chanute, Kansas
Chanute AFB, Kansas



THE Two spots were seen
 ONLY through Bisculars, and
 appeared in the same relative
 position at all times.

11 2.

Sutton newspaper, The Braxton Central, J. Holt Byrne. Byrne offered no more than an opinion, which he felt obliged to do since he was also the mayor of Sutton. As mayor Byrne had tried to calm the local folks by attributing the excitement to a meteor and the meteor's "toxic gases," but an opinion was not what Barker was after so he asked to be directed to those people who could give some first hand evidence. The mayor recommended 14-year-old Neil Nunley, one of the boys that "saw the creature," plus a grownup who had seen the object "land," a Mr. A. M. Jordan.

When contacted, Mr. Jordan painted a verbal picture of an elongated fire ball streaking across the sky, which correlated with other accounts, but he went on to claim that the object halted in its course and then plunged toward the hilltop. 143. This testimony, that the object had "landed" instead of passing over the town of Flatwoods, gave strong support to the creature story.

Next Barker questioned Braxton County Sheriff Robert Carr who searched the hilltop an hour or so after the "encounter." The Sheriff told Barker he had noticed nothing at the site to make him believe something extraordinary had occurred. Likewise, two young men, Junior Edward and Joey Martin, who lived near Fisher's Hill and had reached the woods only some 30 minutes after the supposed incident, asserted that they had seen nothing, smelled nothing, and heard nothing. At this point Barker was beginning to question the testimony of Jordan, asking himself why no one had seen the UFO leave the hilltop?

The Nunley boy was the next person on Barker's list and he found that the young man seemed to be a good, sincere, eyewitness. When questioned about the object, Nunley described an object that was at variance with Jordan's, insisting on a "silver dollar" appearance instead of a fiery meteor, however both agreed there was a stream of fire trailing the aerial body.

After speaking with three others 13-year-old Eddie, 12-year-old Fred, 10-year-old Ronnie, and Tommy, also a 10-year-old, Barker got the impression they all agreed the object hovered above the hill and then dropped earthward with a motion that resembled a "door falling down flatwise." 144. This testimony would seem to support Mr. Jordan, unless Nunley coached his younger buddies, but we have no evidence of that, however one fact casts a shadow on Nunley's assertions. Mr. Jordan was Neil Nunley's grandfather and the two lived in the same household so could they be considered strictly independent witnesses?

Later, when reviewing a tape recording of Nunley relating the sequence of events after after he reached the crest of the hill with the others, Barker took note of different points that conflicted with other versions. For example, Nunley said he saw a huge globular mass like a ball of fire sitting some 50 feet to his right. Unlike the others, Nunley remembered no sounds during the few seconds the encounter lasted. Also, the projected beams of light emitted from the creature's eyes were aimed at some point above everyone's head and not directly at them according to Nunley. And instead of a green body, Nunley had the impression that the portion of the creature's body below the head was colorless and dark. Another aspect that found Nunley at odds with the rest of the witnesses was in regards to the creature's movement which he described as a smooth glide rather than a bobbing up and down. All told, Barker thought the differences venial and the basic story in agreement.

Barker then sought out the owner of the Sutton funeral home who was suppose to have given first aid to some of the witnesses immediately after they returned from the hill. When approached the man gave a snappish answer that he had "been in church that night," a reply that did not satisfy Barker since he knew of no church that held services on the night in question and from the man's tone received the impression he was getting the brushoff. Was the man's attitude due to his knowing that the creature story was a hoax?

Another damper was that residents in the immediate area were incredulous and made flippant remarks.

When Barker tried to to confirm that the flatten grass and ski marks had been

made by farmer Brooks Fisher's tractor. Fisher told Barker no farming equipment whatsoever was used at the location, especially a tractor which could have never navigated the steep terrain at the site.

It was the testimony of the kids, Nunley in particular, that had kept Barker from writing up the affair as a wild fabrication. On Sunday, September 21st, the principle witnesses were due back in town and Barker looked forward to asking them their version of the "encounter." 145.

More from Singapore.

The Singapore Sunday Times carried an account of a prominent aerial phenomenon that put on a show of its own in full view of a crowd at an open-air concert at the city of Kuching in Sarawak the evening of the 20th at 11:15 p.m. A brilliant green-white object streaked overhead from north to south. Since a loud screeching sound accompanied the 10 second passage(UFOs are invariably silent), this report probably describes a meteor. The regional U.S. Air Attache, Capt. Kirtwood C. Myers, wrote Washington:

"This is the fifth of the reports of the flying saucer in the Malaya-Borneo area. The first three from Malaya described by the R.A.F.(R.A.F jet contrails). Although there has been little speculation on the later report from Sarawak, it is the consensus that the 'saucer' was probably an optical illusion and the sound a mere coincidence." 146.

More from Europe.

Official focus was on Europe where there was some concern over security involving NATO maneuvers. Ruppelt remembered that one Pentagon Intelligence expert suggested that a "UFO watch" be maintained during Mainbrace operations, a half-serious proposal. 147.

Even a "run-of-the-mill" UFO sighting in the North Sea region rated a military C-1 priority teletype message from Europe to America. According to the message in question, a UFO report was forwarded from Manston AFB, England, which said that a man was fishing on a jetty in the vicinity of Margate, a city on the coast that looks out over the mouth of the Thames to the north, and to the Straits of Dover to the south, when he noticed some very strange objects in the sky to the north which resembled flying saucers. A quartet of bright "dinner plates" flying four abreast was seen by the witness passing east to west. The incident took place at 10:30 p.m. on September 21st. A military investigator noted that the witness was:"...quite emphatic and appeared to be sensible and intelligence." 148.

Another teletype message forwarded through military channels mentioned the Royal Norwegian Air Force:"RNAF INVESTIGATING 2 OFFICIAL AND NUMEROUS VAGUE REPORTS OF CIGAR SHAPED OBJECT SIGHTED OVER VARIOUS AREAS SOUTHERN NORWAY..." 149.

September 21st.

Help! Police!

Panic struck a city near Washington D.C. very early in the morning of Sunday, September 21st. A "UFO fleet" had made another of its visitations but this time there were no "ghosts on radar." The "things" this time were quite visible to a number of reliable witnesses so there is no doubt "something" was in the air but what?

One of the initial witnesses was a Mrs. Hazelwood of Centerville, Virginia, who became annoyed by a strange smell. Her husband noticed it too and checked outside to see if anything was burning. Mrs. Hazelwood's daughter, Marie, followed her dad to help locate the source of the awful odor. Mr. Hazelwood and Marie found that a light was coming from four strange objects in the sky. The press later reported:"Marie Hazelwood said the light from 'whatever it was' threw rays of light on her yard --'just like the early morning sun.' 'And the odor... it made my mother ill for a while..."150.

Mrs. Hazelwood and her other daughter, 18-year-old Dorothy, also went outside

and viewed the phenomenon. Mrs. Hazelwood said the things were: "...colored orange, red and blue and about the size of an automobile headlight, bouncing in the cloudy sky above her home..." 151. Excitedly, Mrs. Hazelwood phoned the county police headquarters at 12:50 a.m. to complain of some mysterious objects zooming around over her house. Subsequently many other phone calls from the tiny (100 residents) community of Centerville deluged police requesting "help." 152.

A half dozen or so cops dashed out of the county station house and looked in the direction of Centerville. In the distance they could see the flashing of what appeared to be a bright, white, headlight in the sky with a small tail at an altitude of 4,000 feet. 153.

Two officers were dispatched immediately to Centerville to calm the panicky residents. Officers Julian Burke and John Wahl were quickly on the scene:

"Burke reported the objects were the size of 12 quart buckets and appeared to be 2,000 feet high. He saw four. Mrs. Hazelwood saw six or seven.

"Wahl said one of the objects hovered in the sky for a few moments, then rose rapidly into the sky, trailing a blue flame." 154.

Burke also told the press: "One would pop out here and then a few seconds later another would pop out there. Weird...weird indeed." 155.

Another officer soon joined the other two, Pvt. Douglas Dunn, who told the reporters:

"...the lights looked like a white ball of fire coming thru the clouds. They would get real bright and light up the sky and then sort of go up and fade away. I saw three or four of them at one time, but they weren't in any formation." 156.

Furthermore: "Asked if they might have been reflections or spotlight beams, Dunn replied: 'No, siree; they were solid objects.'" 157.

And then, at 1:30 a.m., an object appeared over the police station at Fairfax from which Burke, Wahl, and Dunn had been dispatched! Officer Marvin Eherell recalled:

"It looked like a big auto headlight. It made a circle, got real bright and then climbed back up again. It just kept that up. It would come down, get real bright, swing a circle, fade out, and climb back up again. It lighted up the sky." 158.

This was too much for officer Eherell. He immediately phoned the Defense Department. Authorities assured Eherell they would investigate.

At 9 a.m. the Air Force made a statement: "Right now, we have no idea what they were. They might have been weather balloons or something." 159.

There was also a response from a civilian source:

"CAA said its radar control tower at National Airport noticed nothing on their radar screens. They said, however, they did receive a call from Fairfax police and a man who identified himself as an Air Force Captain saying they saw the lights.

"All the stories the CAA heard agree in almost every detail, they said." 160.

Gray Barker talks with Mrs. May, Stewart, and others.

On September 21st Gray Barker caught up with A. Lee Stewart whose answers mirrored quotes attributed to him in published news accounts so Barker learned nothing new. Back in town also was Mrs. May who had just returned from her appearance on television in New York. After talking with her Barker noted that her version of events: "...had taken on additional dimensions." 161. The story as now told by Mrs. May was of a more intense nature, furthermore she now claimed a

mysterious grease-like substance had soiled her beauticians uniform during a second visit to the hilltop. Also, she withheld some information from Barker on the grounds that the "government had put some restrictions on her interviews." It took several weeks, but eventually Barker met Mrs. May's father who made some sense out of his daughter's actions. It seems that a supposed official letter from the U.S. government was sent Mrs. May explaining the UFO incident atop Fisher's Hill as an accidental encounter with a secret military device utilizing an "ammonia-hydrazine-nitric acid fuel," and that Uncle Sam desired no more publicity be given the Flatwoods case until the secret project was formally made known, a news disclosure to be implemented in the near future. The so-called released date of the planned disclosure had come and gone so the father felt it was safe to tell Barker that A. Lee Stewart had the details of the "government report," yet when Barker confronted the co-editor of the Braxton Democrat he was merely shown a publicity release about an upcoming article in Collier's magazine written by the editors detailing an envisioned moon rocket fueled by ammonia, hydrazine, and nitric acid. Evidently Mrs. May and her father had received quite the wrong impression for their was absolutely nothing "governmental" about the material. Did Stewart encourage the wrong impression? Stewart confessed it was he that had brought the Collier's publicity release to Mrs. May's and her father's attention, since he felt that some of the art work resembled the monster. 162.

That explanation by Stewart brother Barker, and then there was another thing that shook his confidence in the monster story. For a while Barker believed he had lucked out when he met a Mr. Bailey Frame in a Birch River tavern who made the claim he had been present in Flatwoods the night of the monster incident and had seen a flattened, orange, ball-like object take off from the hilltop a half-hour or so after Mrs. May and the others had been routed by the "encounter." Frame said the object "circled for 15 minutes (And no one else saw it?) before flashing away. Here might be one of the important links Barker was seeking, so Barker arranged to meet Frame later at a Flatwoods restaurant and from there to go the hilltop so the exact spot where the observation was made could be marked. Barker waited and waited at the restaurant but Frame never showed up. Was Frame pulling Barker's leg?

Barker eventually questioned G.D. Hoard who had a good view from his farm as the UFO swept over Flatwoods and had seen it explode without landing. Barker went to Hoard's farm and noted that the farmer had a clear view of the supposed landing site yet had seen nothing in the way of object landing. 163.

By this time Barker may have suspected a hoax, but as one could tell by following his investigations, the hoax was hard to pin down. We know much more now after an article in the Charleston, West Virginia, Daily Mail, on December 7, 1977 under the heading: "Was 'Monster' A Hoax? Are UFOs For Real? Hmmm, A Possibility." The article, by Adrian Gwin, is an interview of A. Lee Stewart who confesses faking the monster story. 164.

Helena, Montana.

Meanwhile little was occurring with the exception of a white dot viewed by scores of residents in Helena, Montana, on September 20th, which a CAA official felt was "probably" the planet Venus. 165.

September 21st.

Mystery mass over North Africa.

Something shot over North Africa and the press carried numerous eyewitness accounts that suggested some object of a strange nature. The newspaper L'Echo du Maroc remarked on the object's rectilinear flight path and voted in favor of a meteor explanation since the body of the object was incandescent, yet the paper accepted eyewitness guesses that put the object at a conventional aircraft height of about 3,000 feet?

Reports had come in from various places in the region: Meknes Safi, Marrakech, Fez, Azexmour, and Casablanca, to name a few, a good indication that it was a

Sept. 19, 1952

The Westo

Recognized as Lewis County's Leading Newspaper

NO. 13.

WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, FI



AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION of the monster which prowled the Braxton hills is shown here drawn from descriptions given him by Mrs. Kathleen May, right, Flatwoods resident, who said she saw the thing. The two witnesses, with A. Lee Stewart, jr., Sutton publisher, told their experiences last Friday night on "We The People" television show in New York City. The artist's conception was featured on the show and Lemon and Mrs. May said the representation was "quite accurate."—Photo courtesy, Charleston Gazette.

Westo Own

The \$62,500 bid Warren, Ohio plant of the West has been accepted Ole E. Wyckoff bankruptcy at Gr.

The new owners that very little of ward to find a to operate the plant an intensified launched toward

The Hetz of specializes in the industries and that there was all interested in for glass many the several big Hetz organization a speculative bas

The Ohio organ ding on the Ludv ville but this sal- firmed.

According to the new owners, their experience that they find several small large enough to expedite this people are going into five parcels

FARNSWORTH Ann Linger Queen



Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object made. Place an arrow at the beginning of its path and a "B" at the end of its path.



Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw and place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



ENTIRE OBJECT A
CONSTANT VERY BRIGHT
GLOW TRAVELING AT
STEADY RATE

meteor passing over at high altitude, but all reports say the object travelled east to west at a low altitude and a low speed. 166.

One description given in the Casablanca Maroc-Press mentions: "...a flaming, globe-shaped mass trailing white smoke in puffs, as though puff followed an explosion --the object stopped short a moment and revolved on itself, emitting a shower of sparks about its cone." 167.

An airliner in the landing pattern at Casablanca was doing 200 mph and flying at 1,500 feet when the meteor zipped by the plane. The airliner pilot believed that the object passed to his left about 150 feet away. This estimate may well have been wrong but an aircraft mechanic on the ground at the Casablanca field claimed that he watched the luminous object pass between himself and the plane. 168.

Did it come from France?

There may have been a connecting between the manifestation over Morocco with another aerial body over southern France at the same time (The French reports occurred at 7:30 p.m. and the North African ones at 6:30 p.m. which is the same time since Morocco is an hour ahead of France.).

A Frenchwoman, Noella Senegas, beheld a "giant, glowing, metallic, cigar-shape sweep soundlessly over the city of Aix in a southwest direction. Said Mme Senegas: "I would never have thought that this thing was a shooting-star or meteorite --it was too slow." 169.

Fifteen miles further south, over Marsilles, a Christiane Laine saw a "bluish neon tube" come out of the northeast. In his car and stopped at a red light, Laine viewed the noiseless phenomenon approach on a gradual downward slant. The brilliant luminous blue: "...seemed to come from a kind of band running along the entire length." 170.

September 22nd.

Mystery body over Libya.

An Englishman and his wife were strolling Gladdat Idris avenue in Tripoli, Libya, 8:30 September 22nd, and had just reached the Cafe Deller Post where there was a good view of the Mediterranean when they saw "it." Out over the sea a brilliant ball of light the apparent size of a football. The two witnesses estimated that the fiery object was about 10 miles off shore traveling northwest. 171.

A UFO "lands" at Yaak, Montana.

Here is a story that is certainly worth exploring. The reader of these lines may have noticed a persistent UFO activity in the Montana region. Well, in 1962 a Mr. Rex Mc Cracken wrote an interesting letter to a magazine describing an incident that is seemingly unbelievable, but the fact that Montana was a "hot" UFO activity area may lend the account some support.

Mc Cracken's introductory remarks were moderate and rational. He stated that back in 1952 he was a resident of Bonners's Ferry, Idaho, and about 60 miles down the road to the east, in the state of Montana on the Yaak River, was the 680th A. C. & W. Squadron, an Air Force Air Defense radar site. Because of rugged terrain, Bonner's Ferry was the most accessible community to the radar site and personnel from the unit often visited to relax during off duty hours, even completing in local civilian baseball leagues. Being friendly with the townfolk, Air Force personnel told Mc Cracken and others that on the evening of September 22, 1952, a "UFO landed" near the radar site, breaking down some small trees in the process. According to the story he heard, Mc Cracken related that some two dozen officers and men approached the object which did not lie still but "jumped like a frog several times" and then took to the air, escaping from the men closing in on it. One officer was said to have detected "movement inside" the UFO.

The next morning some senior Air Force officers arrived at the site and convened a meeting that lasted the entire day. Mc Cracken was not privy to any sensitive information but he did learn something after being told of the "landing" by a friendly airman. Word spread around town that the guard around the radar site had been increased and the men at their posts had orders to shoot, an unprecedented instruction. Highly curious, Mc Cracken nonetheless learned little more because site personnel were forbidden to talk about the incident, and his duties of district fire warden kept him very busy. One of Mc Cracken's best friends was a noncom from the site who did confide that UFOs were often seen on the unit's radar screens and that such targets seemed to be aware they were being scanned. 172.

There is nothing in military BLUE BOOK files about a "landing," at least in declassified records, but directly south of the Yaak location, some 300 miles, near Boise, Idaho, only hours after the supposed landing at Yaak, something suspicious was spotted in the sky. BLUE BOOK files tell us:

"Flying Tiger A/C 984, Southwest bound at 12,000 feet, reported sighting strange stationary light in sky, estimated 15,000 feet, changing color. Aircraft was on heading of 120 degrees. Object was directly off nose of aircraft at 11 o'clock. Location of sighting was directly east of Boise at approximately 0200 hours, 23 September 1952.

"At 021[4?]hours, Boise, Idaho, sighted some objects on a bearing of 100 degrees from the station. Objects appeared to move from side to side and up and down." 173.

More September 23rd UFOs.

A woman volunteer at a GOC post atop the Lido Club, Newport Beach, California, called the regional Filter Center to report an overflight of a V-formation of orange glowing cigar-shaped objects at 2:35 a.m. Passing too quickly at low altitude to enable the woman observer to make an accurate count, the number of objects ranged from 10 to 15.

At 4:07 a.m. a second formation passed directly overhead, again at a low level. Peering at the objects, the woman had trouble making out the exact shape because they: "...seemed to roll or change shape." 174. The Air Force gave the woman an excellent credibility rating because she was the former wife of an Air Force officer.

Gander.

The flurry of UFO activity during this period in the northern tier of states in the U.S. and northern Europe may be connected with something that happened at Gander, Newfoundland, September 23rd. Gander is approximately at the same latitude as the two forementioned regions.

A camper who had set up his tent on the north shore of Gander Lake the evening of September 23rd was attracted to a moving light sailing some 2,000 feet over the water at a slow (under 100 mph) speed. The night air was calm where the witness was standing, as was the surface of the lake which was illuminated by the mysterious light. The lack of wind indicated the source of the light was not a balloon. The light was moving in the direction of the airport outside the city of Gander about 25 miles away. While aircraft coming and going at Gander airport could be plainly heard, the strange light made absolutely no sound to disturb the remote forested area during the 10 minutes it was in view. The camper was convinced the light was a UFO, he also happened to be the Operations Officer at Pepperell AFB, Newfoundland. 175.

Activity along the southern wave.

Another strange group of glowing bodies reported on September 23rd were seen

over Chicasaw, Alabama. A woman resident phoned nearby Brookley AFB to alert authorities to the presence of some peculiar objects in the sky which passed over her home at 10:00 p.m. She related the following:

"...while I was in the bedroom, I noticed five bluish grey lights moving slowly across the sky. My first impression was that it was a helicopter because of the way it was flying. I soon realized it wasn't and went outside to see what it was. I watched the lights slowly pass overhead and disappear behind the trees. As the lights passed overhead I heard a soft whoose sound. The sound was not the sound of a jet airplane. I watched the lights for approximately three minutes. The objects appeared out of the south and disappeared in the northeast. They moved in a straight line, but I could not say what the exact height was. I had the impression that there was a gray background to the lights. The lights were arranged in an indefinite pattern and appeared as in the following diagram (See drawing).

"A few minutes later a small airplane flew over. The lights in relation to the small airplane were lower, flew slower, and did not bear any resemblance to the lights of the small airplane. The size of the group of lights was slightly bigger than the small airplane." 176.

The name and qualifications of the woman witness have been deleted from Air Force BLUE BOOK files but the investigating officer was of the opinion that:"... the reliability of the observer is evaluated as excellent. Mrs.(---deleted) has enough experience to distinguish between light aircraft, jets, and heavy transports." 177.

Circling UFOs.

The Georgia Power Sub-Station was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the 5th street gate of Robins AFB, Georgia. A civilian worker at the power station, Mr. James Branan, observed a dozen or more yellow-white lights circling counter-clockwise in the night (It was 11:10 p.m.) sky about five miles to the southeast. After about four minutes of observing, a concerned Branan rushed to the gate of the airbase where he persuaded two air policemen to accompany him down the road to a spot where the mysterious lights were visible. The air police saw the lights and alerted their superiors. 178.

Circling UFOs, the second sighting in two days.

Entering a drugstore in downtown Aurora, Colorado, Air Force T/Sgt. Billy Huges noticed that the wall clock indicated 5:25, that is how he remembered the time. The Sergeant purchased some cigarettes and then left the store. Walking to his car, Huges looked up at the sky over Aurora that afternoon of September 24, 1952. There was a little haze but it was mostly clear with a few scattered clouds. There was no reason for Huges to look up in the first place, he did it by chance, and as it happened his eyes came to rest on some strange objects wheeling about in the atmosphere just to the north of Stapleton Airport. Sgt. Huges got into his car, but kept looking in the direction of the circling objects, five to six strange shapes. Continuing to be puzzled by the objects, he got out of his car and moved about on the street trying to get a better look. The objects were moving:"... in a circle about five or six times as great as their diameter." 179.

During the observation two C-47 aircraft passed through Sgt. Huges' field of vision and he noted that the orbiting objects were much higher and did not resemble aircraft in any way. He said he had the impression the strange objects were disk-shaped as they circled in single file with an angle of bank of some 60 degrees. This guess was apparently confirmed when one object dipped down and came much closer. Sgt. Huges said the one dived low:"...was definitely circular in shape." 180.

Cuban dogfight, a UFO "explained."

It is not surprising that a UFO report would come from Cuba at this time since it would be in keeping with the southern shift theory. The case, which follows, is more interesting because of its "explanation" than for its credentials as a mysterious UFO report.

A Navy pilot, William N. Straugh, tells his story of an encounter 7:45 p.m., September 24th:

"After completing night-heckle runs in TBM#18 at approximately 1945. I commenced a slow climb over the base to complete two hours night flying. Navy 0614 gave an estimated over Base at 2019Q, which I relayed to the tower. I was on the lookout for his approach when I was [saw ?] an orange light appear from the east. I was at 4,000' climbing and the light appeared to be at approximately 10-15,000'. As it approached the Guantanamo city area from the east, it started to a left turn. Realizing it was not Navy 0614 or the tailpipe of a jet, I started to intercept it. At the first pass of the chase, the closest I got to the light was approximately 8-10 miles. At this time it appeared to be as large as an SNB and it had a greenish tail that looked to be 5 to 6 times as long as the light's diameter. This tail was seen several times in the next ten minutes in periods of from 5 to 30 seconds each. As I reached 10,000', it appeared to be at 15,000' still in a port turn. It took approximately 40 degrees of bank to keep the nose of my relatively slow type plane on the light. At this time I estimated the light to be in a 10 to 15 degree orbit.

"At twelve thousand feet I stopped climbing, but the light was still climbing at a faster rate than I was. I then reversed my turn from port to starboard and the light appeared to reverse also. As I was not gaining distance, I held a course south trying to estimate a perpendicular beneath the light as it appeared to moving north over Guantanamo City. As I turned north, the light appeared to moved west over Leeward and then due south of the base I tried the same thing to the east and as I turned back to intercept it, the light appeared to climb rapidly, at approximately a 60 degree angle from approximately 25,000' to approximately 35,000', and then start a rapid descent. The light was then at its greatest distance of about 20 miles away." 181.

Here we will skip a part and come back to it later on. To continued:

"During the descent, the light appeared to slow down at approximately 10,000' at which time I made three runs on the light. Two of them were 90 degree collision course runs and this light appeared to travel at a tremendous speed across my bow, accelerating rapidly at the 2 o'clock position and slowing at the 9 o'clock position.

"One run was so close that the light blanked out all view of the lights on Mc Calla Field. At this time the light started another rapid rate of descent and seemed to cross over Calmanes in a left turn and head straight toward the base, then turn left again and pass over the dredge located northeast of Mc Calla. It then leveled out over the mangroves, hovered over the water for approximately 3 seconds in a cove east of Hospital Cay, and then faded quickly out. In the last descent, I was in a dive and as the light faded out I was at approximately 1,500' and continued on down to 100' orbiting over the spot where the light disappeared. No disturbances could be seen by Tunbou, Morris or myself, with the moonlight on the water. The light disappeared at approximately 2010Q and a police boat was dispatched at 2015Q to search the area. In the meantime, a harbor patrol boat had gone through the area being orbited by the plane and upon being questioned later, had seen nothing unusual. At 2115 the search was discontinued." 182.

Straugh was very disturbed by the encounter and ended his statement with: "Of these facts stated, some could possibly be explained as an optical illusion. Others seem too strange for an explanation." 183.

Just how determined Straugh was to reach an explanation, and "reach" is the word, is what we will examine next.

The test of September 25th.

Straugh felt so strongly about his encounter the following evening he arranged the timed release of a light-carrying weather balloon, and climbing in his plane, set out to try and duplicate his experience of the night before. Ruppelt tries to save us the trouble of reading Straugh's account of his "test" and simply states: "He duplicated his dogfight --illusions and all." 184. Did he?

Straugh:

"The balloon was released prior to my takeoff but I intercepted it at 2,000' and made various type runs on it from all angles and at different speeds. Many of the illusions seen on the previous night could be duplicated by maneuvering the plane appropriately. I tracked the balloon through 12,000' and made my runs on it from as far away as ten miles. I could always intercept and pass it at any predetermined position as against the fact that I could not get close to the other light [Emphasis mine -L. E. Gross], which at the time appeared to be moving away from me at each attempted approach." 185.

It is immediately apparent here that Straugh had not duplicated the conditions of previous night. Puzzled, Straugh thought hard and came up with a possible explanation which he did not test! Wrote Straugh:

"This could be explained by the fact that the light was above me and was actually out climbing the TBM, or as it was several thousand feet above when I first sighted it, my rate of climb was not great enough to make up the difference in altitude. The rate of ascent of the light on the 24th was the most weird and also the hardest to explain. When the light of the 24th was at 25,000', it was seen by two passengers and myself at the same instant to start a climb at an angle of approximately 60% and at a terrific rate of ascent. At this time the light which had been a large bright glow was now a very red point which would have blended with the stars, if it had not appeared to be moving." 186.

Here Straugh runs into another problem in the quote above. How could the light of the 24th climb so fast? His test balloon did not duplicate the feat! While terming the fast climb of the light of the 24th "weird," Straugh also had trouble with the light's rapid descent! Thinking hard, Straugh suggested:

"Considering the light was from the three penlights on a balloon, the following is my explanation of the erratic descent of the night of the 24th. I have talked with various members of the aerology department concerning the possibility of a balloon descending fairly rapidly and then slowing in its descent. Balloons have been known to develop leaks at high altitude and descent to an intermediate altitude where the loss of gas and heavier atmosphere would cause it to hover. Also, about six months ago, I witnessed a balloon being released from this base and develop a leak at approximately 500 feet. This caused the balloon to start spinning and cover a horizontal distance of about one mile and then drop into the river." 187.

The light of the 24th dropped "rapidly" from 35,000 feet to the water. Could a leak from a 36 inch balloon do that? A balloon with a leak will not shoot downward to any great degree for it still has a tendency to rise. While Straugh did observe a balloon cover some 5,000 feet (one mile) horizontally, he did not observe

any balloon descend 35,000 feet vertically at a rapid rate.

Attempting to explain yet another fast climb during the dogfight on the night of the 24th, Straugh offered this idea:

"At the time we saw the light appear to climb rapidly from the estimated 25,000 to 35,000', I was over Leeward Point. This climb could be attributed to a vertical air current or, to passing through a layer of variable density air or both." 188.

This is just a guess on Straugh part. He had no evidence there was vertical air currents in the area and his test balloon of the 25th did not encounter any.

The violent maneuvers of the UFO during the attempted intercepts on the night of the 24th Straugh suggested were the result of: "...tight turns at high speed with resultant vertigo to myself..." 189. Only Straugh knows how he felt, and his test of September 25th may have achieved one thing. It evidently proved to him that vertigo may have affected him, although he never thought that during the night of the 24th.

After making three intercept runs on the light of the 24th at an estimated altitude of 10,000 feet after the light had descended from 35,000 feet, Straugh noticed that the light had gone into another descent. Having used a gas leak to explain the drop from 35,000 feet, Straugh felt he needed another explanation to explain the descent from the 10,000 foot level where he was running intercepts on it. He thought hard and came up with this:

"The last fast descent could be due to the fact that I may have cut the balloon with my prop on the third run causing the light to fall free. My last 3/4 turn was diving port in a position north-east of the light which could have produced the illusion of the light arcing over Caimanera and the bay, and setting in the water. The lights crossing from starboard to port could have been the result of my plane being in a vertical turn and the light descending straight down instead of going horizontally. At the time of intercept I thought my wings to be almost level and the light travelling in a flat circle, but due to the aforementioned vertigo, a pilot cannot rely on his sense to establish altitude." 190.

In summation, what the pilot proposes is a series of disparate causes strung together without observed evidence. In fact one of the things he did not see is something he didn't even try to explain and which is very important. Here is part of the UFO report of September 24 that was skipped over originally and which we will insert at this point:

"...and while the light was still at approximately 1,500', I deliberately placed it between the moon and myself three times to try and identify a solid body. Tunbou, G.W., AE3, and Morris, E.A. Alan, were in the plane with me and observed all maneuvers of the light and had a good view of the light passing the moon, however, neither of us saw a solid body. Considering the light was possibly from an aerologists wind balloon, we did not see a shadow of the balloon against the moon." 191.

Well, did he try to do the same with the same with the test balloon the next evening? Evidently not for there is nothing in his account of his flight to "duplicate" the UFO encounter!

Straugh's conclusion seems too firm although there may some people who would agree with him:

"Considering all the facts and the observation of a known light of the 25th, it is my opinion that the light on the night of the 24th was a balloon, with its accompanying light which had been released from the Naval Air Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba." 192.

Renewed interest in the Squyers case.

The afternoon of September 24th military investigators descended on Pittsburg Kansas, to ask questions about the strange Squyers UFO landing case as requested by an ATIC order dated September 16th. The investigators interviewed Squyers' co-workers and checked local police records. They wanted to know if Squyers drank to excess, used narcotics, been ill or had recently suffered injuries, or had a reputation for telling outlandish stories.

The investigation then moved to the "landing site," where nearby residents were asked if they had noticed anything unusual on the morning in question. The local folks were also urged to offer possible explanations for the sighting. Nothing came of these inquiries except for a suggestion that Squyers may have been fooled somehow by a passing train.

Finally, Squyers was re-interviewed at the scene of the supposed occurrence. Measurements were taken and sketches made. While standing at the spot where the object was supposed to have hovered, a train happened to pass by on the tracks nearby. The train theory was not taken too seriously and it was dismissed completely when it was noticed that tall trees screened any view of the tracks.

The investigating agent took special interest in the grass at the site, noting that although the grass was more distributed at the spot than elsewhere, the site was the only large open space in the area and therefore more subject to the elements.

The grass samples.

Special focus was placed on the grass samples. BLUE BOOK records tell us: "He was unable to distinguish a definite perimeter which may have aided in establishing the size of the object." 193. The Army reservist, a Lt. Green who had forwarded the original samples, stated that he took soil and vegetation samples about ten hours after the sighting and noticed that some lying down of vegetation but none suffering any trauma. 194.

To draw him out, Squyers was asked his opinion about what he saw, an opportunity some hoaxers seize on to embroider their stories and thus trip themselves up. Squyers did not take the bait. He only suggested he may have seen some sort of secret military aircraft.

The check of Squyers showed him to have a spotless reputation compared with Des Vergers' doubtful past behavior, yet it was physical evidence of the scoutmaster case that probably prompted a more careful look at Squyers' story.

OSI evaluation.

Meanwhile, the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence finished a short term inquiry into the Air Force's project BLUE BOOK UFO investigation and possible national security implications. The paper was approved by H. Marshall Chadwell, the director of the OSI, and forwarded to his boss, CIA director Walter Smith, so recommendations could be made:

"1. Recently an inquiry was conducted by the Office of Scientific Intelligence to determine whether there are national security implications in the problem of 'unidentified flying objects,' i.e., flying saucers; whether adequate study and research is currently being directed to this problem in its relation to national security implications; and what further investigation and research should be instituted, by whom, and under what aegis.

"2. It was found that the only unit of Government currently studying the problem is the Directorate of Intelligence, USAF, which has charged the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) with the responsibility for investigating the reports of sightings. At ATIC there is a group of three officers and two secretaries to which come, through official channels, all reports of sightings. This group conducts investigation of reports, consulting as

required with other Air Force and civilian technical personnel. A world-wide reporting system has been instituted and major Air Force bases have been ordered to make interceptions of unidentified flying objects. The research is being conducted on a case basis and is designed to provide a satisfactory explanation of each individual sighting. ATIC has concluded an arrangement with Battelle Memorial Institute for the latter to establish a machine indexing system for official reports of sightings.

"3. Since 1947, ATIC has received approximately 1500 official reports of sightings plus an enormous volume of letters, phone calls, and press reports. During July 1952 alone, official reports totaled 250. Of the 1500 reports, Air Force carries 20 percent as unexplained and of those received from January through July 1952 it carries 28 percent unexplained.

4. In its inquiry into this problem, a team from CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence consulted with a representative of Air Force Special Studies Group; discussed the problem with those in charge of the Air Force Project at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; reviewed a considerable volume of intelligence reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three CIA consultants, who have broad knowledge of the technical areas concerned.

"5. It was found that the ATIC study is probably valid if the purpose is limited to a case-by-case explanation. However, that study does not solve the more fundamental aspects of the problem. These aspects are to determine definitely the nature of the various phenomena which are causing these sightings, and to discover means by which these causes, and their visual or electronic effects, may be identified immediately. The CIA consultants stated that these solutions would probably be found on the margins or just beyond the frontiers of our present knowledge in the fields of atmospheric, ionospheric, and extraterrestrial phenomena, with the added possibility that the present dispersal of nuclear waste products might also be a factor. They recommended that a study group be formed to perform three functions:

- a. analyze and systematize the factors which constitute the fundamental problem.
- b. determine the fields of fundamental science which must be investigated in order to reach an understanding of the phenomena involved; and
- c. make recommendations for the initiation of appropriate research.

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Vice President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has indicated to CIA that such a group could be constituted at that Institute. Similarly, Project Lincoln, the Air Force's air defense project at MIT, could be charged with some of these responsibilities.

"6. The flying saucer situation contains two elements of danger which, in a situation of international tension, have national security implications. These are:

a. Psychological --With world-wide sightings reported, it was found that, up to the time of the investigation, there had been in the Soviet press no report or comment, even satirical, on flying saucers, though Gromyko had made one humorous mention of the subject. With a State-controlled press, this could result only from an official policy decision. The question, therefore, arises as to whether or not these sightings:

- (1) could be controlled,
- (2) could be predicted, and
- (3) could be used from a psychological warfare point of view, either offensively or defensively.

The public concern with the phenomena, which is reflected both in the United States press and in the pressure of inquiry upon the Air Force, indicates that

a fair proportion of our population is mentally conditioned to the acceptance of the incredible. In this fact lies the potential for the touching-off of mass hysteria and panic.

b. Air Vulnerability --The United States Air Warning System will undoubtedly always depend upon a combination of radar screening and visual observation. The U.S.S.R. is credited with the present capability of delivering an air attack against the United States, yet at any given moment now, there may be current a dozen official unidentified sightings plus many unofficial ones. At any moment of attack, we are now in a position where we cannot, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom, and as tension mounts we will run the increasing risk of false alerts and the even greater danger of falsely identifying the real as phantom.

"7. Both of these problems are primarily operational in nature but each contains readily apparent intelligence factors.

"8. From an operational point of view, three actions are required:

- a. Immediate steps should be taken to improve identification of both visual and electronic phantoms so that, in the event of an attack, instant and positive identification of enemy planes or missiles can be made.
- b. A study should be instituted to determine what, if any, utilization could be made of these phenomena by United States psychological warfare planners and what, if any, defenses should be planned in anticipation of Soviet attempts to utilize them.
- c. In order to minimize risk of panic, a national policy should be established as to what should be told the public regarding the phenomena.

"9. Other intelligence problems which require determination are:

- a. The presence level of Soviet knowledge regarding the phenomena.
- b. Possible Soviet intentions and capabilities to utilize these phenomena to the detriment of the United States security interests.
- c. The reasons for silence in the Soviet press regarding flying saucers.

"10. Additional research, differing in character and emphasis from that presently being performed by Air Force, will be required to meet the specific needs of both operations and intelligence. Intelligence responsibilities in this field as regards both collection and analysis can be discharged with maximum effectiveness only after much more is known regarding the exact nature of these phenomena.

"11. I consider this problem to be of such importance that it should be brought to the attention of the National Security Council in order that a community-wide coordinated effort towards its solution may be initiated." 195.

The forementioned CIA paper should be compared with an over all evaluation drawn up by the organization back on August 1, 1952. The earlier document evidently used information supplied by the Air Force since it mirrored military compendiums often given to the press.

The second document was the result of the CIA's inquiry into the problem and it is critical of BLUE BOOK. While the first paper referred to "only 100" unknowns, the CIA discovered that the true number was three times that amount, and took pains to point out that the Air Force was counting only official UFO reports, indicating that there existed an enormous number of unofficial ones.

The CIA complained that BLUE BOOK's case-by-case investigation advised the determining of the true nature of the problem, but the agency could have cared less what UFOs were, refusing to mention any theory other than to say that a solution would probably be found on the "margins of science" and favored the words "phenomenon" and "problem" to describe the UFO mystery. The whole weight of the document is on improving the security of the United States in regards to Soviet attack. It is interesting to note that the CIA was convinced there was "something" happening and shows absolutely no indication that any Soviet secret aircraft were responsible for the reports! The CIA does, however, show concern over Soviet's "level of knowledge," their "intentions and capabilities to utilize UFOs," and why there was an "official policy of silence on the subject."

"Reclassified secret."

BLUE BOOK notified the Commanding Officer of the 61st Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Selfridge AFB, Michigan, that the flying object message detailing the jet-UFO chase over Michigan the end of July was now reclassified "secret." This was the UFO report that Ruppelt tells us many in the military believed was the key to the UFO mystery, the final proof of the extraterrestrial theory. 196.

"Shot by a green ray."

After the first reading a serious student of the UFO mystery might dismiss the following story as nonsense, merely a good yarn to entertain the readers of the Florence, Italy, newspaper La Nazione, in which it appeared on September 25, 1952, but upon reflection the account had interest in that it may indicate the Des Vergers story was published in Europe and inspired imitations. The idea of being "shot at" became common in European UFO stories in 1954 so we might suggest that perhaps we can blame in on the Florida scoutmaster.

According to the piece in the La Nazione, a citizen of the town of San Pietro was fishing a river when a disk-shaped craft appeared in the distance, soundlessly moving just above the water's surface. The witness suggested that the saucer was drawing water up through a tube which it was trailing behind it. This strange ship was said to have five propellers protruding from its rear edge and another three attached to the roof of the machine's cupola. An orange glow came from slots along the saucer's outer rim.

When the craft neared the fisherman, he observed a porthole open and something like a diver's helmet emerge. The helmet was on a "man" whose face was visible. Suddenly a green ray then struck the fisherman, blinding him and stunning him.* When the fisherman recovered seconds later, he watched the saucer zooming away.

A week later a tall stranger with a Scandinavian inflexion to his voice asked the fisherman about the sighting of any strange aerial machines in the area. While talking, the stranger offered the fisherman a cigarette that had a gold tip. The fisherman denied seeing anything unusual. Taking the cigarette and lighting up, the fisherman took only two puffs before becoming groggy. Suspecting that he was being drugged, the fisherman tried to pocket the cigarette but the stranger flicked the butt away into the river. 197.

*Des Vergers's experience, according to the scoutmaster, was more intense. He claimed he suffered: "...a tingling sensation like when your feet loses circulation and goes to sleep." And: "I walked around, but couldn't feel the ground. It was like walking on air. But the deputy sheriff who arrived there later couldn't find my footprints in the rain-fresh dirt between where I dropped my lamp when I fell unconscious and where I came to. The distance was a matter of a number of yards." These quotes were taken from a AP newsstory datelined West Palm Beach, Florida, 23 August 1952.

Camp Drum and Offutt AFB.

When A 1/C James Howell and S/Sgt. Robert Lewis of the headquarters squadron, 3902nd Air Base Wing, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, reported sighting two silver, round, objects in the sky the evening of September 25th; one is tempted to explain the episode as a case of wayward weather balloons since the reported objects made no drastic maneuvers, nor did the two objects exhibit any unusual physical features. Nonetheless, when we move from a brief summary of the case in a BLUE BOOK file which gives the forementioned impression, and study the detailed statements of the witnesses, the case becomes perplexing.

According to the testimony of airman Howell, he was just leaving the Supply Building of his unit at 10:15 p.m. when he happened to gaze upward and there: "...directly overhead he observed a small object, at a very high altitude, which appeared to be stationary. After a few moments the object moved in an easterly direction where it was joined by a second object of a similar nature. Both moved off toward the east and disappeared. A few moments later one object reappeared proceeding in a westerly direction." 198.

Airman Howell summoned Sgt. Lewis at this point, meanwhile evidently the second object also reappeared for the case file states: "Both airmen observed the objects for approximately five minutes after which one object climbed up and out of sight and was followed by the second." 199. Also: "Movement of objects was at times stationary followed by west to east and east to west flight path." 200. If they were balloons they were being propelled by some very odd wind currents.

That same evening Army personnel at Camp Drum, Watertown, New York, were excited by a disk-shape object with a crimson "exhaust flame." Estimated to have been some 20 feet in diameter, the object hovered and circled in the air repeatedly for 30 minutes. There were some who said they detected a sound "like a dynamo" during the object's visit. Nothing on the incident can be located in Air Force BLUE BOOK records apparently due to the fact that it was an event that took place at an Army camp and thus did not find its way into Air Force Intelligence channels. We know of the incident through a civilian source, a radio broadcast by commentator Kenneth Banghart. 201.

"OPNAV."

Oddly enough, the very next day the Navy, and not the Army, issued an "OPNAV," a Navy regulation that directed all units of the Navy to direct UFO reports made by personnel under its command to the Air Force. 202.

Sunrise, September 26th.

In South Africa just after sunrise, September 26th, two young men horseback riding along the sea shore near the city of Richmond noticed a suspicious speck in the sky they at first believed was an approaching eagle. As the speck grew in size, an elliptical shape became apparent, puzzling the two men. One of them, a Mr. D. Bingham, judged its color as a kind of azure of a metallic tint.

Within three minutes another observer, a Mr. George Staelos, noticed a UFO while motoring down the coast near the township of Umgababa, a community 40 miles south of Richmond. Stopping so he could get a better look at the UFO, Staelos said the object zoomed out to sea, climbing as it did so. It had a black "rim" and an luminous blue center.

Both incidents were reported to a Nata newspaper. 203.

"Suddenly they just weren't there."

At 1:30 p.m. September 26th a woman schoolteacher at the city of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, saw two disks fly by in tight formation at low speed. The schoolteacher, a Miss Eisemann, stated that the two objects were comparable to the size of a half-dollar held at arm's length. The woman watched the silver objects very closely

for about two minutes and then suddenly they "just weren't there." The objects made no noise, had no protrubances, and traveled southwest on a steady course. The two disks were so close to each other they "overlapped." Several students at the school also saw the two objects. 204.

3:00 p.m.

A typewritten letter to the Air Force from a workman employed at a feed mill at Abrams, Wisconsin, states that he was watching a bomber fly over at about 3:00 p.m. September 26th when he suddenly saw a "bluish-green" round object traveling north at about 2,000 feet. The thing was soundless, left no trail, and seemed to be "swirling" as it sped across the heavens. A number of his co-workers also sighted the object. 205.

Azores.

Other UFO news for the day is an item from the Atlantic Ocean not far from the Azores. This put the incident at about the same latitude as Madrid, Spain, in the old world, and New York in the new.

It was late, 11:16 p.m. local time, when an Air Force C-124 out of Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, approached the Azores. The weather was good. While cruising at 5,000 feet the pilot happened to see two green lights off the right wing of the C-124, forward and a little above. The rest of the crew confirmed the existence of the lights which shifted position as they paced the plane, with first one light leading, and then the other.

The crew noticed on one occasion the lights seemed to turn in the plane's direction. The lights were lost to sight as the Azore islands appeared over the horizon. During the encounter the pilot of the C-124 radioed air traffic control at the Azores which in turn radioed all other aircraft in the region requesting that they blink their navigation lights. All air traffic was accounted for. Navy authorities were not much help either. No surface vessels were in the area to their knowledge.

The military checked and found that no air traffic landed at the airport at the Azores other than the C-124 that had reported the strange aerial lights. Air traffic with the range to overfly the Azores was rare and flight safely required that any aircraft in the region maintain constant radio contact with Azore tower.

In assessing the incident, military Intelligence believed that the possibility of a Russia intruder in the region was doubtful. 206.

September 27th.

Two UFO reports were compiled on the 27th. Both were in the southern part of the U.S.

Hempstead, Texas.

Two T-33 jets flying near Hempstead, Texas, at an altitude of 39,000 feet, were on a routine training run when one of the pilots sighted something strange 20,000 feet higher. The thing was traveling erratically at a very high velocity. The pilot, Lt. James Falmaucer, said the thing was a "...circular object appearing more white than silver." 207. Even though the object was estimated to moving at 600-700 mph, the pilot may have mistaken a balloon for a flying saucer, but while observing the strange object over a period of 2-3 minutes, Lt. Falmaucer and the pilot in the other T-33, determined the following: "Both men agreed the shape was circular and once or twice it seemed to bank to the vertical at which time the object appeared to be flat[a disk?]." 208.

Inyokern, California.

Later that night, about 10:00 p.m., in the area of Inyokern, California, a civilian enroute to Reno, Nevada, saw a weird object over Death Valley near

Daylight Pass. The thing changed color from silver, to orange, to red, to dark purple, and then back to silver at which time the cycle started all over again. The object was the size of a 50¢ piece at arm's length.

The UFO moved through the sky and then suddenly zoomed straight down, leaving a smoke trail apparently generated by a small flame which appeared at the trailing edge of the object. The witness was so impressed he drove to Stead AFB, Reno, and made a report to the military. That the object was an experimental device of some sort was dismissed by the witness who claimed to work at the Firestone plant in Los Angeles where he helped design guided missiles. 209.

Sweden.

That same night a mysterious luminous globe travelled wildly over Sweden for an hour exciting thousands of people and serving as a sample of what was to come the next day. 210.

September 28th.

The scene now shifts to the north where UFO reports suggest the beginnings of a second wave.

Radar approach control at Goose AFB, Labrador, was guiding an aircraft to a landing the night of September 28th when it picked up an unidentified target a mile and a half from the runway. This unidentified target was moving north to south at 120 mph and gave a clear, strong, return. The aircraft in the landing pattern was asked to look in the direction of the UFO but that produced negative results. Whatever it was, it was not readily visible. Other possibilities were considered. Ground clutter was unlikely since the target was over water, and a duplicate image due to some electronic malfunction also seemed improbable due to the location and movement across the radar scope. Weather inversions were not entertained since conditions of that sort invariably produced a profusion of images. If the target was indeed a solid body of some kind, it would have had to have been at an altitude lower than 4,000 feet due to the restrictive capabilities of the approach control radar. 211.

Europe.

Overseas at Denmark, southern Sweden, northern Germany, and Poland, things were a-boil. At Karup, Jutland, officers of the Danish Royal Air Force sighted an explained flying objects they called: "large and unique." 212. UFO reports came from other parts of Denmark also that afternoon.

A blue-green phosphorescent "cigar" zoomed over Zealand. Shortly thereafter, this same object flashed over southern Sweden. A Swedish Air Force officer in command of the air base at Ljungbyhed, Colonel Ingemar Nygreny, publicly announced his assumption that the "cigar" was a Russian prototype on its way to a secret base on the Polish coast. That evening at 6:30 p.m. a flying "half moon" sped over the Swedish province of Scania. 213. The object threw off sparks as it sped through the heavens with irregular jerks, all the while spewing smoke. A trio of satellite objects were seen on one occasion accompanying the "parent body." 214.

From northern Germany and Poland came dozens of UFO reports although we know little of the details because of the Iron Curtain. 215.

The Hamburg, Germany, newspaper Kolner Stadt Arzeiger listed the German, Danish, and Swedish UFO activity.

"Weird dirigible."

The next case has one aspect of significant interest that may be worth remembering. First the essentials. The reporter was a 31-year-old businessman walking the grounds of Mercy Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, 4:00 a.m. the morning of

September 29th. The hospital was on a hill with a good view of the Cincinnati sky and the man couldn't help seeing what he called a "weird dirigible" passed by since it was the size of a half-dollar at arm's length. The object was lemon-shaped with a "slightly tapered tip" and a "blunted, amorphous rear edge." The surface of the body was unique for a UFO, seemingly corrugated, or ribbed, although the object's strong, pale blue-silver glow may have played tricks with the eye. The witness immediately phoned Lunken Airport Tower to report the spectacle.

The best part of the man's account was this: "While the object moved forward the body rolled or listed. Completing this performance, its front portion passed through, or behind, what seemed an invisible 'curtain' -- a region of space that swallowed up the entire lighted mass. As the object passed thru this curtain, the visible portion of the ellipsoidal contour remained constant and stabilized." 216. The witness claims the sky was in a clear, cloudless, condition. If so, what "curtained" the object? Was it an illusion of some sort, or was it another indication UFOs can, by some technological means unknown to us, cloak themselves from man's normal vision?

Something with no wings.

The second UFO report in three days from the area northwest of Houston, Texas, was phoned in to Bryan AFB the evening of September 29th. A half dozen persons at the city of Hearne phoned the control tower at Bryan to give an account to the military. In spite of a poor connection, the following information was received in spite of a poor telephone connection:

"The object made a large semi-circular sweep from the south to north and made its exit to the southwest at a terrific rate of speed. The object was described as orange-yellow and black in color. Several of the men in the alleged party ... [claimed] the celestial appearance... [was] in sight 20-30 seconds. All swore it was absolutely visible.. [and] the saucer had no wings." 217.

Europe, September 29th.

"Five inch plates."

UFO activity in Europe continued. A phone call to police headquarters in the English city of Rochester told of a couple of "five inch plates" stationary in the sky above the community.

Shortly after being spotted, the "plates" zoomed away to the south at high speed. The time was 3:55 p.m. The sky was clear and no aircraft were known to be in the area. 218.

Commander, French Sea Police.

Some two kilometers south of the German city of Mainz, overlooking the Rhine, was the home of a Capt. Duremaine, Commanding Officer of the French Sea Police in the Western Zone of Germany. At 5:30 p.m. September 29th the French officer happened to be watching the sky from his home when an egg-shaped object, glowing all over with the exception of a black area on its side, approached on a straight course, eventually moving directly overhead and leaving behind a trail of white vapor fringed with red. The Captain, an 18-year-old veteran of the Navy, insisted that that the object was not a meteor and although he heard a low hum, no wings could be seen as the thing passed overhead. The military investigator that questioned the French officer wrote in his report: "The Captain appeared to be very intelligent and very reliable and it is believed that his story is quite true." 219.

"Are you giving us the straight story?"

During the latter part of September, Ruppelt finally got around to taking a

plane to Colorado so he could visit the headquarters of the Air Defense Command. Originally the BLUE BOOK chief had planned to brief General Chidlaw and his staff on a regular basis but the huge UFO flap of the summer of 1952 had disrupted the concept of periodic meetings to bring the ADC people up to date on the UFO mystery.

ADC Intelligence had assigned an officer, Major Verne Sadowski, as liaison between ADC and BLUE BOOK, and after a morning briefing that day in September, Ruppelt ate lunch with the Major and some other ADC officers. During the meal Major Sadowski spoke up: "Look, Rupe, are you giving us the straight story on these UFOs." 220. Surprised, Ruppelt defended himself by stating the fact that ADC received duplicates of every UFO report sent to BLUE BOOK but that did not satisfy the men at the table. It was admitted that the reports were being forwarded, but it seemed clear to many at ADC that the reports proved there was something invading America's skies, yet BLUE BOOK was hesitant to embrace the possibility thus it was assumed Ruppelt was: "...trying to cover up something big." 221.

The question of alien spaceships was raised but such speculation bogged down over the problem of what constituted proof. A lieutenant colonel voiced the same complaint throw at Ruppelt before. The colonel remarked: "It seems the difficulty that Project Blue Book faces is what to accept and what not to accept as proof." 222. In reply Ruppelt went into some detail on the recent UFO sighting during operation Mainbrace to illustrate the problems involved in evaluating UFO sightings, but Major Sadowski, for one, wasn't distracted so simply. He repeated his accusatory poser: "Are you holding out on us?" 223. To such persistence Ruppelt gave an unqualified "No!" The BLUE BOOK chief made it clear any different answer awaited: "...more positive evidence." 224. When Ruppelt left the table, he noticed some of the officers shaking their heads.

After lunch, when Ruppelt and Sadowski were in the latter's office in a secure area, the BLUE BOOK chief revealed that there were plans in the works that would, it was hoped, have an impact on the vexing problem of UFO proof.

Garland replaces Dunn.

According to Ruppelt, General Samford's Deputy Director for Production, Brigadier General Garland, had recently replaced Col. Dunn as CO of ATIC, and that Garland was a strong advocate of concrete information. In the case of UFOs, Garland's appointment meant more vigorous action on a proposed defraction grid camera tracking system. (Garland had also been monitoring BLUE BOOK for General Samford, and as Samford's man, what the change really meant had yet to be known.)

The CIA UFO panel.

Ruppelt also made a brief remark about a suggested convening of a panel of scientists to study the UFO problem for a "week or two." In keeping with the wishes of the CIA, the fact that the agency was behind the idea was apparently not divulged to Sadowski, and considering how suspicious the people were at ADC, if Sadowski was typical, such caution was a wise policy.

The Pentagon and "unearthly beings."

Finally, the BLUE BOOK chief brought up Project IVY, the top secret testing of America's first H-Bomb scheduled sometime in the last months of 1952 at the island of Eniwetok. BLUE BOOK had been directed to set up a UFO reporting net in nuclear test region because: "Some people in the Pentagon had the idea that there were beings, earthly or otherwise, who might be interested in our activities in the Pacific." 225.

September 30th.

"Nothing but memories."

The North American Aviation Company sent its motion picture crew to Muroc AFB California, on September 30, 1952. The film crew, headed by a Dick Beemer, arrived early at the test site so the men left their equipment truck and walked around the dry lake bed to kill time. When a B-29 happened to pass overhead, a cameraman named Carlos Garcia watched the aircraft. The time was 10:30 a.m. and the sun was about 50 degrees above the horizon. While gazing at the plane, Garcia caught sight of a strange object moving rapidly in near the B-29 and the cameraman's first thought was that something had broken off or had been dropped from the bomber. Following the strange object with his eyes, Garcia quickly became convinced the object was a powered body. Instead of falling, the object was flying. Shortly thereafter a second, and similar, object was noticed by Garcia. Excited, the cameraman yelled to Beemer and the others. Soon everyone was staring upward. Since the objects were moving around close to the sun they were difficult to see.

Beemer felt the objects were very high and traveling at a very high speed, a speed much greater than a jet's. The description of the objects fit the usual UFO pattern. According to Beemer, the objects were silent, left no vapor trail, and resembled "flattened spheres." The oddest part of Beemer's story was the maneuvers of the objects: "For a short time, fifteen seconds or more, one would hover while the other would zoom down past one side of it, make a sharp turn, and flash above it on the opposite side." 226.

October.

Activity along the southern front.

UFO reports on October 1st came from the southern part of the U.S. Of the two reported, neither was a daytime sighting.

South Carolina.

At 6:57 p.m. a circular brilliant white dot of light, soundless and leaving no vapor trail, was observed by a pilot of a RF-80 aircraft, 1st Lt. Thomas Piontak. Lt. Piontak was flying at 22,000 feet over South Carolina at the time. There was no aerodynamic feature visible. It was the movement of the light that made it a UFO:

"The object appeared to the left of the aircraft's nose at an unknown distance, passed in front of aircraft nose at a 2 o'clock position at an unknown distance to what appeared to be a complete stop, resumed flight opposite direction passing in front of aircraft, coming to a stop at 10 o'clock to the sighting aircraft. Object remained slightly below altitude of sighting aircraft during entire contact." 227.

Mississippi.

At 7:40 p.m. over Pascagoula, Mississippi, a round white object was spotted hovering motionless in the crystal-clear air. If one held a basketball at arm's length it would have matched the apparent size of the UFO. Four civilians stared at the object for about seven minutes after which it travelled away: "...in a smooth circular path at extremely fast speed." 228.

*The reader is urged to compare this maneuver with the change of formation by some UFOs over the city of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on August 3, 1952.

The CIA gears up.

The CIA defined its proposed UFO study during this period. The following document details the agency's objectives:

"1. PROBLEM--To determine: (a) Whether or not there are national security implications in the problem of 'unidentified flying object'; (b) whether or not adequate study and research is currently being directed to this problem in its relation to such national security implications; and (c) what further investigation and research should be instituted, by whom, and under what aegis.

"2. FACTS AND DISCUSSION--OSI has investigated the work currently being performed on 'flying saucers' and found that the Air Technical Intelligence Center, DI, USAF, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is the only group devoting appreciable effort and study to this subject, that ATIC is concentrating on a case-by-case explanation of each report, and that this effort is not adequate to correlate, evaluate, and resolve the situation on an overall basis. The current problem is discussed in detail in TAB A.

"3. CONCLUSIONS--'Flying saucers' pose two elements of danger which have national security implications. The first involves mass psychological considerations and the second concerns the vulnerability of the United States to air attack. Both factors are amplified in TAB A.

"4. ACTION RECOMMENDED--(a) That the Director of Central Intelligence advise the National Security Council of the implications of the 'flying saucer' problem and request that research be initiated. TAB B is a draft memorandum to the NSC, for the DCI's signature. (b) That the DCI discuss this subject with the Psychological Strategy Board. A memorandum to the Director, Psychological Strategy Board, is attached for signature as TAB C. (c) That CIA, with the cooperation of PSB and other interested departments and agencies, develop and recommend for adoption by the NSC a policy of public information which will minimize the risk of panic." 229.

Another CIA document drawn up during this period (the exact date unknown) gives some detail about what the CIA's proposed project would do and how it would be established:

"1. It is proposed that an external research project be established so that the available evidence on Unidentified Flying Objects can be analyzed and evaluated by an Ad Hoc Panel of top-level scientists in order to recommend what further action should be taken toward solution of this problem.

"2. The proposed project is an important part of the effort of this office to improve intelligence relating to Unidentified Flying Objects and would materially assist the O/SI Task Force which has been working on this problem in cooperation with the Air Force at the request of the DCI since 20 August 1952.

"3. It is anticipated that the proposed project would be established through CENIS and would utilize their facilities to obtain the services of the personnel required for the panel. Discussions have been held on this matter with Dr. Max Millikan, Director of CENIS, who has indicated his approval.

"4. The proposed project would cost approximately \$5,000 which is the amount estimated to be necessary to pay for the expenses of the Panel members (travel, per diem etc.) and the administrative overhead cost

Opposite page:UFO reports found in CIA documents.
Note that the CIA picked up the Gaillac, France,
case because it appeared in the North African
press, also that there is no reference to a sim-
ilar manifestation at the city of Oloron.

ALGERIAN WEATHER BUREAU CHIEF DISCOUNTS SAUCER REPORTS -- Dakar, Paris-Dakar,
7 Aug 52

60-A

The director of the Algerian weather bureau stated recently that the "flying saucers" seen recently over Algiers were only weather balloons which are sent up each evening between 2000 and 2030 hours from the weather stations at Maison Blanche, Blida, and Boufarik. He said that in their underbellies, the balloons carry a luminous device which, together with the motion of the balloons as they are buffeted by the wind, must have made them seem like "flying saucers" to the spectators.

LUMINOUS OBJECT SIGHTED OVER CORSICA -- Algiers, L'Echo d'Alger, 4 Oct 52

On 2 October 1952, at about 2000 hours, several people in Corsica observed a spindle-shaped, luminous object traveling noiselessly in the sky. They said that it was headed from southwest to northeast and was visible for about one minute.

DESCRIBE UNUSUAL OBJECT FLYING ALONG ALGERIAN COASTLINE -- Algiers, L'Echo d'Alger, 7 Oct 52

On 6 October 1952, at 1830 hours, a luminous object was seen flying for several seconds along the western coastline of Algeria, above Sidi Ferruch and Saint Eugene. Numerous witnesses described it as cigar-shaped and enveloped in orange flames.

MANY WITNESS "FLYING SAUCER" FORMATION IN TARN, FRANCE -- Casablanca, Maroc-
Presse, 29 Oct 52

About 100 inhabitants of Gaillac (Department of Tarn, France) reported witnessing a "flying saucer" formation at about 1600 hours on 27 October 1952. The objects were said to have been 16 in number, ranged in twos, and disk-shaped, except for a swelling in the center. According to the report, they revolved giving off a bluish light at the sides.

The spectators said that they also saw a kind of elongated cylinder, a "flying cigar," traveling in the center of the saucer formation. All the objects were said to have discharged shining whitish particles, which looked like glass wool and accumulated on tree branches and telegraph wires. Many persons said that they had been able to gather clusters of such particles, but that these had quickly disintegrated, making it impossible to have them analyzed later in a laboratory.

The weather conditions were reported as ideal for observation. The mysterious objects, which had come from the southeast, reportedly remained in the area about 10 minutes and then continued on their way in a straight line.

INVENTOR IN WEST GERMANY PERFECTS "FLYING SAUCER" -- Conakry, La Guinee Francaise,
20 Nov 52

The first patent for a "flying saucer" was recently applied for in West Germany by Rudolf Schriever, a former pilot, who claimed to have perfected an "elliptical flying object" after 11 years of research.

for CENIS.

"5. The proposed project will not duplicate any known CIA activity.

"6. The proposed project will not duplicate any known Department of Defense efforts. U.S. Air Force personnel will participate in meetings with the Panel.

"7. Classification of the proposed would be SECRET.

"8. It is requested that approval in principle be given for the proposed project so that preliminary negotiations may be undertaken. In due course, the project will be submitted for final approval." 230.

October 3rd.

Abidjan is the capital of the African nation of Ivory Coast. The city looks out over the Atlantic Ocean and the residents, we would think, were probably not well versed in UFO lore but some people there contributed one of the better UFO reports of the month:

"Three members of a family in Abidjan declared that shortly after 0130 hours on 3 October 1952, a bright green light flashed from the east across the sky, seemingly the exhaust of some craft. The latter was momentarily motionless, at which time it seemed orange-red in color. Then it revolved about itself in a ring of fire, zig-zagging upward and remaining in the same area of the sky. As it moved, it assumed various shapes, flat, round, and oval. Its color varied from purple to gold. After many rapid, noiseless turns, it dwindled in size, turned green, and disappeared --that was at about 0200 hours.

"The three observers gave the impression of being quite level-headed." 231.

Cape Canaveral.

Friday, October 3rd radio station WKKO, Cocoa, Florida, received phonecalls from hundreds of people asking about a strange whitish oval light in the sky that was visible between 10:00 p.m. to 12:20 a.m. The city of Cocoa was near Cape Canaveral (later named Cape Kennedy), a missile test center. 232.

October 4th.

Increasing UFO awareness in Europe encouraged the Paris newspaper France Illustration to publish a major UFO article in its October 4th issue educating Frenchmen on "soucoupes volantes."

October 5th.

The mid-Atlantic.

The Cunard Liner Caronia left Southampton, England, on September 30th for America. Aboard was a 45-year-old lawyer and former Lt. Commander of a U.S. Naval Aviation unit. When the Caronia reached a point in the Atlantic at 42 degrees 19 minutes North, 55 degrees 7 minutes West, at 5:12 p.m. October 5th, the lawyer saw something in the sky while he was strolling on the ship's deck:

"I saw a very brilliant bright object, a perfect circle in shape, which I had the impression was flat, with the flat surface in a vertical plane and presented directly towards me. The object bore between one and two points on the starboard bow of the ship and at an angle above the surface of the water which I should estimate to be between 15 and 20 degrees of arc from the horizontal. The object had a brilliant light, almost the intensity of a welding torch. I should say that it was much brighter

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

TALLY NO.	
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: (Restricted) Lab Analysis of Soil Samples Having Possible Relation to Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Counter Intelligence Division
Directorate of Special Investigations, The IG

DATE OCT 3 1952

COMMENT NO. 1

Maj Fournet/dbv/75990

FROM: Topical Division
Deputy Director for Estimates, D/I, DCS/O

1. Reference our R&R dated 5 September 1952, same subject as above. Recent developments have prompted the attachment of increased importance to these samples. Specifically, a deposit seeming to have the same general characteristics and also related to a flying object incident has been reported from Flat Woods, West Virginia.
2. In view of this possible relationship and the necessity for a prompt analysis of these two incidents, it is requested that utmost priority be given to the lab analysis of subject samples.

(Official interest in the charred roots of the Des Vergers case shows up in this Air Force memo. It indicates that concern about the Florida samples may have been greater than Ruppelt suggests. --Loren E. Gross)

William A. Adams
WILLIAM A. ADAMS
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Topical Division
Deputy Director for Estimates
Directorate of Intelligence, DCS/O

than a star could possibly be and was somewhat less bright than the sun. The light emanating from it was a strong silver color." 233.

Still on the job.

When a Los Alamos, New Mexico, resident witnessed the fall of a brilliant pastel green fireball with a short tail at 11:00 p.m. October 5th, Dr. Lincoln La Paz told the press the big bright ball was: "...one of our puzzlers." 234.

Draguignan's "Flying Egg."

The passage of a fireball over southern France, the area of Provence, on October 6th, may well have been just a stone from sidereal space, but to a number of Frenchmen its appearance "proved" the reality of flying saucers "beyond doubt or cavil."

The French were just warming up to the subject of UFOs and were not as fastidious as Americans. Much was made of the reported low velocity of the glowing ovoid and quoted the times mentioned by different observers which sighted the object minutes apart as evidence that the meteor theory was an absurdity. The thing's speed was calculated at 1,800 miles per hour, far below the velocity of usual celestial visitors. What may spark interest in the reader of these lines is two facts not apparent to the French. For some reason the south of France was a UFO hot spot so the object's appearance over the region helps the saucer idea. Secondly, not long before another strange "meteor" had passed that way which does not seem natural.

Witnesses to the latest "meteor" all received a definite impression it was moving slow and low. The account of most value was that given by two Air France pilots at the helm of an Air France DC-4. Meteors were a common sight to the two pilots but this particular one was so different from any they had ever seen they were astonished. The pilots, Michel Clement and Francois Cavasse, issued formal statements. Cavasse said in part:

"At 7:28 p.m., local time we were flying over Draguignan and the Department of Var when my colleague, Clement, drew my attention to a strangely shaped, luminous flying object. It looked like an elongated egg. It was flying horizontally in an absolutely straight line. It's speed was regular and terrific. The 'egg' was completely aglow, not blinding, but like a neon light. We were able to follow its course for 30 seconds without taking our eyes off it. When it was lost to view it was still following its straight course." 235.

A Dr. Carlotto, who practiced surgery at a hospital at the city of Nice adds:

"The trail unlike that of an airplane, came to a point instead of spreading out, and gave off a dim light. The object itself showed rapid and regular pulsations. These pulsations were produced by the object itself, and were not the effect of clouds, because the sky was entirely clear." 236.

Lake Charles.

Back in the States that night there was a UFO occurrence of a more mysterious kind. An object glowing with a white light moved about over Lake Charles AFB Flight Line at 9:20 p.m. Three airman watched the object dim and then grow bright alternately. The speed of the object also varied, from very quick to nearly a complete stop. The general course of the object was north to south, altitude undetermined, but it went through some maneuvers during the five minutes it was under observation: "At the slowest speeds the object made sharp right angle turns four times." 237.

"I hate to say this..."

When a UFO showed up again over Cape Canaveral (Cape Kennedy) Monday the 6th, the Air Force announced it was investigating. The white, elliptical light was clearly visible to a dozen persons outside a roller rink at the city of Cocoa, Florida. Callers to radio station WKKO alerted station employee Al Leonard who went outside and saw the phenomenon himself. He guessed that the UFO was 5,000 feet high and watched it change direction twice while in view. It was seen between 10:00 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Leonard remarked: "I hate to say this, but it sure looked like what you might call a flying saucer." 238.

Guam.

In the western Pacific, at the island of Guam, at 7:15 p.m., October 7th, a control tower operator on duty at Anderson AFB was working a T-6 aircraft on a local flight plan. Weather in the region was clear with the exception of a very high overcast on the western horizon. The operator, Airman Clarence Morrison, suddenly became alarmed about a stationary light in the vicinity of the T-6 where no air traffic should be. Immediately Morrison examined the light with field glasses while asking another operator if he would help identify the UFO. Calls were quickly made to Guam ATC Center, and a nearby airfield, to recheck air traffic flight plans. Weather units were also contacted on the chance a balloon with a light had been recently sent up. None of the inquiries yielded results that could have explained the mystery light.

Meanwhile, the light was studied carefully and the airmen in the tower believed they detected a change of color of orange to white and then back to orange. 239.

Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Two miles south of Alamogordo, New Mexico, was the Star-Lite Drive-In Theater. The evening of October 7th a 2nd Lieutenant assigned to the missile test unit at Holloman AFB was at the Star-Lite watching the movie when he saw a UFO. Since the officer was an aeronautical engineer, we will quote his entire statement:

"...my wife called my attention to a light that appeared to be in the sky through our windshield. It looked oval in shape, the major axis being almost vertical, and about a third of a thumb's length in height, the hand being held out at arms length. It was lighter on the right edge and top than it was in the center and left side and seemed to be whitish or pale blue in color. I saw it in a direction a little bit north or north-east, judging the azimuth from the position of the north star. It traveled in a straight line at the same elevation, about 20 degrees above the horizon, from west to east and suddenly seemed to get dimmer and fade out when it was almost north of us. It traversed about a thirty degrees arc in four to five seconds before it went out. The impression I had was that it turned on its vertical axis and got dimmer, but not smaller in height, until it was out, all in a very short length of time..." 240.

Yet another green fireball.

The second green fireball in three days flashed over New Mexico. The glowing blob appeared at 6:16 p.m. on October 7th moving from the northeast to the southwest. Dr. La Paz estimated that the fireball passed over the cities of Las Cruces, Deming, and Lordsburg. 241.

October 8th.

The next case is so extraordinary it will be quoted without much comment. The location was Keflevik, Iceland:

"At about 2100, on 8 October 52 four officers of the recently arrived

932 AC&W Sq. witnessed a strange object in the air approaching this airport. It was perfectly round, they said, except for an irregularity in it's trailing edge, and it's outline was quite distinct. One of them said that it seemed to have depth, another said that it appeared to be flat. It had a pinkish-orange color, and was variously described as pale, porous, transparent, translucent, etc. It initially had a true bearing of 35 to 40 degrees, at an elevation of about 60 degrees. It travelled very rapidly on a course of about 200 degrees in straight and level flight for about 4 seconds after it was first sighted. Then, after decreasing speed somewhat, and with a slight loss of altitude. It turned to a course of about 185 degrees, went into an almost vertical climb at an extremely high rate of speed, diminished in size and disappeared from view in about one second.

"Altogether it traversed an arc of about 90 seconds in about 6 seconds.

"The object left no visible exhaust vapor trail, air turbulence or sound, according to one of the officers, who is Senior Controller of the 932nd AC&W." 242.

October 9th.

"Straight across and then straight up."

Nothing happened on the 9th until late into the evening when a report came in from Brooks AFB, Texas. In a statement by a S/Sgt.(name deleted) we learn:

"...at the hours of 0930 to 1030 A.M. Brooks Air Force Base, I saw hovering in the sky at about 40,000 feet a silvery object which actually stayed as if in one place. Then glancing off to the Northwest, I saw this silvery object traveling at a terrific rate of speed then zoom straight up into the stratosphere and then disappear. Captain (deleted) called my attention again and then we saw another silvery object zoom the same way straight across and then up at a terrific rate of speed. The other silvery object just hovered above for about an hour or so and finally left. The second object flew in another direction which I believe was Westerly." 243.

BLUE BOOK and the extraction of facts.

We have noted the CIA's censure of the Air Force's UFO investigation methods. Now we will look at BLUE BOOK's Sixth Status Report of 1952 which details the military's progress in approaching the UFO problem in an analytical manner:

"ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SIGHTING REPORTS"

"Work has continued on the coding of sightings reports to permit analysis by IBM machines. Reports up to and including 1951 are completed except for final evaluation of all reports of sightings previous to 1952 will be completed during the month of October in conferences with ATIC personnel. Therefore, by the end of October all sighting reports for the years 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 will be ready as a group for preliminary analysis on IBM equipment.

"Sighting reports for the first four months of 1952 were received late in September. Coding of these early 1952 reports was begun and should be completed, except for final evaluation, by October 20. Because the quality and quantity of information in many of the 1952 sighting reports has improved, and in many cases more than one sighting is included in the folder, more time was required for coding these reports than for earlier ones.

"Because sighting reports accumulated at a rapid rate in May, June and July, 1952, and in general were more detailed than earlier reports, it is estimated that it will require until the latter part of November, 1952, to complete processing and evaluation of these reports for IBM analysis.

"MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

"The panel of consultants was utilized during the month to advantage on the following topics:

"Analysis of Film

"Two rolls of 35-mm spectrographic film and a section of gun-camera spectrographic film, furnished by the Air Force for analysis, were examined by experts on spectroscopy. After examination of the film, it was found impractical to proceed further with the analysis without more data. Although it would be possible by indirect methods to arrive at limited conclusions regarding the sources of light that were photographed, the expense would be prohibitive. Further data needed for analysis of film should be derived from controlled experiments using known sources of light, and from information on the following factors:

1. Type of camera.
2. Shutter speed.
3. Aperture opening.
4. Range.
5. Type of grid used and details of grid construction.
6. Type of film used.

"Simple standards could be established by which it should be possible to determine the source of light photographed with the camera and spectrographic equipment at relatively little expense. It is believed that the camera and equipment will be most useful when the light is emitted by a single chemical element. If two or more elements are involved, analysis will be difficult with this simple recording device.

"SOIL AND VEGETATION SAMPLE:

"During the month, two sets of soil and vegetation samples were studied by an agricultural specialist and by physicists.

"Regarding the 'Florida' samples, no difference was observed between the two samples of soil, but it was found that the root structure of the plants from the area in question was degenerated, apparently by heat, while the root structure of a control sample was undisturbed. In addition, the lower leaves, those nearest the ground under normal conditions, were slightly deteriorated, apparently by heat. No logical explanation is possible for this alteration in the first sample, beyond the suggestion that a high soil temperature around the plants could have been the cause. No radioactivity was found in any of these samples.

"Regarding the 'Kansas' samples, no difference was found between either the soil or the vegetation from the two areas from which the specimens were obtained. These samples are now being examined for radioactivity.

"CONSULTANT ON ASTRONOMY:

"Advice and assistance from Dr. J. Allen Hynek was received during the month concerning astronomical objects mistaken as 'flying saucers.' A few fundamental rules which had been given before were further elaborated. Dr. Hynek also gave ten consulting hours to the task of improving the question in the latest questionnaire.

"INTERROGATION FORMS:

"During July, August, and September, Dr. Paul M. Fitts and associates of the Aviation Psychology Department of Ohio State University have served as consultants on the preparation of a questionnaire that would permit the United States Air Force to obtain a maximum of useful information from those persons who report sightings of unidentified aerial objects. Insofar as possible, the following criteria were used in designing the questionnaire:

1. To develop questions which could transfer from the observer to the U.S. Air Force as much detailed information as possible concerning the event, without the necessity of a personal interview.
2. To develop questions that would permit some evaluation of the accuracy and reliability of the observer and his report.
3. To develop questions that could be:
 - (a) easily understood by a majority of the public,
 - (b) answered with minimum effort on the part of the observer, and
 - (c) objectively and easily recorded, and transferred to an automatic machine filing system.

"To meet the first criterion adequately, some questions were taken from the first 'Tentative Observer's Data Sheet.' Suggestions and advice from Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor of Astronomy, Ohio State University, were requested and used, and other questions, believed to be important and useful, were devised. A copy of the second draft of the 'Tentative Observer's Data Sheet' is included as Exhibit I of this report. In general, most of the questions in the second draft seem to fall in one of the following informational categories:

1. When the event occurred, and where the observer was located at the time of the sighting.
2. A description of the viewing conditions.
3. A description of the phenomenon itself.

"The second draft of the 'Tentative Observer's Data Sheet' was designed for a trial test for selecting and improving questions for the final questionnaire. Over 300 of these questionnaires were sent to observers by ATIC. Replies to 168 of them were analyzed. On the basis of this analysis, a summary of these replies is included in Exhibit I of this report. A new questionnaire, the 'U.S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet', has been designed, in which several questions were omitted, some were revised, and other added. As an example, it was found that many observers were unable to reply to the question which asked for an estimation of the 'real' size of the object. This question was restated in the form of an 'apparent' size.

"A sample of the 'U.S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet' is given as Exhibit II of this report. Form A is for specific data, and Form B is for a short verbal summary expressed in the observer's own words.

"Multiple-choice questions, completion questions, and drawings are used throughout the final questionnaire so as to get as accurate a description as possible. The multiple-choice question is well adapted for use in large-scale statistical studies.

"The second criterion used in preparing the questionnaire is most difficult to achieve. As far as possible, question were worded to provide

a check on the consistency and competence of the observer.

"The best check of consistency would be to have the observer answer the questionnaire twice with an interval of time separating the two replies. Since this is not practical, it was decided that the next best way would be to have the observer fill in an objective multiple-choice section and, in addition, write out a summary description in a summary data sheet. Any obvious discrepancies between information given in this description and that given in the questionnaire would make the observer's replies questionable.

"An evaluation of the observer's personality traits and mental competence is likewise difficult to achieve in such a questionnaire. In addition to the low validity of standardized questionnaires specifically designed to test these aspects of the individual, the restriction exists that the observer should not detect that his competence is being considered. In spite of the limitations, it was decided to include several questions which might operate indirectly to reveal any severely abnormal factors. Two questions (No. 24 and No. 38) were inserted for the specific purpose of detecting replies of the fanatic and over-imaginative individual. A reasonable assumption is that the person who uses fantastic explanations and descriptions, and who appears to be convinced that the sighting was produced by unknown creatures or interplanetary visitors, is not likely to be a discerning observer. It is further proposed that such individuals will be prone to fabricate details, and suffer severe memory distortions when recounting the event.

"Questions Nos. 5.1 and 22.1 are intended to indicate the over-anxious respondent. With the exception of a few instances in which accurate measurements may be made, normally one would not expect an observer to be 'certain' that he had seen an object for a specific time or of a specific apparent size. Again, these types of data can be subjected to controlled experimentation in which observers make estimates of duration and of size together with certainty ratings.

"Question No. 26 is an important question if No. 36.1 receives a negative reply, and if the duration of the sighting were of sufficient length that one could reasonably expect other observers also to see the object. If this is the case, then one would suspect that the sighting was a result of individual factors.

"An effort was made to satisfy the third criterion for the questionnaire by using simple language and nontechnical terminology. It is recognized that this requirement would not permit many trained observers (scientists, pilots, etc.) to present important technical data, therefore it is recommended that a different questionnaire be used or that different channels be employed for communicating with this select group of individuals.

"Whenever possible, the questions were written in multiple-choice form, so that they could be easily answered and accurately recorded. If it appeared that too many categories would be needed to cover all possible responses, or if the categories would lead to doubtful or erroneous interpretation, then the question was worded so that the observer could fill in his own answer. A large number of the questions permit the observer to give a 'don't Remember' response, and thus do not force a guess or an incorrect answer.

"It was decided that the observer should be asked to circle the correct answer to the multiple-choice items, thereby allowing minimum ambiguity in the instructions and maximum objective scoring. System such as checking or underlining the correct answer are often misinterpreted by the

respondent because of previous experience with various ambiguous checking and 'X-ing' systems, such as voting procedures.

"It is anticipated that when a sufficient sample of replies has been received from the second questionnaire that further minor revisions will appear necessary." 244.

For the moment the most troubling item to Ruppelt in the Status Report was a vegetation sample from 'Florida' (grass from the Des Vergers case). The sample was burned in an odd way. Why? Note that both an agricultural specialist and some physicists studied the sample without finding an explanation. Ruppelt was to give the puzzle a lot of thought.

Sidi-Bel-Abbes.

Something termed a "flying cigar" passed above the Algerian city of Sidi-Bel-Abbes on October 10th. No more data available. 245.

The Presque Isle problem.

The brightest thing in the eastern sky at Presque Isle AFB, Maine, 10:00 p.m. October 10th was a spot of light about 60 degrees above the horizon. Weather observers at the airbase trained their theodolite on the spot of light out of curiosity and they interpreted the image they saw through their lens as: "...a circular orange object with four green lights nearby..." 246.

Limestone AFB some 20 miles northeast was contacted and asked to confirm the presence of a strange illuminous body to the east. Limestone observers set up their theodolite and took some measurements that indicated a body 100 miles above the earth! 247. This was too close to be a star or planet and too far away to be any sort of aircraft or balloon. The information was sent to ATIC where the 100 mile figure caused a sensation.

Falmouth, Massachusetts.

A blinking white light was seen shooting straight up at terrific speed at 11:30 p.m. October 10th near Otis AFB. A S/Sgt. Richard County, A 2/C Edward Robinson, and A 1/C James Barren, were all watching from the porch of the enlisted men's barracks as the light zoomed skyward. Abruptly the light stopped, and then it performed a pendulum motion, an action that lasted for 20 minutes, after which it shot upward again. 248.

Manston, England.

Europe contributed a better report. A C-1 priority military teletype message from Manston, England, site of an USAF Fighter-bomber base, read:

"RND IN SHAPE, 3 INS IN DIA AT UNDETERMINED ALTITUDE, GLITTERING SILVER LIKE COLOR OF A STAR CONSTANTLY LIT, 2 OBJS, SIGHTED AT DIFFERENT INTERVALS, WHEN OBJ ROLLED OVER ON EDGE, APPEARED TO BE 3-4 INS LONG AND 1 IN THICK, NO EXHAUST, NO SOUND, OBJ MOVED ACROSS THE SKY FR NW TO SE HOVERING IN A CIRCULAR PATTERN AT EVENLY SPACED INTERVALS, OBJ ROLLED OVER ON ITS SIDE AND DISAPPEARED." 249.

October 11th.

No UFO reports this day but there was an interesting meeting which featured Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Drs. Menzel and Liddell, the latter two men ferocious foes of "UFO believers." Menzel was predicable, expounding his technical theories, but Liddell wandered away from physics. He targeted the "mass hysteria" sweeping the nation and urged that steps be taken to alleviate it. Liddell charged

that a "fear psychosis" was being caused by sensation seeking newspaper reporters and "hucksters."

Dr. Hynek, who was exposed to UFO reports on a regular basis and had talked to numerous eyewitnesses, was beginning to suspect that the sky phenomenon was much stranger than men like Menzel and Liddell realized. After briefing the BLUE BOOK people on the meeting, Ruppelt's team printed the following in its periodic Status Report:

"Dr. J. Allen Hynek, of the Ohio State University, attended the Boston meeting of the Optical Society of America on 11 October 1952. The Society took cognizance this year of the many reports of unusual aerial phenomena by including three invited papers on the subject in their otherwise straightforward scientific meeting. One of the invited papers was by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, entitled 'Unusual Aerial Phenomena.' The other two papers were by Drs. Menzel and Liddell, of Harvard Observatory and the Atomic Energy Commission, respectively.

"The papers of Menzel and Liddell, though differing somewhat in content, were identical in spirit. Both papers were characterized by the fact that numerous explanations for unexplained sightings were given without a single reference to a specific sighting in the files of the Air Technical Intelligence Center. Both papers presented a series of well-worn statements as to how jet fighters, meteors, reflections from balloons and aircraft, and optical effects, such as sundogs and mirages, could give rise to 'flying saucer' reports. Since there was nothing new in either of the two papers, the trip from this standpoint was unproductive.

"The paper by Dr. Hynek, in essence, was to the effect that flying saucers represented a science-public relations problem; i.e., when a sighting is made by several people, at least one of whom is an experienced observer, the mutually corroborated reports are entitled to a scientific hearing, rather than ridicule. It stressed the point that here was a subject in which the public has shown great interest. It was recommended that the relatively few well-screened reports be dealt with specifically to see whether any of the causes suggested by Drs. Liddell and Menzel are applicable, and, if so, to make this known in these specific instances. On the other hand, if the suggested explanations of Drs. Liddell and Menzel do not explain well-screened cases, this should also be made known and given further scientific study.

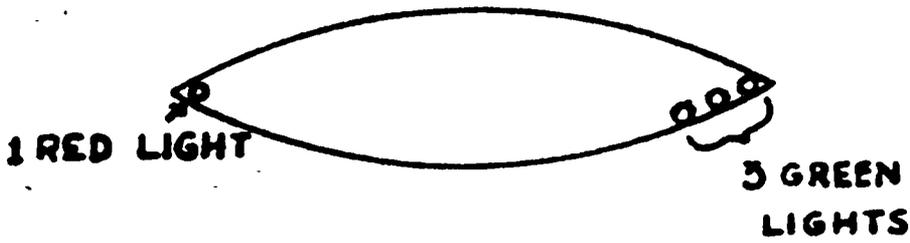
"In conclusion, it was the opinion of Dr. Hynek that little was by attendance at the meeting. The results were negative in the sense that it was confirmed, as Dr. Hynek already believed, that Drs. Liddell and Menzel had not studied the literature and the evidence and, hence, were not qualified to speak with authority on the subject of recent sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena.

"An attempt to arrange a meeting by Dr. Hynek with Dr. Menzel and Dr. Liddell, after the meeting was over, was unsuccessful because Liddell and Menzel both had to leave immediately after the meeting." 250.

October 12th.

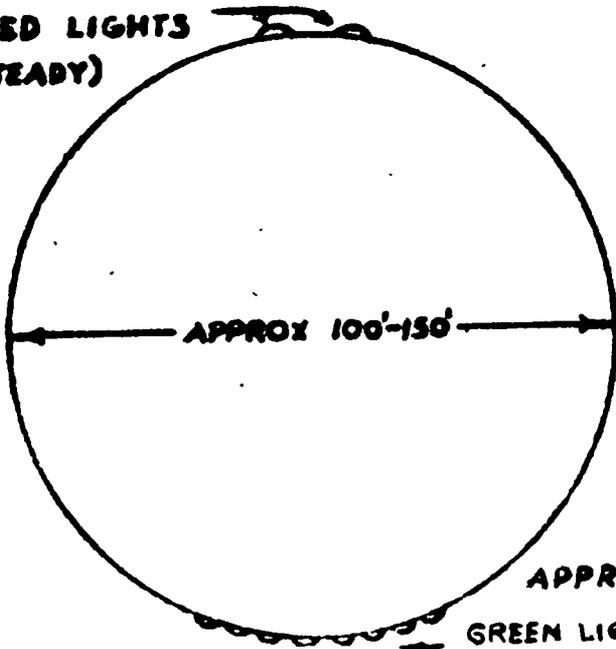
Off Hingham, North Korea.

UFO reports came out of the Korean warzone back in January and the months since alarming military Intelligence, and here it was October with reports still being tallied. The latest was a report by Marine pilot Major N. Carr who was flying a two-man interceptor on a mission off the coast of North Korea in the vicinity of Hingham:



SIDE VIEW

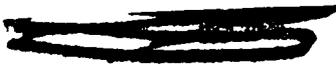
**TWO (2) RED LIGHTS
IN FRONT (STEADY)**



**APPROX. EIGHT (8)
GREEN LIGHTS IN REAR.
(STEADY)**

BOTTOM VIEW

MEMORY SKETCH OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT



RAEFORD

PJ



LAUREL HILL

RED SPRINGS

LAURINBURG

LAURINBURG AB

LWRUW1

SIGHTING BY TWO
OTHER AIRMEN

MAXTON

1st SIGHTING

APPROX.
APPR.

MCCOLL

NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA

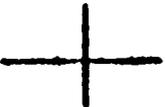
USAF AERONAUTICAL APPROACH
CHART (SPECIAL)

1:250,000

SOUTHERN PINES

(410 AI-3) G

BENNETSVILLE



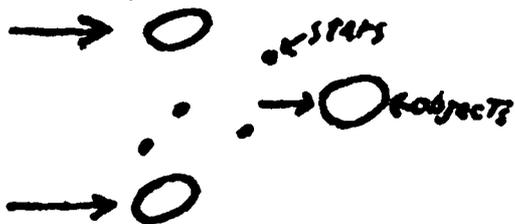
30. Please add here any further comments which you believe are important.
Use additional sheets of the same size paper, if necessary.

When I first saw these objects the front one was almost in back of the other two. Then it moved up into a position to make a perfect triangle.

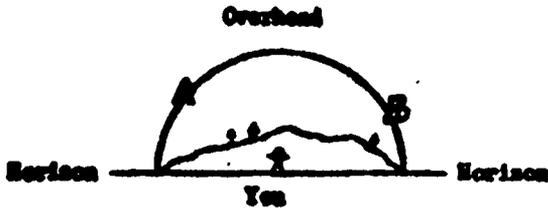
The objects had no illumination tail whatsoever and it had no sound, it moved very slowly.

I am sure that they were not any reflections because they were too clear.

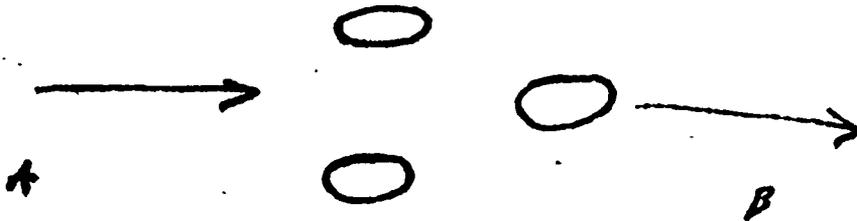
They went in front of a star and you could see the star all the way through it as I will show you in the diagram below.



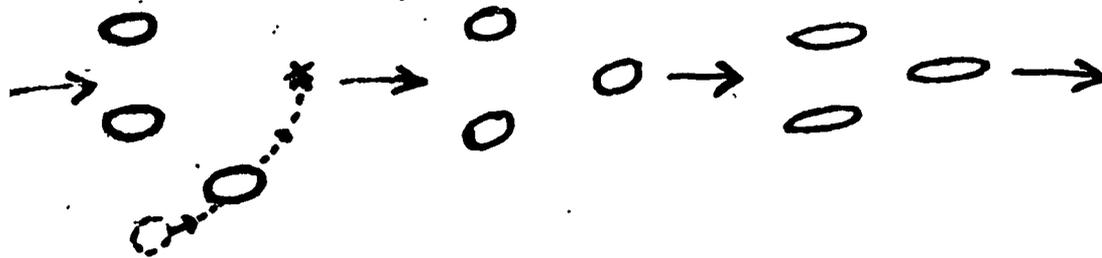
you first saw it, and a "B" at its position when you last saw it.



24. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object made. Place an "A" at the beginning of its path and a "B" at the end of its path.



25. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw and place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



"Flying escort at about 8,000 feet we turned port to heading 240 and a large orange ball of light approximately eight inches in diameter appeared on our starboard quarter at approximately 4 o'clock and appeared to be getting larger and coming at us so I turned hard starboard and speeded up for an intercept. At this time our speed was approximately 220 knots. At this time the light appeared very near at approximately 2 to 3 thousand feet and nearly level as we speeded up for it. It appeared to descend and drew away rapidly to a distance of a few miles at a speed twice as fast as ours. The RO called No Joy [The radar operator in the back seat had detected nothing on the airborne radar] and after approximately two minutes as we were being drawn away from our escort CAP area we broke it off. The light must have burned a total of 5 minutes appearing to descend and fade away to the north. This object did not resemble any type of flare of which I am familer with." 251.

Palo Alto, California.

While the northern and southern portions of the U.S. were turbulent with UFOs, the mid section of the country was quiescent. An exception was a sighting from Palo Alto, California. It did conform, however, to the strange fact that such sightings were being made for the most part during the dead of the night.

Anyway, at Palo Alto a United Airlines maintenance man, Harry Potter, was outdoors at 1:00 a.m. conversing with some acquaintances when a half-dozen, bright, blue-white "rings of light" in V-formation soared through 120 degrees in an estimated eight seconds. The formation swept from north to south. To make things even more puzzling a single object which had the appearance of the others, resembling a dark disc with a glowing rim, passed west to east the moment the formation was observed. 252.

October 13th.

The Palo Alto sighting may not have been a fluke for the next day two UFO reports were made at locations approximately the same latitude. Was the second UFO wave moving south?

Mt. Airy, North Carolina.

A white object descended out of the sky near Mt. Airy 4:30 p.m. and came to a halt. It paused motionless for a quarter of an hour. A football coach by the name of Wallace Sheton, observed the object, as did members of his team. 253.

Sunnybrook, Maryland.

A 15-year-old boy sighted a trio of orange-colored bodies in the sky over the city of Sunnybrook at 8:30 p.m. He notified the Maryland State Police which in turn contacted Andrews and Bolling Air Force bases. The youth noticed a change in position while the UFOs were in sight. 254.

"Flying Saucers not USSR created or controlled?"

The CIA's review of the UFO mystery ran into some resistance on October 13th when the CIA's Deputy Director of Intelligence Coordination, James Q. Reber, expressed in a memorandum the following judgement:

"Determination of the scientific capabilities of the USSR to create and control Flying Saucers as a weapon against the United States is a primary concern of the CIA/OSI. Its review of existing information does not lead to the conclusion that the saucers are USSR created or controlled. The insitution of fundamental scientific research is the primary responsibility

of the Defense Department. It is far too early in view of the present state of our knowledge regarding Flying Saucers for psychological warfare planners to start planning how the United States might use U.S. Flying Saucers against the enemy. When intelligence has submitted the National Estimate on Flying Saucers there will be time and a basis for a public policy to reduce or restrain mass hysteria." 255.

Reber's opinion evidently carried considerable weight, either that or he was not alone in his dissenting view, for the memorandum apparently made a meeting imparative to air differences.

Presque Isle hits BLUE BOOK.

A teletype message arrived at BLUE BOOK October 13th with an account of a strange "circular orange object with four green lights nearby" at an enormous altitude above the state of Maine. Officials at Presque Isle AFB let BLUE BOOK know that the investigation was continuing. 256.

Experts at BLUE BOOK got real excited over the Presque Isle message when they got around to reading it because they had definite measurements made by two different theodolites. The calculations produced lines that intersected 30 miles off the Maine coast and at 300,000 feet altitude. That put it above the atmosphere, and what could exist at that height except a Russian satellite(very unlikely), or space ships? The glut of UFO reports evidently prevented a close look at the Presque Isle case for awhile since BLUE BOOK took no immediate action.

October 14th.

Near the city of Constantine, Algeria, at Ain-El-Arab, it was said that a "luminous saucer" zoomed from west to east. No further details are known. 257.

Resolving differences within the CIA.

An attempt to reached agreement on the proper program regarding the UFO problem was spelled out by Ralph L. Clark, Acting Assistant Director for the CIA's scientific intelligence department, apparently in response to the sentiments expressed in the Reber memo drawn up the day before.

Clark suggested that a CIA meeting be convened on either October 20th or 21st, at which time an agreed program would be defined and then sent to the DCI, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council, for final approval. Two non-CIA persons to be asked to attend. They were Major General John Samford, US AF, Director of Intelligence; and Dr. Walter G. Whitman, Chairman of the Defense Department's Research and Development Board. 258. In light of Reber's criticism, it is supposed that Dr. Whitman's presence was required to answer questions about fundamental research.

In accordance with the usual pattern, UFO sightings did not pick up until the sun set.

"Chief of the Air Force's Senate and White House Liaison."

In the Pentagon, room 5D-914, was the office of the Secretary of the Air Force. One of the Secretary's assistants was Air Force Colonel Albert L. Cox, Chief of Senate and White House Liaison. The Colonel was a trained pilot and an "unalloyed skeptic" of flying saucers.

On October 14, 1952, this high governmental executive was out west in a B-25 aircraft accompanied by two other Air Force officers that also worked in the Pentagon. At 9:50 p.m. the B-25 was flying over Zuni, New Mexico, when an illuminated object came into view:

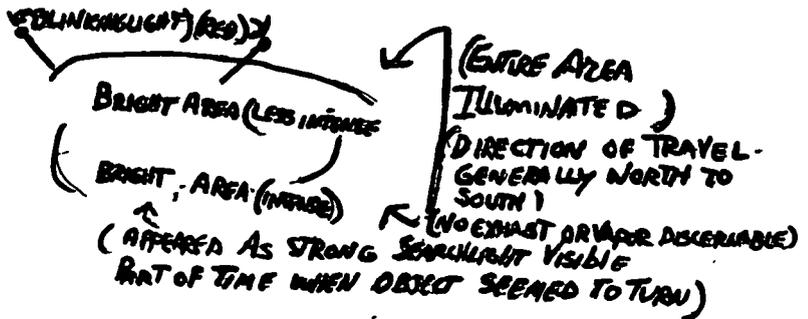
"The object appeared to be composed of an energized substance that emits

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound _____

b. Color _____

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One)
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
 - b. Like a bright star
 - c. Sharply outlined
 - d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

ONE OBJECT

Oct 14

light. When stationary, it was very similar to a star with the exception of blinking or revolving lights that appeared from time to time from a position above the main body of the object and at variations in intensity of the light reflected or produced by the object itself.

"The object remained to the west of us at all times during the period of observation. Its most significant characteristic was the illumination mentioned above with the main body appearing to be oval in shape with a lower protrusion also oval which appeared to be similar to a large search light. The lower part of the object was only visible when the object appeared to turn, which may account for the variation in intensity of the overall illumination. In other words, when the object turned toward us, the brightly lighted lower portion was visible.

"There were two blinking or revolving lights, just above the main oval that at times appeared red and green.

"The object went through three types of maneuvers - altitude change, hover and horizontal change. The altitude ranged from a roughly estimated 30,000 to 60,000 ft. The object appeared to spend most of its time hovering. The distance of the object from the aircraft ranged from a roughly estimated 50 to 150 miles.

"The object appeared to hover, change altitude and move horizontally unlike any aeronautical development known to this observer. In appearance, it most closely resembled a large dirigible that has been brightly illuminated.

"The red and green lights mentioned above lead this observer to believe that the object was man-made and the manner in which it maneuver definitely established that the object was controlled." 259.

Colonel Cox stated that this is how the object disappeared from view:

"(It)...faded from view in the distance on horizon following change of course from 260 degrees to 200 degrees...[and it must have been]...made of metallic material due to high speeds observed...[and its size and shape was that]...of a large dirigible." 260.

In summation, Colonel Cox remarked:

"There is no doubt whatever in my mind about the accuracy of many of my observations however, distances, size, and speeds, are strictly guesses without adequate references to assure their accuracy.

"This observation warrants the most careful attention of the Air Force, and unlimited effort to determine the nature and identity of the object observed. I am not able to dismiss it as a natural phenomenon. I had always been sceptical and unconcerned about such reports previously. Certain of my observations were positive and verified by two other Air Force pilots." 261.

The result of this encounter was, in the words of the report, to make Colonel Cox a "...thorough-going convert to the existence of UFOs." 262.

October 15th.

"Two figures."

A strange account, not widely known, tells of a story about a glowing yellow cigar-shaped object, about 90 feet long and 18 feet high, on the ground near Le Vigan, France, 7:10 p.m. A haze was supposed to have obscured the ends of the object. Two "figures" wearing helmets were supposed to have been seen close by. No other data is available. Was it a hoax? 263.

October 16th.

"Unknown intruder over Korean warzone."

Another UFO report from Korea concerned an aerial encounter over the central sector of the main line of resistance on October 16th between 6:50 and 6:53 a.m. A Lt. Hooper was piloting a T-6 aircraft on a combat mission at the time. His radar operator in the rear seat was a Lt. O'Niell. While on a course of 280 degrees, and flying at 140 mph at 6,000 feet, O'Niell caught sight of something he at first thought was another aircraft at their altitude. The object slowed as it pulled up parallel to the T-6 and for a second or two stood still. At this point Lt. Hooper could also see the object. Both the men agreed the object was motionless for a brief moment. Dipping his right wing so he and O'Niell could see better, Lt. Hooper held his T-6 steady. The military report reads:

"...it did not appear to have any aerodynamic features. Both observers concurred in the statement that the object was perfectly circular in shape and metallic silver in color with no protrusions of any type. Both observers stated that the object did not appear to have any visible means of propulsion and no vapor trails or smoke was apparent. The estimated size was 25 feet in diameter by comparison with the 37 foot wing span of a T-6 aircraft at the same distance. No sound from the object was audible at any time." 264.

Furthermore:

"Lt. O'Niell, who made his observation with the naked eye described the object as glowing slightly while Hooper who wore Government Issue sunglasses did not observe anything other than that it looked just like a 'ball bearing.'" 265.

After pausing, the UFO moved off, accelerating toward the northeast and vanished from view in some haze at an estimated 800 mph. 266.

October 17th.

"Oh, papa, come look, it's fantastic!"

UFO activity in France achieved spectacle status with an amazing aerial displays over the city of Oloron on October 17th and the city of Gaillac on the 27th. Unremarkable sightings were made at Rouen October 11th and Morlaix on the 10th in northern France representing the second UFO wave front coming south. On the other hand, there were sightings at Draguignan on October 6th and Montpellier the same day in the south of France representing the first UFO wave. The middle of the country, between the latitudes of 44 and 48 degrees, apparently had no UFO activity.

Both Oloron and Gaillac are in the south of France and UFO activity there would be part of the first wave. Other than that, what happened in the skies of the forementioned cities is beyond understanding.

Oloron.

M. Yves Prigent was the superintendent of the Oloron high school, and his wife was one of the teachers. The couple had three children and lived in an apartment that had a good view of the sky to the north of Oloron. At 12:50 p.m. on October 17, 1952 the family was about to have lunch when M. Prigent's son Jean yelled: "Oh, papa, come look, it's fantastic!" The boy had been gazing out the window at a cloudless azure sky and there in the atmosphere he beheld a marvel.

The family rushed to the window. What they saw was described by the father, Mr. Prigent, to investigators. Isolated in the clear blue sky was a single small cloud, and above the bit of white vapor at an undetermined altitude was a long

lead colored, cylinder inclined at an angle of 45 degrees. The "tube" was very distinct, non-luminous, and had this interesting detail. From the upper end of the cylinder there appeared to be a plume of white smoke.

The cylinder was moving in a southwest direction, and some distance to the southwest was a cluster of some 30 or so "balls" that seemed to be puffs of smoke. M. Prigent obtained some opera glasses and peered at the objects which seemed featureless but which, under magnification, proved to be red spheres circled by a yellow-colored band or ring.* Another peculiar characteristic about these small Saturn-like objects was the odd way they travelled about, in pairs in a rapid zigzag fashion. Occasionally a whitish streak appeared between the ringed spheres when they separated to any extent which became a flaky trail that spread into a veil of filaments (Subsequently dubbed "angel hair"). This material fell over an extensive area, not only at Oloron where it draped itself over trees and telephone wires, but also at the village of Geronce and in Jos-baigt valley.

Very curious, the teachers at Oloron high school, who by this time had been alerted to the extraordinary phenomenon, collected some of the filaments. Someone suggested that the material had the appearance of nylon or wool. They experimented by striking a match and holding the material in the flame. The stuff ignited and flared up in the manner of cellophane. Unfortunately, more sophisticated tests were prevented by the weird fact that the threads turned into a gelatinous mass and then sublimed into the air leaving no trace. 267. Experts later lamented the failure to put some of the material into a sealed container.

A radar gone crazy and a greyish cloud.

Some 70 miles due north of Oloron was a French AFB at Mont de Marsan, and about four and a half after the phantasmagoria at Oloron, something strange occurred to the radar equipment at the airfield. Technicians claimed their instruments "went crazy" and would not operate without continual adjustment. This was a problem completely unprecedented, and being so unexampled it caused one airman to go outside to check the environment. There, overhead, was odd "greyish cloud" constantly revolving as it drifted over the airfield. Only when the spinning mass of vapor left the area did the French radar "calm down." Did it have anything to do with the manifestation at Oloron? Some believed so. 268.

Perhaps one of the biggest mysteries about Oloron is that neither the U.S. Air Force or the CIA have any (known) mention of it in their records. "Officially" it does not exist although the case is one of the most famous UFO sightings in the history of the subject. It should be noted that the statements of the French pilots that witnessed the "flying egg" over Draguignan on October 7, 1952, was promptly reported to the Intelligence Division, HQ, MATS, Andrews AFB, Washington D.C. The information was apparently lifted from the widely read French newspaper France Soir. Witnesses of the Oloron phenomenon were abundant and some may still be living in the 1980s. Of those named, we know of: M.Y. Prigent, principal of the school; his wife, Mme Prigent; a son, Jean Yves; the school caretaker, M. Jean Pardies; a passer-by; Mme Belestin; and the Mayor of Geronce, M. Bordes. 269.

* The reader is encouraged to check the UFO report made on August 24, 1952, at Tucson, Arizona. A dancing object was seen with the "lower one-third surrounded by a misty halo of a blue-white tint. The lower extremity of the sphere protruded below giving it a "Saturn-like" appearance.

"Use your discretion."

In regards to the collection of data, Lt. R.H. Olsson of BLUE BOOK sent a TWX to an Intelligence officer in the field concerning what information, what kind of UFO report, merited forwarding. Lt. Olsson replied: "It is the policy of project BLUE BOOK that the reporting agency will use its own discretion in determining whether the sighting is of sufficient importance to transmit to this office." 270.

Considering the prejudice that affected so many people, one wonders how much valuable information was ignored.

Other U.S. news.

There were two UFO reports in the U.S. on October 17th. The first occurred at 2:00 a.m. and the second at 10:15 p.m..

Elko, Nevada.

Two hours after midnight a Major Robert Howard of the Air Force ROTC detachment at Utah State College, Utah, was driving on U.S. Highway 40 near Elko, Nevada, about two miles east, when he witnessed a strange sight. With the Major was his wife and three other civilians. With the unaided eye, the Major and the others saw an object fly by on a southwest course. During the five minute passage witnesses determined that the object resembled a glowing yellow poker chip blinking rapidly. One odd characteristic was this: "...the object maintained a bouncing motion similar to that of a kite." 271.

Killeen, Texas.

Two witnesses, one a Methodist clergyman, were engaged in conversation 10:15 p.m., October 17th, at Killeen, Texas. In the residential part of town, the men were facing east when they noticed something at about 60 degrees above the horizon. The clergyman testified:

"As to the description of what I observed, it appeared to be rather long, rectangular shaped object, situated in a horizontal position relative to the earth surface. My first impression was that a searchlight, or a spot light was being pointed toward the sky, and what I saw was the reflection upon a cloud. Then I discovered that there was no cloud in the sky and I looked to see if I could detect any shaft of light from the ground nearly in the business area of Killeen but was unable to find any such." 272.

The clergyman's companion told the Air Force:

"...I caught sight of a strange group of approximately ten round, not well defined, spots or blobs of light in a single and equidistant sequence moving across the sky at an angle of approximately 60 to 70 degrees with the earth. Light seemed to reflect from rather than emanate from the objects which were moving from north to south at a very rapid rate of speed, being in sight for only about five seconds in an arc of slightly more than 100 degrees. The formation of a single straight line was maintained for the entire interim, however, as the objects moved toward the south, the formation seemed to veer toward the south-east in what would give the impression of rough air, the size of the formation as well as the separate objects which constituted it seemed to diminish, giving the effect of distance. The impression of velocity was re-emphasized by the rather sudden fading of the entire phenomenon." 273.

October 18th.

Flying saucers and Moscow.

An indication of what the Russians thought about UFOs appeared in a Communist publication, the Bucharest Romanian-language newspaper, Viata Noua. An article entitled: "The Effect of War Hysteria on Israel," by a V. Savin, had as its theme that UFO sightings are products of Pentagon war propaganda:

"The flying saucers which have caused so much commotion in the US are now also being reported in Israel, a country which has adopted the US brand of culture. Haaretz, organ of the Israeli bourgeoisie, reported that a resident of Haifa, the possessor of an academic degree, startled the Israeli press by announcing that he saw a flying saucer, greenish in color, oval shaped, with a wide band in the center, whizzing by at terrific speed, disappearing within 3 seconds, and flying from Mount Carmel toward the north west.

"Any person in his right mind can readily understand that what was 'seen' by the gentleman with the 'academic degree' from Haifa was a hallucination pure and simple or a figment of the imagination. The history of the flying saucer, which is nothing more or less than an invention of Wall Street propaganda, fully confirms the absurdity of the claim.

"The flying saucers originated about 3 or 4 years ago in the fevered imaginations of apologists for the imperialist war, who dreamed up this fantasy to aggravate further the war hysteria raging in the US. The first flying saucer was 'observed' by a businessman in Boise, Idaho. Afterward, other persons 'saw' it, including Don S. Witehead, a merchant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; a carpenter in Kansas City, Missouri; two pilots flying over a mountain chain in Utah; and others.

"Following this, other individuals who had been incited by inflammatory war speeches of White House leaders and by tons of poisonous literature distributed by imperialist propagandists declared that they, too, had seen flying saucers. Naturally, there were many discrepancies as to the size, shape, and description of the flying objects and as to the locations where the saucers had appeared and disappeared. Despite such a diversion of detail, however, all the newspapers, periodicals, and radio stations of the US trusts agreed that these flying saucers were a new type of Soviet aircraft attempting reconnaissance flights over US territory.

"Nevertheless, the honest citizens of the US did not allow themselves to be misled by the prevarications of the Wall Street press and vigorously urged the US government to investigate these alleged flying saucers. Consequently, the US Air Force undertook the investigation and, as reported by the United States News of 6 January 1950, it led to the quashing of the campaign carried on by the press of the warmongers. At that time, the United States News wrote that, after conducting a 2-year investigation of 375 rumors and reports on mysterious flying saucers, the US Air Force came to the conclusion that there were no such things as flying saucers. According to the United States News, the Air Force had concluded that the flying saucers reported by hundreds of individuals were in reality: (1) an erroneous interpretation of different objects observed; (2) a mild form of mass hysteria; and (3) figments of the imagination.

"This tempest in a teapot regarding the 'secret Soviet aircraft' died down as if by magic, showering ridicule on the US warmongers and their journalistic scribblers.

"For almost 3 years, the US newspapers did not dare to mention flying saucers. However, this fabrication has again been taken up in Haifa, thousands of kilometers from New York and San Francisco." 274.

Australia.

Things had been quiet downunder as far as seeing UFOs but then, on October 18th an Adelaide journalist had an uncanny vision at 9:45 p.m. on his way home from work. The sky was clear and dark when he spotted: "...a greenish-white iridescent cigar-like object about the size of a Boeing 707 at about ten miles distant, moving left to right across my front and from south-east to north-west. 275. Also: "...he stopped still to watch and before his eyes the moving cigar of light went into a steep upward climb and vanished from sight at incredible speed." 276. The journalist, a Mr. Keith Hooper, was shaken by his experience and tried to rationalize his sighting by thinking up different explanations. The next day when he reported for work at the newspaper office he learned that others had reported a similar "flying cigar" between the hours of 8-10 p.m. at places like Port Pirie and Coonalpyn along the railway leading to Melbourne. 277.

October 19th.

Over the center of the state of Illinois a Civil Air Patrol aircraft flying at 600 feet reported sighting a mysterious "silver ball" at an altitude of 1,000 feet, the object traveling at a great speed. 278. This location is about the same latitude as Elko, Nevada, the site of a UFO sighting on the 18th.

San Antonio, Texas.

A resident of San Antonio, Texas, that lived near the municipal airport was having a cigarette on his front porch when happened to notice a V-formation of three circular silver-colored objects heading south. The witness was familiar with conventional aircraft, having his attention drawn to the sky initially by the engine noise of a large air transport. The transport was there in the sky, but what was those other things?

One of the object was lower than the other two and appeared to be slowly tumbling. When overhead, the lowest object stopped and got smaller and smaller until it disappeared. Probably because it was rising straight up. 279.

Over the Ocean.

Two sightings occurred near Hawaii on the 19th. The first took place at 6:58 a.m. when a C-50 piloted by a Lt. R.L. Anderson at 9,000 feet encountered an aerial object at 1217 north, 15535 west. T/Sgt. C.M. Bankhead, on board as a crew member, also saw the object. The "thing" was a: "...bright circular yellow light with a reddish glow around outside edge, estimated 100 feet in diameter." 280. The course of the UFO was determined to be 230 degrees, and its altitude 9,200 feet. In sight about 20 seconds, it was guessed that the UFO was making some 350 knots. No sound was heard. 281.

The second report was much like the first. At 7:49 a.m. an R5D aircraft piloted by Lt. J.C. Mc Donnell and A.L. Jennings at 9,000 feet encountered an object at 2545 north, 14805 west. The "thing" was seen off the left wing at about 12,000 feet and appeared as a circular shape with pulsating pinkish lights on its trailing end. The object was in sight five minutes before moving away from the observing aircraft. 282.

"Cartwheels" over Korea.

There was a spectacle over the front line in Korea on October 19th. "Cart-wheel-like" objects throwing off sparks flew in a 15 foot orbit above the front on the west side of the MLR. A Corp. by the name of J.A. Lajoie dismissed the flare possibility and suggested that the objects resembled Fourth of July fireworks. 283.

October 20th.

Nothing of consequence occurred.

October 21st.

UFO newspaper clippings.

Why didn't BLUE BOOK have more UFO newspaper clippings in its files? We do know that the project subscribed to a clipping service, but we do not know its efficiency and it is a fact that not all such clippings found their way to ATIC files. An explanation may be discovered in the way the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations handled such material. In a letter to the 13th District Office at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska; the Washington headquarters of the OSI informed its agents:

"For your information, no requirement exists for reporting information concerning Unidentified Flying Objects through the news media. However, it is suggested that newspaper clippings pertaining to these incidents be retained in your files for possible future reference." 284.

This particular letter was referring to a news article that appeared in the Davenport, Iowa, Morning Democrat concerning a UFO report made October 6th. We do not know what the UFO report said since the clipping was sent back to DO#13 at Omaha and not retained in BLUE BOOK files, but there is something gained by noticing that if the report concerned an Iowa location it would be another indication the second UFO wave was shifting south. In fact, there was a UFO report October 21st from Knoxville, Tennessee, which is even farther south. Here is an extract from a Knoxville Weather Bureau document:

"Observed unexplained aerial phenomena while following a 100-gram pibal balloon with the standard Weather Bureau theodolite. Six white or whitish objects in a very loose formation appeared in the theodolite vision field. These were sighted 57 minutes after release of the standard white 100-gram pibal balloon. This would give an altitude of 16,565 meters, or 54,347 feet MSL. The elevation angle was 36.5 degrees and the azimuth angle was 267.6 degrees.

"While holding the loose formation of two, three, one, objects appeared to execute a long shallow dive at the rising balloon and pulled up at a sharper angle than the diving approach and at increased speed. Pibal balloon disappeared from view at 58,022 feet MSL. Could have burst.

"FACTS AS OBSERVED.

"Shape - appeared round, or nearly so.

"Color - white or whitish near the shade of the balloon.

"Size - appeared about the same size as the balloon at that altitude.

"Sighted - one and one-half to one and three-quarter minutes." 285.

The BLUE BOOK comment on this case read: "There are two other observations very similar to this in our files." 286. The Air Force conclusion: "Unknown." 287.

October 22th.

At Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, 0340 hours, an object was viewed in the sky just west of where the two main runways intersect. It was a round, reddish-orange ball speeding in a southeast direction. An airman 2/C John Driscoll of the Headquarters Maintenance Group had just left the enlisted men's barracks when he sighted the ball passing over at an undetermined altitude giving off brief spurts of thin gas at short intervals (meteor?). The object was seen through a curtain of light snow and rain. 288.

"Huge disk over Laurinburg-Marton."

Air policeman 2/C Bernard De Monte was walking his guard post 10:10 p.m. on October 22nd at Laurinburg-Marton AFB. He claims he heard an odd dull monotonous tone coming from the dark sky, a noise he had never heard before. Looking up, De Monte saw a huge circular object he estimated was between 100-150 feet in diameter, adorned with some colored, steady-glowing, lights. Two redlights could be seen on the leading edge and some 8-12 green ones on the trailing edge. The disk flew around the airbase in a great arc at terrific speed and was gone from sight before De Monte could summon the Corporal of the Guard.

The Corporal of the Guard was an airman 1/C (whose name was deleted in the official record) who wrote a statement for BLUE BOOK that confirmed the unusual droning sound. He wrote that he was lying awake in his bunk and heard the drone which he, like De Monte, could not associate with any prop or jet aircraft. Within a couple of minutes of hearing the sound, De Monte entered the airman's room exclaiming about a "round aircraft." The Corporal of the Guard testified that he rushed outside as quickly as he could but the object, whatever it was, had already passed over, but he did see it at a distance of about two miles travelling at great speed. Seen at that angle the circular shape was not discernable.

Two other airmen north of the airbase (the two air police mentioned above witnessed the UFO from a location south of the field) also saw the object. According to the sum total of information obtained from all four airmen the UFO flew a rather complex route while visiting Laurinburg-Marton (See official drawing). The very first pass was straight down the main runway.

We have some testimony from airman Frank L. Donnelly who firmly believed the object was a "flying saucer" because of the strange sound it made and the fact that he plainly saw the green lights on the UFO in a "circular pattern." 289.

October 23rd.

Radiation and UFOs.

The push to obtain scientific evidence of UFOs seemed promising on this date. Although a report had just arrived from Air Force Special Agent C.E. Swinehart stating that soil and vegetation samples from the Pittsburg, Kansas, Squires case showed no signs of trana, including radioactivity (The burned roots in the Des Vergers case was not mentioned in official speculations during this period), nevertheless there was another development of possible value. 290.

Ruppelt and company should have known about the developments years before but it seems the information was pigeonholed by someone. BLUE BOOK this time could not fail in acknowledging the information since it was presented in a public manner in a direct face-to-face fashion. It happened this way.

A formal request for a UFO briefing was made by Dr. William H. Crew, Assistant Director of Scientific Personnel, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; to the Commanding General of ATIC, General Garland, thru Lt. Col. Paul M. Butman of the Atomic Energy Commission Division of Military Application, Washington D.C. Such an appeal could hardly be ignored. General Garland gave his approval and requested that Capt. Ruppelt visit Los Alamos, accompanied by Col. Donald L. Bower, Chief, Technical Analysis Division, ATIC. The two ATIC officers gave their talk to Los Alamos personnel on October 23, 1952. The briefing itself was routine: a short history of BLUE BOOK, current project activities, and a few of the latest UFO reports. A question and answer period, of which we unfortunately have no details, lasted an hour and a half. When the talk was over "the balance of the day" was spent with some Los Alamos people who expressed considerable interest in the UFO subject. That is about as much one can wring out of the BLUE BOOK periodic Status Report. 291. Other documents, however,

It was Dr. Crew who personally arranged a special face-to-face encounter between certain people at the lab, those previously referred to, and the ATIC representatives. One of these Los Alamos people evidently was a Homer T. Gittinger, Jr. The others cannot presently be identified due to deletions in the official record. The concern of the lab people was the possible correlation between UFO sightings and radiation. That which follows is a pertinent portion of a BLUE BOOK file on the Los Alamos trip:

"2. Previous to this meeting, several of the members of the group had met Capt. Ruppelt and Maj. I. H. Herman at a meeting of the Civilian Saucer Investigators in Los Angeles. At that time these people mentioned having some data on a correlation between the detection of some type of radiation and visual sightings of UFO's.

"3. At the 23 Oct 52 meeting at Los Alamos more details on the above mentioned subject were obtained. The first incident occurred several years ago at the Mt. Palomar Observatory in California. A series of gieger counters had been set up to study cosmic ray activity. One person involved in the study happened to be outdoors when he saw a V of V's of shiny objects go over. He immediately went inside the observatory and found that the counters had just 'pinned' (i.e. gone up to the maximum reading). This naturally aroused the curiosity of the people on this project and they agreed that if it ever happened again they would look outside. Some time later it did happen and they looked out and observed a dark object passing over head.

"4. The Navy, it was a Navy cosmic ray contract, supposedly investigated, wrote a report, and concluded that this was all due to a circuit failure. The people operating the equipment also checked and are claimed to have flatly denied this saying that due to the circuitry it would be impossible for similar failures to occur in all the circuits at the same time.

"5. Shortly after this occurrence, one of the persons involved in the incidents at Palomar moved to Los Alamos. He continued to be interested and also interested some friends in setting up the same type of equipment on their own time. They did this and they also detected unknown radiation. In two instances, they were able to correlate these with newspaper reports of the sighting of an UFO. In these instances the people could not get outside to observe and had to depend on newspaper reports of UFO's for correlations.

"6. Similar observations of radiation from an unknown source were on: 1 Oct 50 - 1921 MST, 2 Oct 50 - 1401 MST, 4 Oct 50 - 2305 MST, 9 Oct 50 - 0855 MST.

"The equipment was kept in operation until December 1950 with no more pick-ups. At that time the equipment was dismantled. (Note: The above was checked in ATIC Blue Book file but there was no record of any incidents on these dates. This does not mean much, however, since it is known that a lot of the incident files were destroyed about this time.)*

"7. A photograph of one of the gieger counter set-ups, a diagram of the set-up, and copies of the traces of records are shown in the attachments to this report.

"8. It should be noted that all of the people involved in this are qualified scientists working at Los Alamos. They have checked every possible

*This is a BLUE BOOK comment.

source of the radiation they can think of and cannot account for it. They have discussed this with many people including well-known scientists visiting Los Alamos and there is no ready explanation, either for the source of the radiation detected or the correlation between visual sightings and the radiation.

"9. Reports of these incidents were made to the Security Force at Los Alamos and supposedly were to be forwarded to the Air Force. As far as can be determined, they were never received at ATIC.

"10. Along these same lines, attention can be called to the fact that a Colonel from WADC visited ATIC several months ago and reported that the same thing had happened at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

"CONCUSSIONS

"11. The accounts of these incidents are still rather vague, too vague to draw any definite conclusions as to whether or not further action should be taken to investigate all radiation monitoring stations in the U.S. to determine if more correlations are present.

"RECOMMENDATIONS

"12. It is recommended that:

- a. All possible details of the Los Alamos and Palomar sightings be obtained. This can be accomplished by attempting to locate both the reports made by the Navy (paragraph 4) and the Security Force at Los Alamos (paragraph 9) reports. In the meantime the people at Los Alamos should be contacted to get their complete story both as a cross check on the reports and in case the reports cannot be located.
- b. Get all details on the incidents at Oak Ridge, Tennessee." 292.

UFO activity on October 23rd.

Forced landing?

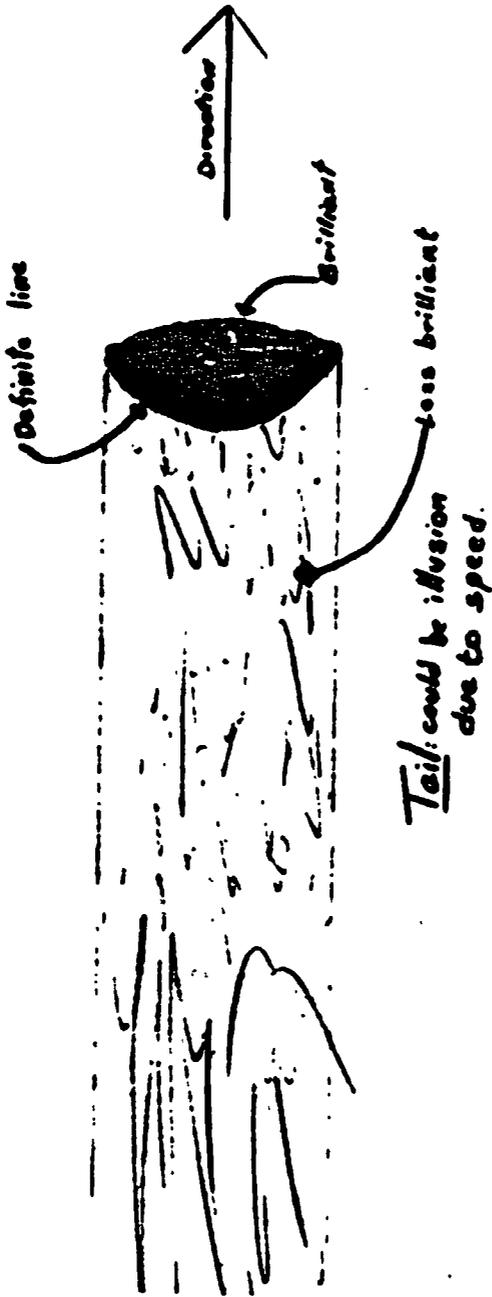
Did a flying saucer make a forced landing at sea? That was the question asked by the crew of a Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing boat when they encountered something bizarre some 34 miles southeast of Seal Island off Nova Scotia in the Atlantic. The press interviewed the Captain of the fishing vessel upon his return to port about the mysterious fiery object seen bobbing on the water. The Captain at first thought a ship was in distress so he immediately altered course to effect a rescue:

"'Reaching the area, we could see nothing but this bright light,' he said. 'Even with our searchlight we were unable to clearly make out what caused it. Because of the swell, water swept over the object repeatedly, causing a loud crackling noise.'

"After notifying the Coast Guard at Marchfield, Mass., the fishermen remained in the vicinity a half hour watching the object which, Captain Cecilo said, 'seemed to skip about on the surface of the water.'" 293.

Toledo, Ohio.

A young man and his bride of only a few days were beginning their honeymoon and were motoring down U.S. highway 20 some 10 miles west of Toledo, Ohio, at 6:30 p.m. October 23, 1952. A male friend of the groom, an Air Force enlisted man returning to his unit after leave, was also in the car. All three noticed some strange objects in the sky that were motionless but so unusual the car was stopped and the trio got out to observe more carefully. After a while the objects flew away to the south. The groom happened to have a



1151 1945

a. Sound None

b. Color yellow-orange

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

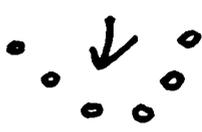
objects not in motion ○
" in motion ←
 ○
Seemed to be trailing fire

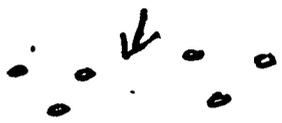
18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One) Fuzzy or blurred
 Like a bright star
 Sharply outlined
 Don't remember

a. Other _____

19. If there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? Six
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.


First sighted
moving south


Second position
moving south

35 mm camera so he snapped five pictures before the objects moved out of sight. The case summary mentioned:

"...there was no sound, the edges of the objects appeared 'fuzzy,' and when moving they seemed to be trailing fire. When first observed and after they appeared to be moving, the objects were in one large 'V' formation, but later changed into two 'V' formations of three objects each." 294.

October 24th.

While flying over Elberton, Alabama, at 8:26 p.m. October 24th an observer on board a T-11 aircraft, sighted a "plate on end." The pilot, 1st Lt. Edward Rau, stated for the record:

"Object appeared in a position 10 to 15 degrees above horizontal plane of the aircraft, moving at a terrific speed much faster than that of an F-80, in a direction approximately 15 degrees away from the axis perpendicular to the heading of the aircraft, and disappeared at approximately 20 degrees above the horizontal plane of the aircraft.

"Object resembled a plate standing on end, moving in the direction of the concave surface of the object. The line of flight was very straight with a constant state of acceleration..." 295.

October 25th.

Home Gardens, suburb of Reno, Nevada, was the source of a phone call from a civilian to a Reno newspaper office concerning a formation of 20 strange objects in the sky. The newspaper office then called a Reno radio station which, in turn, contacted Stead AFB. Alerted, the tower operators at Stead field, A 1/C Albert Flowers and A 2/C James Wright, scanned the heavens and spotted circular orange objects speeding east where they passed out of view. Some four minutes later an object appeared heading west and leaving a vapor trail. The object was estimated to be at about 15,000 feet but even at that height it appeared to be the size of a "medium size orange." The time was 10:34 a.m. 296.

October 26th.

Europe.

Activity on the northern front centered on Iceland this day when at 9:30 in the morning four spherical objects proceeded silently and at high speed over the north coast on a northerly course. The objects crossed the coast near the city of Akureyri. 297.

Back in the U.S. at Ft. Worth.

At a location some 18 miles from Ft. Worth, Texas, at 4:18 p.m., three people in a car traveling Highway #77 gave this description:

"Object appeared the size of a large dinner plate, bright silver light, initially sighted about 35 degrees due east, 2 miles over open country, object traveled south, object was in sight 3 minutes, object turned and climbed like top, object appeared to cover 60 degrees in approximately 90 seconds, object just seemed to fade out of sight." 298.

"Good Lord, how pale you are!"

A well-known radio personality that broadcast daily shipping bulletins from a station in Mareilles, France, a Mme. Saux, noticed a strange luminous elliptical object crossing the night sky from east to west 11:30 p.m. October 27th. Some two

hours later at Marseille's Marignane airport another elliptical UFO would be seen and it would cause considerable astonishment. 299.

About ten kilometers south of Marignane field was the house of the Beloeuver family. Around 2:00 a.m. the Beloeuver's ten-year-old son, Xavier, was found asleep in a bedroom he shared with his eleven-year-old sister when an eerie, high-pitched whistle pierced the night air. Awaken by the noise, both sister and brother rushed to the window to investigate its source. They saw an aerial body, which had evidently come from the direction of the Mediterranean, traveling north toward Marignane. From the angle they viewed it, the object appeared as an ellipse with distinct spots of blue-purple light irregularly spaced. The spots were hard to pin down since the object seemed to be spinning. 300.

At the airport air traffic was just about nil at that hour. The office of the Air France agent, manned by a fellow named Dugaumin, was dead quiet but the peaceful scene was suddenly shattered when custom officer Gabriel Gachignard burst into the room and confronted Dugaumin. Looking up at Gachignard, Dugaumin was shocked at his visitor's appearance, exclaiming: "Good Lord, how pale you are!" 301. A torrent of words poured out of the custom agent concerning the "landing" just minutes before of a very, very, weird "craft." The Air France agent immediately phoned Marignane tower but none of the controllers had knowledge of any such "landing." Gachignard, who knew the airfield and its working routine intimately, was not surprised the controllers had not noticed anything out of the ordinary. The tower people only watched the well lit main runways, furthermore, the controllers were 45 feet above the ground and that was too high!

Gachignard's "vision."

A Frenchman named Jean Latappy investigated the Marignane story and obtained the following account from the custom official.

Gachignard worked the night shift on a regular basis so he claimed he was wide awake at 2:00 a.m. which was "mid-day" for him. He was definitely not dreaming. Gachignard told Latappy that he left a hanger and was walking over to the airport control office to check on a mail plane due in from Algiers. In no hurry, he sat down on a bench to eat some bread and cream cheese. From where he sat he looked out over a cement terrace dotted with pots of flowers, and beyond that, spread out before him, was the airfield cloaked in darkness. It was almost pitch black that night but Gachignard only needed the faintest glow to identify the runways and buildings since they were so familiar. Behind the custom agent loomed the side of hanger decorated with a big 30 foot by 3 foot red neon sign that spelled: "Marseilles."

At 2:03 a.m. the Nice-Paris mail plane lifted off one of the far runways and Gachignard watched the plane depart, and while doing so, he sighted a small point of light growing in size in the sky to his left. The light was approaching at a rather high landing speed to Gachignard's practiced eye, perhaps 150 mph or so. At the time Gachignard thought he might be looking at a jet plane or a shooting star. It was hard to judge distance in the darkness but when the light passed over a building at the end of the runway, clearing it by only 30 feet in a downward slant, there was no doubt in the custom officer's mind an aircraft of some kind was about to land. At a speed it was moving, the "aircraft" would roll past him a 100 yards away and come to a halt some distance to his right. Instead the instant the "thing" made contact with the metal grillwork with a muffled thud, it stopped instantly! This was astounding to Gachignard. A craft moving 150 mph and then coming to a dead stop? Impossible!

Because of the dull sound indicating a solid body, Gachignard was convinced "something" had landed, thus he jumped up from the bench, left his food on a flower container, and ran toward the dark runway. It was his duty to challenge

any unauthorized arrivals but Gachignard had to admit he was urged along by considerable curiosity. In about half a minute Gachignard covered some 50 yards, all the time peering at the dark mass in front of him lit up only by the weak glow of the red neon "Marseilles" sign. As he approached, the custom official began to make out a dark shape. Whatever it was, it was not a good reflector of light. Vaguely he could discern a profile of something 3 feet high and 15 feet long with sharp, tapering ends. The curve of the bottom was particularly dark and Gachignard was especially puzzled by not seeing any landing gear. The upper portion was a different story. Four, glowing, "windows" about a foot square were visible in a straight line over the top curve of the "football" shape. The "windows" were centered in the middle-top of the object in pairs, and from the angle they were observed, they seemed to be inclined. The light coming from the squares was a ghostly flux of blue-green tints, the gentle glare so subtle it did not aid in illuminating the rest of the object.

While the object was veiled by darkness, Gachignard was plainly silhouetted against the crimson neon glow. If anyone was inside the "thing," they would have had no trouble spotting the approach of the custom official, and perhaps that is what happened because there was a violent reaction as Gachignard got within 50 yards. A fiery shower of sparks abruptly spurted out the trailing end, the gush a weird zig-zag shower like small lightnings. This sudden and unexpected bit of fireworks panicked Gachignard who halted his forward rush and scrambled backward white with fear. There was no noise aside from a slight swish, and no blast of air, yet in two seconds the object had accelerated out of sight! Because of the stream of glowing particles out of its rear, Gachignard was able to follow the object's departure as it zoomed straight down the runway and between the operation building and the control building, climbing at such a tiny angle it was below the rooftops! 301. After the object vanished, the stunned custom agent fled to Dugaumin's Air France office.

Gachignard and some others went to the runway and searched the area with a flashlight, checking the spot where the object touched down. Nothing was apparent but later some authorities from Paris examined the spot and claimed to have discovered some burned grass (The steel matting on the airfield was apparently left over from World War II. It consisted of a metal grid laid down in strips and did not cover the earth totally.)

Gachignard was visibly disturbed as he recalled the experience for Latappy, giving the investigator the impression that the custom agent had indeed confronted something unknown and of vast power. Gachignard did not call what he had seen a "flying saucer." Such ideas did not interest him. 302. He was obstinate, scrupulous, honest, and only concerned with his job and family. When he reported the encounter to his chief, his boss stood by him. People from the newsmedia were also convinced, but the police were skeptical. Gachignard was troubled that anyone would doubt him. Why should he invent such a yarn, he asked. Wasn't he pale with fear when he burst in on Dugaumin? And do you dream while eating? 303.

Gaillac.

About 125 miles northeast of the city of Oloron is the French city of Gaillac. Some 16 hours after the amazing "vision" of Gachignard something marvelous occurred in the sky over Gaillac. The first to notice the phenomenon was a farmwoman,

*Another "landing" at Marignane was supposed to have occurred January 4, 1954. The reader is referred to Jimmy Guieu's book Flying Saucers Come From Another World, pp. 140-145.

Mme. Daures, whose property fronted the Toulouse road. It was her chickens kicking up a fuss that alerted Mme. Daures that something was amiss. Suspecting a hawk, she scanned up above. In the sky was a spectacle. The woman yelled to her neighbors but the phenomenon was so obvious there was no need to spread the alarm. People all over Gaillac, including the police, were soon looking skyward.

The same aerial fleet of UFOs that had excited Oloron was now apparently crushing over Gaillac: a long cylinder tipped at a 45 degree angle topped by a white plume of smoke, and pairs of smaller bodies darting about in rapid zig-zags.

Only two pairs of the smaller objects, circular with "rounded turrets," were seen by Mme. Daures who was soon joined by her son, her son's father-in-law, a M. Corbieres, and others. They watched as the quartet rotated and dipped low in the sky. Shortly the first four appeared they were joined by a dozen more escorting the giant cylinder. Some of the darting pairs approached within 400 meters of the ground.

The aerial display lasted 20 minutes before it moved over the horizon in the direction of the town of Lot-et-Garonne. As before, masses of "angel hair" floated down from the sky, became gelatinous, and then sublimed until the material completely vanished. 304.

Brives-Charensac.

Thirty minutes after the display over Gaillac, five witnesses at the city of Brives-Charensac in the Haute-Loire reported a silvery-gray flying disk traveling southeast. Following in its wake was a silver cigar-shaped object that paused in the sky for a half minute before moving on. 305.

It should be noted that all this UFO activity was taking place in the extreme south of France in a swath running from the Department of Gascony to the Department of Provence.

Virgin Islands.

While cruising 10 miles west of Port De France, at 11,000 feet, the pilot of Pan American Airlines Flight 253 sighted a "luminous green object" drop straight down of the sky. It might be easy to explain by calling it a normal meteor except for two things. For one thing green meteors were suspect and the Air Force requested that all such objects be reported. Secondly, the fireball seen by the PAA pilot came so low it was seen entering a cumulus cloud at 5,000 feet lighting up the cloud with a bright glow. Meteors that fall that low are very rare. 306.

"Some military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships."

The stories from France may have been falulous but there was no hint the U.S. Air Force knew about them (The CIA knew about Gaillac.) and even if they did, they would have to take second place to the Delbert Newhouse UFO film taken back on July 2, 1952 near Tremonton, Utah. The film was something tanigle, the type of evidence the military was constantly begging for and now they had what they wanted and they were going nuts trying to explain it. What follows is an FBI memorandum dated October 27, 1952, from a A.H. Belmont to a V.P. Keay:

"SYNOPSIS: Air Intelligence advised of another credible and unexplainable sighting of flying saucers. Air Intelligence still feels flying saucers are optical illusions or atmospheric phenomena but some military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships.

"BACKGROUND: You will recall that Air Intelligence has previously kept the Bureau advised regarding developments pertaining to Air Intelligence research on the flying saucer problem. Air Intelligence has previously advised that all research pertaining to this problem is handled by the Air

Technical Intelligence Center located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio; that approximately 90 per cent of the reported sightings of flying saucers can be discounted as products of the imagination and as explainable objects such as weather balloons, etc., but that a small percentage of extremely creditable sightings have been unexplainable.

"DETAILS:Colonel C.M. Young Executive Officer to Major General John A. Samford, Director of Intelligence, Air Force, advised on October 23, 1952, that another recent extremely creditable sighting had been reported to Air Intelligence. A Navy photographer, while traveling across the United States in his own car, saw a number of objects in the sky which appeared to be flying saucers. He took approximately thirty-five feet of motion-picture film of these objects. He voluntarily submitted the film to Air Intelligence who had it studied by the Air Technical Intelligence Center. Experts at the Air Technical Intelligence Center have advised that, after careful study, there were as many as twelve to sixteen flying objects recorded on this film; that the possibility of weather balloons, clouds or other explainable objects has been completely ruled out; and that they are at a complete loss to explain this most recent creditable sighting. The Air Technical Intelligence Center experts pointed out that they could not be optical illusions inasmuch as optical illusions could not be recorded on film.

"Colonel Young advised that Air Intelligence still feels that the so-called flying saucers are either optical illusions or atmospheric phenomena. He pointed out, however, that some military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships."

"ACTION:None. This is for your information." 307.

District Commanders meeting.

As part of the push to gather better UFO data, officers representing the Air Force's Current Estimates Branch of D/I HQ USAF and ATIC, briefed the District Commanders' meeting of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations that was convened at Kelly AFB, Texas, the afternoon of October 27, 1952. Discussions covered the collection of UFO reports, how to analyze them, and the current status of the problem. 308. Whether or not the "interplanetary question" was mentioned is not known.

October 28th.

This day did not contribute much to our list of UFO reports. There are only two brief mentions of UFOs.

A French engineer traveling near the city of Nemours, which is south of Paris, was said to have seen a strange aerial body speeding toward Fontainebleau. There is no time of day given and no other details. What is of interest is that the report is somewhat toward the middle of France which had been void of sightings. 309.

One other sighting on this day was also of French origin. It occurred at 4:00 p.m. when a "ball" sped over Tarbes. 310. Again little else is known but the location in this case is in keeping with the pattern. Tarbes is amid other UFO report locations in southern France.

October 29th.

The London Evening News printed a dispatch on October 29th announcing that at least 100 Frenchmen had witnessed sixteen flying saucers in formation over Gaillac. In spite of that, no U.S. Air Force Air Attache seems to have notified BLUE BOOK.

Jacksboro, Texas.

While motoring along U.S. Highway 281 enroute to Ft. Worth, Texas, at 6:11 p. m. October 29th, the witness was attracted to an orange flash in the heavens. The witness' position at the time was about 19 miles from Jacksboro. He sighted his UFO at an estimated 2,000 feet travelling an estimated 800 mph. The UFO resembled a discus used by track athletes. It had a dull aluminum color, and was about 40 feet across and 6 feet thick. Two other orange flashes of about one second duration were seen, coming from a spot on the object's underside which the witness assumed had something to do with the thing's exhaust system although no vapor or sound was noticed. 311.

Hempstead, New York.

"Controlled by something having visual contact."

Two F-94A jets raced over Hempstead, Long Island, at 10:10 (zulu) on a training mission October 29th. Ahead of the flight a white light at the same altitude as the jets', 28,000 feet, was noticed. As the white light zoomed by, the jet flight leader decided to intercept and went to 100% power, at the same time jerking his controls to make a hard left turn. What followed was a 20 minute series of maneuvers in an attempt by the jet to get close enough for a good look at the light by the aircraft's pilot. In an official statement by pilot Lt. David Goodnough, it was stated:

"Based on my experience in fighter tactics and maneuverability of fighter type aircraft it is my opinion that the object was controlled by something having visual contact with our aircraft. The power and acceleration abilities were beyond the capabilities of any known United States aircraft. However the performance was not outside the limits of human endurance. If the object had been any type of conventional aircraft I believe we would have easily overtaken it during the first 380 degree turns. During the first turn I gained about 2,000 feet while the object gained at least 5,000 feet and was turning at our rate and I believe that if it had stayed with us it could easily have turned inside of us on the second turn. Our G forces' on the first turn were 3 to 4. At 30,000 feet an F-94A without afterburner can climb at a maximum continuous rate of 1,500 feet per minute. In a tight turn at this altitude the rate of climb is zero. The capabilities of the object were at no time outside the realm of reason. In other words if a conventional aircraft had the power plant it could easily, with a human being directing it, have performed as this object did. The object went out of sight directly above us after about 20 minutes of observation. It did not remain in a tight turn during the visual contact. At one time it steered a course approximately towards Bridgeport, Conn. from the area of Suffolk County Air Force Base. It then turned around and came back almost above us. This object was definitely not a balloon or star and was moving in a horizontal plane heading of 090 degrees when we encountered it." 312.

October 30th.

There was suppose to be a sighting of something flying high over Richmond, Virginia, on this date. Details in the New York Journal-American do not indicate a good UFO report. The witness was a South American airline pilot.

Halloween.

"A very puzzling report."

Strange as it seems the next story is told by an Air Force officer. Was the encounter genuine? Note what happened to the car radio:

"On the evening of October 31 at 7:40 PM while traveling north on highway #85 toward Atlanta some 4 miles from Fayetteville a strange object was seen flying overhead.

"This strange object appeared to be flying at treetop level as I approached it. It was of orange color and very similar to an air blimp. I was traveling at a speed of 60-70 miles per hour as I approached this object. It was coming directly over the road some 200 yards ahead so I immediately thought of falling aircraft and tried to stop before traveling beneath it. However, I went under the object which was moving very slowly across the road. As I passed under, the radio in the car was silenced as if traveling over a bridge or under-pass. There was no static - just silenced until object was passed.

"As I quickly got out of the car, the object seemed directly overhead at an estimated 500 feet. The length was estimated 4 times the height and width (80' X 20' X 20').

"A clear bottom view, side view, and angle view was seen. After lingering for about 20 seconds overhead the nose seemed to point in a 45 degree climb steadily increasing in speed and angle of climb until it disappeared slightly to the left of the moon and in an easterly direction. The speed was tremendous and completely disappeared in approximately 40 seconds.

"There were no sparks nor was there any sound. The night was very clear and stars and moon very bright. There were no light beams visible and I looked all around.

"This object was very dull orange near the center line and was brighter near the outer border edges.

"As the object passed between the view of moon, and my location, on the upward climb, the color seemed to blend in with that of the moon, but was still visible." 313.

In regards to the forementioned report, the best the BLUE BOOK people could do was to suggest that a high altitude research balloon had drifted down to treetop level but after checking with possible launching organizations nothing correlated. That left Ruppelt's group with no other choice than to scribbled on the case file card: "A very puzzling report." 314.

There is this interesting footnote to the case. In a letter accompanying the official report, the Air Force officer (the one who made the UFO report) had his Commanding Officer add a comment. The CO wrote: "Lt. (deleted) desired this incident reported to the Air Force for whatever value it may have, but does not want the story given to the newspapers for fear that he may be the object of the ridicule he has heretofore bestowed upon others relating similar occurrences." 315.

Thinking the unthinkable.

Having written off the Des Vergers case, no doubt to the satisfaction of Air Force hardliners, Ruppelt spent his official time on other UFO matters but he still spent some leisure moments thinking the unthinkable. He had studied engineering in college and knew something about the phenomenon of "induction heating," a method often used in metal foundries to bring ignots to the melting point. An alternating magnetic field is generated which produces eddy currents in the ignot which acts as an electrical conductor. He remembered that the soil at the clearing at West Palm Beach was wet sand to a considerable extent which could have acted as an electrical conductor. Supposing that Des Vergers had been telling the truth and a "flying saucer," in this case a machine producing a powerful alternating magnetic field, had been hovering at tree top level, eddy currents may have been produced in the ground beneath thereby heating the roots of the grass to such an intensity they became charred. This

would also explain the warm air under the "saucer" which would be rising from the ground. Electrical activity around the "saucer" might also explain the red "sparks" that hit the scoutmaster. Playing his own devil's advocate, the BLUE BOOK chief then asked himself why the metal the scoutmaster carried had not been heated by the eddy currents, but then he recalled that Des Vergers said he had only been under the "saucer" for only an instant which would not, according to scientific theory, have been enough time to produce heat. Ruppelt followed this line of thinking further, remembering Des Vergers' comment about a sharp pungent smell. That smell, Ruppelt thought, could have been caused by a byproduct of electrical activity which science recognizes as Ozone. Consulting a chemistry text, Ruppelt found this sentence: "Ozone is prepared by passing air between two plates which are charged at a high electrical potential." And if that wasn't enough, the text stated that a big dose of the stuff can produce unconsciousness. Did that explain the scoutmaster's blackout? At this rate Ruppelt had the makings of a Sherlock Holmes.

Ruppelt was encourage to mention his idea to a RAND expert, a member of a civilian scientific think tank under contract to the Air Force to advise that service on scientific matters. The scientist became excited over Ruppelt's idea but the BLUE BOOK chief refused to treat the hypothesis as anything more than an intriguing thought. The scientist, evidently unaware of Air Force's policy of "negative assumptions" about UFOs, snapped: "What do you want? Does a UFO have to come in and land on your desk at ATIC?" 316.

We close with another thing to think about. If Des Vergers was telling the truth and a "flying saucer" had been hovering the night of August 19th in the darkness in the Florida swamp forest, for what possible reason did it hover at that place. Also, why did its "helmsman" permit the scoutmaster to get so close? Was it because the saucers' "cabin/dome" was protruding above the treetops, the branches and leaves obscuring Des Vergers' approach on the ground below? Or was it because the "helmsman" was preoccupied, observing something else? Similarly, why did the "saucer," if it was such a craft, land at the spot indicated by Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Wells? A possible answer to these questions may have been provided by a newspaper reporter investigating the landings just off the Florida road called Military Trail. While checking the Wells site the reporter noted nothing remarkable about the immediate area but he did happen to discover that the spot was: "...directly in line with nearby runways of the airport." 317. Was the Des Vergers site similarly alined? Did this mean the lights were due to normal aircraft traffic, or were some very strange beings peering down the runways of West Palm Beach airport?

Additional information received too late to include in main text:

Not long after General Samford "explained away" UFOs, civilian efforts to determine the truth (to their own satisfaction) began to make themselves known. There were two such groups of consequence.*

One was Civilian Saucer Investigations of Los Angeles which was given life back in December 1951 when some Southern Californian writers and engineers became convinced there was a need for a coordinated civilian endeavor to sort fact from fiction. Members of this small band were: John C. Barnes, William J. Besler, Homer Davies, John Davies, Werner Eichler, Gerald Heard (author of the book: Is Another World Watching?), Norton H. Nelso, J.S. Newton, Richard W. Williams, and Edward J. Sullivan who served as president. World War II German rocket expert Dr. Walther Riedel was only an honorary member but he did agree to head the organization's UFO report evaluation board.

In January, 1952, the group rented a mail box in the main Los Angeles Post Office and publicized their desire to receive UFO reports from the public.

Shortly thereafter True magazine discovered CSI, and then Reader's Digest, and finally Life. The response was more than CSI expected.

The group set to work logging, evaluating, and correlating to the best of its ability, and since the organization kept in touch with the Air Force, the better cases were forwarded to BLUE BOOK.

After the mention in Life magazine response to CSI became world-wide, and faced with this success the group felt it was obligated to share the data it was accumulating as well as generate some income to increase office staff. With that in mind, CSI began the sale of a quarterly bulletin, issuing its first one in September 1952. One of the more active members, Werner Eichler, was interviewed by the Pomona, California, Progress Bulletin in late August:

"The first issue of a magazine devoted to serious reports of sightings of flying saucers will be published about September 5, according to Werner Eichler, translator for the Civilian Saucer Investigation who is attached to the Guided Missile division of Convair in Pomona.

"The magazine will be a quarterly and will feature pictures, maps, and reports on sightings of flying saucers the CSI considers authentic and which add to the knowledge already accumulated by the group and other agencies investigating the mysterious objects, Eichler said.

"CSI is a group of 13 scientists and science writers from different sections of the country devoted to tracking down and verifying saucer reports. Ed Sullivan, an aeronautical engineer, who lives in Lynwood is president of the non-profit organization.

"Eichler discounts all theories that the saucers are the result of natural phenomena. CSI receives from 100 to 200 letters a week from people who claim to have seen saucers. Letters which are obviously from jokesters or cranks are thrown away. If the correspondents are

*There were a few others in the United States and around the world but they play a very small role in our story. One of these was a group in New Zealand composed of scientists and engineers which called itself "The Civilian Saucer Investigations of New Zealand" and had drawn up its charter in this period (October 14, 1952). The New Zealand group proposed that a UFO wave then in progress in the skies of New Zealand and Australia was the result of an alien fascination with atomic tests that the British were conducting on Australia's Monte Bello Island.

not within reach of the organization it contacts them thru some reliable agency such as a scientific organization and a thoro investigation is made.

"We reject about 25 per cent of -he reports as being fictitious or unreliable,' Eichler said. 'Another 60 per cent we are unable to verify, but we also can't arbitrarily dismiss them as untrue.'

"In the remaining 10 to 15 percent, however, reputable people -- scientists or professional people trained to observe, such as pilots or navigators -- have definitely seen objects which cannot be explained away as weather balloons, natural phenomena, conventional aircraft or other known objects.

"This leaves us only the conclusion that there actually are flying saucers as such and that they originate some place other than on this earth.'

"Eichler himself has seen saucers on seven different occasions, he said. Each sighting has been verified by at least one other reputable person, usually a scientist.

"Eichler is the translator for the CSI and receives all the mail from foreign countries. Gerald Heard, author of "Are Other Worlds Watching?"[sic] , is a member of the group.." 2.

The bulletin ran eight pages and had as a headline:"SAUCERS CAPTURE NATION'S INTEREST." CSI told how UFOs were being reported from Korea to Sweden and that the Pentagon was having a tough time explaining, zig-zagging in their official comments, saying on one hand UFOs were imaginary and on the other hand ordering Air Force pilots to shoot them down!

Member Richard Williams prepared a short summary of CSI's findings as of September using some 220 cases. Unlike Air Force studies Williams easily found patterns in the data. Sightings invariably discribed disc-shaped objects that sped through the atmosphere at high speed, occasionally wobbling, and at times giving off luminous radiation.

Foreign reports were covered by Werner Eichler and the most fasinating part of his article referenced an aerial incident in the Korean warzone:

"A statement is being investigated that one of these planes fired at the disc and that the bullets glanced off the'disc like off a sphere, as the path of tracer bullets showed." 3.

Considerable space was given to the article titled:"New Behavior Pattern Observed," a short essay dealing with a "splitting phenomenon" demonstrated in a series of sightings in the Los Angeles area July 23rd to the July 25th. Witnesses told of spotting UFOs that "split into separate pieces" while under observation. There was no newspaper publicity on these cases, according to CSI, which meant different people were evidently reporting a real event. What interested CSI the most was one of the sightings in particular on July 23rd from Culver City. Three employees of an aircraft plant noticed the approach of a strange object in the sky. Fortunately one of the witnesses had a pair of binoculars that enabled him to get a clearer look. He stated:

"The object, as seen with the naked eye was a brilliant silver color, but no shape could be determined. As observed through 7X50 binoculars, the object had a very definite oval shape...and flew in a somewhat straight line with a rocking motion for approximately 20 minutes. It then stopped directly overhead and seemed to hover in space. After approximately two mintues it was observed that the strange object was launching objects of much smaller size than the parent ship. These smaller objects were launched from the starboard forward side of the

mother ship. They would fly straight patterns and return to circle the mother ship, then apparently land in or on the large object which was first sighted.

"This activity continued for approximately 25 minutes at an extremely high altitude. Then, after the mother ship had received the two small objects back in itself, it appeared to ascend straight up, until it was lost to vision through the binoculars." 4.

Even though CSI did not feel uncomfortable with such "mother ship" cases, it drew the line at rumors of "aliens preserved in pickle jars" at March AFB. The UFO mystery was only in the statistical-analysis phase, CSI insisted, and there was just no concrete evidence to give credence to such wild yarns. Ed Sullivan made it official by detailing CSI's position in an editorial titled: "To the Man with the Pickle Jar." 5.

Conspicuous by its absence was any mention in the CSI bulletin of a Victor Black, who with Sullivan and Eichler were technical writers for the aerophysics department of North American Aviation back on May 29, 1951, when the three were supposed to have been witnesses to a formation of UFOs sweeping over Los Angeles. It eventually led to the establishment of CSI. Black evidently had some sort of falling out with Sullivan because an article appeared in the October 1952 issue of American Mercury magazine that was mighty unfriendly. Among other things, Black claimed that the May 29, 1951 UFO sighting he was supposed to have been party to was an outright invention by Sullivan, that he, Black, had not seen any UFOs over Los Angeles that afternoon. Somehow Black felt CSI would be a lucrative venture for Sullivan, naming the group's president as: "...roving newspaper bum always looking for an angle." 6. According to Black, Sullivan had enlisted two avowed "saucerites," a columnist for the Los Angeles Mirror and a Hollywood press agent, to get CSI noticed by the national media.

Not only did Black attack Sullivan, he went further and characterized CSI's most famous associate, Dr. Reidel, as that "ex-Nazi engineer." 7.

Although calling the sighting of UFOs "Sauceritis," Black did concede that people were observing something, so he consulted with some aerophysicists at the California Institute of Technology. What he learned he developed into a "astral whirlpool" theory, an idea that there existed a natural phenomenon of "rotating electrical fields of fine particles" that soar through the atmosphere until they dissipate. 8. These tiny whirlpools were supposed to explain all UFO sightings. Black does not name his CIT experts but his idea sounds very much like that theory being expounded by two Southern Californian aerjet rocket engineers who had assumed the role of de-bunkers of "Martian invaders," Winthrop K. Cox and Rollin W. Gillespie. 9.

The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

When CSI announced it was ready to act as a clearinghouse of UFO data in January 1952, Jim and Coral Lorenzen in Wisconsin saw the need for a similar group, an organization to track and record UFO cases. Mrs. Lorenzen wrote some people she knew in the Sturgeon Bay area and found that 52 individuals expressed interest in a civilian effort to learn more about the aerial riddle. In selecting a name Mrs. Lorenzen deliberately avoided using the words "flying saucers," feeling that such an expression was unscientific. Having more spare time than her husband, Mrs. Lorenzen became the main force behind APRO. A Walter Hagen served as Secretary, and a Jack Moody was appointed Treasurer.

Although undergoing surgery in June, 1952, Mrs. Lorenzen managed to write and publish the first issue of the APRO Bulletin in July, a mimeographed effort that eventually evolved into a more professional-looking slick-paper labor of love in later years.

Unlike CSI, APRO received little publicity and it wasn't until an article in American magazine in 1953 did Lorenzen's group get national exposure, nonetheless

authorities were aware of APRO and were concerned about it. Incredibly, the "powers-that-be" considered both CSI and APRO potentially dangerous.

Commercial magazines.

After a four month sleuthing job, J.P. Cahn produced a book-length debunking of Frank Scully's best seller Behind the Flying Saucers which was published in the September issue of True. True felt that by getting to the bottom of the yarn a genuine service had been done for the sincere study of the flying object mystery, yet many had believed Scully so the UFO subject suffered a blow of sorts. The editors of True may had that in mind because the September issue was followed by an October one that featured a two page spread on the spectacular July 14, 1952 Nash-Fortenberry UFO-airliner encounter. Written by the two pilots, the reading was impressive stuff and made up for the Scully fiasco. Nash and Fortenberry concluded their account with: "One thing we know: mankind has a lot of lessons to learn ... from somebody." 10.

Alarming to the CIA without a doubt was the essay in the September 10, 1952 issue of People Today. The editors had its writers interview top American experts and came to the conclusion UFOs were Russian guided missiles gathering reconnaissance data as a prelude to nuclear strikes. A latter day examination of the material shows that People Today's reasoning to be too loose to be believed but in 1952 the magazine's assurances seemed highly credible.

That UFOs had substance seemed simple enough to establish because the editors got plain statements to that effect from some willing to talk:

"Of course flying saucers are real; declared a regular U.S. Air Force officer stationed in New Mexico. 'They are not delusions. Don't be sucked in by denials in publicity used to cover up AF investigations. Flying saucers are regularly seen over Los Alamos.'" 11.

Similarly, the editors got this quote from meteor expert Dr. Lincoln La Paz:

"Sightings here and in Scandinavia lead me to believe that fireballs and so-called saucers may be guided missiles - some possibly ours, some possibly Russian." 12.

The People Today writers even named what they believed was the Russian saucers' launch point, Atomgrad #3, a frozen waste near the Finnish frontier. Loaded with electronic gear and cameras, suggested the magazine, the remote-controlled saucer rockets zoomed all the way from Russia to America receiving guidance during their journey from Russian XXVI type submarines stationed at strategic locations in the Atlantic! 13.

Reports.

Monday night, September 15th, at 8:15 p.m. a couple of Air Force enlisted men stationed at Wichita AFB sighted an odd object some five miles south of Douglass, Kansas. A Staff Sgt. William Muse and a Staff Sgt. Carlyle Mc Lendon were returning from a hunting trip in an auto when they spotted an object about 35 feet long and 20 feet thick motionless some 200 feet off the road to the left. The two men decided to stop, and so did an unidentified motorist ahead of them. The object in the sky reacted by suddenly moving, veering to the right and spewing out orange flames. This gush of fire quickly pushed the object out of sight. 14.

A Mr. O.W. Bobo Jr., his wife, her mother, and a neighbor, Mrs. Harold Hibbs, observed six metallic-like objects hovering in the sky northeast of Topeka 2:15 p.m., Monday September 15th. The objects were in view for some 20 minutes before leaving in an eastern direction. The metallic im-

pression was caused by a twinkling appearance as the strange objects reflected the afternoon sun. 15.

A "snow-plough shaped cloud" zipped over the Swedish countryside outside Stockholm trailing smoke on September 20, 1952. The sight was witnessed by Ture Innola, ex-pilot of the Swedish Royal Air Force, and his wife. Innola estimated the phenomenon has passed over at 8,000 feet traveling at "colossal speed." During the object's passage it dropped what appeared to be a blue-green plate-like object which sped off in an opposite direction. 16.

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More last minute additions:

Psychological warfare?

CIA experts during this period continued to check the foreign page in Moscow's Pravda which provided the official version of outside events, but no remarks about "flying saucers" appeared.

The CIA paper of September 7, 1952; dealing with the UFO problem and which was covered earlier in this text, mentions the use of the supposed aerial objects in psychological warfare between East and West. A possible bit of such disinformation by the CIA showed up in the Stockholm, Sweden, newspaper Aftonbladet on October 9, 1952. The Aftonbladet credited flying saucers to the German professor Von Braun and a hundred or so of his associates who worked with him at Peenemunde, all who escaped to America right after the war. The newspaper claimed that a flying saucer was tested in 1944 in Germany and that the specifications were later taken to America. It is true Von Braun and his associates were shipped to the States in operation Paperclip, but the existence of a German-designed saucer was nonsense, either in Germany or at Uncle Sam's White Sands, New Mexico, testing grounds where the Germans were tinkering with new toys.

The view from England.

The big fuss over UFOs peaked in July 1952 and it evidently caused the English PM, Winston Churchill, to dash off a short note to his Secretary of State for Air, Lord Cherwell: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience." 1.

A Secretary of State's minute from the Air Ministry on the 9th of August read:

"The various reports about unidentified flying objects, described by the Press as 'flying saucers,' were the subject of a full Intelligence study in 1951. The conclusions reached (based upon William of Occam's Razor) were that all the incidents reported could be explained by one or other of the following causes:

- (a) Known astronomical or meteorological phenomena.
- (b) Mistaken identification of conventional aircraft, balloons, birds, etc.
- (c) Optical illusions and psychological delusions.
- (d) Deliberate hoaxes.

"The Americans, who carried out a similar investigation in 1948/9, reached a similar conclusion.

"Nothing has happened since 1951 to make the Air Staff change their opinion, and, to judge from recent Press statements, the same is true in America." 2.

The forementioned paper passed through the hands of Lord Cherwell who wrote on August 14th: "I have seen the Secretary of State's minute to you [Churchill] on flying saucers and agree entirely with his conclusions." 3.

British civilian UFO researchers have tried to obtain various official documents from their country's Public Record Office but were greatly hampered by the Ministry of Defense's 30 year rule that restricts the release of classified material prior to that time span. The few scraps about Churchill is about the sum total of such data available from official British sources dated before 1962. Files dated before that period were purportedly destroyed. 4. No doubt some very fascinating material was relegated to oblivion.

The British military may well have studied UFOs in 1951 and determined to its satisfaction the subject was bunk, after all the UFO reports made in the island nation up to then were not much to brag about. That changed on September 19th with the "Topcliffe case." RAF representatives, according to Ruppelt,

told American Intelligence it was taking UFOs seriously after Topcliffe. What paperwork passed between the Air Ministry, Lord Cherwell, and Churchill after September 19, 1952 has not, apparently, survived.

Before leaving this subject, one should consider what was printed in the Los Angeles Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly the Winter 1952 issue. The CSI editors noted that the London Times and the Royal Aero Club's official journal both were finally seriously considering the presense of UFOs over England.

Moreover:

"Great Britain has been investigating flying saucers through a branch of the British Air Ministry, the D.D.I., since 1947. Our correspondent who is closely connected with the D.D.I. states that 7000 reports have been studied by this agency in the past 6 months. The D.D.I. is a highly guarded section of the Air Ministry." 5.

Footnotes:

1. Mantle, Philip & M.I. Birdsall. "The Churchill Papers." MUFON UFO Journal. Number 219. July 1986. p.6.
2. Ibid, p.8.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid, p.6.
5. "Saucers Concern Foreign Governments." Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly. Vol. I, No.II. Winter 1952. p.6.