

# **THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE**

## **UFOS: A HISTORY**

1952 July 21st – July 31st

## **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES**

By

Loren E Gross

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Fremont CA

“UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse ”

--- Dr Lincoln La Paz

“Supplemental Notes” consist of material under consideration for any revision of the original UFO history volume covering this time period

## Preliminary remarks

The authorities try to avoid what it considers undue excitement over UFO sightings, and it would seem men in high places, whatever their motives, use “tricks” to achieve this, if one may utilize that loaded expression. The aim is to “reduce the size of the problem,” to trim details, to simplify. The result is a false image. That done, the UFO mystery “goes away”.

There are different ways to achieve this goal. The Air Force has omitted foreign UFO reports at times from consideration by insisting that UFOs were purely a “domestic aberration” (By 1950 this assertion became hard to defend). Another method of “reduction” (and a big one) was to exclude from its database UFO reports not “officially reported” (This excluded a vast number of media reports). Still another way was to spend so many words on cases with prosaic explanations that any truly mysterious incidents are only briefly entertained, thus hoping to give the impression a solution to the perplexing sighting was only a matter of a more complete investigation (As scientists like Dr. James McDonald found out, just the opposite was often the reality). Furthermore, in keeping with this theme, anti-UFO pronouncements by scientists, government officials, and military chiefs have had an effect on many people too busy to study the subject (Comments often suspected to be official inspired). It is natural to assume such persons are well informed and are making sound judgements. Unfortunately, too often the self-appointed UFO expert is ignorant to a shocking degree (What comes to mind is Carl Sagan authoring an article about UFOs for an encyclopedia and saying Kenneth Arnold was a resident of Seattle). Outright sins of omission have occurred but they have been blamed on individuals, lack of funds, or departmental inefficiency—not official policy (Private industry is no stranger to such tactics)

In any case, UFO excitement can be contained in large part by such efforts. In the spring and early summer of 1952, however, there were deviations in official behavior that spread confusion and mistrust. Most of the story is detailed in my UFO history monograph covering July 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> published in 1986. This 2002 supplement, contrary to any attempt to “reduce the size of the problem,” supplies still more data to the over all picture and confirms earlier conclusions, especially evidence in the form of many newly discovered UFO reports along the eastern seaboard that suggest solid bodies were indeed moving about in the atmosphere.

—L.E. Gross

“They were very careful to discount anything that we had to say, so we just kept quiet. As I recall, we saw several things that night but made no mention of them because they just kept laughing at us. We didn’t particularly care for it.”

—Howard Cocklin, assistant chief of Washington National Airport’s control tower, commenting on the CAA’s investigation of the July 19<sup>th</sup> graveyard shift detection of UFOs over the nation’s capital.\*

\* Gilgoff, Dan. “Saucers Full of Secrets.” *City Paper*. Washington D C. 14 December 2001. p.7.

The TV interference story. All the details (See clipping below)

21 July Medicine Lake area of Minnesota (2:15 a.m.) (See clipping below)

## D.C. Flying Saucers Play Hob With TV

1952

CUMBERLAND, Md., July 23 (AP)—Maybe it's Washington's flying saucers that played hob with Vigil Ruppenthal's television sets. There seems to be some tie-in between the way they acted and the mysterious objects spotted in the sky around Washington over the weekend.

Ruppenthal is a television bug. He has a TV shack atop Dan's Rock about 10 miles southwest of Cumberland. It is about 2900 feet high, one of the highest spots in the Western Maryland mountains. Ruppenthal has it decked out with some of the best TV receivers money can buy, plus gadgets to step up incoming signals, plus a dozen different aerial layouts. He brings in perfect pictures from Washington, 112 miles to the southeast, and Pittsburgh, 71 miles to the northwest.

At 7:15 Sunday night, a strong electronic interference crossed off Ruppenthal's picture from WTOP Channel 9 in Washington.

Ruppenthal has been tinkering with television for six years. He can identify ordinary kinds of signal interference. He'd never seen anything like this before, never seen anything so powerful. He turned off his special amplifiers. Still there was a bright wire fence across his screen.

He tried all his aeriels. Same thing. He tried other sets. Same thing. He climbed the Dan's Rock fire tower with a portable TV. The interference came in strongest at an altitude of 2940 feet.

He called a friend who has a TV set high on Savage Mountain. Same thing. He called Marshall Wolpert, who has a set on Martin's Mountain. Wolpert got the bright pattern. Then his set blew out. As suddenly as it had come, the phenomenon disappeared at 7:30 Tuesday morning.

It was shortly after midnight Sunday morning that control tower operators at Washington National Airport picked up strange blips on their radar scopes. The blips marked eight objects of some kind flying in the sky near Andrews Air Force base, just east of Washington.

The control tower contacted a commercial air liner flying northwest from Washington. The pilot, Capt. S. C. Pierman of Detroit, a veteran of 17 years with Capital Airlines, saw seven unidentified lights-falling stars without tails—in the sky between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va.

Martinsburg is almost on a direct line between Washington and Cumberland.

Ruppenthal reported he also saw the strange interference pattern between 6:15 p. m. on July 8 and 1:30 a. m. on July 9 when he was watching a TV program from Pittsburgh.

This Clipping From  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
STAR

JUL 21 1952

### THREE WITNESSES

## 'Flying Saucer' Observed in Medicine Lake Area

WARREN LEONARDSON, dispatcher at the sheriff's office radio station near Medicine Lake, got a telephone call about 2:15 a.m. today from a man who said he saw a flying saucer.

Not ready to write off such reports without checking, Leonardson took a look himself.

Sure enough, he saw something in the sky south and east of Medicine Lake, just as the man said. It resembled a bright star with rays emanating from it.

"It would make a quick movement," Leonardson recounted, "then come to an abrupt stop. At times it would hob like a cork and move in circles."

Occasionally the "saucer" would shoot out a fiery trail resembling pinwheel sparks. It was about 30 degrees above the horizon and kept its altitude.

Leonardson notified Louis Faucher, night policeman at Hopkins, who also observed it. Leonardson then called Crystal Airport for further confirmation but was told that a large hangar obstructed the view in the Medicine Lake direction.

General Mills, Inc., which conducts "Operation Skyhook" with cosmic research balloons, reported that none of its balloons was being flown from here today.

Other of the company balloons are released in different parts of the country but none has been reported in this vicinity, a spokesman for the firm said.

21 July. Dobbins AFB, Georgia. (10:30 a.m.)

Radar target at 50,000 feet. (See clipping below)

21 July "Russian Fireballs?" (See clipping below)

This Clipping From  
ATLANTA, GA.  
JOURNAL

JUL 24 1952

This Clipping From  
LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
MIRROR  
JUL 21 1952

**OFFICIALS WORRY**

# Russia's 'Fireballs' Invade U.S.

BY ROBERT S. ALLEN  
Mirror Columnist

CHICAGO, July 21—There is another important matter besides Presidential politics on the minds of top officials attending the Democratic convention.

It is a gravely alarming and baffling specter.

Scientists and military authorities have established beyond any question of doubt that Russian planes and missiles of some kind are invading U.S. skies.

Soviet planes have been positively traced as far south as the Alaska Peninsula extending off the southwest coast of Alaska. These mysterious flights at tremendous heights have been going on for at least three months. They are obviously reconnaissance or training missions, or both. Other suspected Russian planes have been reported far to the north in Alaska.

### Sinister Missiles

But most sinister of all are the fantastic missiles. These things have no connection with flying "saucers" and "discs."

## 'SAUCER' AT 50,000 FEET?

# Dobbins Radar Spots Mysterious Object

By ROBERT McKEE

An unusual, unidentified object—flying at perhaps 50,000 feet above the earth—has been sighted by radar equipment at Dobbins Air Force Base, the Air Force disclosed Thursday.

Col. M. C. Woodbury, commanding officer of the 35th Air Division at Dobbins, announced that the object was spotted Monday at 10 30 a. m. by a radar device used to measure wind velocity in the upper atmosphere.

Colonel Woodbury said the object was "observed by four technicians who stated it could have been an electromagnetic phenomenon but they did not believe it was."

**THE COLONEL SAID** such information is sent to the technical analysis branch of the U. S. Air Force at Dayton, Ohio, where evaluation is made for all branches of national intelligence.

He added, "We try to intercept

such objects and identify them but so far we have been unsuccessful.

Colonel Woodbury's statement on the incident was made after he had talked on the telephone with defense officials in Washington.

...  
**GEORGE M. (PUP) PHILLIPS**, Civilian Defense director in Atlanta, and other officials had received reports of the phenomenon, but they had no details.

Although Colonel Woodbury would not discuss a "flying saucer" theory, from other sources it was learned the flight characteristics of the object immediately captured attention of Air Force officers at the base. In private conversations they estimated it was moving about 1,200 miles per hour. It slowed considerably and then disappeared, they reported.

The disquieting missiles are entirely different. They are what are usually described as "fireballs" of various hues, mostly green. One reason why authorities are privately so disturbed about these mysterious devices is that they are comparable to certain highly secret and extraordinary U.S. developments in this field. The increasingly frequent reports of strange "fireballs" are viewed by officials as profoundly disquieting evidence that there are a lot of them. Particularly in the light of the location of the most authoritative of these reports.

For security reasons, only a few of these areas can be cited and one of them is the Baltic Sea. The Reds have been conducting missile-type projects in this region since 1916, and Sweden and others have extensive data on Soviet "fireballs."

**Near A-Plant**  
Devices very similar to those that have been seen in the Baltic have been authoritatively accounted for in three different places in the United States.

In each of these locations is a vital defense installation—one of them atomic.

21 July. Reading, Kansas (no time)

Plate-shaped object goes into rapid climb. (See clipping below)

21 July Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina (8:45 p.m.)

Orange, "very beautiful," falling "star" fails to "fall." (See clipping below)

*This Clipping From*  
*Weldon N. C.*  
*news*

**JUL 24 1952**

## Saucer Sighted In Local Area

Roanoke Rapids — First sighting of an "unidentified object" in night time skies over this area was reported today by a local resident who said she did not want her name used in connection with the incident.

The person told a local radio newsmen that she watched the object about 8:45 p. m. Monday for about 10 minutes as it moved northeast at a bearing of about 45 degrees east of compass north, in the general direction of Norfolk, Virginia.

She was watching a bright star in the sky when she suddenly noticed the other object and, thinking it was a falling star, she was startled when it did not "fall", but instead kept moving. She said it was about eight inches in diameter when the eye viewed it at an elevation of about seventy degrees.

The color she described as an orange colored glow, adding that it was "very beautiful." It moved, she said, at a pace slightly faster than airplanes, which traverse this area.

The object left no vapor trail, and within a few minutes an airplane came into sight and circled the area for about twenty minutes.

Reports of the sighting are being forwarded to Air Force authorities in Washington.

*This Clipping from*  
**EMPORIA, KAN.**  
**GAZETTE**  
**JUL 22 1952**

## "Flying Saucer" Is Seen in Lyon County

### Members of Price Family, Of Reading, Report Seeing Strange Craft in Sky

In connection with reports that flying saucers have been seen in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., it was revealed today that Lyon county also has been visited by strange aerial craft. Reports from Reading said that a plate-shaped object was sighted the other day and observers said it "definitely was not an airplane."

Tom Price and his sons, Dave and Bill, all well-known residents of the Reading area, were setting feed boxes in a pasture two miles south and one west of Reading, when their attention was attracted by a loud noise.

According to Dave Price, a former Army pilot, the noise sounded like a jet ship taking off. There ended the resemblance to any aerial craft he had ever seen, said Dave Price.

The round, plate-like object was to the east of the pasture in which the men were working, Dave said, and appeared to be approximately 10,000 feet high.

"The noise we first heard lasted only a few seconds," Dave Price said. "When we first saw the object it was going only about 100 miles an hour and did not appear to have much directional stability. It appeared to waver from its general northerly direction. After 30 to 45 seconds of this it suddenly began a rapid climb and increased its speed to what I would guess to be about 1,000 miles an hour. It disappeared to the north at an altitude of about 25,000 feet."

The object appeared to be spinning in the air, Dave Price said, and was aluminum in color, "about the same color as the big air liners."

"But it definitely was not an airplane," the former Army pilot said.

21 July. Albuquerque, New Mexico. (9:24 p.m.)

Ex-RAF aircraft observer spots flying disc. (See clipping below)

## Trained Airplane Spotter Reports Seeing Flying Disk

And still they come. Another flying disk was sighted Monday evening over Albuquerque, reported by Charles Kowall, 710 Lead Ave. S.W.

Kowall, trained during the war with the British Air Force to take sightings of aircraft, was able to give an accurate description of what he saw from his back porch.

"I was sitting in the dark, when I saw it at 9:24 p. m.," he said. "It was so plain that I wasn't even started. It flew from a south to a northwestern direction at an approximate speed of 600 to 700 miles per hour, about 7000 to 9000 feet high and there was no smoke trail. The duration of the sighting was 6 to 8 seconds."

Kowall said there was no sound. "None whatsoever—it was a very still night and any sound would have been audible."

The lighting also impressed Kowall, trained to determine the height of an aircraft by the intensity of light. "The disc had no light source of its own," he said. "The light visible was strictly reflected light from the city. If the disc had been flying over a thinly-populated area, it would not have been visible. It was reflected light, reflected from the illumination of Albuquerque."

He was assigned to "Coast Artillery AA," and for 14 months, his duty was to observe aircraft, approximating height and distance by taking an average reading between that estimated by "height finders" and that of radar detection.

Albuquerque,  
New Mexico.  
*Journal*  
23 July 52

Kowall added that the disk appeared almost two dimensional in that it was very slight along the edges.

Miss Mary Stevens, of the same address, who occupies an apartment adjoining Kowall's corroborated his statements as she too had been on her back porch and had observed the disc. She watched the disc appear in the south and trace an arc toward the northwest, disappearing when vision was cut by a large tree growing at the northwest corner of the building.

Kowall, now an employe of the Public Service Co. of New Mexico, was a member of the regular U. S. Army who volunteered to serve with the British Air Force

21 July. Washington D.C. (9:30 p.m.)

UFO report telephoned to authorities by a Mr. Dick Calhoun who lived on Massachusetts Avenue in the nation's capital. For about 20 minutes a Mr. Calhoun watched a possible UFO with the naked eye the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>. This is one of many visual sightings that indicate the existence of objects in the atmosphere that night that may not have been conventional air traffic. The telephone log of the OIN-2a2 states:

"Round, clearly defined circle of light. Object moved slowly (35-40 mph) then speed accelerated to '100 mph.' from 500 to 10,000 ft. altitude. No moon nor illumination that night. 90 degree turn made. Thought it was a 'blimp.'"

'Light' moved toward West to stand still then South when speed increased. No propulsion. Sound not loud but muffled hum." (xx.)

(xx.) Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Summer 1952.

"No follow up was made."

In regards to UFO reports phoned in to the military like the one quoted above, Air Force Intelligence records tell us:

"Inclosed are summary reports of observations as telephoned to AFOIN-2A2 during the past two weeks plus a report of radar observations at Washington National Airport on the night of 26/27 July 1952. In all cases, the outline specified or electrical messages in paragraph 7c of AFL 200-5 has been utilized for the sake of expediency with appropriate notations as necessary.

"No attempt has been made to follow up on any telephone reports taken by Estimates Duty Officer nor was any attempt made to obtain great detail in the other telephone reports. Wherever possible, a general statement of weather conditions, usually as reported by observer, has been included. In all cases where are? [photocopy not clear] forms are omitted, [missing word due to unclear photocopy] are negative.

"No further action is contemplated on any of these incidents." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. (Uncl) Material for Project Blue Book. Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. Dept. of the Air Force. Hq. USAF -AFOIN-2A2 11 August 52.

This collection of summary reports amounted to 26 sightings. Most were too limited in detail to provide data of value.

21 July Pomona, California. (about 12:40 p.m.)

According to the Pomona newspaper:

"Pomona's ground observer corps has reported its first 'flying saucer' to the Pasadena filter center since going on the 24-hour-a-day *Operation Sky Watch*.

"About 12:40 p.m. Monday a strange red and aluminum-colored object was sighted 'flopping' in a northeasterly direction across the northern part of Pomona about 2,000 feet high, according to the report.

"It appeared to be about equal in size to a four-engine plane but was oval in shape without any wings, engine or tail assembly, said Mrs. Lola Hill, Mrs. Irene Redmond and Stan Lawson, who all were on duty at the time.

"The trio added that it wasn't flying in a straight line but rather was making small loops as it traveled at an estimated speed of about 200 miles an hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Pomona, California. *Progress-Bulletin*. 22 July 52.

Dr. James McDonald checks the *New York Times*.

"All the news that's fit to print."

McDonald wrote:

"The *New York Times* for Sunday, July 20 [1952], appears to have no article at all on the Washington National sightings of July 19-20. The convention and the Korean War have a lot of attention and a ship accident off Montauk Point in which four were killed was headline news, but nothing on UFOs. Even as minor a matter as Lt. Col. Joseph O. Fletcher denying existence of radar bases on Arctic ice islands made page 9, but nothing on UFOs. I found nothing in the Monday, July 21, issue either.

"Also checked Tuesday, July 22, issue of *The New York Times*, and I don't find anything there either. Hence it seems that the *Times* simply did not cover the first Washington sighting.

"In one of the issues that I was scanning, there was a long story about the development of the Ground Observer Corps and the need for 225,000 observers throughout the U.S. There were also a number of articles about radar, air defense tests carried out jointly between the U.S. and Canada. The general tension of the Korean War, which was still underway, and the problems of air attack may have had something to do with deterring the *Times* from reporting the July 19 incident. Or it may be simply that their policy against discussing flying saucers operated until the second main Washington sighting on July 26-27." (xx.)

(xx.) Dr. James McDonald's papers. University of Arizona at Tucson Library, Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division. July 1952 Washington D.C. Folder.

22 July. Nahant Coast Guard Station. (2:00 a.m.)

"I thought people were imagining things."

Telephone interview with the *Telegram-News*:

"Seaman Henry Arnpriester, 22, of California, on duty at the Nahant Coast Guard Station, saw two of the 'discs' shortly after 2 this morning.

"In a telephone interview with the *Telegram-News* this afternoon, Seaman Arnpriester said:

"I never believed any of those stories I've read about flying discs. I always thought the people who saw them were just imagining things.

"But at 2:15 this morning I saw two strange objects which were certainly something new. I had never seen anything like them before.

"They appeared to be about five feet in diameter and were a light, hazy blue. I first saw them coming in from the southeast at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. They were traveling at great speed and appeared to be only a few feet apart. They circled low off Egg Rock, dropping down to an altitude of a few hundred



feet, and then climbed rapidly again and sped off in the same southeast direction from which they had come.'

"Seaman Arnpriester said he was positive that the objects he saw were not 'birds, plnes or anything like that.' If they were, he said, he would have reported them as such.

" 'I'm convinced nowe there is something to those flying disc stories,' he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Lynn, Massachusetts. *Telegram-News*. 23 July 52.

22 July. Hazlehurst, Georgia. (2:15 a.m.)

24 feet across and shaped like a pancake.

This report of UFO activity originally appeared in a county weekly. (See clipping below)

Cir. (D 45,388) (S 60,136)  
 This Clipping From  
 SAVANNAH, GA.  
 NEWS  
 JUL 27 1952

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*Saucers Now  
 Said Seen At  
 Hazlehurst*

HAZLEHURST, July 26—  
 The nation's renewed interest in flying saucers, which resulted from reports of the saucers being spotted in various sections of the country, took on special prominence here this week with reports the objects had been seen in Hazlehurst and Lumber City sections. The Jeff Davis County Ledger, county weekly, had the following story this week on the saucers.

"Those eerie objects which have been appearing in the evening sky in various parts

of the country and which have been given the name, "flying saucers," have been seen in this area. More than half a dozen people affirm that they saw them and the latest report on the saucers is both comprehensive and amazing.

"It was about 2:15 a. m. Tuesday, said Tom Wheeler, who with Mrs. Wheeler operate the Red River Tea Room in Lumber City, that he saw clearly in the sky over the Ocmulgee river a large, oval shaped bright object. It was about the size of a big room, flashing from side to side but moving in a circle.

"Wheeler said he got his field glasses and he and Mrs. Wheeler took a closer look. They figured the thing was at least 24 feet across and shaped like a pancake.

"The previous week, say six or more Hazlehurst people, they saw what they concluded was a saucer. It was four times as large as the biggest star appears from the earth, was like a yellow light and high in the sky. It appeared to head toward the Altamaha river."

22 July. Lane County, Oregon. (between 11:00 and noon)

"Flew in a fairly geometrical circle."

A group of neighbors informed the press of a series of sightings. The best report was printed by the *Register-Guard*:

"The first report came to the *Register-Guard* late Tuesday morning. Mrs. William Brock and a group of neighbors along Dilley Lane east of Goshen spotted first one, then two, then three, and finally eight white, roundish objects 'like bits of fluff,' but much bigger, circling and maneuvering in the sky. The group watched them for more than an hour. At one time all eight flew in a fairly geometrical circle. It was between 11 a.m. and noon. The sky was clear and bright." (xx.)

(xx) Eugene, Oregon. *Register-Guard*. 25 July 52.

A local newspaper editor was skeptical and exclaimed, "Bah, they're just drifting milkweed," but Mrs. William Brock, a spokesman for the witnesses, replied, "Well, he's wrong, they're too big." (xx.)

(xx) Eugene, Oregon. *Register-Guard*. 22 July 52.

22 July. Cleveland, Ohio.

Air Traffic controller tells saucer stories. (See clipping)

22 July. Uvalde, Texas. (2:46 p.m.)

"Appeared to climb higher every second."

This report might have been blamed on a meteor except for the statement about the object being on an apparent rising course. The official military file states:

"The report of the sighting of an unidentified flying object by Mr. Don Epperly, weather observer and station manager for Trans-Texas Airlines, Uvalde, Texas, was relayed to this headquarters by Mr. Ralph Desmond, U.S. Weather Bureau, Municipal Airport, San Antonio, Texas. This Headquarters contacted Mr. Epperly by electrical means and he reported the following information.

"The observer described the object as being large and round, of silver color. The object was estimated to be approximately 50 feet in diameter and at an altitude of 20,000 feet."

This Clipping From  
SANTA ANA, CALIF.  
REGISTER  
JUL 22 1952  
**Flying Saucer  
Tracked Over  
Cleveland Field**

CLEVELAND (AP)—A control tower operator said today "golden lights" have been sighted over Cleveland, and on one occasion he sent an airliner to look for something that appeared on a radar screen.

George Beers, senior operator on the midnight shift of the control tower at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, said "one night six of us watched from the darkened tower room while a light hovered north of the field. We don't know what it was but all six of us saw it."

"Another time I personally saw a light making a circular pattern over nearby Elyria. I picked it up on the radar screen and watched it."

"I sent an incoming airliner over to take a look and the thing disappeared from the screen."

On another occasion a tower operator and an incoming pilot both reported seeing a "light" that "climbed and traveled in an easterly direction much faster than the normal operational speed of any aircraft known to be in this vicinity," said Beers.

This incident was "quite some time ago," and was reported to authorities at the time.

"The object had a very bright after-glow. No aerodynamic features were visible. The object had tremendous speed, estimated as being well over 1,000 miles per hour; propulsion system was not visible and no sound was audible to the observer. The movement of the object was described as 'gyrating'. The object was traveling from East, about 40 degrees from the horizon, to Southwest. The object seemed to climb higher every second and was observed for approximately 45 seconds before it disappeared behind a large cumulus cloud. The observer did not see the object again." (xx.)

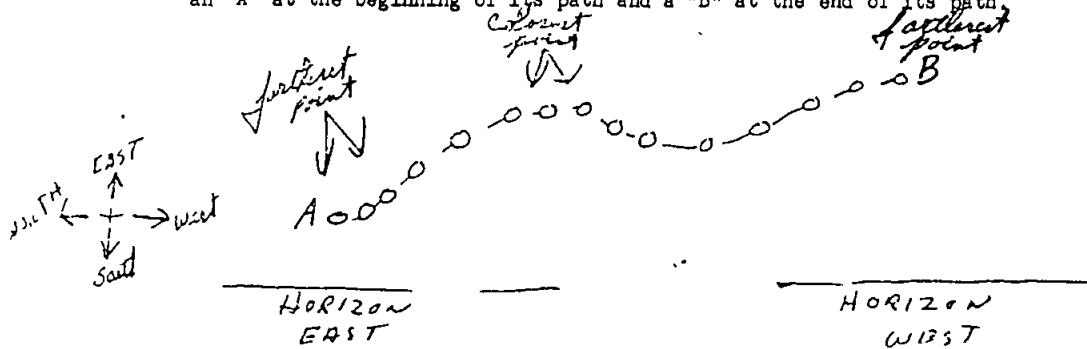
(xx.) Air Intelligence Information Report. IR-18-52. Prepared by Lt. Louis Kistler, Jr. Chief. Intel. Div. Lackland AFB, Texas. 28 July 52. U.S. Air Force BLUE BOOK files.

Mr. Epperly submitted two drawings and made the following comments for the record:

"I have studied aviation for the last 15 years. I was Flight Engineer MOS 747 skilled and Aircraft Engineering Technician MOS 925 in the Air Force. I now hold a commercial Pilot's Rating. I can name any aircraft by sight or sound but I will say that this object was not an aircraft and was not a weather or winds aloft balloon." (See drawings below) (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. Tentative Observers Questionnaire.

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.



22 July. Boston, Massachusetts. (6:00 p.m.)

Air Force professional plane spotter.

A Boston paper discussing the outbreak of "saucer" sightings had this to say:

"Adding weight to the spectacle was a professional plane spotter in the employ of the Air Force who saw a 'silver flying disc,' from his spotting perch at the Wollaston Observatory on Forbes Hill road in that town, about 6 p.m. yesterday.

"Robert Hoxie, 27, of 77 Granite place, Milton, said he saw the disc 'arching around in the east at least two miles in the air and three miles from the station.'

" 'It looked kind of funny,' he said, 'and I thought it was a plane and I reported it. But then, after looking closer I saw that it couldn't be a plane because it was perfectly round and was going around in circles.'

" 'I could see it good because the sun was shining on it. I never saw anything like it in my life. I was really frightened.'

"Hoxie said that his father, Warren Hoxie, of the same address, was also on duty at the time. The younger Hoxie is an Army veteran who was a plane spotter during the previous war.

" 'I know all my planes,' he said, 'and this wasn't one for sure. This was a flying saucer.'

"Hoxie was not on duty later in the evening when other citizens reported seeing them." (xx.)

(xx.) Boston, Massachusetts. *Evening Globe*. 23 July 52.

22 July. Near Millville, Pennsylvania. (night)

"Dark object." (See clipping)



This Clipping From  
NEW CASTLE PA  
NEWS  
JUL 23 1952

### More Reports Of 'Flying Saucers'

MT. HOLLY, N. J., July 23.—  
(INS)—Three reports of flying saucers today were being given serious study by officers at McGuire Air Force Base at Fort Dix.

Ralph Curio, Haddonfield, reported sighting last night a circular dark object floating in the air about 20 miles south of Millville. It displayed no lights and altered its speed several times, Curio said.

A Trenton woman shortly afterwards reported sighting a bright object streaking across the sky toward Philadelphia from New York. Three more Trenton residents later reported still another brightly lighted object moving in the same direction.

22 July. Huntsville, Alabama. (about 6:45 p.m.)

"Dark disc." (See clipping)

THE ORIGINAL  
**ROMEIKE**  
PRESS CLIPPINGS

220 W. 19th St., NEW YORK 11, N.Y.  
Tel. CHelsea 3-8860

Cir. (D 15,169) (S 15,471)

This Clipping From  
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.  
TIMES

JUL 24 1952

'Flying Saucer'  
Seen Above City

Four Local Residents  
On McCullough Avenue  
See Fast-Moving Disk

Another "flying saucer", this one in the daylight, has been observed passing over the city by four McCullough avenue residents.

Herman H. King, 909 McCullough avenue, today gave a vivid description of an object which first appeared over the northwest side of town and proceeded in irregular fashion eastward and out of sight over Monte Sano at about 6:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Also witnessing the travel of the "saucer" were Mrs. King, Miss Mona King and Woodrow Garner, who resides at 907 McCullough avenue.

The object was described as appearing black when first sighted, and also having some resemblance to two cones placed mouth to mouth. Later, as it moved more nearly overhead, the appearance was more than of a dark disk. It did not reflect the sunlight.

It moved first up in a sharp vertical climb, then took an angular turn to head due east, and appeared to pass overhead at a terrific speed. It passed lower than the summer clouds in the sky at the



time.

Mr. King said he at first thought of a weather balloon, but that the speed of the object in passing was too great to have resulted from air currents. The object gave decided indications of being powered, but it left no vapor trail or exhaust.

The "saucer" was most definitely not an airplane, Mr. King states. There were no wings, and the pattern of movement was entirely different.

He described the movement generally as one which was vertical, with occasional leveling off. No noise could be heard from it.

One of the strange points about the observation to Mr. King was that he had said only a few days earlier that all the "saucers" seemed to be seen at night, and that he would like to see one in day-

light. He has too many witnesses to be accused of imagination, however.

In fact, he adds now that he wants to see one at night, and that his neighbors may see him doing a lot of porch sitting henceforth.

Mr. King is a fireman at Redstone Arsenal. Mr. Garner is employed with the post engineers division and Miss King is in the management improvement office.

22 July. River Vale, New Jersey. (9:45 p.m.)

"Flying oranges." (See clipping)

This Clipping From  
HACKENSACK, N. J.  
BERGEN RECORD

JUL 24 1952

22 July. Cartierville, Quebec,  
Canada. (no time)

"Round orange."

A Canadian newspaper printed:

" 'It was round, orange in color' and very high up in the sky. It looked like flying saucer... but I really don't know what it was.' "

"That was the way Jonh Levesque of Toronto described something he saw in the sky over Cartierville yesterday.

" 'It was traveling west very fast, he said. 'Moments later my girl friend and I, she was in the car with me, heard an eerie noise...it was all very peculiar.' "

"Mr. Levesque told a *Gazette* reporter about the heavenly sight. He too, thought it was peculiar." (xx.)

(xx.) Montreal, Quebec, Canada. *The Gazette*. 23 July 52.

22 July. Pawtucket, Rhode Island. (night)

Four orange/pink objects.

According to the Pawtucket *Times*:

"Four 'flying saucers' were reported over Pawtucket last night.

"They were traveling southwest at tremendous speed, according to Alfred Medeiros of 182 High street. He and Mrs. Medeiros and her sister, Miss Yvonne Wasburn of Taunton, all said they saw the mysterious objects.

"All four objects were illuminated, he said. Their light seemed to be an orange or pink. They were traveling at such tremendous speed that they 'were out of sight in almost no time,' Mr. Medeiros declared.

"The saucers were first reported 'very high' in the sky, coming from the direction of Attleboro. They seemed to be weaving about, 'flying in and around each other,' Mr. Medeiros reported." (xx.)

(xx.) Pawtucket, Rhode Island. *Times* 23 July 52.

## River Vale Sees Flying Oranges; Viewer's Told He's Sun-Kissed

River Vale—Flying saucers have been reported over many sections of Bergen County, but the Township today had the distinction of being the first community in the area over which residents reported seeing flying oranges.

Two Wilson Court neighbors reportedly spotted the objects high in the sky Tuesday night. They said the flying objects were perfectly round, giving off an orange glow and moving at a high speed, and

appeared to be as distant as the stars.

The flying orange was first seen at 9:45 P. M. by one of the Wilson Court residents, who raced into the home of his neighbor to report on it. The neighbor, reporting she was from Missouri and only believed what she saw with her own eyes, retorted he must have been in the hot sun too long.

About 45 minutes later the neighbor again rushed in, reporting another flying object, and this time the woman too saw something orange flying through the air.

"It didn't look like a saucer," she said. "It was round like an orange, and going at a terrific speed. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed it. But it was real all right."

Publication of the report is expected to bring on a rash of claims from others in the Pascack Valley that they too have seen the flying objects, as has been the case with flying saucer reports. However, the two Wilson Court residents insist what they saw was real, and not imaginary, and are as anxious as the next one to learn what the objects really are.

22 July. Near? Monroe, Louisiana. (about 10:00 p.m.)

"I never had such an eerie feeling." (See clipping)

22 July. Worcester, Massachusetts. (10:00 p.m.)

"Like planes in attack formation." (See clipping)

This Clipping From  
LAWRENCE, MASS.  
EAGLE  
JUL 23 1952

## Strange Objects In Worcester Sky

WORCESTER July 23 (AP). A wartime flight engineer with the Seventh Air Force in the Pacific said he saw three silvery objects whiz across the Worcester sky shortly before 10 p. m. (EST) last night "like planes in attack formation."

The report, from Eubert T. Wright, was confirmed by his wife and by another man and wife who declined to be identified.

Wright said he "never saw anything like it all through the war."

He told reporters for the Worcester Telegram he was sitting on the porch of his home watching the Democratic National Convention on television and chanced to glance at the sky. Out of the southeast over Grafton, he said, flashed three objects flying in line toward the city.

"They were like planes in attack formation," he said. "While I was calling my wife to see them the No. 2 object circled to starboard toward Boylston."

"The leader came straight over the city. I looked at the TV screen. There wasn't a flicker on it. Planes always make it flicker. Mrs. Roosevelt was speaking at the time."

"The third object," Wright said, "broke formation shortly after No. 2 had swerved off and turned back in the direction of Grafton. The object came over this city was really something to see. There was a bluish glow in front of it and a reddish line behind. The red wasn't that of a plane exhaust. It circled the city very rapidly and disappeared over Holden."

The other couple said they saw the objects from Lake Park, near Lake Quinsigamond, and also saw one turn back toward Grafton.

Wright, declining to estimate the speed or height of the objects, offered this explanation: "When you see a jet plane flying through an ordinary arc within your sight at 5,000 feet or so you get some idea of how fast it is going. Those things were flying through a much greater arc at a far greater height and going much faster."

22 July Boston, Massachusetts. (night)

Spheres sweep downward.

A press report states:

"The clearest observation in Boston came from a Marine Master Sergeant.

"The non-commissioned officer, who asked that his name be withheld, is a former combat-comrade in the Pacific of the [Boston] *Globe's* Hy Hurwitz, and Hurwitz vouches that his pal is a good observer and a strictly sober character.

This Clipping From  
MONROE, LA.  
NEWS-STAR  
JUL 23 1952

## FLYING SAUCER IS REPORTED BY MONROE FLIER

A report of a flying saucer landed in the Morning World office last night when A. D. Hanks, 808 K Street, notified a reporter that he had sighted one of the "things" last Tuesday night.

Hanks said, "I didn't report this sooner because I thought folks would think I was crazy."

Here is his story:

"Last Tuesday about 10 p. m. I was flying to Monroe from Little Rock. When I neared the Arkansas border I saw what appeared to be a blood red star about 2,000 feet overhead. It was traveling at 4,000 feet at a speed of over 100 miles per hour.

"When I first noticed the object, it was traveling in a generally southwestern direction. Then, while I was watching the blot of red light, it changed course and started following me, flying 2,000 feet overhead.

"I thought at first it was an illusion. To test my theory, I made a 90 degree right turn. The 'flying saucer' did the same. The thing followed my course for about 10 minutes, then suddenly swooped down approximately 2,000 feet below my plane.

"At first, I believed it to be a jet. After that swift drop, I changed my line of thinking."

The bright red spot still followed my course underneath me. A few minutes later it seemed to bounce back 2,000 feet overhead. Then, "it" switched back to its original course and took off at a tremendous rate of speed."

Hanks has been a flyer for about 25 years, and he said he had never had such an eerie feeling or seen such an unnatural sight.

“I was in bed unable to sleep for the heat, looking out the window, when I saw these two luminous globes, roughly over the Navy Yard,” said the sergeant.

“I’d say they appeared larger than the planet Venus, say to the naked eye on a bright starry night.

“Well, all of a sudden, one of these globes moved rapidly downward.

Then it came sweeping through the sky in the direction of Newton. A few seconds later, the second globe performed the same maneuver.

“I tell you, I came right up, sitting, craning to follow those moving objects. I knew they were not stars.

“It’s for Uncle Sam to say what they are, when he wants; but I think people who see them, should report them.” (xx.)

(xx.) Boston, Massachusetts. *Evening Globe*. 23 July 52.

22? July. Boston, Massachusetts. (evening)

Visions at the Fresh Pond Drive-in.

The newspaper *Evening Globe* published:

“A *Globe* employee, Nicholas Jacobson of 44 Churchill St., Newton, glimpsed the ‘flying saucers’ from the Fresh Pond Drive-in. He said they appeared to be coming from the direction of Worcester, and he counted ‘four, possibly more—bright as the stars in the Big Dipper.

“What got me about them was that after watching them pass in a straight line, just parallel to my vision, to the line of the picture screen against the sky, two of them slowed down, turned and shot up out of sight.

“It’s a peculiar thing to see. You can hardly believe it when it is happening,” ended Jacobson.” (xx.)

(xx.) Boston, Massachusetts.  
*Evening Globe*. 23 July 52.

22 July. Dunellen, New Jersey.  
(10:10 p.m.)

Orange saucers fly. (See clipping)

This Clipping From  
PLAINFIELD, N. J.  
COURIER-NEWS  
JUL 23 1952

## Two Orange ‘Saucers’ Fly Over Dunellen Area, 7 Say

Dunellen—Two flying saucers were reported over Dunellen last night, at 10:10 p. m. and at 10:30 p. m. The orange colored disks were seen by seven persons from two households.

In Sight Three Minutes

Frank Niederle of 322 Oak Pkwy., one of the group, said saucers were in sight for about three minutes each time. He had time to get out a 30-power telescope, but could not focus it on the objects.

Noiseless Flight  
Mr. Niederle said they traveled without noise. He said he is “pretty convinced” they were real objects, not illusions. The elder Huminski, who did not believe in the disks, also became pretty convinced. The sight was reported to the police and will be followed up by the Air Corps in a routine investigation.

He said the first traveled north to south and the later one east to west. He could not determine the height nor the speed.

Pius Huminski first spotted the disks inside the Big Dipper. He called his grandson, Robert Hu-



22 July. Tampa, Florida. (10:15 p.m.)

Yellow-orange objects "twice as fast as any jet I have ever seen."  
(See clipping)

22 July. Stamford, Connecticut. (about 10:30 p.m.)

The High Ridge boys see bright orange balls of light.

A press report states:

"Two 13-year-old boys from High Ridge Park reported yesterday they saw what they believe to have been flying saucers Tuesday night.

"George Callahan of 3 Meadowpark Ave. North and Andy Ranhoski of 22 Meadowpark Ave. West said they saw two 'balls of light, bright orange' in color, speed across the sky near their homes.

"They were sitting on the porch of Mrs. Alphonse Malizia's home, 9 Meadowpark Ave. North, when the first bright object came into sight about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. It was followed one-half hour later by a similar object.

"Mrs. Malizia said she looked up too late to see either of the objects.

"Andy and George both discounted theories that what they saw were 'shooting stars.'

" 'At first I thought they were rockets (fireworks),' Andy said, 'but when they did not burst I knew they were something else. One zig-zagged through the air and both were very high. But it was no shooting star,' he said.

"Both objects quickly whizzed out of sight, they said."

(xx.)

(xx.) Stamford, Connecticut. *Advocate*. 24 July 52.

22 July. New York City, New York. (10:30 p.m.)

Round, reddish-orange object.

Three astounded housewives see one:

"Mrs. [Florence] Carver spotted her flying saucer—the first seen over the borough [Queens]—while trying to get some cooling breezes on the roof of the apartment house where she lives.

"Mrs. Emily Stone and Mrs. May Curbs, who also live in the same apartment building, were also on the roof trying

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Clr. (D 52,659)

This Clipping From

TAMPA, FLA.  
TIMES

JUL 23 1952

## MacDill Mum On Saucers Spotted Here

MacDill Air Force Base officials today are investigating reports from about 20 residents in the area that a formation of flying saucers was frolicking in the heavens over Tampa last night.

Officials at the field said telephone calls started coming in about 10 o'clock and continued until about three o'clock this morning, describing activities of the mysterious objects.

According to Capt. Paul Mitchell, MacDill public information officer, reports on activities of the saucers varied. "Most of the reports had to do with colors, rather than a physical description of the objects."

One Tampan, L. H. Kohlmeyer, 1521 Rivershore Way, said he observed two of the objects darting about while he was sitting on his front porch.

"It was about 10.15 P. M., when I first saw them, he declared. "There were two yellowish-orange colored discs travelling south over the city.

"They swept in an arc over MacDill Field and then sped away to the east." Kohlmeyer estimated their speed at "twice as fast as any jet plane I have ever seen."

About 10 minutes later, Kohlmeyer said he picked another one with his binoculars. "It too hovered over the field and then darted off to the west, he added.

Kohlmeyer said he called the field and was told by someone at base operations that they had picked up the objects on their radar screen.

Mitchell said today three planes were dispatched to check on the objects, but said he could not disclose their findings.

to beat the heat last night and bear witness to the strange flying disc.

“ ‘We saw it first in the northeast,’ Mrs. Carver said today, ‘and right away we knew it wasn’t a plane or a shooting star.

“The Astoria housewives all agreed that the strange object was a round disc, larger than any star but not as bright as a star.

“ ‘It had a reddish-orange color,’ Mrs. Carver explained. ‘Something like the color of Mars when it first rises in the evening.’

“The three women watched the glowing disc for almost two full minutes until it disappeared over the horizon in the southwest.

“ ‘It sort of glided along without any effort, but it was going quite fast,’ Mrs. Carver said.

“Mrs. Carver, Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Curbs all flatly rejected any suggestion that the strange object in the sky was just an airplane seen from an odd angle.

“ ‘It couldn’t possibly be a plane,’ Mrs. Carver said somewhat indignantly. ‘We certainly know what a plane looks like here in Astoria.

“ ‘But this thing was far too high for any plane, and it was going too fast.

And it was easy to see that it was perfectly round. There weren’t any wings or a tail or motors sticking out of it.” (xx.)

(xx.) Long Island, New York. *Star-Journal*. 23 July 52.

22 July. Sioux City, Iowa. (10:35 p.m.)

“Object of an uncertain character.” (See clipping)

22 July. Tampa, Florida (MacDill AFB) (10:45 p.m.)

“What it was has not been determined.”

In light of the sighting by Mr. Cleve Hamm mentioned in the clipping to the right, we find some interest in a UFO report in the official history of the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Division:

“Major Frederick G. Terrell of the 364<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 305<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, took off on 22 July at 1955 hours in plane # 7273, with Captain Wallace G. Hynds Jr., flying as co-pilot for the operation of a normal proficiency flight. At 2245 hours the MacDill Tower reported unidentified flying objects at high altitude and requested an investigation. Major Terrell climbed to 20,000 feet circling the MacDill area for an hour and a half, when

SIoux CITY, IOWA  
JOURNAL-TRIBUNE

JUL 23 1952

## MORNINGSIDER SAYS HE SAW FLYING SAUCER

It looks as if the "flying saucers"—whatever they are—might be getting ready to play a return engagement in the skies over Sioux City.

Late Tuesday night, a Morningside resident reported seeing one of the intriguing discs make its way across the sky.

This latest reported phenomenon — possibly an advance agent of some sort — is the first reported seen here in many months. And not since March of 1950 have there been several reports of the "saucers" overhead.

Gene Hays, 3607 Peters avenue, said he and a friend saw an object of uncertain character on origin in the sky about 10:35 o'clock Tuesday night. They were in the yard watching "heat lightning" etch patterns on the clouds when the disc made its appearance.

Hays said the circular object came out of the northwest, paused very briefly directly over his house, and then continued to the southeast.

He described the disc as being "somewhat purple in color, dark in the center and glowing around the edges." He said it did not appear to be whirling, but seemed only to glide across the sky "at a pretty good clip."

Hays said he first thought the object was a falling star, but changed his opinion when the object paused—"for less than a second" — and then took up its journey across the sky.

The observer said the object appeared on the scene from a different direction than that of the lightning, so he did not relate the two.

an object was sighted approximately 20,000 feet above his aircraft, flying at high speed. Under existing directives the report of the object was filed with AOD and the object itself was tracked at 41,000 feet flying at approximately 400 knots per hour. What it was has not been determined. Since it is not a normal operation for aircraft of the division to do anything other than to attempt to track high altitude objects, no official cognizance is taken of the popular notion of the flying saucers." (xx.)

(xx.) *History of the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Division 1952.*  
MacDill AFB, Florida. p.2. Photocopy in author's files.

22 July. Boston, Massachusetts. (11:15-11:26 p.m.)

Weather observer sees strange thing in sky.

The press reported:

"At the United States Weather Bureau station on Logan Airport, a really scientific observation was made with instruments by G.M. Bailey, observer on duty last night.

"I was watching my observation balloon," said Bailey, "and at about 23,000 feet, the balloon suddenly went out of sight and instead, in my theodolite, I saw a luminous object over Boston Harbor."

"With my instrument, I was able to keep it in sight while it made three complete revolutions in a great ellipse. The elevation angle I noted at 20 1/2 to 23 degrees and the azimuth reading was 118 to 130 degrees.

"When, in its circling, the object was headed towards me, it appeared of a dazzling bluish-white; but when it slowed for the turns, I could see beautiful tints of red, green and blue in it.

"I observed it continuously from 11:15 p.m. to 11:26 p.m. At that time, it became necessary for me to take my weather observations. I called another man to watch the strange object. He saw it all right, but was not accustomed to the theodolite and lost the object when it moved away through the sky." (xx.)

(xx.) Boston, Massachusetts. *Evening Globe*. 23 July 52.

22/23 July. Tampa, Florida. (10:00 p.m.-3:30 a.m.)

"Stopped as if it hit a wall." (See clipping)

BARTOW, FLA  
DEMOCRAT  
7/21/52

## Saucers (?) Get Closer to Bartow

A rash of reports that strange objects were seen sailing through the sky over Tampa between 10 p. m. Tuesday and 3:30 a. m. Wednesday reached MacDill Air Force Base officials and Tampa newspapers.

One of the observers was a Bartow man—Cleve Hamm, jr., who this month was named assistant state news editor of the Tampa Tribune.

Hamm told The Democrat that he was driving out the Bayshore Drive in Tampa about 11 p. m. Tuesday when he saw a "glowing object" in the sky.

He pulled off the road to watch. The elliptically shaped object had an "eery irridescent glow," Hamm said.

A newspaper reporter by profession, and therefore skeptical, Hamm tried to find some nearby source of the light. But it wasn't a reflection, or anything else Hamm had ever seen before.

He watched for three or four minutes as the glowing object sped horizontally across the sky, then stopped "as if it had hit a wall." It hung motionless for awhile, then zoomed straight up at "terrific speed," Hamm said.

The object was "fairly high" when Hamm first saw it, and when it shot upward went so high he lost track of it.

Was it one of the famous "flying saucers"? Hamm doesn't know, and MacDill officials, if they know, aren't talking.

23 July. Near Marshfield, Wisconsin. (2:30 a.m.)

“Orange-hued metal in a blue haze.” (See clipping)

23 July. Gordonsville, Virginia. (3:00 a.m.)

“Orange with a bluish tinge.”

The story of 14-year-old John Kumler as told by newspaperman David A. Maurer:

“It was the sweltering heat, not the fear of an alien peeking its head through his bedroom window, that was keeping 14-year-old John Kumler awake.

“The hot spell that had lingered over the East Coast for days was more troubling than the news story that had broken the day before.

“On July 22, 1952, national news services reported that the Air Force had acknowledged they were seriously investigating reports that several ‘flying saucers’ had been spotted by radar on the outskirts of the nation’s capital. Not only were the unidentified flying objects seen on radar—indicating actual substance and not mere lights—but two airline pilots said they had sighted seven UFOs between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va.

“Capt. S.C. (Casey) Pierman of Detroit, piloting Capital Airlines Flight 807, said the objects changed pace, sometimes moved at tremendous speed, and at other times hung almost motionless in the sky. During the same period another airline pilot reported that a light had followed the plane from Herndon to within four miles of Washington.

“As unsettling as the reported sightings might have been, they had occurred a considerable distance from the Gordonsville farmhouse [about 90 miles] where the teenager lived with his parents. The temperature, nudging 80 degrees at 3 a.m., was a lot more troubling than any UFO.

“Unable to sleep, the boy decided to go downstairs for a glass of ice water. After getting his drink, he went into the living room to see if he could catch a cool breeze by an open window.

“He looked out at the clear night sky as he sipped the water. When he saw three objects ‘about the color of a candle flame’ streaking across the sky in a westerly direction, he didn’t think much about it. But moments later he was startled when four ‘flame-like shapes’ flying in diamond formation came streaking in from the west.

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This Clipping From  
MARSHFIELD, WIS.  
NEWS-HERALD

JUL 24 1952

**King-Size Flying  
Saucer Reported by  
Unidentified Man**

A king-size flying saucer was reported in the Marshfield area to the local naval station early yesterday morning by a Roddis Plywood Corporation employe who neglected to give his name.

He said he was on his way home from a night shift at the plant about 2:30 a. m. yesterday when he saw the strange aerial visitor about a half mile north of Marshfield.

The saucer was described as probably 300 feet in diameter and disked in shape. He told station personnel that there appeared to be a blue haze about the object, which seemed to be of an orange-hued metal.

He said that at one point it slanted down to what he estimated was 15,000 feet above the earth and then shot upward again. No other persons have reported seeing the object and the spotter is still anonymous, at least as far as the naval station is concerned.

“The boy, whose father had 20 years flying experience with the Army, had been around airplanes all his life. He was familiar with aircraft of all types, including jets, and he knew that no jet in the world could do what he saw the UFOs do next.

“Without slowing, the objects ‘veered sharply upward and disappeared.’ They or others, then reappeared several miles to the west and made a new flight eastward before vanishing. The boy said they made no sound.

“He noted the time—3:12 a.m.—and immediately drew diagrams to illustrate exactly what he had seen. He said the objects looked like ‘candle flames turned on their sides, and they were orange with bluish tinges, or about the same color as a gas flame.’

“He went on to say that they traveled much faster than a jet plane. The boy was convinced that what he saw warranted reporting. After telling his parents about the incident, he told James Ingles, chief of the Gordonsville aeronautics radio tower, what he had seen. Ingles, in turn, reported the incident to the Air Forces Information Center at Middletown, Pa.

“That afternoon Army officials arrived at the farmhouse to get a full report. It was apparent that the government and military officials were taking the sightings seriously.” (xx.)

(xx.) Maurer, David A. “Yesteryears.” Charlottesville, Virginia. *Daily Progress* 12 July 92.

23 July. Warren, Ohio. (early morning)

Orange-colored lights cause jet scramble.

Eastern Defense Command alert makes news:

“U.S. jet fighter-interceptors from an unidentified area Air Force Base were sent into this vicinity early this morning to investigate the presence of flying saucers reported by spotters of the Warren Post of the Ground Observer Corps.

“Alerted by the Eastern Defense Command about 3 a.m. to be on the lookout for strange orange-color lighted objects sighted in this area, the spotters reported to the Canton Filter Center about 10 minutes later the presence of ‘orange-colored lights’ over Warren and vicinity which ‘looked close, moved slowly, hovered overhead, and then moved on again.’

“The three spotters on duty, Gene Regler, Ronald Westfall, and George Adams, were instructed to make reports to the filter center every five minutes while the objects were in sight. The objects remained in the area for about 15 minutes, the spotters reported.

“Officials at the Brookfield Radar Station contacted today said there was nothing on the report of flying saucers that they were able to make public at this time.” (xx.)

(xx.) Warren, Ohio. *Tribune-Chronicle*. 23 July 52.

23 July. Abilene, Texas. (9:25 a.m.)

50 foot disc?

An Abilene family reports saucer. (See clipping)

*This Clipping From*  
**ABILENE, TEXAS**  
**EVENING REPORTER NEWS**

JUL 23 1952

## Abilene Family Sights Mysterious Flying Object

The R. J. Cooper family, 1217 Palm St., reported seeing a "flying saucer" over Abilene about 9:25 o'clock Wednesday morning.

"It was definitely not an airplane," Cooper said. "It was a round, silver object. It was headed west, traveling not too fast."

Mrs. Cooper and 6-year-old Cathy were in the yard and noticed the object first. They called Cooper to come from the house and see it.

"I thought they were just seeing things," he said. "I never had seen one of these flying saucers people have reported."

Cooper said he could not estimate the speed or altitude, but the object was low enough for him to tell that it was round. He judged it to be about 50 feet in diameter, "although I couldn't be sure at that distance."

The object stopped, "went up and down twice," then headed off to the west and disappeared from view.

It was in sight from one to two minutes, Cooper estimated.

Cooper is manager of the appliance department at Star Merchandise Mart.

1952. No day, no month. Culver City, California. (3:30 p.m.)

UFO watches Hollywood filmmaking?

The following story is from Coral Lorenzen's APRO files. Since only the year is given, its placement as to day and month is subject to guesswork. There was UFO sightings in the Los Angeles area in late July, so the case is being mentioned in that time period. (See the author's UFO history volume covering July 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 1952, p.70. For another possibility, see the volume covering the months of September-October 1952, p.91). As with any story without collaboration, the incident may well be total balderdash. However, since so many details are provided, there may be a chance the account may someday be confirmed. Here the contents of a letter sent to Coral. Coral's comment written on the margin: "Interesting." The letter said:

"In 1952, I was a secretary in the Music Department at M.G.M, Culver City. Our offices were located on Lot One, which has the huge indoor stages; the adjoining area, known as Lot Two is for outdoor shooting and contains city streets,

cottages, colonial mansions, lake, bridges and such fixtures

"It was an unusual work day, one in which I may have been the only secretary in the office—such as Friday following Thanksgiving would be. There was a picture being made on Lot Two and so some personnel had to be on duty.

"Around 3:30 p.m., a Music Assistant rushed in. 'Are you finished already?' I said, because I had expected them to work all day! 'We "broke [stopped filming]."' 'We had a flying saucer come down right over us!' The way he described it, the company was ready to shoot a scene when someone pointed out the saucer overhead. As they watched it, the saucer came down to about 200 feet as though it were watching them. Since the camera was loaded with film, the cameramen turned it skyward and filmed the saucer until it left. The Music Assistant said it was still visible.

"Three of us stood in the street and watched the saucer, pointed out to us by the Music Assistant. It reminded me of a distant sighting I had had of a Japanese balloon in 1945. Just a shining pinhead in the sky, with washes of blue, distance shimmering between us as it shrunk to pinpoint size and was gone.

"Two other Music Assistants returned from Lot Two and reported that the Air Force had been contacted and the film taken to be developed. All of the company were to meet with the Air Force at 2 p.m. Monday, and I think an auditorium on Lot One was mentioned as the meeting place.

"I was always curious to know if the film turned out. There was some idea at that time that a saucer magnetized motors and blanked out photo film.

"After Monday. I was brushed aside by the Music Assistants whenever I asked any questions. Finally about Friday, the first Music Assistant said, 'Jean, will you stop bugging me? I not only do not know how the film turned out, if I did I couldn't tell you! The Air Force has asked us not to discuss this incident with anyone. So just forget it, will you?'" (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Coral Lorenzen C/o Signet Books. 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 1009. From: Jean Vierre, 9712 Culver Blvd., Culver City, California. 9 December 1966. APRO files.

One can have fun with this alleged incident. Just suppose the "saucer" was an alien craft. What would the crew think of the odd "ghost town" of MGM's backlot?

23 July. Los Angeles, California. (7:00 p.m.)

"They sort of flipped before shooting off."

\*Due to the uncertain date of the MGM case, this report may, or may not, have a connection with Jean Vierre's story:

"Now its flying saucers over Los Angeles' International Airport.

"Three control tower operators reported they saw 'three unidentified objects' in the sky for a full five minutes, although the radar equipment failed to detect them last night.

"According to the tower's official log, the men saw the object about 7 p.m.

"Two of the operators looked at them through binoculars and described them

as round

"After remaining stationary for five minutes, the objects 'flew away' leaving vapor trails, the log entry stated.

"Edwin C. Johnson, owner of an airplane part manufacturing concern, said he and several others have seen 'two flying saucers' over Hawthorne for four consecutive nights.

"At least 25 eye witness have seen the objects, Johnson said.

"One of his employes, Jack Swinburn, said the objects resembled pulsating stars and were high in the clear evening sky.

"'But they weren't stars,' he said. 'They stood still for a while and then streaked off. They were controlled by something.'

"Swinburn described them as having platter-like shapes with one side glowing and the other dark. 'They sort of flipped over on their dark sides before they shot off,' he explained." (xx.)

(xx.) North Hollywood, California. *Valley Times*. 24 July 52.

23 July. Moundsville, West Virginia. (dusk)

"Four startling creations, brilliant yellow with a diffused orange rim."

Community excited by strange astral lights:

"Weird astral spectacles which have mystified the U.S. Air Force and scientists generally became visible over the Moundsville community last night.

"Four startling creations, brilliant yellow with a diffused orange rim, moved at a fairly swift pace from east to west through the sky last night, and were viewed by Big Grave creek folks.

"The lights, moving at the same time that some airplanes were coursing by, but in opposite directions, first were sighted by Arthur Games and family. The George Marple family, residing nearby, also viewed the strange sight.

"Mr. Games, a Moundsville taxi driver, said that it was not yet completely dark, but clouds were gathering and the lights were thrown into clear focus. The spectacle appeared just before an electrical storm, accompanied by a brisk shower

"The discs, differing from the formation of 'flying saucers' as described from time to time by observers moved align, but were not uniformly spaced. The first flashed by then a minute or two later two more appeared, only a few seconds apart. The fourth came a minute or two later.

"The flight of the orbs seemed to be in the general direction of New Martinsville, Games said.

"Similar phenomena have been viewed in the east and midwest within the past couple of weeks, including the area over the national capital, Washington D. C., where government plane pilots observed lights." (xx.)

(xx.) Moundsville, West Virginia. *Echo*. 24 July 52.



23 July. York, Pennsylvania. (about 10:00 p.m.)

Two orange objects.

A brief press account states:

“Two York men have reported they sighted what they believe may have been flying saucers—the term applied to a variety of real or imaginary celestial visions—Wednesday night about 10 o’clock. Oscar Moberg and Stuart W. Senft said they were in Senft’s yard at 2900 East Market street, York, when they saw ‘two of them, one above and to the side of the other.’ Moberg said the objects were orange and appeared to be about fifteen feet in diameter. In answer to a question, he said they were at least twice as large as a full moon.” (xx.)

(xx.) Hanover, Pennsylvania. *Sun.* 26 July 52.

24 July. Near Redlands, California. (2:30 a.m.)

“Zig-Zag flight.”

The assistant director of civil defense for the Redland area, Sidney J. Conner, sees “saucer.”  
The press printed:

“Those ‘flying saucers’ have visited Redlands too, according to a report today.

“An assistant director of civil defense, Sidney J. Conner, reported that he saw two luminous circular objects last Thursday morning about 2:30 a.m.

“‘I didn’t tell anyone until now because I thought nobody would believe it,’ Conner explained.

“‘But after reading newspaper reports, I’m convinced they were real and not my imagination,’ he said.

“Describing the happening, Conner said he was working the midnight to 3 a.m. air observer shift at the observation post on a peak near Edgemont Drive in the Sunset Drive area.

“Shortly after 2:30 a.m., he tracked the lights of an eastbound airliner with his binoculars. As he lowered the glasses, they picked up a luminescent, round object, amber in color, traveling west.

“The saucer—which might have been a sphere—traveled slowly west, but in a zig-zag or saw-tooth up-and-down flight, he said.

“A few seconds later, another object of the same description moved across the same path.

“Not until Monday, when similar reports came from other cities, did Conner notify authorities.” (xx.)

(xx.) Riverside, California. *Press.* 30 July 52.

24 July. Lewiston, Idaho. (5:00 a.m.)

“It was traveling on its edge.”

The local newspaper published:

“A ‘flying saucer’ was seen in the air 5 miles east of Lewiston yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilson, 1216 5<sup>th</sup> St., Clarkston, as the couple was traveling to Lapwai by car.

“Mr. and Mrs. Wilson said they saw ‘a silver object seemingly’ about 3 inches in diameter from our distance traveling at a very fast rate of speed into the sun.’

“‘It was traveling on its edge in an upright position and was twirling as it went east. It was going into the sun and would be very bright when its flat side was toward us, then it would be narrow and dark as it twirled,’ Mrs. Wilson reported.

“The object was seen at 5 a.m. for only a few seconds, she said. Both she and her husband lost sight of the object when the car turned on a curve of the road.

“She estimated the distance from the object to their car at about one mile. It was traveling up and to the right of their car as they traveled east on Highway 95.”  
(xx.)

(xx.) Lewiston, Idaho. *Tribune*. 25 July 52.

Summer 1952. Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. (afternoon)

“Things were getting pretty hairy.”

Hollywood actor Ed Asner, known to most people as Mary Tyler Moore’s boss on a popular TV series, made some interesting claims concerning UFOs. Successful at his chosen profession and active in political causes, Asner had no need to fabricate stories, especially ones that could hurt his credibility. It is interesting to note that Asner’s assertions concerning military pressure on UFO witnesses is similar to Jean Vierre’s in the Culver City case. Here is Asner’s story:

“The incident took place in the summer of 1952, while the actor was on duty at Ft. Monmouth, NJ., Asner insists that many of his army buddies in the Signal Corps were seeing UFOs on a regular basis—almost every day. In addition to the visual observations, the unknowns were also being picked up on radar.

“‘I remember one particular sunny afternoon, just after 12 o’clock, the base was in an uproar. One of the enlisted men had come running in and started telling everyone that there was a formation of flying saucers overhead. At first they thought he was crazy, but finally a number of the company engineers went outside and, sure enough, there they were! The men were kept busy for several days tracking these strange discs through binoculars and calculating their speeds—which I was told was astronomical—with sophisticated scientific instrumentation.’

“At the height of the UFO flap, Asner says, an emergency call was placed by a high-ranking officer at Ft. Monmouth to a nearby Air Force base. ‘A request was made that pursuit planes be sent to chase the objects. I don’t believe they were ever able to get very close. The UFOs apparently outdistanced them with ease.’ It was at this point that the enlisted personnel at the base were told to keep quiet.

“‘Things were getting pretty hairy,’ Asner recalled. ‘Just about everyone had

seen them, when one day all the men, during class, were formally told, 'If you went home yesterday and told your wife that you saw a UFO, you will go home today and tell her that you didn't!' The implication of such a statement was made perfectly clear. I guess they didn't want us to know too much. After all, we were just a bunch of Army slobs—privates—and probably weren't suppose to be kept abreast of such matters. It wasn't our business!" (xx.)

(xx.) Beckley, Timothy Green. "Close Encounters of the Famous." *UFOs Among the Stars*.

24 July. Weiser, Idaho. (night)

"I've never seen anything like it in my life."

Airport owner sees flying disc:

"I've been in the aviation game for 15 years and I've never seen anything like that in my life."

"John Pennington, owner of the Weiser Flying Service, said that this week as he described the strange object which he saw hurtling through the skies over the airport last Thursday night.

"Whether it was a 'flying saucer' or just what it was. Pennington says he doesn't know, but he said one thing for sure—'it wasn't an optical illusion.'

"Pennington said he was just preparing to put some spraying dust in the hopper on his plane, prior to flying over the Oregon side to dust some onions, when he looked up and saw the strange object in the sky.

"Pennington said his wife also saw the strange object, which he described as neither round or crescent-shaped, but more oblong than anything else.

"The airport man said the object had a bright metal color and was at about 15,000 feet. It was traveling in a southwesterly direction, he said at a high rate of speed.

"The object was flying a zig-zag course and was visible for about three minutes, he said. Pennington said as the object went out of sight it took on a transparent color and then all of a sudden it disappeared as if someone had turned off an electric light switch." (xx.)

(xx.) Weiser, Idaho. *Signal*. 31 July 52.

24 July. Over the Atlantic Ocean near Key West, Florida. (about 10:30 p.m.)

"Six strange fiery balls."

Testimony of Key Western Alexander B. Romero. (about 10:30 p.m.)

"Romero said that about 10:30 last night when he was driving home from the airport, he sighted about six strange fiery 'balls' circling the sky out over the ocean. They had the same color as the tip of a lit cigarette, he added. Travelling

in a circular orbit, the objects cavorted about the heavens for four or five minutes, Romero said. "I knew it wasn't lightning and I know a jet airplane when I see one, Romero averred." (xx.)

(xx.) Key West, Florida. *Citizen*. 25 July 52.

July 25. Coffeyville, Kansas. (about 6:20 a.m.)

Flat on the bottom, curved on top.

A newspaper employee reported:

"Homer H. Blass reported he saw a flying saucer Friday while enroute from Independence to his job as a Linotype operator for the *Coffeyville Journal*.

"He said the thing was flat on bottom, curved on top, and about the size of a stock watering tank, some 12 feet in diameter. Blass said he sighted the object while driving on the 10<sup>th</sup> Strett road four miles south of Independence at about 6:20 a.m.

"The object appeared to be moving slowly in a south-southeasterly direction, Blass reported. All at once, he said, it stopped completely and then went west at a high rate of speed." (xx.)

(xx.) Parsons, Kansas. *Sun*. 26 July 52.

25 July. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (about 8:00 a.m.)

V-formation.

A report from the files of Canada's Department of Transport: "At about 8:00 a.m. E.D.T., seven bright objects were seen in V-formation in the west and traveling south. They appeared bright, bluish and self luminous, round and about one half size of the moon. Again at about 11:45 a.m., E.D.T., two more similar objects were seen north and travelling east." (xx.)

(xx.) Bray, Arther. *The UFO Connection*. Jupiter Publishing: Ottawa, Canada, 1979. p.188.

26 July. Chippewa township, Pennsylvania. (after 9:00 a.m.)

"Certainly looked like a flying saucer."

A press account said:

"What spotter Albert Howard described as 'a disc that certainly looked like it might have been one of those flying saucers' was spied over the Chippewa township 'Skywatch' post shortly after 9 o'clock this morning. Roy Jewell head of the observation unit reported.

"The aluminum-appearing object was high in the cloudless sky and when

“The OSU astronomer acknowledged that there are other planets in outer space similar to earth. But one can only turn to the planet-launched saucer theory if ‘other type of reasoning fails.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Columbus, Ohio. *Citizen*. 25 July 52.

The article also mentioned this: “As for another story about a mysterious object which supposedly crashed in New Mexico, Dr. Hynek called it a hoax. The former Air Force investigator said it was merely an excellently-fabricated yarn [He must be referring to the Frank Scully story].” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

More speculation. The secret weapon theory.

Scripps-Howard Science Editor David Dietz took issue with the secret weapon theory making the rounds. He felt there were two reasons to reject the idea. One was the array of plausible official denials and the other was the present state of technology:

“Exponents of the secret weapon theory like to call attention to the wartime development of the atomic bomb and radar. The situation is not in the least comparable.

“The possibility of both these developments was well known prior to Pearl Harbor and had been commented upon many times by the nation’s science writers including myself.” (xx.)

(xx.) Albuquerque, New Mexico. *Tribune*. 25 August 52.

Are UFOs Navy craft?

Dietz’s reasoning was sound, which makes one wonder why there was gossip about the Navy. The science editor wrote:

“The gossip around Washington is that until Samford made his sweeping statement [in late July], many Air Force officers suspected that the flying saucers were a Navy development.

“It would be a neat trick to let the Navy work on flying saucers while the Air Force quite honestly protested its ignorance of them.” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

27 July. Eastham, Massachusetts. (about 3:00 p.m.)

News report:

“Several ‘silver discs’ the size of plates were reported flying high over the Camp Wellfleet firing range about 3:00 p.m. yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. William Warren of West Harwich and Mrs. Frederick L. Loucks of Dennisport Beach.

“The disc-like objects came toward the land from the water and were observed for a minute or more, Mrs. Warren said, when they vanished into the heat haze

“Mr. Loucks was the only member of the foursome who saw nothing, they said.”

(xx.)

(xx.) Eastham, Massachusetts. (Clipping only on file. No newspaper or news service source data available) 26 July 52.

25 July. Spray Beach, Long Island, New York. (7:30 p.m.)

Firey thing 100 feet long..

In a letter to the editor businessman Edward Wolfman wrote:

“I was standing outside the back of my house at Spray Beach when my son, Roger, called my attention to it. He thought it was an airplane engaged in sky writing.

“Above the mainland, about one mile up, there was a yellow, fiery light standing still. The light seemed almost 100 feet long. It stayed in one position for about five minutes. Then it changed its position for another five minutes. (I timed it.) First it was in a vertical position, then on a horizontal plane. Then it took off with a speed that no jet—or any thing else we have—could have caught up with it.” (xx.)

(xx.) Beach Haven, New Jersey. Letter to the Editor. *Beach Haven Times*. 5 August 52.

25 July. Inglewood, California. (7:50 p.m., 7:45 p.m.)

Large disc and four smaller ones?

According to the *Inglewood News*:

“Mysterious silvery objects high up in the sky were observed by two Inglewood firemen and a physician last night shortly before sunset.

“Dick Pfeiffer said that ‘flying saucer’ type discs were seen by him and Cliff Freeman and Dr. Howard Goldin and two ambulance drivers while they were standing in the infield of Carrell Speedway in Gardena.

“The strange ‘thing’ appeared stationary high in the sky northeast of the racing oval located at 174<sup>th</sup> Street and Vermont Avenue, the fireman said.

“‘After a while the ‘saucer’ banked, and at the same time we could see four smaller discs slip off [?] and all five flew in formation, one behind the other for a short while until all of them moved higher in the sky and disappeared,’ Pfeiffer said.

“He explained that the ‘saucers’ were suspended at very high altitudes and that two planes flew underneath them much closer to the ground.

“‘At first I thought the object was a star,’ Pfeiffer recounted. Then I took another look and knew it wasn’t.’

“He stated that he and his companions, who were all working as an emergency

crew during the races, observed the saucers for approximately four to five minutes, and were concentrating so hard on the mystery objects that they failed to notice a motorcycle spill.

"He said he first noticed the apparition at 7:50 p.m.

"Mrs. Elizabeth Trombetta, of 537-C East 99<sup>th</sup> Street and Mrs. Anna Johanson, 302 East Ellis Street, saw the 'saucers' from the Hawthorne City Park for between five and 10 minutes, it was reported by the former's daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Latterman. The pair stated that one saucer went north and the other south after a while and the three others just disappeared. The two women also said they saw several planes flying underneath the mystery objects they at first took for stars.

"The local flying saucer fever broke out Thursday when Edwin C. Johnson, Hawthorne manufacturer said he had observed the discs on four successive nights over Northrop Aircraft. He said his observation had disclosed that the saucers stood still for a while before they were whisked away as if being controlled." (xx.)

(xx.) Inglewood, California. *News*. 26 July 52.

25 July. Gadsden, Alabama. (about 8:00 p.m.)

UFO, round in the middle with a flat ring around it, hovers over steel plant.

Press report:

"Gadsden had another visit last night by a flying saucer.

"At least, that's what two teenage youths claimed today.

"Horace Brannon, 14, of 806 Wanonah Street, said he saw a disk at about 8:00 p.m., over Republic Steel plant.

"He and A.L. Gowens, Jr., 1409 Gardner Street, saw the mysterious object while riding motorcycles.

" 'It was stopped over when we first saw it. It stayed that way and then went toward Attalla. It was going real fast,' the Brannon youth said.

" Brannon said the object looked 'pretty large.' 'It was sort of round in the middle and had a flat ring around it.'

"He said he and Gowens thought it was a kite at first.

"Brannon said the disk disappeared rapidly, upward and toward Attalla.

"This was the second unidentified object to be reported hovering over the big steel plant within two months." (xx.)

(xx.) Gadsden, Alabama. *Times* 26 July 52.

25 July. Lavalette, New Jersey. (8:15 - 8:30 p.m.)

"Long thin cloud?" People in cars were gazing at the sky.

Another press report:

"Three Trenton residents were among many persons who saw a 'flying saucer' Friday night over Lavalette.

"Mrs. Elvin K. Sharp of 319 Tioga Street said she saw the 'saucer' high in the skies above Lavalette between 8:15 and 8:30 p.m.

" 'I was looking toward the bay,' Mrs. Sharp reported, 'and thought at last it was a long, thin cloud. But it was moving fast. It traveled north, turned and came south, then went directly east. I came to notice it because so many people in cars ahead of me were gazing at the sky.

"The same 'saucer' was seen by Miss Betsy Kuhn and Fred Febiselcone, both of of 715 Monmouth Street." (xx.)

(xx.) Trenton, New Jersey. *Times*. 28 July 52.

25 July. Ironwood, Michigan. (8:45 p.m.)

Invasion by the strange.

The local newspaper printed:

"Ironwood apparently is not immune from invasion by strange objects flying about in the nighttime.

"Two residents reportedly saw an unidentifiable object in the sky near the fair-grounds last Friday at 8:45 p.m., J.M. Beach, Jr., 614 Lake St. and Merrit Bissel, 742 East Ayer St., said they saw the object for several minutes before it eventually drifted off.

" 'It seemed to be a dark object, about 200 feet long and 500 feet above the ground,' said Beach, 'although it is very difficult to judge size and distance in such an observation.

" 'As we drove along we noticed this object seemingly hanging in the air. We got out of the car for a better view. There were no lights and there was no sound. It didn't seem to move for some time. Then as we watched, it appeared to move off at an angle, stopped again and then moved off in the direction of the Resettlement and disappeared in a matter of half a minute or less.

" 'In all my experience in the air service I have never seen anything like it, for it had no similarity to any of the balloons I have seen for they don't move that fast.

"Bissel said the object appeared oval in shape and black. It wasn't a cloud, he remarked, because there were no clouds in the clear sky. 'It looked black, and kept its form,' he reported, 'and finally drifted away after several minutes.' He added that he didn't believe it resembled anything to fit the description of the 'flying saucers' reportedly seen across the country." (xx.)

(xx.) Ironwood, Michigan. *Globe*. 30 July 52.

25 July. Paterson, New Jersey. (9:30 p.m.)

Orange-gold discs.



The local press reported:

“Arthur Recca, of 49 East 17<sup>th</sup> St., a storeroom clerk for the Paterson Housing Authority, said today that last Friday at 9:30 p m., while visiting his parents at 149 North 5<sup>th</sup> St., he spotted a pair of orange-gold colored discs in the sky. Mr. Recca said the discs were stationary, for awhile, then parted and shot off in opposite directions at a fast speed, and returned together again before disappearing.

“He said he thought the discs were smaller than commercial airplanes and were round rather than platter-shaped.” (xx.)

(xx.) Paterson, New Jersey. *News*. 29 July 52.

25 July. Wilks-Barre, Pennsylvania. (about 11:00 p.m.)

“Strange Apparitions.” Huge grey mass. Four orange lights.

According to a press account:

“A huge grey disk that appeared to have four orange lights situated opposite each other on its outer rim was observed by a Wilkes-Barre woman, Mrs. Ann Flecknoe, of 30 North Main street. This and a large cigar-shaped white object, observed by Attorney William H. Valentine, of Lehman, are the latest of several celestial objects resembling flying saucers reported by Wyoming Valley residents, in the past several days.

“Mrs. Flecknoe, who has made a hobby of observing the skies, reported that while watching a display of meteors in the southern skies last Friday night around 11, her attention was attracted to a large round, grey mass situated high up in the sky in the direction of South Wilkes-Barre. She thought at first it was a cloud. Suddenly she saw a red light on the right side of the grey mass which, by this time, had assumed a saucer-like shape.

“As Mrs. Flecknoe continued to watch spellbound, the ‘saucer’ seemed to turn over until it hung vertically in the air and then she saw clearly, four orange lights, about the size of a ‘honey dew melon’ on the outer edge of the phenomenon. Then slowly, after a minute or two, the huge disk, which she estimated to be at least six times the size of the moon, seemed to turn over and fade before her eyes. At this point she called Mrs. Viola Redstone, a roomer in her house who also observed the fading disk. Mrs. Flecknoe said the object then disappeared in what may have been smoke or a cloud.” (xx.)

(xx.) Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. *Times-Leader News*. 31 July 52.

25 July. East Bronx, New York. (late night)

“Reddish-orange formation.”

The sighting as published in the *New York Post*:

"It might appear to be just another 'flying saucer' tale. Yet it involves not one 'saucer'—but 17 of the mysterious objects. The 'saucers'—which appeared reddish orange in color were sighted in the sky above 1041 Tiffany St. in the East Bronx, late Friday night by two women and two girls.

"'It was a hot dull night and we began counting stars for excitement,' said Rita Acuna, 16, of 1035 Tiffany St.

"'But it proved far more exacting than we might have imagined,' she said, 'for we wound up counting "saucers" instead.'

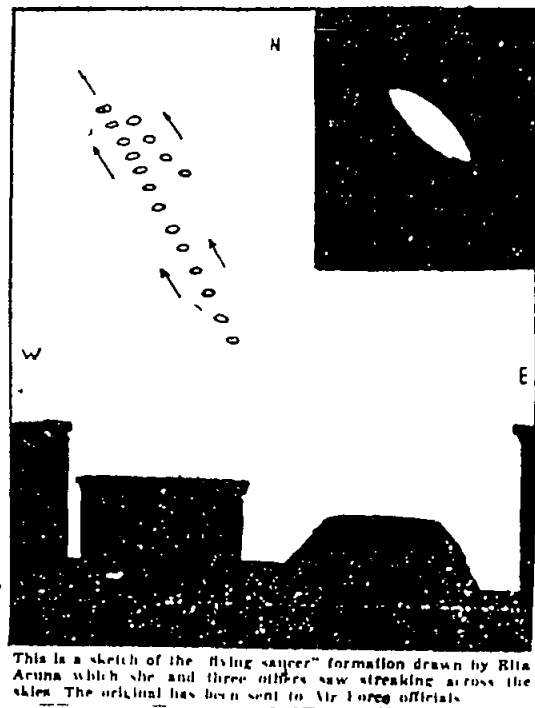
"'They sped through the sky in a huge reddish orange formation which looked like an upside down "J," the girl said.

"'Although they were visible for only about 10 seconds, we managed to count 17 in all.'

"Rita's observations were confirmed by her mother, Mrs. Marie Acuna; a neighbor, Mrs. Sylvia Finkelstein, of 1041 Tiffany St., and the girl's little sister, Yvonne, 9, all of whom had been engaged in 'star counting' when the saucers were sighted.

"'I've seen eclipses and things like that,' said Mrs. Finkelstein, 'but this was different—and more thrilling than anything I've ever seen.'" (See drawing by Rita below as it appeared in the *Post*) (xx.)

(xx.) New York, New York. *Post*. 29 July 52.



25 July. Memphis, Tennessee. (shortly before midnight)

Sharp turn.

A Memphis paper states:

"Thomas J. Chandler, 42, of 57 N. Believe, reports he saw a luminous object in the sky shortly before midnight last Friday.

"Chandler said he was looking out the back window of his home, when he saw a flattish, round object traveling thru the sky from the southwest.

" 'Just before it got over us,' Chandler said, 'it turned sharply, just as the cutting a corner [90 degree?], and headed directly northeast. I ran to the front of the house, but it was gone from sight.'

"Chandler said just as the object turned, he saw what appeared to be 'reddish amber fire coming from the back end. The object made a dim humming sound.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Memphi, Tennessee. *Press-Scimitar*. 30 July 52.

25 July. Lancaster, California. (shortly before midnight)

"Saucers? over desert."

The press states:

"The sheriff's office here says more than half a dozen persons reported sighting two round reddish-white lights moving in the sky shortly before midnight Friday night.

"Sgt. I.L. McCaleb said deputies T.M. Morrissey and W.D. Malette spotted them first.

" 'They appeared above the horizon to the west,' McCaleb said the deputies told him. 'At first they settled toward the earth, then hovered. Finally, while one stayed motionless, the other took off in a southerly direction, passing behind a hill.

" 'It reappeared on the other side and finally disappeared. The other then began swinging like a pendulum. It finally dropped below the horizon.'

"McCaleb said jet planes were sent up from George Air Force Base at nearby Victorville to investigate, but found nothing." (xx.)

(xx.) Trinidad, Colorado. *Morning Light*. 30 July 52.

25 July. Ft. Wayne, Indiana. (about midnight)

"A bright orange like fire."

According to the *News-Sentinel*:

"Persons in two different areas of the city reported having seen a 'ball of fire' emitting 'sparks behind it like a kid's sparkler' close to midnight Friday.

"The accounts came separately but tallied as closely as one concerted report.

"Mrs. Leota Stauffer, 418 East Lewis St., said she saw the object at about 20 minutes before midnight coming from the west and going southeast horizontally

across the sky 'about half again as high as St. Mary's steeple.'

"She was sitting on her porch looking in the north sky when the 'ball of fire' appeared. 'It was about the size of a saucer and bright orange like fire,' she said, and it looked like it had sparks like from a kid's Fourth of July sparkler coming from the back of it.'

"Mrs. Stauffer lost sight of the object behind a tree when she stepped out to the sidewalk for a better look.

"Meanwhile another report came from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rackeweg, 2311 Gay St., and their neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Tegtmeyer, 2309 Gay St., who said they saw 'a round, whirling, bright object which came to a point in back and emitted sparks behind it like a sparkler' at about 5 minutes to midnight Friday.

"They gave its direction as coming from the northwest heading southeast, traversing the sky horizontally about two-thirds of the way up above the horizon below the stars.

"They judged it was visible to them for five seconds before it suddenly disappeared.

"The foursome were standing in the yard facing north when they spotted the object. They said it was reddish in color and 'seemed to look like a ball of fire.'

"All five observers described the sparks as trailing very close to the disc and said it was not going as fast as a shooting or falling star and that it was too large to be a star." (xx.)

(xx.) Ft. Wayne, Indiana. *News-Sentinel*. 28 July 52.

26 July. Over Lake Erie. (3:00 a.m.)

A letter to Canadian authorities:

"... over Lake Erie last Sat. [the 26<sup>th</sup>?] 3 a.m. when my alarm clock wakened me to take a capsule, I looked into the star studded sky over the lake to the south and I saw this orange-colored ball. As I watched a piece of fiery stuff seemed to drip or was spun off it. It was seemingly hanging stationary there for the five minutes I watched it.

"I awaken my husband and he agreed it wasn't a star—more like a comet—as [it was] much too large for a star.

"I've compared it's colour and size to the stars and believe it to be different. I cannot say when it disappeared but now I am sorry I did not watch it longer.

"I did check the heavens the two following mornings at that time as I had to take capsules then but saw nothing either time like that.

"We are located close to Cedar Springs Rifle Range on Lake Front in Raleigh ...[The rest of address not readable but apparently the woman lived on the north shore of Lake Erie near the Canadian town of Cedar Springs.]. (xx.)

(xx.) Canadian flies. Envelope stamped, "July 30, 1952." Also stamped "Received on July 31, 1952."

26 July. Washington D.C. The radar targets.

Dr. James McDonald contacted Robert B. Union who was a first hand witness to the Washington D.C. excitement. Mr. Union worked side-by-side with Harry Barnes at Washington National Airport. Dr. McDonald wrote in a letter to Don Berliner:

“He [Mr. Union] was a visitor on 7/26 at DCA, not on duty, but present through the whole episode. Said the blips were unmistakably solid, not weather or ducks. Confirmed that F-94s got lock-ons with targets whose motions were matched on the ARTC scopes he and others were monitoring at Hangar 6.” (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Don Berliner. From: Dr. James McDonald. Date: February 26, 1968. University of Arizona at Tucson Library, Special Collections Division, Tucson, Arizona. Photocopy in author's files.

More on the Washington excitement.

Richard Hall Wrote to the Condon Committee member Robert Low:

“You might mention to [Condon Committee investigator] Mr. Wertheimer that I have located my memo on the wife of a CAB member who was personally involved in the 1952 Washington sightings when she was working for American Airlines.

“Again, this will have to be kept confidential (her name) since we have not checked back with her. If desirable, we would be glad to try to arrange an interview. She told us that the airport was buzzed repeatedly, that she knows American personnel, including pilots, who saw the UFOs, as did people in the VIP room. This does not show on my memo, but I recall her saying that most of these sightings were not publicly reported.” (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. Robert Low, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. From: Richard Hall (no address given) Date: 6 December 1966. Photocopy in author's Files.

26 July. Washington D.C. The jet scrambles.

Al Chop: “It just happened that the air defense squadron that normally guards the capital was assigned to New Castle, Delaware, because they were repairing runways at Bolling Air Force Base. It seems unusual that the UFOs visited the capital during the time the jets weren't there.” (xx.)

(xx.) Michaels, Susan. *Sightings: UFOs*. A Fireside Book: Simon & Schuster, New York, N Y., 1997. p.23.

26 July. Washington D.C. Jet scramble. Pilot Andrew J. Sabatino.

“We were flying at 500 feet and the Washington Monument was 550 feet tall.”

Reporter Steven Leech interviewed jet pilot Andrew J. Sabatino:

“ Sabatino remembers the night. New Castle County Air Base got the call to action, that night when the bases’ F-94C interceptors were scrambled. He was the radar operator in one of those F-94C’s, but by the time they got to the site, nothing appeared on his radar screen.

“ ‘I had no idea what we were chasing,’ he says, Sabatino, who remained a resident in Delaware until retiring to Florida in May [2000], admits he doesn’t believe in the existence of UFO’s. However, he was willing to relate some details of the mission.

“Over the course of that Saturday night, four to 12 UFO’s had been picked up on radar at Washington National Airport and at nearby Andrews Air Force Base. At 11:25 p.m., the F-94C’s were dispatched. According to Sabatino, his pilot, Lieutenant William L. Patterson, was ordered to fly patterns at incrementally lower altitudes of about 10,000 feet. Their mission: to search for targets.

“ ‘The lower I got,’ Sabatino says, referring to his radar scope, ‘the less I could see because of the ground clutter.’ Radar installed in fighter aircraft works best at higher altitudes, he explains.

“Back and forth they went, but nothing unusual appeared on the screen. By the time they were ordered to fly patterns at 500 feet, Sabatino realized the Washington Monument was 550 feet tall and he consequently became concerned about crashing into it.

“Patterson, who was in a better position to make visual contact, claimed to have seen four lights about 10 miles ahead; but they disappeared before he could overtake them. He was quoted in the July 28 edition of *The Wilmington Morning News* as saying the UFO’s ‘...were really moving’—faster than the 600 mph top speed of his F-94C.” (xx.)

(xx.) Leech, Steven. “LOOK! Up in the sky...” *Out & About*. Wilmington, Delaware. July 2000.

26 July. Washington D.C. Jet scrambles.

If one wonders why more isn’t known about the jet scrambles. Perhaps that can be explained by the fact Sabatino talked freely fifty years later while interviews conducted in July 1952 are hard to come by. An example was Captain Robert P. Mangone of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, who was approached by the press when he was home on leave. His hometown paper published:

“A jet flier with the Air Defense Command’s 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Interceptor squadron, Captain Mangone remains strictly mum whether or not he spotted any saucers or whether they actually exist. But he doesn’t fail to leave an impression that they MAY be a reality.” (xx.)

(xx.) New Kensington, Pennsylvania. *Dispatch*. 19 August 52.

26 July. Norfolk, Virginia. (about 8:00 p.m.)

Orange-colored ball.

A press report states:

“A clerk-typist in the Norfolk County Clerk’s Office has joined the once-exclusive group that is growing larger daily. She saw a flying saucer.

“Mrs. Margaret Fields, of 4815 Old Suffolk Boulevard, was sitting on her front porch Saturday night about 8 o’clock when she saw the object.

“She had just finished baking a cake and was getting a breath of fresh air. At first she thought the orange-colored ball was a shooting star then realized it was too large. She described it as being between an orange and a grapefruit in size.

“It was not red enough, she said, to be a ball of fire and it was not flying at too high an altitude. It appeared from the southeast.

“As she watched, the saucer fell a few feet and hung suspended for about a second. It then fell a few more feet and disappeared.

“Mrs. Field said there did not appear to be any disintegration and it did not light up the sky.

“She called her husband when she first spotted the object but it had disappeared before he reached the porch. The couple sat and watched for awhile longer but the saucer did not reappear. None of her neighbors reported seeing it.”

(xx.)

(xx.) Norfolk, Virginia. *Ledger-Dispatch*. 28 July 52.

26 July. Takoma Park, Maryland. (about 9:00 p.m.)

Mystery light in the Washington D.C. area.

Norman Sissenwine was an Air Force Weather Officer. He was not aware anything of importance was taking place in the air over the nation’s capital the evening of July 26<sup>th</sup>, however a light in the sky was strange enough to attract his attention. The site of his observation was the town of Takoma Park, Maryland, which is just south of Silver Spring and almost within the District of Columbia. Sissenwine thought enough of his sighting to submit a statement to the authorities at Andrews AFB. Here is his account:

“A few minutes after 2100 hours, 26 July 1952, I was standing in front of my home at 7227 Garland Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland conversing with my neighbor, Mister Anthony [... name not legible], when his eleven-year-old daughter called our attention to an object in the sky which she identified as a ‘shooting star.’ This object was a bright white unfocused light which appeared to be emitted from a point or circular source. It was about five times as large as a large star.

“When first noted the ‘object’ was located due south about twenty degrees above the horizon and approximately five miles away. I estimated that it was moving at a speed greater than I had noted for jet airplanes, considering this estimated

distance. It was headed north east moving straight and level. About a minute later it disappeared from sight behind tall trees to the east north east. This spectacle was also witnessed by our wives, children and other children.

"I am a meteorologist with 12 years of experience in observing the sky. This 'object' was unlike any I had observed before. It did not resemble a meteor, comet, normally lighted aircraft or aircraft with landing lights on. Its color and light intensity remained constant, resembling that of a bright white star. Its size and movement rules out this possibility however. It could not have been a balloon or similar wind blown object as the winds were [230? ... number not legible] degrees at ten knots at five thousand feet increasing to fifteen knots at ten thousand feet.

"No associated sound was heard until the 'object' was passing out of sight at which time a sound resembling that of an airplane became evident. It is possible, however, that this sound could have come from an unsighted airplane.

"Immediately following this observation we discussed the origin of this 'object' and jokingly agreed that that it was a 'flying saucer.' The next day on reading the newspapers we were greatly surprised to learn that strange objects had been spotted and that the 'objects' had out distanced a jet fighter.

"This information is forwarded as corroborative evidence of this already much publicized event. No explanation is offered other than to note that the 'object' had no supernatural appearance.

Norman Sissenwine  
 Capt. USAF  
 29 July 1952 (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. James E. McDonald, Dept. of Meteorology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. 85721. From: Norman Sissenwine, Chief, Design Climatology Branch, Aerospace Instrumentation Laboratory, Bedford, Massachusetts. 1 Atch Statement: "Mysterious Airborne Object." 13 October 1967. Photocopy in author's files.

26 July. Lexington, Kentucky. (9:00 p.m.)

"Mother ships?"

A press report tell us:

" 'Flying saucers' which Air Force planes chased over Washington Saturday night may have made their way to Lexington skies

"Five persons last night said they saw objects in the sky at about 9 p.m. Saturday while they were sitting in the parking lot at Ball's Ice Cream Company, South Limestone street. The report was made by Pat Wylie, Richmond.

"Wylie said that he and Charles Tucker, Elam Tucker and Mrs. J. T. Tucker, all of 1101 South Limestone, and Wolfgang Peinecke, Hanover, Germany, saw the 'round, flat-like' objects.

"The saucers had an orange-yellow glow, and alternately disappeared and



returned, Wylie stated. He added that two of the objects seemed very large, followed by about 15 smaller saucers.

"Wylie said that it was difficult to determine the direction of travel. At times, he said, the saucers looked as if they were spinning and making wide turns to the northeast.

"Wylie and Elam Tucker said they watched the objects for about 15 minutes." (xx.)

(xx.) Lexington, Kentucky. *Herald*. 28 July 52.

26 July. Near Boise, Idaho. (no time)

Skeptic sees something. (See clipping)

26 July. Salt Lake City, Utah. (9:15 p.m.)

Huge orange thing hovers over Salt Lake.

The *Deseret News* published:

"Reports of flying saucers hovering over Salt Lake City continued pouring in to the *Deseret News* editorial room Monday.

"Dozens of Salt Lake residents reported they saw a 'strange-looking, orange-colored object' high in the western skies at approximately 9:15 p.m. Saturday.

"Ray Mallory, 4029 Olympus Way, sales manager for Inter-mountain Solvent Company, said he and Mrs. Mallory watched the object with field glasses for some 15 minutes.

" 'At first we thought it was the moon,' Mr. Mallory said, but it was too large and too bright in color—besides the moon is now in its first quarter and is very thin so it could not possibly have been the moon.' "

"The fiery orange was described by Mr. Mallory and others as having a dark streak across it, and fading from orange in the center to a dull grey on the edges.

"Mr. Mallory said that after remaining relatively still in one spot for about 15 minutes, it suddenly appeared to turn sideways—within a matter of 10 seconds, he said—toward the Western horizon.

"The Mallorys said that their strong field glasses (though which they can clearly see the Capital some 15 miles from their home) did virtually no good at all in helping them discern-details of the object. Mr. Mallory estimated that it was probably 25,000 or 30,000 feet high." (xx.)

(xx.) Salt Lake City, Utah. *Deseret News*. 28 July 52.

26 July. Salt Lake City, Utah. (9:15 p.m.)

More on the Salt Lake City case:

## Skeptic Admits Flying Saucers Are Very Real

BOISE (UP)— Another Boisean, who formerly had been of the opinion that this flying saucer business was just so much hog-wash, admitted Wednesday that he saw one.

Clifford Higby, 60, said he was driving near King Hill Saturday, July 28, when he saw a pale green light, half the size of a full moon.

Higby said the object fell almost perpendicularly toward the earth and then seemed to turn sharply to follow a course parallel with the ground before it disappeared behind a hill.

At first Higby said he thought his eyes were playing tricks, but his wife told him she had seen the same thing.

This Clipping From  
PROVO, UTAH  
HERALD

AUG 6 1952

"A flying saucer 'as big as a house and fiery orange' in color was reported hovering over Salt Lake City for several minutes Saturday night by several Salt Lake residents.

"The saucer was first sighted by Mrs. Edward Rahan of 3253 Gregson Ave. Mrs. Rahan said she was sitting on her front porch when she first saw the object hovering in the air 'over the main part of town.'

"A total of about 10 persons watched the missile cavort about the sky and finally disappeared over the southwest mountains near Bingham, Mrs. Rahan said.

"David Colton, 3241 East Gregson Ave., said the object appeared to be three thousand feet high.

" 'When it turned on its edge a black stripe about three feet wide appeared across the length of the disc,' Mrs. Rahan declared." (xx.)

(xx.) Salt Lake City, Utah. *Deseret News*. 27 July 52.

26 July. Was a piece shot off a flying saucer during the Washington D.C. flap?

The claim:

"Letters written 25 years ago reveal that former Rear Admiral Herbert B. Knowles was involved in the examination of fragments of a UFO shot at over Washington D.C in 1952. The correspondence resulted from inquiries conducted by Ohio UFOlogist C.W. Fitch in 1961.

"Fitch had been told by former NICAP board member, the Reverend Albert Baller, that Admiral Knowles was a guest at Rev. Baller's home one evening when the topic of UFOs came up. Knowles was also a board member of NICAP but apparently had not mentioned the UFO tale he was to describe to Rev. Baller.

"Fitch took the fragments of the story that Rev. Baller had related to him and proceeded to contact Admiral Knowles at his home in Eliot, Maine. Admiral Knowles was at this time retired. The following extracts from Knowles' letter relate as much as he knew." (xx.)

(xx.) "Early Crashed Disc Data Uncovered" *Just Cause*. Ed. Barry Greenwood. Number 7. New Series. March 1986. pp.3-4.

Information from the Admiral Knowles extracts:

"August 27, 1961 .

" 'Yes, I have had a piece of a small disc in my hands. It was shown me by Mr. Wilbert Smith. At that time (1952), Mr. Smith was heading the 'Flying Saucer' research of the Canadian government and working in very close cooperation with our authorities in Washington D.C. He is still very much interested in this matter and does independent research. The Canadian Government has 'officially' abandoned the project.'

" 'To the best of my recollection the object was shot down by a plane and seen

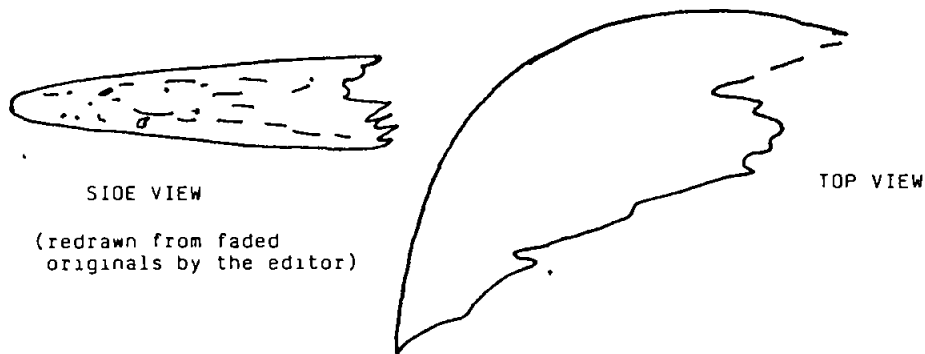
to fall in the yard of a farmer across the river in Virginia. Upon searching the area several pieces were found, one of which was turned over to Mr. Smith for independent research. In one of his trips down to see me he brought the piece along for my inspection.'

" 'It was a chunk of amorphous metal-like structure, brownish in color where broken, with a curved edge indicating the whole thing to have been not over 2 feet in diameter. The edge was rounded in cross section, perhaps a quarter inch thick and obviously swelled to a considerably greater thickness at the center. The outer surface was smooth but not polished, and at the broken sections there were obviously iron particles and even evidence of iron rust. I would say that the weight was somewhat lighter than if of solid iron, but it was not 'extremely light.'

" 'Mr. Smith told me that a chemical test had been made of the piece at hand, that iron had been found in it but little if anything else could be identified.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Sketch. (See below the drawing that was included in the *Just Cause* article)



One might think that if the material was really from a flying saucer it would be unlikely the U S. would loan it out to even our Canadian friends, or that Smith would carry it around and show it to people who had no right to know. The only way that might be rationalized would be, one thinks, if there was a considerable amount to go around. Smith, in a letter to C.W. Fitch dated 23 October 1961, wrote: "There is a great deal of this around, most of it in U.S. official (not USAF) hands, but there is quite a bit of it in private hands as well." (xx.)

(xx.) Document from Dr. Willy Smith's files: "Phone Conversation 2/13/69 Earl Neff and And C. Wesley Fitch." Photocopy in author's files.

In November 1961 C.W. Fitch taped an interview with Wilbert Smith over the phone. The account of the "shoot down" matches approximately that version related by Knowles.

Smith's version.

"In the sightings of UFO's over Washington D.C. in July of 1952, the following incident took place. On this particular evening a total of 52 glowing objects appeared over the city.

"Every plane in the area was ordered up that night in an attempt to intercept them, and if possible shoot down one of the objects. The planes were given instructions to fire on them if possible. One pilot succeeded in getting a lock on one of the objects as it flashed across in front of him. He opened up with a burst of machine gun fire and succeeded in hitting one of the objects and knocking a piece from its rim. The object itself kept on going and disappeared but the segment from its edge fell earthward.

"The object was glowing, as before mentioned, and the piece from its rim was also glowing as it fell earthward. The pilot watched it fall and reported the approximate location in which it fell to a ground search crew in the area.

"It fell across the river in a farmer's field in Virginia and was recovered by the search crew within the hour. The piece was still glowing when found. This segment was approximately 15 inches in length and was curved, indicating it was a portion of a 2 foot diameter disc.

"Smith stated that this segment was cut into three portions, one of which was loaned to him for a short time to perform on it a quantitative analysis. This was done by his group in Canada and the portion returned to the governmental group in Washington from which it had been received. Smith stated that the segment weighed a little more than a pound. When questioned as to its composition, he stated, that he had handled several pieces of UFO 'hardware' including this one and that the principal difference in them was that the metals they contained were much harder than we can produce here on earth. This particular piece was a was a matrix of magnesium orthosilicate with little globules of iron embedded in it with a dimple on one side." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Moreover:

"Mr. Smith said the Air Force didn't say that there isn't any UFO 'hardware' ...they said that they have none!

"Fitch then said, 'Well that's sure one way of getting around the subject without telling an 'untruth!' At which comment Smith chuckled indicating that Fitch had correctly interpreted his remark." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Smith's story. Some comments.

There is no indication in available official files "52 objects" were in the air over Washington D.C. Perhaps 52 radar tracks were recorded, which seems possible since there was a lot of activity on the scopes and the tracking short lived for any particular blip. In that case one object can generate multiple tracks. Another problem is the assertion "everything was sent up" to chase the UFOs. Official records indicate only a few aircraft from Delaware.

It was officially announced jets had permission to shoot UFOs for a short time and it is also known that interceptors at that time were "running hot," meaning they were fully capable. It is also interesting to note it was eventually alleged the plane that did the shooting was a Navy fighter. Records for this alleged encounter could be in Navy files, perhaps in the paperwork of the Potomac River Naval Command, Washington D.C. Another fact is that Navy fighters were taking part in Air Defense Command's "Russian air attack" exercises (SIGNPOST) at the time.

Cdr. Alvin C. Moore.

Dr. James McDonald also had something to say about this "shooting incident". In a letter to Dick Hall, McDonald says: "Art [Lundahl] sent me a postcard with the name and address of Cdr. Alvin C. Moore, the one who used to work with him at the Agency [CIA] and who recovered the the metallic object [Was he in charge of a Navy ground recovery team?] in DC area in 1952, only to have it stolen from his home later [?!]." (xx.) Burglary is a typical CIA operation. Sometimes the agency uses ex-criminals who are experts.

(xx.) Letter: To: Dick Hall. From: jem. 5 August 70. Photocopy in author's files.

Lt. Commander Frank "Thomas." More intrigue?

Sometime prior to 1955 Donald Keyhoe was approached by a Navy Lt. Commander Frank "Thomas." (It would be interesting to know if the man used that name or his actual name of "Thompson." Or, perhaps, "Thomas" was a nickname. Its also possible Keyhoe got it wrong, although the Keyhoe was said to have an excellent memory.)

In any case, Keyhoe wrote in his 1955 book, *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*:

"According to Thomas, a peculiar object had fallen near Washington during the mass saucer sightings in 1952. Retrieved by a naval officer, it was later analyzed by the Bureau of Standards [Did that organization examine all UFO material? Is there an untold story here about Dr. Condon or Roswell?]. From the description Thomas gave me, I realized it was similar to the object which had crashed through the house at Sylacauga, Alabama [A meteor which was recovered].

"However, one side of it was flat with odd markings, as if it had been milled. During tests the unknown substance proved to be fire-resistant. But the analysis, Thomas said, had failed to determine whether it was an artificially constructed object or a fragment of some unknown type of meteorite. Afterward the object had been sent to W.B. Smith at Ottawa for further analysis by Project Magnet engineers." (xx.)

(xx.) Keyhoe, Donald. *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. Henry Holt & Company: New York, N.Y., 1955. pp.272-273.

Frank Edwards enters the picture.

When Fitch wrote Smith in 1961 asking about UFO hardware, the "shooting incident" became widely known. Frank Edwards assumed that the hardware tale in Keyhoe's 1955 book was the same as the Smith/Knowles account. Edwards gives that impression in his 1966 book, *Flying*

*Saucers-Serious Business.* (xx.) When the Condon committee in the late 60s addressed the

(xx.) Edwards, Frank. *Flying Saucers-Serious Business.* Bantam Books, New York, N.Y., 1966. p.47.

issue of "Direct Physical Evidence" they selected Edwards' version. Here is what investigator Roy Craig told the world:

"Representatives of the Air Forces Project Blue Book claimed no knowledge of the disc fragment discussed by Edwards, who claimed the successful search for this fragment was confirmed by Lt. Cdr. Frank Thompson of the U.S. Navy. The fragment, said to have dislodged by gunfire from a Navy jet, reportedly fell to the ground, where it was found, still glowing, an hour later by U.S. military ground search crews. Reports of UFO events over Washington, D.C., in 1952 contain no reference to such a gunfire incident. If such a fragment did exist and was classified 'Secret' [Wouldn't it be Top Secret????] as was claimed, its existence and whereabouts would not necessarily be revealed to this [Condon] project. A request for official confirmation that the claimed fragment did or did not exist and does or does not exist was forwarded to U.S. Air Force Headquarters. A reply was received from J.W. Clinton, by direction of the Chief of Information, Department of the Navy. Mr. Clinton indicated that a thorough search of all Navy records available [Can we assume Top Secret records "would be available?"] failed to reveal any account of a Navy jet fighter's encounter with an UFO in July 1952 or any other time [Ruppelt said an Air Force fighter shot at a UFO in the U.S. southwest and the file was burned!]. Perhaps more significant, however, were the facts that Navy records of the year 1952 carried only one Frank Thompson, an individual who had retired from active duty several years before 1952 with the rank of lieutenant, not lieutenant commander. Navy fighters based near Washington were armed only for firing practice conducted far out at sea over a restricted firing area. Navy aircraft armed with live ammunition, Mr. Clinton pointed out, would have been usurping an Air Force function if they had been present over Washington, D.C., as interceptors, Mr. Clinton concluded: 'The incident is not beyond the realm of possibility, but due to the nature of the Navy's jet operations about the Washington, D.C. area at the time, it was very highly unlikely [In *theory* the Navy would be usurping the Air Force's mission, but we know in practice jets from Delaware were taking too long to get to Washington].'" (xx.)

(xx.) *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects.* Scientific Director Dr. Edward U. Condon. E.P. Dutton & Company, Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1969. p.91.

By selecting Edward's account, the Condon investigator avoided a messy situation of having to mention the names of Smith and Knowles. Unfortunately it's typical of official "investigations" to limit inquiries. It makes things a lot easier.

For the sake of argument, let's suppose Thompson was a dis-information agent. In that case things worked out quite well. Let's suppose the Smith/Knowles version is accurate and an

attempt was made early on the to disrupt its dissemination by spreading a corrupted version. Note this item in BLUE BOOK Status Report #10 dated 27 February 1953:

“A rock sample was sent to Project Blue Book by a retired Lt. Commander in the Navy in connection with a sighting he had made on 12 September 1952. [Did it happen on 12 September or was the incident reported on that date? It’ mistake often made. I can’t find any such sighting in my files---L.E. Gross]. The ex-officer, who was also a Naval flier, was convinced that the rock, which has an unusual shape, was directly associated with the flying object he observed. Blue Book asked for a contractor analysis and after close study the contractor confirmed the opinion of Blue Book that the rock merely represented a piece of common slag from an open hearth furnace.” (xx.)

(xx.) Status Report, Project Blue Book – Report No.10. Project No. 10073. 27 Feb 53. ATIC WP AFB Ohio. pp.3-4.

Note that there is no mention of “shooting.” The use of the expression “directly associated” seems to be an awkward attempt to avoid saying “shooting.” Also missing is name of the Navy officer, or a July date. That makes any search of the files a difficult task. Was it done on purpose?

A reasonable scenario.

A retired military man, wanting to feel important, invented the shooting incident and used a piece of ordinary slag as proof. To make a better impression, he “promoted” himself to Lt. “Commander.” Smith, in a mental decline, was willing to accept sensational assertions (However, that leaves Cdr. Moore’s story to be explained)

27 July. Hollywood, Florida (off shore) (shortly before 2:00 a.m.)

Glowing orange ball.

Press report:

“ ‘It wasn’t until the thing disappeared that it occurred to either my wife or me that it was just like the ‘flying saucer’ described by pilots and residents at various points of the country recently,’ Thomas W. Sortor said Sunday.

“Waking shortly before 2 a.m., Sortor said he felt too wide awake to return to sleep immediately and sat looking out of the window of his trailer home in the Hollywood Beach Trailer Park. The window commands a view of palm trees along the beach, the ocean, and on this occasion, a nearly black sky.

“ ‘My attention was drawn to a brilliant, glowing orange ball—an enormous thing—seemingly suspended in the sky over the ocean, and I would estimate, about 2,000 feet up,’ Sortor said.

“He said the gigantic, glowing orange shape remained eerily motionless for at least three minutes, then suddenly began to wobble and disappeared rapidly

eastward over the ocean.

"He said that within seconds it was out of sight." (xx.)

(xx.) Miami, Florida. *Miami Herald*. 29 July 52.

27 July. Miami, Florida. (early morning)

Huge object.

A Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein may have seen the same phenomenon as Thomas Sortor:

"Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Goldstein of Miami Beach said they saw a glowing object hang motionless over Surfside for a short time early Sunday, then watched it flit away 'hundreds of times faster than any plane we've ever seen....' When I first saw the light I mistook it for the moon—it was about that large," he said. 'It hung motionless for about three or four minutes.

" 'Then an airplane started coming in near it, apparently on its way to the airport,' he recounted. 'The disc started moving slowly, then picked up speed and zoomed upward across the path of the plane and out of sight, hundreds of times faster than any plane we've ever seen.' "(xx.)

(xx.) La Grange, Georgia. News. 29 July 52.

27 July. Pasadena, Maryland. (2:25 A.M.)

Any connection with the Washington radar targets?

Pasadena is half way between Baltimore and Annapolis. (See clipping)

*This Clipping From*  
BALTIMORE, MD.  
EVENING SUN

JUL 29 1952

## Strange Object Sighted In Sky

Still another report of strange, luminous objects soaring the night skies has been received—this one from Charles G. Wilson, Sunpapers route man who serves the Pasadena area

Mr. Wilson said today that he had seen two objects racing across the sky at exactly 2.25 A.M. Sunday, at just about the time the air force radar men were picking up mysterious blips on their own fluorescent screens near Washington.

"I was serving papers near Pasadena," Mr. Wilson said, "when I saw these two things, flying generally from south to north, from the direction of Annapolis toward Sparrows Point.

### Level Flight

"I'd estimate that they were between 8,000 and 10,000 feet high—traveling in practically level flight side by side, not like meteors or shooting stars that always seem to come straight down at you.

"To tell you the truth, it looks to me like they were painted with a white luminous paint. They were round. It looked to me like they might be 12 or 15 feet across—but they had these pieces come out the end, sort of like the bottom of an ice-cream cone would be.

### Turn Out Car Lights

"I'd say they were about 35 feet long, from the front to the end of this tail, traveling at well over 1,500 miles an hour.

"I could see them very plainly. I turned out the lights of my car and watched them. They weren't like anything I've ever seen before."



27 July. Kane, Pennsylvania. (morning)

What comes to mind when one reads this report is that perhaps a giant skyhook balloon was seen, however one would think the wind would blow it away in an hour's time:

"As jets whined into the air over Washington D.C. in search of unidentified object—Kane residents at least a half a hundred of them, were pondering a sight in the skies over the Hilltop Saturday morning—a huge cylinder-like object which hovered in the air at about 2,000 feet altitude for an hour—possibly more.

"The object was sighted by a carload of workers headed from Kane to the Dresser Mfg. Division plant in Bradford. They stopped and watched it. Not willing to be stuck with a story on their own, they flagged other cars and soon a long line of cars was at the roadside on Route 6 a few miles east of Kane—and fully a half-hundred persons viewed the 'thing.'

"The men had to get to work and proceeded east on Route—keeping an eye aloft at the object. When they reached Lantz Corners, eight miles east, they could still see the object—which then looked about 'two feet' in length. Estimates from original observations indicated the object from 100 to 200 feet in length. One observer said 'it looked like a canoe—with a couple guys in it [Whatever that means].' Others agreed [The "canoe description would not make a lot of sense unless the cylinder was horizontal. If the object was horizontal, then it would suggest the object was not a balloon since a balloon would be in a vertical position]. (xx.)

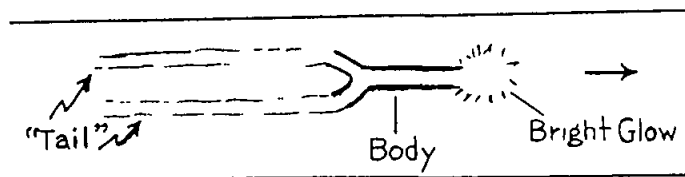
(xx.) St. Mary's, Pennsylvania. *Press* 29 July 52.

27 July. The Great Detroit Raid.

The Sunday morning editions carried headline news about the Washington D.C. UFO excitement the night before. People were on the alert. UFOs reports were coming in from all over the country (sightings had been continuous since June). Out of Canada that church day morning came SAC bombers on a practice sneak air attack. The formation of 20 B-36s headed straight toward Detroit, Michigan. From there the air fleet was to fly south into the heartland of the country. ADC units detected the "invaders." Fighters were scrambled and interceptions took place.

Dr. Charles Otis, professor emeritus of Biology, Bowling Green State University, apparently spotted the "organized bomber flotilla" as it passed over Ann Arbor, Michigan, on a southern course. He counted about 15 "objects." Even though it was a beautiful day, Dr. Otis could not make any detail but he did manage to sketch the arrangement of the formation and his impression of an individual object. (See below) (xx.)

x		x		
	x		x	
x		x		x
	x		x	
x		x		x
	x		x	
x		x		



(xx.) *The UFO Evidence*. Ed. Richard Hall. The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena: Washington, D.C., 1964. pp.50-51.

Hours later the "invading" force reached Kentucky. An employee of a newspaper at the city of Glasgow viewed the bombers. He wrote some days later:

"The Editor summoned me to the back yard with loud shrieks Sunday, right after I got home from Sunday School, to watch a weird sky show. He said he had heard a tremendous roar as they passed above the house, but I could scarcely hear the sound of the motors of the great jet planes moving so very high in the hot blue sky. There were two formations of nine jets each...separated slightly into units of nine, but making a wide arrow formation. They remained in sight a long while, flying away to the southeast...and then the second group came over, their pattern slightly askew, one plane marring the design. The smoke trails formed a wide arc, half way across the sky, and undisturbed by the breezes one might have expected at that altitude. It gave us an eerie feeling to watch the planes. We didn't feel any better about it when we read next day that jet planes had been aloft to investigate a group of flying saucers which converged over Fort Knox, Kentucky." (xx.)

(xx.) Glasgow, Kentucky. *Times* 31 July 52.

Its that last sentence that makes us ask: "Was there UFO activity during the raid?" For one thing, the Fort Knox incident sounds real interesting but at this time no UFO archive has any data on the incident at the gold depository (That could change). Michigan is a different story. Selfridge AFB just outside Detroit said it was swamped by phone calls reporting "flying disks" and "flying lights" and a number of them were published in the press and are available for study. But we have a problem.

"Saucers" or imagination?"

The problem is best illustrated by a Ripley, New York, report

"The first flying saucers ever to be spotted in this area were reported by Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Smith of Station Road on Sunday at 3 p m.

"Four bombers [no doubt another "Russian attack force"] went over the Smith home flying west and shortly after four more followed. While still looking at the sky Mrs. Smith was startled as she saw two 'discs.'

"Mrs. Smith said:

" 'The discs were about one third the size of the bombers and were traveling at terrific speed seeming to cross the path of the bombers in their flight to the southwest. They appeared more like wheels in a horizontal rather than vertical position. The color was very shiny silver or aluminum and reminded me of the symbols on a drum[sic?]. There were no propellers no smoke and the discs were traveling at a much faster speed than the bombers. It was a beautiful and thrilling sight.' (xx.)

(xx) Ripley, New York. *Review*. 31 July 52.

That account sounds good as far UFOs go, but consider this account from the same news clipping: "From the McKean area, some persons reported 'flying saucers' while others identified the objects as jet planes. Arthur Cox, R.D. 3, Franklin, said that the sun's rays made the jets glare." (xx) Like the Dr. Otis case, imagination may be supplying many UFOs.

(xx.) Ibid.

Jet fighters were making high speed runs at the bombers during the raid and it seems many witnesses believed they saw "discs" when shiny objects swooped around the B-36s. Since it was a bright clear day, the glare played tricks on the eye. Still one wonders about some sightings. For example, base operations at Selfridge AFB said "airmen on the ground," which one assumes should know better, reported seeing "spheres" near the bombers as the aircraft passed over Detroit. We do not have a detailed report from an airman, but we do have one from a civilian

" 'Spheres' were reported seen Sunday morning by Henry C Pottinger, 14025 Ardmore, who later telephoned Selfridge. He was fishing on Lake St. Clair.

"Pottinger and his brother-in-law, Roy E. Bertram, of Algonac, were watching the bomber flight overhead.

"Two of the spheres,' he said, 'appeared high above and behind the flight of bombers and started to swoop down toward them.

" 'A third sphere appeared above and ahead of the flight and then dropped down to join the other two. All three passed under and slightly behind the bombers.'" (xx)

(xx) Detroit, Michigan. *News*. 30 July 52.

Well then, was Pottinger seeing jet fighters? According to Pottinger fighters were in the area and he recognized them as such: "Several jet fighters accelerated with a spurt of flame at this point, but the objects just seemed to disappear as the jets streaked toward them." (xx.)

(xx) Ibid.

(For a more complete picture of the confusion that day see the clipping on page 51)

27 July. Napa, California. (10:45 a.m.)

The local newspaper reported:

"Sightings of flying saucers elsewhere in the bay area were matched here in a report to the sheriff's office by John Foraythe, 1512 A street.

"Foraythe's report, which was forwarded by the authorities to the Hamilton Field airbase was made yesterday, but concerned a sighting Sunday. The Napan said that he observed a metallic, disc-shaped object at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, at an estimated altitude of 20,000 feet. He said it traveled at great speed in a westerly direction over the Napa Valley, then tilted with the thin edge towards him and disappeared in the haze." (xx)

(xx.) Napa, California. Register. 29 July 52.

27 July.

Exercise SIGNPOST and UFO problems

## ENGAGED IN MOCK WARFARE

**Jet Bombers Bring 'Saucer' Reports**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Lansing Residents Spot Objects Near Onaway**

7-28-52

Objects seen swirling across the sky Sunday by three Lansing persons turned out Monday to be jet bombers engaged in mock warfare and not flying saucers.

Observing what they believed to be "flying saucers" were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ewer and their daughter, Kay Ruth, of 425 S. Jenison ave, while at a hunting club on the Black river, near Onaway.

They reported seeing the "cigar-shaped discs" about 9 40 a. m. Sunday after being awakened twice by a loud noise which they thought might be bombers overhead.

For more than 20 minutes, the trio watched them trail off into the distance in perfect formations, as if guarding a "mother ship," which brought up the rear.

Mr Ewer reported the incident to The State Journal but came to the belief that it was jet bombers that they saw after being told of a mock raid Sunday on Detroit.

Theirs were not the only reports of "saucers" Three persons in south central Michigan also said they saw "flashing lights" in the sky, the Associated Press reported.

Volunteer observers of the Civil Air Patrol's "operation sky-watch" at the Ionia airport reported seeing the objects between 10.15 p. m. and 11 p. m.

This time coincided with reports of sightings at Battle Creek to the south.

Mrs Herman Zanders and Mrs. Ray Martin, on duty at the Ionia airport, were first to report them at that point. The women's sightings were confirmed by James and Jack Hall, also skywatch observers.

They said the objects were "football shaped" and appeared to resemble shooting stars. Headed southeast, they were reported seen twice, the second time at a lower altitude. The Hall brothers trained binoculars on them.

Mrs. R. D. Davis, Battle Creek housewife, said she saw 14 very bright objects, blurred at the edges, about 10 15 p. m.

Harrison Howes, an accountant living across the street from her, came out of the house in time to see one of the objects. He said it looked like a giant bulb.

Lloyd Rainier, a Marshall machinist, said he saw what appeared to be a brilliant white light hovering in the sky when he looked up from his cottage at Lyons lake, south of Marshall.

Mrs Davis acknowledged that she had heard reports of the mysterious unknown objects picked up by radar over Washington, D. C., before she saw the lights. But she insisted these reports had nothing to do with what she saw. And she insisted that she had been drinking "only iced tea."

In Detroit, several citizens reported seeing "yellowish-orange things" hovering in the sky.

Descriptions of the "things" varied from cigar-shaped to looking like flying saucers.

The air force at Selfridge field where some of the "things" were reportedly seen refused to comment.

What Ewers saw apparently was this:

Jet defenders of the United States and Canada rose to meet a mock attack of "enemy" bombers Sunday, according to the Associated Press.

The surprise "attack" on Detroit by B-36 jet bombers climaxed the first joint air defense test of the U. S.-Canadian boundary, "exercise sign post."

Detroiters by the scores turned

air raid spotters and called police to report the sham battles in the air as 20 of the huge bombers appeared over Detroit.

One wave of the make-believe attackers flew directly over the loop area, leaving spectacular vapor trails.

An air force observer commented, "we didn't want when they were coming, but we were ready for them."

More than 250,000 Canadians and Americans took part in the nine-day test of defense equipment and personnel.

Col Edwin L. Tucker, commander of the 30th air division of the air defense command, said, "the exercises are proving most successful from a training viewpoint."

YOU COULD BLAME IT ON THOSE HEAT WAVES

27? July. Cuba.

UFOlogist M.K. Jessup wrote, "There were many reports from Cuba during this period. They were well documented in the Spanish-language press of Havana." (xx.)

(xx.) Jessup, M.K. *The UFO Reporter*. A supplement to *The Case for the UFO*. p.5.

27 July. Chautauqua Lake, New York.  
(4:00 p.m.)

"L-formation."

A press report states:

"Flying saucer excitement occurred in the Chautauqua Lake area Sunday afternoon.

"But the man who saw them is not confused. He reported that the objects were guided missiles.

"Charles McCrea of Belleview described his discovery of four silver-colored round objects whizzing through the sky over his home at 4 p.m.

"Mr. McCrea was lying on his back on the lawn at his home with his three children when he spotted the objects. They were traveling so fast, he said, that before he could call the children's attentions to the mysterious objects, they were gone.

"He described the 'saucers' as 'dimes rolling across the sky.' The four objects were flying in an L-shaped formation and all were traveling at the same high rate of speed. Mr. McCrea could not estimate their height.

"A similar sight was reported by at least one Maryville man." (xx.)

(xx.) Mayville, New York. *Sentinel*. 31 July 52.

27 July. 10 miles west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (5:40 p.m.)

"It was the funniest thing."

A press report tells us:

"Three members of the Milwaukee civil air patrol reported Monday that they saw what might have been a 'flying saucer' at 5:40 p.m. Sunday while they were en-route to the Waukesha county airport on highway 30.

"'It was the funniest thing,' related Lt. Vernon Schueter, 2001 S. 81<sup>st</sup> St., West Allis. 'The object looked to us like a round silver ball. It had a gold cast, probably a



reflection from the sun. It was traveling a straight course at about 2,000 feet and it seemed at least several miles away.'

"He said that the object came from the southeast and went northwest.

"Schlueter was driving with Cadets Clayton Feldman, 2718 N. 58<sup>th</sup> St., and Peter Schmidt, 1523 N. 49<sup>th</sup> St. His companions sighted the object first. At the time they were about 10 miles west of Milwaukee.

" 'Look at the ball,' the two cadets shouted to Schlueter, who was driving. The group saw the flying object for about a minute, according to Schmidt.

" 'I thought at first it was a silver plane,' explained Schmidt. 'But the thing had no definite shape. And the wings should have been visible. What's more, it looked awfully small.'

"The cadet, who has been a ground observer for civilian defense, commented that it was unlike anything he had ever seen.

" 'We were talking about aviation when we saw the thing,' said Feldman. 'At first I thought it was a balloon or a kite. But then I realized it was a metal because it glinted in the sun. It had no real shape and was moving with us against the wind.'  
(xx)

(xx.) Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *The Milwaukee Journal*. 29 July 52.

27 July Washington D.C. (7:10 p.m. EST)

Radar/visual report.

Scanning the CAA's Borden-Vickers report where it lists the "Tabulation of unidentified radar targets and visual objects reported to Washington ARTC Center May 23 to August 16, 1952," Dr. James McDonald noted one report that seems to have been overlooked.

The incident was dated July 27<sup>th</sup> at 1910 hours when a radar/visual report was made. It seems a radar target (single blip) was recorded over the city of Riverdale (no altitude available) The report was made by a "Lt. Wales (ADW)." (It does not say if Lt. Wales was the radar operator, visual witness, or both). No description of the target's movements on the scope were given but there was some detail on the visual observation. The object was "dark," small, and circular, with its edge occasionally visible. No noise was mentioned and the object's speed was estimated at about 50 to 60 miles perhour (about that reported for the radar targets during the big flaps earlier) Seen visually, the object went through an oscillating, rolling motion as it traveled to the northeast where it entered some clouds. The clouds were moving southeast." (xx.)

(xx.) Borden, R.C., and T.K. Vickers (CAA Technical Development and Evaluation Center, Indianapolis, Ind) *Preliminary Study of Unidentified Targets Observed on Air Traffic Control Radars*. Technical Development Report No.180. September 1952.

27 July. Washington D.C. (9:00 p.m.)

Shot straight up.

Air Force Intelligence has on file a sighting that took place about two hours later. It seems a

an Air Force Sargent, a woman and her friend, all assigned to the Documents and Dissemination Branch, D/I, Hq USAF, were the witnesses [!]. The trio phoned OIN-2A2 to make the report. Their statements appear in official files in an abbreviated form:

“1, Round object large, ...[casting ? Word not clear] sun’s reflections. Wavered then shot straight up—disappearing from sight. Seen in [eastward? Word not clear] N.W. direction.

“2. 2100 EDT, 27 July 52, observed for one minute.

“3. Visual with naked eye from ground.

“4. Observers at Washington National Airport. Object seemed to hover over the Capital Building in Washington D.C.” (xx.)

(xx) Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF Decimal File 000.9, “Flying Discs.”

27 July. Secretary of the Army Frank Pace.

Debunking sets in:

“Secretary of the Army Frank Pace says he thinks flying saucers ‘are products of the imagination.’

“‘I think we have enough real problems to worry about without conjuring up imaginary ones,’ Pace said on an NBC television program last night.” (xx)

(xx.) Lake Charles, Louisiana. *American Press*. 28 July 52.

27 July. Hinton, West Virginia. (about 9:00 p.m.)

“So bright it almost put your eyes out.”

The witnesses were Mrs. Howard Hayers, her 13-year-old daughter, Nedra, and Anna Sue Iddings. Their story appeared in the local press:

“Mrs. Hayes said she first saw the object as it whirred high over the New River Bridge ‘spinning just like a top in a straight line down the River’ toward the C&O shops. The ‘thing’ was flying ‘as high as most of the transport planes that go over Hinton.’ She asserted, ‘and from where I was it looked bigger than a washtub. It must have been at least as big as an airplane.

“A strange twist to the object’s alleged flight was uncovered when Mrs Hayes reported that it ‘spun around in a loop above the C&O depot, making a complete sharp circle, and then followed on down the river’ toward Sandstone.

“Mrs. Hayes said that although the object was moving ‘very fast’ she was able to see that ‘it’ was flat on the bottom, and had a ridge and a round hump on top that looked just like an up-side down saucer. It was spinning around and around,’ she stated.

“‘It was so bright that I couldn’t tell what color it was. In fact,’ she said, ‘it was so bright that my daughter’s eyes became red from watching it’

"Mrs. Hayes was not certain how long the object remained visible in flight, and thought it seemed to be following the New River in a straight line, it disappeared in a matter of seconds, she thought." (xx.)

(xx.) Hinton, West Virginia. *Daily News* 29 July 52.

Moreover, she stated:

"...that the flying object left a vapor trail. She added that Fred Ferguson, C&O shopman, arrived on the porch of her lower Summer Street home in time to see the vapor trails and that the 'grey-like smoke' trail remained visible for '10-15 minutes.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Was Mrs. Hayes just an excitable housewife who didn't know a low-flying plane when she sees one? Perhaps so, but read the news story below.

27 July. Hinton, West Virginia. (about 9:00 p.m.)

More residents report the "saucer." The story:

"That 'flying saucer' reportedly spotted by three local citizens Sunday night apparently was seen by three other Hintonians also, a Ninth Avenue resident told the *Daily News* today.

"Mrs. Joseph P. Pack reported today that she, her husband, and her son, Harold Lee, saw an object in the skies above the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway shops and the New River about nine o'clock Sunday night. She said the form, 'the funniest looking thing,' came 'whirling and spinning like a top' down the river from the Railway depot following the same path that Mrs. Howard Hayes earlier reported a 'saucer' allegedly was seen at the same time pursuing.

"Mrs. Pack, who said her family was sitting on the porch of their river-front home when they saw the object, said the flying form was so bright it illuminated 'the whole hillside across the river so you could see the road and houses over there.' She added that it was 'as bright as the sun' and that 'it kind of hurt your eyes to watch it. She said that 'a big fog just like smoke' followed the object through the air.

"The Hinton resident said the 'flying saucer,' as she termed the object, was so brilliant that she was unable to determine its exact shape but that it was 'about the size of an airplane and looked like the moon.' The 'saucer' was 'a little lighter than a (burning) flashlight in color and changed its shape so once it 'resembled a half-moon and looked like it had square edges.'

"She reported the object to have been flying high and after it flew over the roundhouse [and] over the C&O tracks to 'drop in the (New) river.' The object flew rather low for a while, she added, soaring 'about as high as the tree tops along the river bank.' 'Of course,' she remarked, 'I was so excited that it may have been higher.'

"Mrs. Pack said the alleged 'flying saucer' did not spin too rapidly and that it made two or three distinct turns above the C&O roundhouse 'just like you'd spin a



wheel,' she added. 'We watched it go down the river and out of sight,' she said. Mrs. Pack stated that the object remained visible for five or ten minutes

"I didn't think to report it to the *Daily News*,' she said in explaining the delay in notifying the newspaper, 'I guess I got so excited it didn't occur to me before.'"

(xx)

(xx.) Hinton, West Virginia. *Daily News*. 30 July 52.

27 July. 15 miles south  
of Camp Beale,  
California.  
(no time)

This Clipping From  
SACRAMENTO, CAL.

BEE  
JUL 30 1952

## Boy Tells Of Seeing Weird, Flying Objects With Windows

Reports of strange objects in the sky continued to flow into the Sacramento Filter Center, The Bee and other places throughout Northern California today.

Filter Center officials in the memorial auditorium disclosed they are getting two to three reports a day of unidentified flying objects from civilian manned observation posts and others.

### Near Camp Beale

One of the most comprehensive reports came from 12 year old Jerry Speer, who gave a detailed description of two objects he saw Sunday while horseback riding near his parents' ranch 15 miles south of Camp Beale.

He said one of the objects flew over him so low he could see it in detail. He said it was about 20 feet high and 40 feet long and had three sets of two windows.

"It looked like two tops flattened out against each other," he reported. "The windows were square and struck out from the thing. There were three exhausts and the thing could fly up, down and sideways."

He said the whole object was covered with shiny metal and a flashing beam of light came from the windows in the front. A short trail of vapor came from each exhaust and as it flew away it looked like a tail of a plane.

### Thought To Be Jet

He also asserted he could hear the objects long before they came

over him and thought before he saw them they were jet planes. He watched them for about three minutes before they disappeared by going straight up until they were out of sight.

Mrs. Frank E. Speer, the boy's mother, told The Bee she was skeptical of the report at first but he was so serious and she always has impressed upon him the importance of telling the truth she finally believed him.

"I was in the service during the last war," she said, "and I realized the importance of the things if he had seen them so I called the Lincoln, Placer County, Police Department."

The police department, she said, called the Sacramento Filter Center.

27 July Wilson, North Carolina. (about 9:15 p.m.)

Regional director of the American Meteor society sees orange-red object he can't explain

Press report:

"F.B. Eason, regional director of the American Meteor society in Wilson, reported to day that he and his wife observed a strange object in the air Sunday night.

"They saw the object about 9:15 p.m. while observing meteor showers Mr. Eason said today. He has made a full report to the special agent in charge, U.S. Military Intelligence in Raleigh.

" 'We saw a bright light in the sky travelling from the northeast to the southeast Mr. Eason who lives at 504 West Vance Street in Wilson, said:

" 'It was travelling at a speed similar to that of a large plane and it was orange-red,' continued. 'Its behavior was erratic, it seemed to slide from side to side or skid and then straighten out,' he observed. 'The object appeared, estimating its light, to be not more than 5,000 feet, although it could have been much higher,' he said. 'This definitely was not a meteor [he should know] as the speed was too slow for one. There was no smoke or trail left, and there was no noise of any description,' Mr. Eason finished." (xx.)

(xx.) Wilson, North Carolina. *Times*. 29 July 52.

27 July. Dallas, Texas. (night)

"The Russians would be reassuring?"

A letter ended up on the desk of Columnist Paul Crume of the *Dallas News*. It seems Dallas resident Troy Whitener claimed to have seen something strange in the night sky. Troy's story appeared in Crume's column "Big D" on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. Crume wrote:

"While lying in bed at 8706 Eldon Drive, he [Troy] spied it through an open window, a sort of orange, half-circular object like a house-trailer with some darker squares on it that might have been a door and window. After a little while, it disappeared. We're beginning to think it might be reassuring if these things really did turn out to be just the Russians looking us over." (xx.)

(xx) Dallas, Texas *News*. 29 July 52.

27 July. New York, New York. (about 9:30 p.m.)

"Large orange ball."

August Roberts of New Jersey who joined the GOC and had taken a great interest in UFO reports was asking around and learning there was a considerable number of sightings. Later Roberts wrote this:

"...while speaking to a friend of mine, he mentioned another friend who had seen a disc [Roberts tended to use "disc" as a generic expression in 1952 instead of "UFO"] about 9:30 p.m. on July 27, 1952. When I spoke with her she said she just happened to be looking up when she saw this large orange ball of light moving towards New York. I did not place much stock in it then, but later when another person, an Auxiliary Policeman, told me he had seen a large orange ball of light going overhead and it was as large as a silver dollar. This sighting also took place on the night of July 27, 1952 at about 9:30 p.m. It set me thinking. These people do not know each other, although they live five blocks apart, and they each saw the same thing at the same time." (xx.)

(xx.) Roberts, August C. "I saw and Photographed a Flying Saucer." *Flying Saucer Review*. Seattle, Washington. Ed. Robert Gribble. March 1956. Vol.2. #3. p.3.

27 July. Five miles south of Ballington, Texas. (9:46 p.m.)

"Turns physically impossible for any aircraft." (See clipping on page 59)

27 July. Kennewick, Washington. (9:48 p.m.)

"2 Flights of Discs." (See clipping)

27 July. Star Junction, Pennsylvania. (night)

"You had to see it to believe it."

Residents of Monongahela Valley have UFO experience:

"It seems the style these days to say you have seen a flying saucer but no one in the Monongahela Valley has seen one. That is, up until last Sunday.

"Mrs Mary Uhor a Star Junction farmer's wife, and her two sons spotted what they thought was a flaming sky visitor for the best part of a half an hour last Sunday night. Her sons, Michael and August Uhor, confirmed the appearance of the strange thing

"They observed it until it disappeared in a fiery haze 500 feet above the Uhor barn.

"She said she was in her bedroom when a strange light in the sky lighted it up brightly and she went outside to investigate. It was a large sphere in the sky giving off a brilliant light. It seemed to be spinning fast and it was about five feet in diameter.

This Clipping From  
PASCO, WASH.  
TRI-CITY HERALD

JUL 28 1952

## 2 Flights Of Discs Reported

TWO FIGHTS of "flying saucers" were sighted streaking across the Kennewick sky Sunday evening.

The strange objects were seen by W. J. Luebke, 1614 West Fifth St., Kennewick, at 9:48 p.m. Sunday.

"There were 12 disc-shaped crafts going southwest in perfect 'V' formation," Mrs. Luebke said. "They traveled at a terrific rate of speed and emitted a pale blue light." They were gone in 10 seconds.

Just 35 minutes later, Luebke and his wife spotted another group of three saucers.

"These were larger and brighter and seemed to be playing tag," Mrs. Luebke again reported. "They scurried around the sky for a few minutes, one following another, then flashed out of sight," she said.

"I'VE HEARD all these flying saucer reports before, Mrs. Luebke continued, "and I always considered them a lot of hokey, but after seeing them with my own eyes, I'm definitely convinced that the discs are real."

## IN BALLINGER SKIES

# Brilliant, Mysterious Light Sighted by Abilene AF Vet

By JIM EWELL

A veteran pilot of 5,600 flying hours Tuesday night told Civil Aeronautical Authorities here of being momentarily blinded by a brilliant light from a mysterious object in the skies as he and his wife were returning home by automobile from Uvalde Sunday night.

Dick Dickenson, of 2149 Beech St., World War II pilot and a Civil Air Patrol lieutenant here, first caught sight of the light which he described as a "big welding torch running across the skies" about 15 miles south of Ballinger.

Dickenson made the report to Max Emery, chief of the CAA control tower at Municipal Airport, in compliance with a request from the Air Force for information about unidentified objects in the skies.

The strange light, Dickenson said, made a pass in a 30 to 40 degree elevation in the horizon dead ahead of his automobile, the light flicking intermittently.

Its route was east to west. The Dickenson car was headed north.

### 'TERRIFIC LIGHT'

"It was a terrifically bright light, such as I have never seen be-

fore," Dickenson related. "It was like a welding torch flame, a brilliant blue-white."

Dickenson said the light was making a rapid downward plunge when first sighted, suddenly leveled off, and then shot down again before disappearing behind a grove of trees.

Dickenson, a World War II pilot in the Air Training Command said the object switched its course sharply in turns physically impossible for any aircraft, including the jet.

"It couldn't have been a falling star. For one thing, the star's glow wouldn't have been that bright. Also, had it been wouldn't it have continued falling rather than veering back up. It left no trail or glow as falling stars do," Dickenson said.

Dickenson said the object appeared before him for only a brief moment before vanishing. "I have stood and watched F-86 (jet fighter planes) buzz me and I can say right here the F-86 couldn't have matched this thing."

### FLASH ON, OFF

Glare of the bright light left Dickenson partially blinded. The light he said, would flash briefly then black out, then flick back on. It did this about four or five times in the course of its passing.

Dickenson recorded the time of object's encounter as 9:46 p. m. Sunday. After it disappeared, the light was never sighted again.

Dickenson recalled remarking to his wife,

"Hey, did you see that light?"

"Yes," replied Mrs. Dickenson.

The Dickenson's two children, also in the car, were asleep in the back seat.

### AT 45-DEGREE ANGLE

The light was brighter than the brightest star in the heavens, Dickenson, who has logged night flying time, reported. His first reaction upon sighting the light — as if running head on into the blinding lights of an approaching car — was "how did that firefly get inside the windshield?"

"But this certainly was no firefly. It came down from a 45-degree angle, leveled off at a 20-degree angle and then shot up again in a 45-degree angle. I had the power or the force to resist gravitation, that being my argument why the light was not a falling star."

Dickenson did not stop the car, but kept driving while the light was in sight, he said. Because the car's motor and high wind, Dickenson could detect no sound of engines, nor could he estimate the object's speed or altitude.

The light appeared to be powered by propulsion of great speed, Dickenson noted.

### GRAVITATIONAL AVIATION?

"Just what this thing was, I don't know. I'd like to know myself. I've been wanting to see one of these things for five years, and this is my first time."

Advancing the theory some foreign power or another planet may have found the secrets to gravitational aviation, Dickenson said the light appeared to have been powered by some terrific internal force, suggesting atomic power.

Dickenson is a traveling salesman for the Amarillo Hardware Co.



DICK DICKENSON  
... what was it?

"When Michael and August saw it, it seemed to be giving off sparks and fading away. Mrs. Uhor said, 'You had to see it to believe it.'" (xx.)

(xx) Monongahela, Pennsylvania. *Republican* 28 July 52

27 July. San Antonio, Texas. (night)

"Zigging and Zagging."

A story in the San Antonio paper said:

"A San Antonio couple, Mr. and Mrs. V.V. Bryant, 127 North Drive, reported seeing objects in the sky also Sunday night. They said they were flying high, zigging and zagging. They expressed hope that someone else saw them too, so they wouldn't feel ridiculous.

"Bryant said he and his wife were in their back yard when six of the things—brilliant, elongated and in the southwest, darting and dipping like a bird and going three times faster than a jet appeared. Then a seventh one returned from the opposite direction, he said. Bryant said they were in view only about 10 to 15 seconds." (xx.)

(xx.) San Antonio, Texas. *Express* 29 July 52.

27 July. Ypsilanti, Michigan. (about 11:00 p.m.)

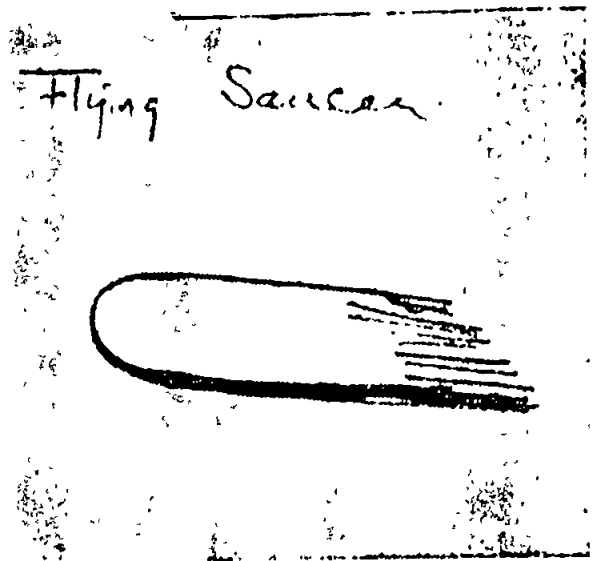
"Flat ovals?"

Case from the Ypsilanti press:

"Mrs A.M. Vandersall living east of Ypsilanti and south of the new George School got a good view late Sunday night.

"Unable to sleep because of the heat, she had gone into the garden at approximately 11 o'clock. She describes the sky visitors as luminous, with a white light and the front rounded and the rear ragged or feathered, something like the exhaust of jets. First she saw three close together and three strung out behind. All traveled at incredible speed.

"The Vandersalls live but a short distance from the Air Terminal and are familiar with various types of planes including jets. These [objects] were much faster than the jets flown from the terminal here. The accompanying sketch was drawn by her to indicate the approximate contour of the strange objects. She glimpsed them through two tree tops, fairly low in the sky and going from north to south. All seemed to have a flat, oval shape." (xx.)



(xx.) Ypsilanti, Michigan. *Press* 28 July 52.

27 July. Detroit, Michigan. (10:20 p.m.)

“Orange thing.”

A press report states:

“An elliptical object, glowing a vivid orange ‘like a hot coal in the sky,’ performed seven minutes Sunday night for a metallurgical engineer in the vicinity of Greenfield and Chicago.

“Richard Studer, of 9397 Sussex, said his report was belated because he ‘wished no publicity,’ although he desired to submit his findings to authorities.

“At 10:20 p.m., the orange ‘thing’ appeared against a backdrop of clear sky and stars.

“The long axis was four times greater than the short axis. Frequently, the ‘light’ would slowly narrow to pencil appearance, then snap back suddenly to its elliptical shape, as if a disc were tilting from its surface to its side.

“An orange tail, the length of the main body but of lesser intensity appeared at the south end of the ‘thing’ only when it was in its full form.

“Finally, after seven minutes, it narrowed to its pencil shape and faded away.”

(xx.)

(xx) There were problems with this clipping. Only the date is known: 29 July 52. Most of the text deals with Detroit UFO reports so the source paper is probably the *Detroit News*. Another problem was the words “Greenfield” and “Chicago.” There are no cities by those names in Michigan. Illinois does, but they are separated by a considerable distance. It is assumed the names are streets in the city of Detroit.

27 July. Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. (about 11:15 p.m.)

Sharp turn

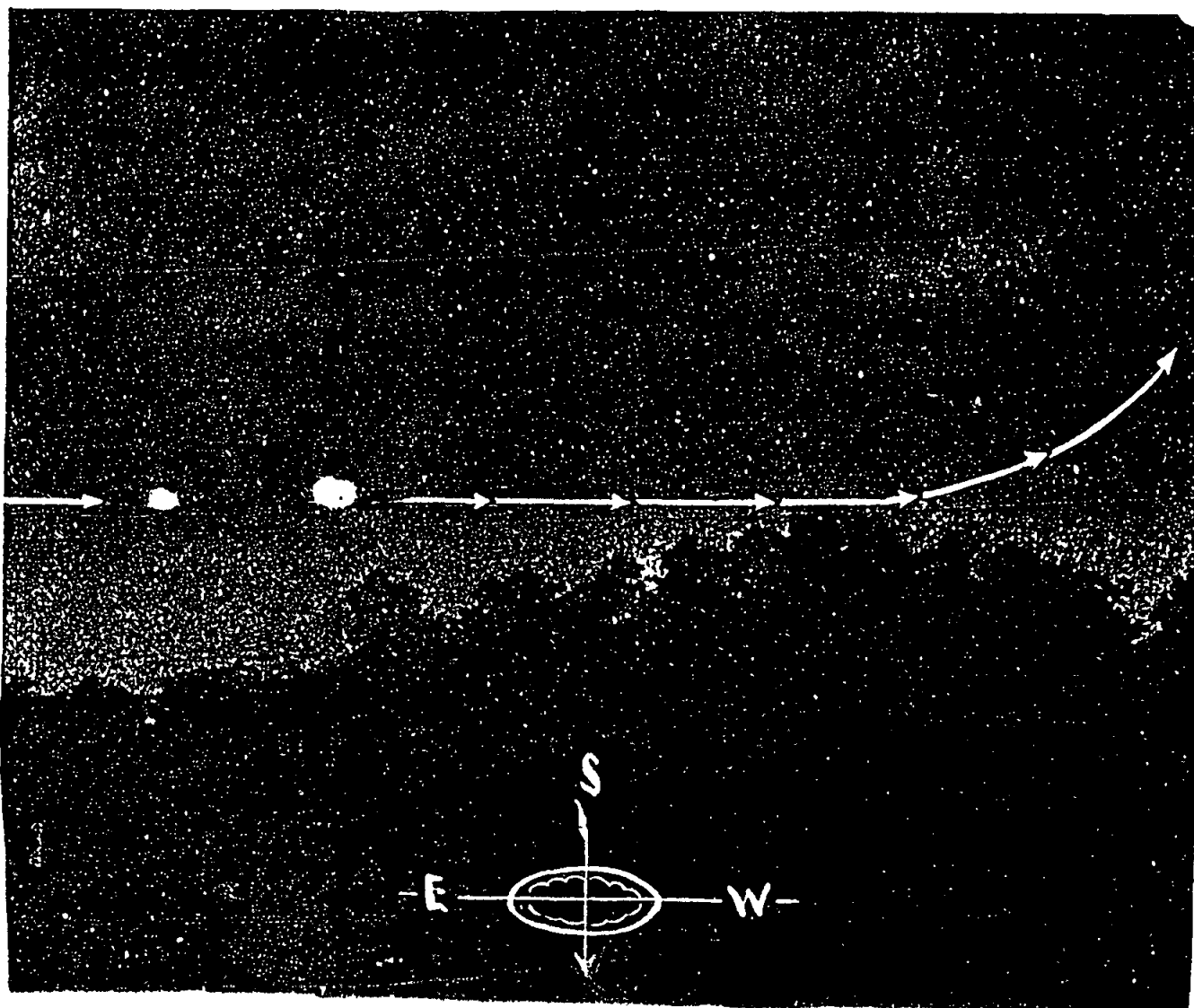
Press report:

“Robert Armour reported he saw a bright blue-white object streaking across the sky about 11:15 p.m. It streaked from north to south and then turned sharply and went east. The object was round and left no trail. The observer said that it was not a plane as it was traveling too fast and made so sharp a turn.” (xx.)

(xx.) Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. *The Daily Standard-Freeholder*. 28 July 52.

27 July. Sandusky, Ohio. (shortly before midnight)

“Was the supernatural over Sandusky?”



28 July. The CIA “takes over.”

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the CIA was asked to conduct a review of the Air Force’s UFO investigation. The move was strongly resented by the Air Force but the review request came from the very top—the President and the National Security Council. (xx.)

(xx.) Hall, Michael and Wendy Connors. *Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Summer of the Saucers—1952*. Rose Press International: Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2000. p.199.

The CIA quickly determined that the Air Force was not equal to the task since a solution to the UFO mystery: “...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...” (xx.) The Agency did not think much of BLUE BOOK, a group consisting of a “reserve Captain,

two lieutenants, and a couple of secretaries.”

(xx.) CIA Memorandum. From: H. Marshall Chadwell, CIA Assistant Director of Science and Intelligence. To: CIA Director Bedell Smith. 7 September 52.

The Air Force would retained a role, however, as a conduit for UFO reports and having to make do with the thankless task of taking the heat from the public, media, and Congress.

Major Dewey Fournet, who handled UFO information for the Air Force at the Pentagon, remembers well when the CIA's representative, Fred Durant, arrived:

“I knew he had been given the authority to see me and I was told that I could tell him everything that I possibly could about the UFO Project, from Day One. I do know he was on the CIA payroll. I assumed he was just one of the project managers; and, there again, you don't go asking questions like that of those people. He told me what his objective was, which was to take the stuff up in the CIA and they would determine whether they any further recommendations should be made to the Air Force or to the President.” (xx.)

(xx) Hall, Michael and Wendy Connors. *Captain Edward J Ruppelt, Summer of the Saucers—1952*. Rose Press International: Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2000. p.149.

Battelle study hindered.

Another insult to the Air Force was the fate of the Battelle UFO statistical study that had been in the works for some time, and was the military's prime effort toward the understanding of the UFO mystery. The CIA was planning to hold an official meeting in the months ahead with some Nobel prize type scientists in attendance. It promised to be an opportunity for the Air Force to show it knew what it was doing. However, UFO debunker Donald Menzel ruined things. It all started when Menzel wrote BLUE BOOK chief Edward Ruppelt during the summer. Ruppelt says:

“He said that he had decided to write a book and wanted to know when he could come to ATIC to study our files. Although this was against the policies, Col. Dunn suggested that we go ahead and try to set it up. I checked with AMC security people and they said that he had no clearance and that temporarily, he couldn't get one. Since ATIC is a secure area he couldn't be allowed to visit for any length of time. He was notified of this and didn't like it. Col. Dunn sent him a letter, very much to the point, saying that he could get his data through channels, from the PIO, like anyone else.

“Not long after this I had a visit from Dr. Aiken, of Harvard, a computer specialist. Aiken said that he thought that maybe he could make something of the UFO reports if we would be kind enough to loan them to him. He was working for ATIC at the time and had the proper clearances and storage facilities that allowed him to store documents borrowed from ATIC. We packed up three years of reports and sent them to him. He was to send them back to us in a



month. One month passed, then two, and not a word from Aiken. I called him several times and he was 'just getting ready to send them back' each time. Finally I sent Bob Olsen [of BLUE BOOK] up to Boston to get the reports but when he arrived Aiken couldn't produce time. We did get them back a few days later.

"When Menzel's book came out, here were all of the classified reports in it. The specific item that gave the whole thing away, and caused us to check farther, was a 'confession' to the FBI from a Chrisman and Dahl who were the originators of a big hoax in Tacoma, Washington. For some time we had been trying to get the 'confession' released but couldn't. Then there were other ver batum quoted from many old reports that had never before been released but had been sent to Aiken. I tried to push an investigation but Col. Don Bower talked me out of it since the data that was taken really wasn't of any interest or consequence. I still objected to the principle of the act. I felt that even though the material probably should have been declassified long ago-like so much other data—it wasn't up to Aiken to pass it on to someone who didn't even have a clearance. If he would do this with our data, and Menzel asked him to do it, both were darn poor security risks." (xx.)

(xx) Ruppelt's personal papers, File RO86. In the files of Professor Michael Swords.

The truth was Menzel held a Top Secret Ultra clearance and had a long history of working with the CIA, facts learned with much difficulty. No one prove any intrigue, but one can't rule it out either since the significance of the "loan" to Menzel's was the delay caused in the completion of the Battelle study. The study would play no part in the January 1953 Robertson Panel meeting.

Debunking and downplaying.

There was a solid reason for curbing UFO "hysteria." As one newsman remarked: "Government officials can hope the saucers—if such they be—come from Mars and not Russia. There's some doubts of Mars' intentions."

Whether debunking and downplaying was due to a plan orchestrated by the CIA or just persons of influence acting on their own, is impossible to sort out.

Ruppelt, in an unpublished portion of his book on UFOs, admits it was local Air Force Intelligence officers that "pressured" Andrews AFB tower operators to change their story from "unidentified objects" to "bright stars." (xx.) If orders for that came down from the officer's

(xx.) Ruppelt, Edward J. *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. Doubleday & Company, Inc.: Garden City, New York, 1956. p.169. Also: Hall, Michael and Wendy Ann Connors. *Captain Edward J Ruppelt, Summer of the Saucers—1952*. p.150.

superior's, we have evidence for a conspiracy.

Harlow Shapley and Donald Menzel of Harvard Observatory seemed too severe in their judgement of the UFO excitement. The chance that there were any gray areas in their arguments was utterly denied. That was hardly Harvard-level thinking [I assume as much—L. E. Gross].

Menzel wrote whole books so his position on the issue is firmly established. Shapley's record

is less well known but it is just as anti-UFO as his colleague's. (See clipping)

Another astronomer worth a comment is Rev. Francis Heyden of Georgetown University. He had close ties with the CIA and his private opinions were more pro-UFO than his public pronouncements. He was Harvard trained and probably knew both Shapley and Menzel quite well. Does that mean anything? Who knows?

## Astronomer Calls Saucers Lot of Nonsense.

ALBANY, N. Y., July 29 (INS). — "Flying saucers are a lot of complete nonsense."

That is the opinion expressed today by Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard observatory, Cambridge, Mass., and considered one of the world's leading astronomers.

"The objects people are seeing in the sky — if they are seeing anything at all — are not aircraft from another planet, nor are they Russian planes," he said with emphasis.

### Five Sources

Dr. Shapley said in a telephone interview, the so-called flying saucers can be traced to five sources:

1. Hallucination
2. Fire balls, or meteorites.
3. High altitude weather balloons.
4. Planes flying above a layer of warmth several thousand feet up in the sky
5. High flying planes that cannot be seen passing through a layer of abnormal, uneven density.

"Hallucination must be placed at the top," Dr. Shapley said, "because at least half the people who report they have seen flying saucers, never saw anything."

### Meteorites

He explained that at this time of the year, because of the earth's position, an abundance of fire balls, or meteorites, are to be seen in the sky.

"Every day several thousands of high altitude weather balloons are sent up from the more than 100 weather stations all over the country," he said. "Many of them are seen by people who jump to the conclusion they have seen a flying saucer."

Discussing the fourth point, Dr. Shapley pointed out that often a warm layer several thousand feet up contains dust particles which increases the power of light divergence.

"A pilot may well be attracted by somewhat distorted displaced image of the moon, sun or even a high, brightly lighted cloud," he said.

Finally, Dr. Shapley said that a plane flying at a high altitude through a layer of abnormal density "can set off some queer lights" light bright images sweeping across the dark sky.

As for the announcement by the Civil Aeronautics Administration traffic control center, at Washington, D. C., that its radarscope had picked up objects seen in that area, Dr. Shapley said:

"All of the sources I have given, with the exception of hallucinations will register on a radarscope. Even a cloud with water vapor will record itself on the radar screen."

Dr. Shapley also noted that the earth satellite vehicle program which, from 20,000 miles in space, can control radar-directed missiles, has been "enormously developed" in the past three years.

"But this would have not the slightest connection with what we have come to know as flying saucers."

He added:

"The best way to see flying saucers is when you are in your car."

This Clipping From  
ALLENTOWN, PA.  
CALL

JUL 30 1952

Confusion among close allies.

Author Jenny Randles explains the official reaction of the English to the Washington "invasion." She writes:

"When news of these incredible events reached London in the summer of 1952, it produced great consternation in the Air Ministry. Noyes recalls Cochrane complaining to the Cabinet, 'I thought Vandenburg had put an end to all this in '49.'

"Such was the impact that Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued a memo to his air minister. This, thankfully, has been retained by the PRO and shows a clearly disgruntled prime minister asking 'all this stuff about flying saucers' meant. He ordered an investigation. Sir Robert Coburn, Chief Air Ministry Scientist, was sent to Washington, D.C., as Noyes explains. Later, according to Captain Ruppelt in his 1956 memoirs, several RAF intelligence officers came to his office armed with a long list of questions about how to set up a British UFO project.

"Coburn returned to London and advised that something had happened over Washington, D.C., and despite the public pronouncements, the U.S. government was not entirely sure what was going on." (xx.)

(xx.) Randles, Jenny. *UFO! Danger in the Air*. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1996. pp.38-39.

Late? July. Coffeyville, Kansas. (early morning)

Flat bottom, curved top.

No exact date is given but a news story out of Coffeyville, Kansas, that was carried in the July 28<sup>th</sup> edition of an Ottawa paper told of a report by a Homer G. Blass who saw something while driving to work:

"Blass said the 'thing' was flat on the bottom and curved on top, and seemed to be about the size of a stock watering tank about 12 feet in diameter. It appeared to be moving slowly in a south-south-easterly direction. All at once it stopped completely and then went west at a high rate of speed, he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Ottawa, Kansas. *Herald*. 28 July 52.

28 July. Rockford, Illinois. (night)

Sharp-edged discs.

Our source states:

"Art Jaffray, amateur astronomer, saw a hazy object to the left of the of the moon while watching the moon through binoculars. It cleared in a moment and

finally resolved into a sharp-edged disc. It began to move rapidly to the north.

"Jaffray counted 20 seconds until it reached a point 10 degrees above the northern horizon when it flattened out and vanished. It traveled approximately 94 degrees of arc. Disc was white or aluminum, and appeared to be at great height, with no vapor trail." (xx.)

(xx) *APRO Bulletin*. Vol. I, #2. September 15, 1952. p.11.

28 July. Albany, Oregon. (4:25 p.m.)

Ball-like objects in perfect triangular formation. (See clipping and next item also from Oregon)

28 July. Lebanon, Oregon. (night?)

Flying triangle?

A press report says:

"A strange object flying over Lebanon was reported to city police here last night.

"Johnny Wells and Edward Wier reported seeing a V-shaped object which they said was 100 feet wide soaring over the city. The device was said to be illuminated by small lights

"The pair told police the object was traveling from west to east." (xx.)

(xx.) Albany, Oregon. *Democrat-Herald*. 29 July 52.

28 July. Sacramento, California. (about (9:15 p.m.)

Went straight up.

According to the newspaper:

"Myles M Myers of 2425 Meadowbrook Road, said he observed a ball of fire over his house Monday night about (:15 o'clock. He thought it was a meteor at first but when it turned and went straight up in the air he realized it must have been something else." (xx.)

(xx.) Sacramento, California *Bee* 30 July 52.

28 July Dayton, Ohio. (9.15 p.m.)

So help me God!

This Clipping From  
CORVALLIS, ORE.  
GAZETTE-TIMES

JUL 30 1952

## Mysterious Objects Zipped Over Albany, Says Corvallis Man

"Mysterious objects," which have been zipping across other parts of the country, were reported as having zoomed over and past Albany Monday by Earl Ehrmann of Corvallis, district engineer of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company.

Checking on an installation project in east Albany Monday, Ehrmann's vision was substantiated by Joe Wimmer of Portland, telephone engineer temporarily assigned here, and two unidentified men who passed by.

Three "white balls" traveling at a "tremendous rate of speed" were heading southward at 4:25 p.m. Monday, Ehrmann said. They were speeding so straight, he continued, that it appeared they were "on a string or track."

The ball-like objects were sighted for between a minute and minute and a half. Spaced in perfect triangular form, they raced across the clear, blue skies, he added.

Ehrmann reported that the sun shining on them made them more obvious. No vapor train was evident.

He didn't call them "flying saucers," because they appeared as balls. He surmised they weren't weather balloons because "weather balloons can't travel that fast."

Ehrmann estimated the objects were at an altitude of about 7 to 8,000 feet.

When he first sighted the strange objects, he said, "It's the best," then he continued, "I looked away and then looked again and they were still there."

Columnist Ralph Vines published a letter sent to him by a reader:

"Before I finish this letter you will in all probability think it to be the figment of a vivid imagination or an out-and-out lie. But believe me, the following statements are true, so help me God!

"Yesterday evening, Monday, July 28, I was driving about two miles east on Kemp road, from Spinning road. I have an old 1937 model car that has weak headlights and I was forced to stop along Kemp road to install a fuse.

"I had just replaced the fuse and was getting ready to test the lights to see if they were working, when in a flash of lightning I saw suspended about 150 feet above the ground, some quarter of a mile from the highway, an illuminated, transparent disc. I saw sharp blue-white sparks emitting from several spots on the object. At first I thought I was 'seeing things,' but on taking a closer look, the object remained as it was. This was 9:15 p.m.

"I took a flashlight from the dash of the car and started to go through the field for a closer look. I had not travelled over 75 yards when a brilliant red ball of fire emitted from the object and shot high into the air. This was followed by a brilliant green ball that followed a similar course. The object rose, without a sound, straight up into the air at a terrific speed, and in a few seconds disappeared.

"There seemed to be a thin wisp of vapor hanging over the area where I saw the disc. This lingered for three or four minutes, and drifted away. The disc seemed to be 100 feet in diameter.

"I cannot give you my name because I am married and had a date with a girl Monday evening, while my wife thought I was working.

"I had never paid any attention to the so-called flying saucers but I saw something that I shall never forget as long as I live. I believe that I was closer to that object of mystery than any human on this earth has ever been." (xx.)

(xx.) Vines, Ralph. "Lines by Vines." Dayton, Ohio. *News* 1 August 52.

28 July. Memphis, Tennessee. (between 9 & 9:30 p.m.)

"I wasn't frightened—just surprised at seeing something I've been laughing at."

A press account states:

"Mysterious objects, or flying saucers, were reported over Memphis by an Eastern Airlines radio operator last night.

"Mrs. James L. Wiygul told The Press-Scimitar she was sitting in the back yard of her home at 1183 Madison between 9 and 9:30 last night when she and Mrs. Jack Gullede, same address, sighted 'five or six of them.'

" 'They were flat when we first saw them,' Mrs. Wiygul said, 'and turned oval as they went across the sky. They turned flat again just before they dipped down and disappeared,'

"Mrs. Wiygul said the objects were glowing with a white luminous light but seemed to have no lights attached. They moved from east to west, almost from horizon to horizon in about one minute. She said she could not estimate how high or how fast

the objects were traveling.

“ ‘Shortly afterward we saw a falling star,’ Mrs Wiygul said, ‘so we know this wasn’t a falling star. They were different.’

“Mrs. Wiygul said she wasn’t frightened by the sight, ‘just surprised at seeing something you’d been laughing about.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Memphis, Tennessee. *Press-Scimitar*. 29 July 52.

28 July. Teaneck, New Jersey. (night)

Fiery object.

The Ridgefield *Sun* printed:

“Teaneck—Flying saucers hurtled into the local picture this week when three members of the Teaneck Fire Department reported seeing a brilliant blue object answering the description Monday night while standing in front of fire headquarters.

“Scanning the skies after reading about flying saucer reports near the nation’s capital and other points, Capt. Harry Davis, Lt. Mobray Darby and Fireman Arthur Beacker reported seeing the fiery object traveling at a tremendous speed in a westerly direction. It sped out of sight in a few seconds, they said.

“Lt. Darby said the ‘saucer’ was on a straight course and was flying low enough to pass under a cloud formation. He commented that the object was going faster than any jet plane he had ever seen and said there was no sound from it.”

(xx.)

(xx.) Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. *Sun*. 31 July 52.

28? July. Lewistown, Pennsylvania. (night?)

“Windows around its edges?” “People inside?”

Warren Wilkey’s claim:

“A graphic description of a flying saucer which he spotted while going to work has been given by Warren Wilkey, Lewistown, a car inspector at the American Viscose Corporation plant.

“Wilkey said: ‘The round object seemed very low in the sky and was about the dimensions of a box car only round instead of oblong.’ He said the object appeared to have windows around its edges and to be illuminated from the inside. He asserted: ‘It looked as though someone was walking past the windows or that some piece of mechanism was revolving inside the object.’ Wilkey was carrying a searchlight at the time and when he turned the beam upward the object gained altitude and disappeared.” (xx.)

(xx.) Sunbury, Pennsylvania *Item* 28 July 52.

28 July. The famous Port Huron case. Data from Dr. James McDonald's files. (See pages 71-77)

Port Huron, Mich. July 29, 1952 -- Notes made 6/30/69 at WPAFB

Time 0240 to 0300 Z (2140 to 2200 EST on 7/28 evidently. The F94 was with 61st Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Had done 6 practice intercepts on B25, was climbing out to west when the GCI station (Station Avenger) asked him to lock for target at 3 o'clock low. None visible to EJS pilot, but radarman 1st Lt VEH got return as Capt EJS started starboard turn. On gaining 360 heading, got lock on which he held for about 30 sec before it jumped lock.

They then pursued it visually for 20 min at 350 IAS (ca 130-180 miles miles), with GCI painting both F94 and unknown, and unknown maintaining 6-10 miles ahead.

Both men describe it as giving off colored lights, Capt. EJS saying "the object appeared to be giving off a changing light which had a definite sequence of white, red, and bluish-green.

1st Lt VEH closed his signed statement with "From personal experience of study in celestial navigation and 1400 hours as a bombardier, radar observer, and navigator, I have never experienced any sighting like this before."

Penciled note on first sheets (ink-signed by Ruppelt): Probably GCI was CPS6B set at 752d AC&W Sqdn, Empire, Mich. *File up on 1st copy near Toronto City. Figure in 1st 7. Another case 1 hour*

1.5 sheets carbon copy tagged Case #8 (Robertson?) It gives speed of 550 knots on 360 degree heading, though one would infer 360 kts from maintaining steady lead on F94. Could true speed of F94 be 550 here? *Yes 12:41.5 I believe with Corridor for AC & W*

At time of lock on F94 was 20 mi west of Pt. Huron.

The sheet tagged Case 8 says Capella lay in line with flight and appears colored at times. "At first it was believed that this was what the pilot saw, but when it was established that both the F94 and the UFO were being carried on the GCI scope, Capella became a doubtful suspect. (Indicating the Case 8 is not Robertson No. is fact that this section ends with 1956 comments and a 1956 evaluation of "Aircraft"

*Selfridge 5/4* → Ltr dated 7 Oct 1952 to ATIC from intelligence officer at Selfridge, 61 st FIS, 4708th Defense Wing, gives answers to earlier queries. Gives UFO speed as 550 kts. Says weather balloon was released on time at 0300Z so not balloon.

Ltr 8/4/52 from Selfridge to ATIC upgrades report to secret

Map at back of file shows F94 path heading due N from 20 mi W of Pt Huron to fuel-out point just off Burnt Cabin Point ca 5 miles north of tip of peninsula. *(Near PC Austin)*

File has raob and winds in back too.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS

January 6, 1970

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe  
Luray, Virginia, 22835

Dear Don:

A few days ago (1/3/70), I talked on the phone with an ex-Air Force pilot involved in a 1952 UFO case, which I know would still interest you. Hence, rather than dictating a summary version of my rough telephone notes in ordinary file form, I'll put it down in this letter to you.

I learned of the present location of the pilot quite by chance. I was checking on one more case in the Condon Report (page 151, Detroit, Michigan, 3/53) and, in talking with Lt. Col. H. C. Strand, the pilot of the F-94 that figures in that incident, I brought up the 7/29/52 Port Huron sighting. Col. Strand not only knew of it, but knew where the pilot, Edward J. Sloan, is now living, in Valparaiso, Florida. I'll send a carbon of this summary to Col. Strand, since it will doubtless be of interest to him. And also, I'll send one to Dick Hall, since I know he will find it of interest, too.

Col. Strand had thought that he was flying with Sloan on the night in question, but Sloan was emphatic in his recollections that his was the only F-94 that went up after the Unknown that had been detected by GCI ground radar on the night of 7/29/52. Conceivably, Col. Strand's recollections applied to another sighting somewhat similar which occurred in Michigan in that period, possibly one related to the Port Austin, Michigan, incident. Since my primary reason for dictating this is for file-summary, I hope you will not be bothered by my numbering items for convenience of later reference.

(1) As soon as I introduced myself on the phone and mentioned the Port Huron incident, Sloan remarked that he still remembered it quite clearly. He was a Captain at the time, flying out of Selfridge AFB. He recalled that he and at least one other F-94 had been doing practice intercepts on some aircraft, but could not distinctly recall that it was a B-25 (as indicated in the Bluebook file-summary that I studied on my last visit to Wright-Patterson last July). He thought there were only two F-94s, where the Bluebook file indicates three.



Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe  
January 6, 1970  
Page Two—

- (2) Unfortunately, Sloan cannot now recall what GCI unit originally vectored him to the Unknown. The Bluebook file is not specific on that either, though a signed comment of Ruppelt on one of the sheets speculates that maybe it was the AC&W unit at Empire, Michigan. However, that's a long way up on the north-west coast, and my guess would be that it might have been the AC&W station at Port Austin or conceivably at Selfridge itself.
- (3) Sloan talked by phone with the GCI controller as soon as he landed, but never spoke to him in person, so he lacks that clue to the locale of the GCI station. I asked him if anyone from Bluebook or anywhere else ever interviewed him personally, and he said not. The Bluebook files indicate that the report was submitted from Selfridge, but it must have come up from the GCI unit. He did not report it himself.
- (4) I asked him the name of his radar officer, and he thought it was Victor Helfenbien, who he said was a very experienced man with airborne radar. (That checks with the Bluebook files, too, incidentally. Helfenbien was a first lieutenant, according to the Bluebook files.) The F-94 radar unit was an APG-33, as Sloan recalled. He said that, with a multi-prop aircraft as a target, he recalled getting lock-ons out to ranges slightly greater than 20 miles with that set. This is in rough agreement with what Col. Strand had told me, too. I have been trying to run down data on that set, which is, of course, no longer classified, because it is also involved in the Haneda AFB UFO incident.
- (5) Sloan could not recall the climb-out direction as he left the intercept area, under instructions from GCI. (The Bluebook files indicate he climbed out on westerly heading.) He had a little more fuel than the other F-94(s), so he was the one who chose to go up to investigate.
- (6) As he now recalls it, he didn't see anything until he got to altitude and was given some new vectoring instructions. (The Bluebook files indicate that GCI told him the target was at his 3 o'clock position when he gained altitude, i.e., off to his north.)
- (7) Ruppelt's account indicates that GCI saw the target do a 180 turn and head back north just at the time that Sloan's F-94 turned into it. Sloan does not recall that. However, he did state that he remembered

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe  
January 6, 1970  
Page Three

GCI describing it as hovering motionless just before he got up there. (It is conceivable that GCI remarked on its stopping and that this led to Sloan's recollection of hovering.)

(8) As soon as he did a starboard turn and headed into it on a northerly course, GCI radioed that the unknown target they were carrying was beginning to move northward. Sloan does not now think that his radarman ever got a lock-on, though he recalls that Helfenbien did get some transient returns. (Bluebook file is quite specific in mentioning a 30-second lock-on.)

(9) As Sloan recalled, he pursued the target for about twenty minutes. He said he is still puzzled as to what it was he saw visually. It was changing color (red, blue, white) and very bright. It lay near the horizon and near the north point. I asked him if he thought it could have been a star. His remark was that he had done a lot of flying, both before that and since, in northern areas, and he had never seen a star that looks like that. He estimated that he had about 3500 hours at that time, and he had logged 6000 hours by the time he retired from the Air Force in 1963. Though he said several times that he never was entirely sure that the light he was pursuing was not a star distorted by some atmospheric effect, he repeated that it was very puzzling to him. I asked him if it ever seemed to change azimuth or altitude, and he said it did not.

(10) On the other hand, a steady pursuit course was just what GCI was plotting, which was at least consistent with the visual source that he was observing from the cockpit. Very significantly, Sloan confirmed the Bluebook file-statements to the effect that the distance between him and the unknown target, as seen on GCI radar, varied during the chase. At times he was closing and would get to a minimum distance that he recalled as about 5 miles (in good accord with the Bluebook file's 4 miles). Then it would speed up and get out to about 10 miles ahead of him, he recollected. And it did that speeding up rather abruptly, he recalled. These abrupt speed changes and distance changes, as well as the distance-range of about 5-10 miles, are in quite close accord with the 1952 report in the Bluebook files.

(11) The closure and recession strongly rule out any obvious explanation in terms of ghost-reflections, since, if it was some spurious ground-return due to scattering off his own F-94, GCI would have carried it as moving ahead of the F-94 at a constant distance equal to his

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altitude (which was about 4 miles above terrain).

(12) It is, of course, puzzling that the airborne radar got no return, when GCI was getting a clear echo. However, the APG-33 is an X-band set, whereas GCI units almost invariably were an S-band or even L-band. It is thus conceivable that the radar reflectivity of the target was weaker at 3 cm than at 10 cm or greater.

(13) It would be extremely valuable to be able to interview Lt. Helfenbien. In the Bluebook files, his signed statement included a rather emphatic comment:

*"From personal experience and study of celestial navigation and 1400 hours as bombardier, radar observer, and navigator, I have never experienced any sighting like this before."*

In Ruppelt's account, he attributes to the radar officer the following quote:

*"It was just as solid a lock-on as you get from a B-36."*

I did not find that statement in the Bluebook files. One wonders if it is at all possible that Ruppelt, or someone else at Bluebook, got in touch with Helfenbien, even though they did not interview Sloan. Another possibility is that Ruppelt's quote is not authentic.

(14) I asked Sloan if he recalled that GCI called up any plotted UFO speeds to him, since both Menzel and Ruppelt mentioned a maximum radar-deduced speed of 1400 mph. He did not recall that he got any speed data out of GCI, but reiterated the variable separation between him and the target, as called out from GCI, and the rapid variations thereof.

(15) He eventually ran low on fuel and had to return. I failed to ask him an important question about that phase of the incident, namely, the question of whether GCI saw the target slow down as he broke off chase, a point that Ruppelt indicates.

(16) He said that he came down shaking his head, not sure what he'd seen. Although the visual appearance was unparalleled in terms of any stars or planets he'd ever seen from the air, he did indicate that he would have been inclined to write it off as some atmospheric distortion of a star, if it hadn't been for what GCI was plotting. When he talked to the controller, the controller was very

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 Page Five

emphatic about the intensity of the return and the unconventional motions and maneuvers.

(17) Sloan confirmed what the Bluebook files say about his going to afterburner at times and hence attaining air speeds in the neighborhood of 550 knots in trying to close.

(18) Hynek, in his 1953 article in the *Journal of the Optical Society*, explains the visual sighting as Capella, and so does Menzel in his 1963 book. Interestingly, the Bluebook file specifically confronts that possibility and rejects it because of the behavior of the target on the GCI scope. The Bluebook file also rejects any relation to a weather balloon, since the time was wrong. (Obviously, nothing in this sighting could be equated to a weather balloon by anyone but Menzel.) A letter from ATIC to Selfridge, dated 7 October 1952, in the Bluebook files gave answers to some earlier followup queries. Another communication upgraded the report to Secret, on 8/4/52, indicating that, 5 days after General Samford held the big press conference on the Washington National sightings, it was decided to take the Port Huron sighting fairly seriously.

(19) It is, of course, difficult to decide whether to take Sloan's 1969 recollection or the quite specific statement in the Bluebook file, to the effect that the F-94 nose radar got lock-on immediately after gaining a 360° heading. The Bluebook file says that lock-on was held "for about 30 seconds before it jumped lock." Your account, Ruppelt's account, and Menzel's account (based on ATIC files), all refer to the F-94 getting lock-on. My inclination is to put more weight on the specific statement of the Bluebook files than on Sloan's recollection 17 years later, since it was his radarman and not he that was working the scope. Obviously, it would be very desirable to talk to Helfenbien himself on this crucial point.

All in all, what I learned from talking with Sloan and from going over the Bluebook file on this case, on my last visit to WPAFB, indicates that this was, indeed, a significant case back there in 1952. Menzel dismisses both the ground radar and airborne radar with a wave of his hand and a remark about "phantom returns caused by weather conditions." I have studied the radiosonde for the time and area in question, and there certainly is nothing to account for any anomalous propagation returns. Furthermore, the

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distinct moving target that GCI was plotting, along with the return from the F-94 itself, is not even remotely similar to AP effects. Furthermore, AP that might influence any ground radar is essentially incapable of influencing airborne radar at altitudes as high as were involved here (20,000 ft altitude). Sloan's description of the visual sighting, although it does not categorically rule out the Capella explanation, points away from that, by virtue of his never having seen any similar effect in 6000 hours of flying. Menzel makes much of the fact that the luminous source held in a steady position, but, as I remarked above, GCI also got radar-track, indicating a steady course towards the north, compatible with Sloan's visual sighting. Also, Capella (the only moderately bright star anywhere in that area at the time) was so nearly on the horizon, that one would have to expect substantial extinction. To be sure, at 20,000-ft altitude, extinction effects are diminished, but they are not absent. And Capella's magnitude is only 0.2, in the first place.

Well, this summary has become fairly long. But, since it concerns one of those famous cases that stirred things up back in the summer of 1952, I knew you'd find some of this of interest, Don.

Best regards,

James E. McDonald

JEM/msr  
cc: Lt. Col. H. C. Strand  
Mr. R. H. Hall

(xx.)

(xx) Dr James McDonald's papers University of Arizona at Tucson Library,  
Tucson, Arizona Special Collections Division

28 July Ponca City, Oklahoma. (about 8:30 p.m.)

UFO hovers over refinery, another swoops down on .

The Ponca News had two stories to tell. (See clipping)

*This Clipping From*  
**PONCA CITY, OKLA.**  
**NEWS**

**JUL 29 1952**

Belly Lights of Jets?

## Two Local Residents Report Saucer-Like Objects in Sky

"Flying saucer" reports popped up in Ponca City today after unidentified bright objects were seen in the sky from two different locations last night.

The objects were seen about 8:30 p.m.

Miss Colcen Leehan, 1318 South Fifth, was returning from Tulsa with her aunt, Mrs. Vera Roark, and Mrs. Roark's daughter, Mrs. Robert Barr, both of Tulsa, when they saw "a big globe like a sparkler" which appeared to be hanging over the refinery area.

Miss Leehan said the object had no color and did not resemble a lighted airplane. Nor was it one of the familiar refinery flares.

It began to move and disappeared, probably because of high speed, she said.

At the time they noticed the hovering object, they were driving toward the new Arkansas River bridge from the east.

Miss Leehan described the object as fairly large. She said a 50-cent piece held at arm's length would barely cover the outline of the bright light from that distance.

A somewhat similar report came from Rosemary Johnson, 315 South Seventh, a student at Ponca City Junior High School.

She said she saw a bright light hovering over the St. Mary's School building across the street from her home.

The light swooped down over the school and then soared up in line with the moon, circling high in the air. After circling several times, the light disappeared in the clouds and did not reappear.

At one time, the light appeared to be from two closely-joined objects.

The Johnson girl also said she saw the running lights of a plane which appeared to be following the bright object. She said vapor trails indicated it was a jet plane.

28 July. Wilmington, North Carolina.  
 (10:00 p.m.)

"Sideways saucer."

A short news item said:

"The ultimate, probably, in 'flying saucers' was seen hovering over Wilmington last night about 10:00 o'clock.

"As anonymous saucer-viewer, a lady, called to report she'd just seen a saucer flying 'sideways' over over Oleander [district?] that was 'very bright in color'.

"In approximately a score of 'flying saucer' reports coming in to *The Star* the past three nights, this was the first sideways case." (xx.)

(xx.) Wilmington, North Carolina. *The Star*.  
 29 July 52.

? July Near Washington D.C. (night? Witness mentioned "no wingtip lights")

"What in thunder is that?"

Do strange objects linger in the sky near Washington airport? Washington Bureau reporter for the Illinois *Courier-News* Frank Macomber sees something and he shared the experience with another witness, a very interesting witness:

"I was flying back to Washington from California recently in a big DC-6 transport. Sitting beside me in the 'lounge' at the rear of the plane was a Civil Aeronautics Administration official who was riding up from Dallas. As we talked, he suddenly looked beyond me out the window and exclaimed:

" 'What in thunder is that? It certainly doesn't look like a plane.' "

"I looked and saw what appeared to be a huge yellow [he also calls it orange so perhaps it changed color while under observation] ball flying what seemed to be parallel to our flight and about two or three miles away. As we looked, the ball was changing its flight so that within a few miles it would cross the path of our DC-6.

"There were no wing-tip lights flashing off and on like those seen on Commercial transport planes—just a big orange ball.

"As the airborne light moved closer and closer, other passengers noticed it. There was an excited chattering up and down aisle. Then the light began suddenly to move away. It grew smaller and finally disappeared as we neared the Washington airport.

" 'I can't figure it out,' the CAA fellow mused. 'I don't believe in these celestial bodies flying around without licenses. But I'm darned if I can explain it.' "

"Now I can't explain it, either, nor could any of the 40 passengers aboard the plane. Yet plenty of them no doubt will spread the word that they rode side by side with a flying saucer.

"I think what we saw has a logical explanation, even though I don't know what it is. But what we saw, I am sure, had no resemblance to a flying saucer or disc of any kind. It was more of an orange ball. I likely would have thought it was some sort of airplane light if the CAA man had not said it was like no plane light he ever had seen." (xx.)

(xx.) Elgin, Illinois. *Courier-News*. 2 August 52.

28 July. Cincinnati, Ohio. (10:30-11:00 p.m.)

Dart like dragonfly.

In a letter to the editor it says:

"Monday was a hot night, and I was out on my porch trying to get some air, between 10:30 and 11:00. The sky was cloudy, but there was a break in the clouds directly overhead, and the stars were showing through. While I was look-

ing at this clear patch, a long-shaped, orange light began darting back and forth in it the way a bat flies, or a dragonfly. It only stayed a few seconds, and then was off through the clouds again in a straight line until it disappeared—I am told a plane cannot make sudden, sharp, turns such as this did.

“I went watching the sky, but saw nothing more, either then or last night.”  
(xx.)

(xx.) Cincinnati, Ohio. *Times-Star*. 1 August 52

28 July Detroit, Michigan area. (about 11:00-11:20 p.m.)

At least 15 UFO reports were telephoned to Selfridge AFB outside Detroit when people claimed to have seen “things” and flashing lights in the night sky. The Mt. Clemens newspaper carried a big headline with 1 ½ inch high letters on the its front page the following day: “REPORT SAUCERS’ OVER MT. CLEMENS.” A Rev. William J. Reiter, of Seminole Hills, was credited with the best report but it was only a seven-second view of a group of orange and blue lights sailing through the air toward Lake St. Clair. The excitement was real enough however. (xx.)

(xx.) Mt. Clemens, Michigan. *Leader* 29 July 52.

29 July. Osceola, Wisconsin. ( 1:00 ? p.m.- 3:30 ? p.m.)

“I can make ‘no sense’ out these sighting”—AF PIO Lt. Col. Robert Knight.

Osceola is on the Minnesota/Wisconsin state line to the east of the Twin Cities, Minneapolis-St Paul.

An abbreviated account of this event, or events, is given in an unpublished portion of Ruppelt’s memoirs. Why the case was cut from the final draft is puzzling, since, as Ruppelt tells the story, it would do much to undermine the mystery of the Washington D.C. “invasions.” There is always the possibility the case was not as firm as implied. Here is how Ruppelt tells it in the portion omitted from the final manuscript:

“At 1:30 in the morning an Air Defense Command radar just outside of Osceola began to pickup unidentified targets. They were similar to those that had been picked up in Washington in that they would lope along at about 100 miles an hour then suddenly speed up to 600 miles an hour. Four F-51s from St. Paul were called in but the targets were moving around so fast and there were so many of them that it was impossible to pick out one target and vector a fighter into it. But the ’51 pilots saw lights—lots of them. One pilot, at 25,000 feet had one blaze across the nose of his airplane, then two other pilots vainly tried to climb up to a hovering light that was in the same position as one of the mysterious targets on the radar scope.

“The report that the operations office at the radar site sent in was excellent and, for the first time since ADC had ordered radar scope photos taken of all UFO targets, a scope camera worked. The report that we got was accompanied by a complete set of scope photos.

“Lt. Bob Olsson and Wendell Swanson, of ATIC’s radar branch, went



right to work on this one. They looked at the weather reports for that night and found that there was a strong inversion covering all of eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. When they compared the scope photos of the UFO targets to scope photos of known weather targets, there was no doubt—the radar UFO's were caused by the strong temperature inversion. Lt. Olsson talked to the F-51 pilots. They agreed that the UFO that 'blazed across the nose' of one of the F-51's could well have been a meteor and that the lights hovering at high altitude could well have been a star." (xx.)

(xx.) Edward J. Ruppelt's unedited manuscript, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. Copy in author's files.

Perhaps the most detailed source of information to compare with Ruppelt's account is the two news stories in the St. Paul, Minnesota, *Dispatch*, and the Minneapolis, Minnesota, *Star*. Both papers wrote stories using a news release from the headquarters of the 31<sup>st</sup> air division. There is no guarantee all details were in the news release, or that the newspapers mentioned everything one needed to know. In any case, one needs both clippings to put together a "complete" story, but even then there are questions unanswered. For one thing, Ruppelt mentions four interceptors. The news clippings mention only one, piloted by Capt. James E. Kennedy of the 109<sup>th</sup> squadron, who was probably scrambled out of World-Chamberlain field, St. Paul. Ruppelt also mentions a hovering light that the fighters "vainly tried to reach." The press report says nothing about a hovering light, but it does quote Capt. Kennedy as saying he estimated one UFO's altitude as 100,000 feet, which was beyond the capability of any fighter in the year 1952.

There is some confusion with the time line too. The best we can determine is that events began with a visual report from a GOC post southeast of St. Paul. This alerted 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Sven P. Jerstrom, operating a radar scope at a AC&W site near Twin Cities. Checking to the east, Lt. Jerstrom picked up some targets about 10 miles away. This was at 1:18 a.m. Concerning these targets Lt was quoted as saying:

"They were moving in a southeasterly direction. There were four at the time and looked like they were in formation so we started to observe them and immediately called them into the ground controller. They were traveling about 60 to 70 miles per hour horizontally.

"They would travel about 30 miles to the east or southeast then they would fade. There was a continuous stream of them.

"Some of them would turn and mill around. I directed the fighter into these targets and pointed out several of them which he saw. This continued for an hour. We then observed a target at 185 degrees on the scope.

"This target was 19 miles from our station and moving east. In one minute's time it moved to 185 degrees on the scope at a range of 21 miles, continued in an easterly direction for approximately 75 miles. It was going, we judged, between 600 and 820 miles an hour." (xx.)

(xx) Minneapolis, Minnesota. *Star*. 30 July 52.

At this time the Minneapolis GOC Filter Center called to say another visual report had been made. The visual report [no details provided] was in the same general area of the group of blips

Lt. Jerstrom had been monitoring. The group was still moving southeast. Lt. Jerstrom said the targets were:

“...definitely singular objects, as we picked them out, because they did not appear like any radar interference which I have noted on the scope—and that’s in some six years of scope work [strong temperature inversions are not that rare].

“I’ve never seen anything which would be similar to it other than an airplane, balloon or some such object...I checked with General Mills and they said they had no balloons in that area.

“Lt. Jerstrom also reported that the blips were like ordinary blips [“very well defined and very clear”] and there were 10 of them.

“They were moving slow just like a lot of [Piper] cubs flying around on a Sunday afternoon—in a horizontal plane, anyway,” he added.

(xx) Ibid.

Moreover. “Jerstrom, however, said he got nothing on radar to the west, but most of his targets were east and southeast of the Twin Cities.” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Working with Lt. Jerstrom was duty controller Major Stephen E. Defan. Both officers were helping to direct jet pilot Capt. James Kennedy toward the targets so the unknowns could be identified. Capt. Kennedy testified:

“Shortly after 1:00 a.m. [Here we have a problem with the time line. The other version puts the beginning of the incident at 1:20 a.m.] I climbed to 25,000 feet. The controller then gave me a steer toward the object [this has to be a radar target] I didn’t see anything until he indicated in what direction the object was. The first time he said they were quite numerous and I spotted two orange objects [This was quite a coincidence to see meteors just at that moment]. ‘They looked to me like comets. They were quite wide and they had a long tail. This tail was orange

“They came along, I should say, at about five minutes intervals. I saw one heading from north to south, east of my course—after the controller had called them out. I didn’t see anything at all until the controller called out the objects. Then I would see what looked to me like a falling star. There were two other objects. The closest I could come to describing them would be like meteors.

(xx.)

(xx) Ibid

Apparently, as far as Major Defan and Lt. Jerstrom were concerned, both they and Capt. Kennedy were talking about the same objects/radar targets. The news release described Major Defan’s activities:

“Maj. Defan reported that when he was talking to the pilot the targets on

the scope were moving approximately 70 miles an hour in an easterly or southeasterly direction. Some of them were turning.

“‘I asked the pilot if it were possible that the targets could be making their [sic] speed,’ Defan said. ‘The pilot said they were going very fast. Then I asked if they could be making their speed in an up-and-down direction. He said that was very true—that they were *climbing at approximately a 45-degree angle in relation to the earth* \* (xx.)

\* My emphasis—L.E. Gross.

(xx.) Ibid.

At the time Capt. Kennedy was watching the “climbing meteors,” his altitude was 25,000 feet. His position was about 19 miles southeast of St. Paul. The time, 3:30 a.m. If the time is correct, Capt. Kennedy was aloft two hours. He then says something that needs to be made clearer, “I saw one heading southeast of my course.” (xx.) The question is, and it could be applied to the

(xx.) St. Paul, Minnesota. *Dispatch*. 30 July 52.

other “things” viewed visually, was the light/object moving like a meteor, flashing through the atmosphere, or much slower?

In a later interview, Major Defan discussed the incident with both Lt. Jerstrom and Capt. Kennedy. For the record, Major Defan said to Lt. Jerstrom, “I’m implying from the conversation now that you definitely saw them on the scope, is that correct?” (xx.) Lt. Jerstrom replied,

(xx.)

“Yes, sir. I’ve got a written report jotted down on our side of it. **THEY WERE DEFINITELY ON THE RADAR\*** at the same time the pilot observed them, after I gave them the vector.” (xx.)

\* Caps in the original.

(xx.) Ibid.

This account of the case as related by the press [The official release is not available] is hardly satisfactory. One is struck by how similar it is to the Washington D.C. manifestations. The numerous, clearly defined, radar targets and the limited, yet tantalizing, visual reports.

Major Defan then turned to Capt. Kennedy and addressed him, “Could you confirm the fact that the report was the same thing you saw on the scope? Could you both say that was exactly at the same time?” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid

Capt. Kennedy replied, “I would say the two large objects [Did he see small ones?] that I saw looked like falling stars with orange tails and were the ones he directed me to. He called them

out when I looked in that direction. I'd see them zip by for a few seconds." (xx.) Here we finally get some speed estimates but its unlikely Lt. Jerstorm was tracking meteors with his ADC radar. Lt. Jerstrom stated, "When I pointed out the specific degree and distance he would come back and say he saw it " (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Another point needs clearing up. Capt. Kennedy is quoted as saying: "While landing, I saw another rather large object off to the west. It looked to me like it must have been around 40,000 feet." (xx.) In response to that, Lt. Jerstorm recalled no target to the west. All of the ones he

(xx.) Minneapolis, Minnesota. *Star*. 30 July 52.

had on his scope were to the east and southeast. (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Finally, in reference to the press, General Thomas C. Darcy, Commanding Officer, 31<sup>st</sup> Air Division, said the information on the incident was being released so the public could understand the nature of ADC's military mission, "We also are doing everything possible to allay panic and to keep the public properly informed as to the nature of the Air Force investigations." (xx.)

(xx.) St. Paul, Minnesota. *Dispatch*. 30 July 52.

Press releases like this would eventually become a thing of the past. The Air Force would stop the volunteering of information by local commands, especially if they contained admissions of mistakes, failures in combat readiness, or pro-UFO opinions.

29 July. Washington D.C. (1:00 p.m.)

Another "curtain call."

For the third time in ten days, "whatzits" were detected zooming hiter and yon over places like the Pentagon much to the displeasure of the generals inside who had insisted "there ain't no such animal " A press report said.

"CAA radar operators said as many as 12 objects were picked up on the radar screen at one time early today. They appeared in an arc about 15 miles long from Herndon, Va., 10 miles west of Washington, to Andrews Air Force Base, about five miles southeast.

"Radar tracks showed they were moving about 90 to 120 miles per hour from the northwest to the southeast, roughly an angle of 60 degrees from the prevailing wind " (xx.)

(xx.) Richmond, Virginia. *Times-Dispatch*. 30 July 52.

30 July. Washington D.C. (2:00 a.m.)

A press report tells us:

“A pilot aboard an Eastern Air Lines Constellation was directed to check on the objects at about 2 a.m., but he reported he saw no lights despite a 15-mile visibility. The CAA official said the objects disappeared from the radar screen when the plane was in the area where they had been tracked and ‘then came back in behind him.’ (xx.)

(xx.) Manistee, Michigan. *News-Advocate*. 29 July 52.

Late July. Carlsbad, New Mexico. (about 6:30 a.m.)

“King-size” saucer?

Belated report by a Mr. T.L. Fox as related by the *Portales News*:

“Now it’s a saucer 12 feet high and 7 feet across that goes faster than any jet plane, turns sharply without slowing down and is made of frosted stainless steel.

“This report was received today by Dr. Lincoln La Paz, director of the Institute of Meteorities at the University of New Mexico. It came from T. L. Fox, Carlsbad contractor.

“Fox related this story:

“ ‘One morning last week, about 6:30 a.m., I was standing in my back yard when I noticed an object gliding from the north. I thought it was a balloon and I figured it would land in the cemetery, so I started for my car to go after it.’

“Before he could get to his car, ‘the thing had grown many times its size and had leveled off.

“ ‘It then, to my astonishment, maneuvered and shot forward with a burst of speed toward the Carlsbad airport.’

“Fox, who has worked on air bases as a contractor and observed maneuvering jet planes, declared:

“ ‘This burst of speed has never been equaled by any jet I know of and no plane with wings attached could have made that sharp a turn.’ He estimated its speed at more than 1,000 miles per hour.

“ ‘When it got to the airport it made another sharp turn without diminishing speed and headed south.

“ ‘It was the color of stainless steel that seemed to be slightly frosted over, giving it a bluish tint. When it caught the sun on the flat bottom side it gave off an orange glow for a second.’ (xx.)

(xx.) Portales, New Mexico. *News*. 3 August 52.

30 July. Elkhart, Indiana. (9:00 a.m.)

Swirling disc.

A story in the newspaper informs us:

"If you'd like a vantage point where you can watch for 'flying saucers,' the Hotel Elkhart roof affords an excellent spot.

"Or, you might just step out of your home in broad daylight, as Mrs. Alvin W. Witt, 909 West Blaine ave., did at 9 o'clock this morning.

"She reported she saw a flat, round, white object, shaped 'like a dish,' swirling round and round above the treetops a block from her home.

"She didn't have time to call her children to see it, because it turned away and disappeared high up in the sky, she said." (xx.)

(xx.) Elkhart, Indiana. *Truth*. 29 July 52.

29 July. Near Gregory, Texas. (9:20 a.m.)

The first of three UFO reports for the day occurred at 9:20 a.m.:

" 'A spinning circular object shining as it reflected the light of the sun and leaving a vapor trail such as is left by an airplane at high altitudes,' was reported in the sky over Reynolds Aluminum Plant near Gregory about 9:20 a.m. yesterday.

"Gene T. Clark 1517 Peabody and A, Futrell of Ingleside, construction workers at the plant made the reports.

" 'The object would move in a circular path and then stop dead for a minute,' Clark said. After approximately 15 seconds it seemed to go straight up and disappeared. A moment later another, or possibly the same object dropped down, this time without the vapor trail and followed approximately the same pattern as before.

"Clark said there were no aircraft in the sky at that time although four jet aircraft flying in close formation came over about three minutes later." (xx.)

(xx.) Corpus Christi, Texas. *Caller*. 30 July 52.

29 July. Los Alamos, New Mexico. (11:30 a.m.)

Information on the initial sighting of the UFOs that led to the scrambling of jet interceptors is given on pages 42-43 of my monograph, *UFOs A History July 21<sup>st</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>*. Two newspaper clippings on page 87 of this supplement supply additional data

29 July. "Shoot Down"  
(See headline)

## Air Force Seeks Solution; Gives "Shoot Down" Order

WASHINGTON (INS) — The government radar station at Washington National Airport

THE ORIGINAL  
**ROMEIKE**  
PRESS CLIPPINGS

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Tel. CHelsea 3-8860

Cir. (D 11,994) (S 11,140)

*This Clipping From*  
SANTA FE, N. M.  
NEW MEXICAN

AUG 1 1952

## Woman Spots Three 'Disks' Above Alamos

LOS ALAMOS—A Los Alamos housewife today told The New Mexican that she had seen two flying saucers last Tuesday at about 11:30 a.m., while three jet planes scoured the sky over this atomic project.

"People would say I am crazy or looking for publicity if I let you use my name," the housewife said. "I did see the saucers and I think there were probably other people who saw them who haven't said anything for the same reason I kept quiet about it—they didn't want everyone to say they were crazy."

The housewife said she called two neighbors while she watched the saucers, but no one heard her and as far as she knows, she was the only witness in her neighborhood.

"I was hanging clothes in the backyard and thinking about a broadcast I had just heard about flying saucers over Washington, D. C. I heard the jets over Los Alamos and decided to look around to see what they were chasing.

"There were three of the jets at first but when I started looking I could see only one of them, going in the direction of Santa Fe. I could see it plainly, very tiny in the sky, with a vapor trail behind it, so I looked ahead of it in the direction it was going and saw the saucers.

"There were two of them, just as round and shiny as brand new plates. I guess they were six to eight miles ahead of the jets, moving along together with a little space between them. There was no smoke nor vapor behind them, so they seemed to hover or float compared with the jet, which I could see was moving rapidly because of the vapor trail behind it. But after I had watched for a couple of minutes and the jet wasn't any closer, I knew they were travelling fast.

"The only way I can describe them is to say they were perfectly round disks. They looked just as a plate would look if you held it in front of you above your eye-level and moved it across. They were edge-on but so high I could see the round shape as well as the side edge. The disks were thicker in the middle than around the outside and were much bigger than the jet plane.

"The saucers moved clear across the sky towards the southeast with the jet after them in about three minutes. Then in the bat of an eye they seemed to get smaller and all of a sudden went up and disappeared. The jet went up, too, when it got to the same place and looked around for quite a while before it gave up and went towards Albuquerque."

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*This Clipping From*  
FLINT, MICH.  
JOURNAL

AUG 3 - 1952

## 'Saucer Suspect Eludes Checkers' Mystery Object Seen Over New Mexico

Washington —AP— Add flying saucer stories: The Air Force said Saturday an "unidentified object" has been reported flying over Los Alamos, N. M., site of major atomic energy installations.

An Air Force spokesman said the sightings were reported last Tuesday, about noon.

Observers on the ground reported watching, through binoculars, something shiny and apparently metallic in the sky for 30 minutes. They said the object was traveling at high but erratic speed.

Three jet fighters were asked to investigate. While the planes were in the air, the same object or a similar one was observed from the ground for about two minutes, but was not seen by the fighter pilots.

A ground observer said the object made a 360-degree turn to get in the rear of the fighters.

The information was released here in response to queries after Kirtland Air Force Base, near Los Alamos, declined to give out a statement.

One will not find many headlines in the press about this "shoot down" order. The outcry against the order was immediate and intense. Authorities quickly backtracked. Typical was the response of R. L. Farnsworth, head of the United States Rocket Society. In the group's publication the reaction of Farnsworth was documented:

"On the night of July 27 Mr. Farnsworth was called by United Press and asked to give his opinion or a statement about his view of these releases [speculations about the existence of UFOs]. This was given wide publicity [He expressed a conservative but not an anti-UFO opinion], over the entire United States and should be to the Society's credit. Next night we were called by the Society Vice-President, Mr. John M. Griggs in New Jersey, and told of a news dispatch which purported to say that the Armed Forces had orders to shoot these objects down on sight. At this Mr. Farnsworth immediately sent the following wire to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army and of the Navy:

"I respectfully suggest that no offensive action be taken against the objects reported as unidentified which have been sighted over our Nation. Should they be extra-terrestrial such action might result in the gravest consequences, as well as possibly alienating us from beings of far superior powers. Friendly contact should be sought as long as possible. Signed, Robert L. Farnsworth, President, U.S. Rocket Society, Inc.'

"The next day, July 29, 1952, through the courtesy of Radio and TV station WGN, Mr. Farnsworth appeared on a short news interview given by Spencer Allen at 6:45 Chicago time." (xx.)

(xx.) *Rockets*. The Magazine of Space Flight. Official Publication of The United States Rocket Society. Vol.3. No1. January 1953. pp.13-14.

29 July. Mammoth frontpage headlines excite the public on July 29th. (See examples)

29 July. "HIYAN, HIYAN, HIYAN."

Racine radio joke falls flat. (See teletype message on page 89)

29 July. The Russian threat.

Fears of a Russian attack were not forgotten. Concerns were enhanced when the FBI made public a secret report by the Bureau. Hoover's people had learned from its sources that Stalin had rejected the idea of trying to communize the U.S. by peaceful means. (xx.) (Although

(xx) Hazleton, Pennsylvania. *Standard-Sentinel*. 30 July 52.

Stalin appeared to be in robust health during public appearances he would die 8 months later.)



Notables —

p 27-28 — Gross skipped a page of Lins' MTS  
here — pres interview w. Lynet truncated

p 62 — page is missing

p 64 F — Ruppelt on Menzel's sly borrowing of AF  
cases thru a cut-out — Gross wonders if this  
was a ploy to delay the Bathelle report so it  
couldn't be an influence much on the  
Robertson Panel!

p 67 — Churchill's inquiry — S. Randles see if  
had a more positive result than mere  
dismissal of the p. —

p 116-17 — candidate for "Robert Thomas" ?  
at least a close reading suggests misstatement  
w. of cases, not sightings — a slip?  
photo of Tregaskis should be available —  
compare w. Kaufmann's "Thomas" photo!

(RICKER)

July 29 1952

A RACINE RADIO STATION WAS BUSY TODAY TRYING TO EXPLAIN AWAY A JOKE ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS AND "LITTLE PEOPLE."

DISC JOCKEYS ED REUTZ AND RICK EDWARDS BROADCAST AN EARLY-MORNING RECORD AND PATTERN SHOW (FOR W-R-A-C) CALLED MELODIE NUTHOUSE."

AND IN TRYING FOR AN OFF-BEAT EFFECT, REUTZ AND EDWARDS DECIDED TO DO A BIT OF KIDDING THIS MORNING ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS.

THEY GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF FINDING A FLYING SAUCER AT A RACINE GOLF COURSE WHICH THEY SAID WAS PILOTED BY A MAN TWO FEET TALL. THEY SAID THEY TRIED TO INTERVIEW THE STRANGE ONE BUT HE WOULD ONLY JABBER "HIYAH, HIYAH, HIYAH."

AND PEOPLE BELIEVED THEM.

MINUTES AFTER THE SHOW WAS ENDED, WORRIED CITIZENS CALLED POLICE AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO FIND OUT IF THE MAN FROM OUTER SPACE HAD BEEN CAUGHT YET.

AUTHORITIES ASSURED THEM THERE WAS NO SUCH VISITOR RUNNING LOOSE IN RACINE OR ANY FLYING SAUCERS. THE RADIO STATION DEVOTED PART OF EACH NEWS BROADCAST TODAY ANNOUNCING IT WAS ALL A JOKE.

DFB9A 1P7/29

29 July. Dallas, Texas. (no time)

According to our source: "Eldon Drive saw an orange-colored, half-circular object appearing like a house-trailer with darker squares that might have been windows and a door. It hovered, then disappeared," (xx.)

(xx.) *APRO Bulletin*. Issue #2. Vol I. September 15, 1952. p.10.

# 'SAUCERS' CIRCLE WASHINGTON

SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.  
NEWS

JUL 29 1952

Major Probe of Great Air  
Mystery Will Be Launched;  
Air Force Thinks Explana-  
tion Is 'Natural,' Sees No  
Threat to Defense

Seen on Radar 6 Hours  
At Capital Early Today;  
U. S. Calls Top Scientists

Washington July 29 (AP)—Major  
probe of the mystery of the  
sightings of unidentified  
flying objects in the  
North Atlantic area  
will be launched today  
by the Air Force.

**FINAL**

# DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

**4¢**

Vol. 34, No. 29

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# ALERT JETS TO HUNT 'SAUGERS'

Story on Page 2

# Reynolds Pays 2 Million to 2d Wife

Story on Page 3

# EYE-WITNESS STORY

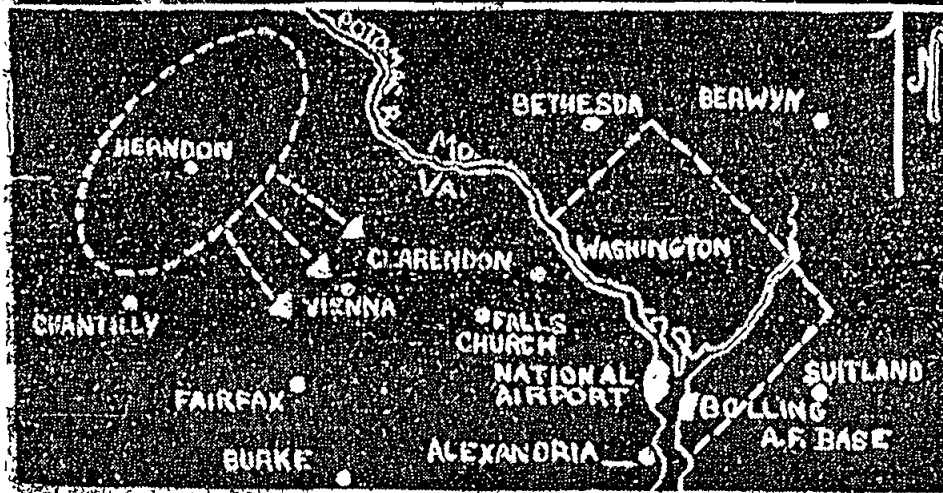
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1952

DAILY SUN

ALL THE LOCAL NEWS  
WORTH PRINTING

FIVE CENTS

# OF "FLYING SAUCERS" SEEN ALONG ALEXANDRIA- CLARENDON AXIS



**TWO NORTHERN VIRGINIANS:** Airways Operations Specialists James M. Copeland (left) and James M. Ritchey, both of Hollin Hall, Fairfax, saw the unidentifiable "flying saucers" while they were on duty manning the radar scope. They are shown at the Air Route Traffic Control Center of the CAA. The map shows the area where the "flying saucers" have been observed. On July 20, four or five of the luminous objects were seen near Herndon, and on July 26, 12 more were noticed. All of the objects disappeared, traveling in a southeasterly direction. (IPS Photo)

29 July. Pooh-poohing the saucers. General Olmsted and Navy Secretary Kimball. (See Clippings below)

Skepticism aired publicly  
may have masked different  
opinions held privately.  
(See Fred Durant item)

*This Clipping From*  
PORTLAND, ORE.  
OREGON JOURNAL

JUL 29 1952



**TODAY:** Secretary of  
Navy Dan Kimball, on brief Portland stop,  
pooh-poohed flying saucer  
stories

## KIMBALL HERE

# Navy Chief Pooh-Poohs 'Saucers'

There are no flying saucers, Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball said in Portland today.

"I don't know of anything in the physical sciences to support such an idea, and there is nothing in the record to indicate there is any such thing," he asserted when queried about the mystery objects reported over the nation's capital in the last two days.

### NO SUCH THING

"The objects that have been reported are probably electrical phenomena," he added. "Personally, I don't think there is any such thing as flying saucers."

The secretary, flying in a "super" DC-3 navy plane, made a short stopover in Portland for a Navy league luncheon at the Arlington club. He is on a nationwide junket, inspecting naval installations to determine present facilities and future needs of the navy.

With him were his special assistant, Ted Wilcox; the national president of the Navy League, Frank Hecht, and the commandant of the 13th naval district, Rear Adm. Allen E. Smith. They were greeted by local Navy league officials, including Tommy Luke, Portland florist, and by City Commissioner Fred L. Peterson.

### NAVY MODERNIZED

Kimball, a former tire dealer from Los Angeles and later an army air force man, said the entire navy has been modernized since the end of World War II. Sixty per cent of all guns and ammunition now used are types new since the war, he said, and all airplanes used in combat service are new. However, he said navy needs are still great. New types of planes will require larger aircraft carriers.

"If we have a strong and adequate navy," he observed, "we won't have to worry about things like flying saucers."

## Military Aid Chief Pooh-Poohes Idea

Oslo, July 29 (Reuter)—Maj. Gen. George H. Olmsted, chief of the United States military aid office, today pooh-poohed flying-saucer stories with "If that's all we've got to worry about, then we don't have much to worry about." Olmsted, on a European tour of military-aid missions, also said there are enough Atlantic pact forces to take care of any surprise attack, but not enough to beat off an all-out attack.

July 1952

"Faith in what had come to be known as the 'Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis' spread into the upper levels of government."

—Fred Durant,  
CIA Office of Scientific  
Intelligence (July 1952)

Gilgoff, Dan  
"Saucers Full of Secrets"  
*City Paper*

Washington D C.

14 December 2001 p 6.

29 July. Detroit, Michigan. (1:30 p.m.)

Ex-Air Force man sees saucer:

"Tuesday's 'saucer' was reported seen at about 1:30 p.m. over [Henry] Tison's house at 26 996 Grand River.

"Tison, who flew with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Italy, now is a department store truck driver. When he saw the object, he called for confirmation from his helper, Harold Hubler, 15217 State Fair east. Both saw it clearly, he said.

" 'It was flying at 12,000 to 14,000 feet,' Tison said. 'It was nothing I'd ever seen before. It was just like I'd read about.

" 'It was disk-shaped, and I saw it both on edge and flat. When we first saw it, it was barely going. Then it made a big, wide sweep and was really going. We lost it behind some clouds '

"On his lunch hour, Tison had been looking upward in trees for his mother's parakeet, which escaped Monday night." (xx.)

(xx) Detroit, Michigan. *News* 30 July 52.

29 July. Spokane, Washington. (4:30 p.m.)

17 in single file.

Press release from Spokane: "Spokane got into the flying saucer act Tuesday with the report of three Geiger Field officers that they had seen 17 unidentified objects soaring over the base in single file. The officers of the Air Force's 87<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron at Geiger said the seagull-like objects went over at 4:30 p.m. Monday. The objects were reported moving at speeds faster than any jet aircraft." (xx)

(xx) Spokane, Washington. 30 July 52 (AP)

29 July Near? Richland, Washington. (about 5 o'clock)

Newsman Charles Lamb of the *Tri-City Herald* sees saucer:

"I've always wanted to see a flying saucer and Tuesday I saw one. I knew if I kept looking I would see one sooner or later.

"My wife saw it too. And so did our little daughter Vicky. But Vicky is only 10 months old and didn't think it was so unusual. It was just another experience for her. She didn't even get excited when she watched the spectacular Fourth of July fire-works Display in Richland.

"We were driving along Vista Road enroute to Richland at about 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Directly ahead, about 10 miles away and at an altitude of 5,000 feet we saw a disc. It was kind of a silvery color and as flat as a pancake. It appeared to be either traveling away from us or just hanging in midair.

"Occasionally it would vary its course and we could see it was round. We watch it for at least two minutes before it finally disappeared behind a hill on the horizon and was

gone. It is quite a feat of driving to watch a flying disk, face an afternoon sun and buck the five o'clock stream of workers driving home from Richland.

"I am certain it wasn't a plane, and I sent up enough weather balloons during the war to know a balloon when I saw it. My eyes aren't the best, and I have been doing a lot of wishful thinking lately about discs. If I'd seen it alone I would have called it a mirage or a case of wish fulfillment.

"But the wife saw it too, and she thinks it was an honest to goodness flying saucer. I can't help but agree with her." (xx.)

(xx) Pasco, Washington. *Tri-City Herald*. 31 July 52.

29 July. Pennsburg, Pennsylvania (7:30 p.m.)

"The 'thing' skims through the cloud-laden sky."

The local newspaper notes UFO activity in upper Perklomen Valley.

"Carl Bardman, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bardman, of Green Lane, spotted a flying saucer under different conditions. It was 7:30 on the evening of July 29 that Carl was thrilled by the appearance of the mystery craft. It was just before a thunder storm, and dark clouds were gathering. Carl and other members of the Bardman family were watching the approaching storm from the front porch of the Bardman home on Main street, Green Lane.

"They noticed what at first glance appeared to be lightning flickering on the horizon. Study of the flashing light dispelled the lightning theory, and Carl shouted, 'here comes a jet.' But the movement of the 'thing' as it skimmed through the cloud-laden sky altered even that observation.

"As it moved overhead the object was silhouetted as a dark oval against white clouds, and its similarity to a plane or any other type of known aircraft was immediately ruled out. Heading due south, the saucer vanished in the distance, assuming a definite round outline. The entire sweep took no more than ten seconds.

"Venturing a guess at the height of the object, Carl pointed out that it must have been traveling at a low altitude, since the storm clouds formed a low ceiling, and the object was visible at all times in its trip across the sky.

"Now that he's seen one of the much talked-of saucers, Carl is admittedly a bit bewildered. 'I really don't know what to think of it,' he concludes." (xx)

(xx) Pennsburg, Pennsylvania. *Town and Country*. 15 August 52.

29 July WANTED! \$500 Reward (See clipping on page 93)

29 July Culver City, California (night)

"Says 'Saucer' Split in Two "

A UP press account says.



# WANTED!

## \$500 Reward

### For Information Leading To a Photo of a Genuine Flying Saucer

(Also see stories on Pages 10 and 11.)

Five hundred dollars for a flying saucer picture tip!  
The Daily News believes there is more than fantasy in the stories of strange objects in the skies.

★ ★ ★

Only Sunday night, Air Force planes roared out on the trail of strange lights picked up by radar over Washington, D.C. At the same time, thousands of viewers reported watch-

This Clipping From  
AMARILLO, TEXAS  
NEWS

JUL 29 1952

### Weather Balloons Don't Count

CAUTION: Not all is gold—  
or even a flying saucer —  
that glimmers.

T. F. Bates of the Amarillo  
Air Terminal weather station  
advises that Weather Bureau  
balloons bearing lights are  
sent up daily at 9 p.m. and  
3 a.m.

The lights carried by these  
balloons are visible for a con-  
siderable distance, says  
Weatherman Bates, and a  
west wind could blow the bal-

loons over the city.

Similarly, Maj. Porter  
Oakes of Amarillo Air Force  
Base reports that lighted bal-  
loons are sent up by the base  
weather section daily between  
8:30 and 9 p.m. and 2 and  
3:30 a.m. A west wind could  
blow these balloons over the  
city.

So, do not waste time,  
energy, and telephone calls  
about these non-saucer  
phenomena.

ing strange objects in the skies of Indiana, and a state high-  
way patrolman said they were so weird he didn't want to  
talk about them.

There also have been many reports of such phenomena in  
the High Plains region, to say nothing of the unexplained  
"fireballs" of New Mexico.

★ ★ ★

The Daily News enlists all its readers in a search for  
what we shall call flying saucers, for want of a better name.

But we want evidence. Many tips of strange objects in  
the sky undoubtedly have been occasioned by explainable  
phenomena—weather balloons, airplane landing lights and  
so on. But this newspaper is convinced that some of the  
reports are genuine.

So we stand ready to pay \$500 to any person who notifies  
The Daily News of any unexplained object in the sky—a "fly-  
ing saucer," if you will—in time for one of our photographers  
to record it on film.

"A new wrinkle in 'flying saucers'—an object that can spilt in two and keep right on flying—was reported in Southern California skies today by a former Air Force pilot and an engineer.

"Ted Golin, 28, the former pilot, said he saw the object last night and watched it break into two halves, with both pieces flying independently.

"He said the object was oval in shape and looked like an 'oscillating star.' Several other witness also reported watching the object in the sky over nearby Culver City shortly after sundown.

"I know it sounds nuts,' said Golin, 'but I actually saw it. My eyes are good and my flight experience is enough so that I know it wasn't a hallucination or my imagination running away with me.'

"He said the object was above clouds which he estimated to be 30,000 feet high and it moved parallel to the earth.

"It suddenly broke in two. Each part zipped about a mile apart and then went straight up and disappeared,' he said.

"Arnold Dolmatz, who said he was an engineer, supported Golin's account of the spectacle " (xx.)

(xx.) Yuma, Arizona. *Sun* 30 July 52

29 July. Enid, Oklahoma. (9:30 p.m.)

Thomas S. (Sid) Eubanks, 50-year-old Wichita photo service truck driver-salesman. He was still trembling with fright when he told his story to desk Sergeant Vern Benell, at the police station in Enid. (See picture)

29 July. Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
(9:30 p.m.)

The exact spacing of the objects, the fantastically violent speed of the shift, and the change from a V pattern to two straight rows are definite UFO characteristics. (See clipping on page 95)

29 July Titusville, Pennsylvania.  
(10:15 p.m.-11:00 p.m.)

Mystery light makes repeated passes over the city. Was it a plane?

Here is the news story:

## WICHITA TRUCK DRIVER FLYING SAUCER CONVERT



THOMAS EUBANKS

Thomas S. (Sid) Eubanks, 50-year-old Wichita photo service truck driver salesman, saw his first flying saucer Tuesday night while driving alone on United States Highway 81 south of Enid, Okla.

But unlike many enthusiasts who spend hours searching the skies for signs of saucers, Eubanks says he hopes he never sees another. His reluctance may stem from the fact that, according to his report to Enid police, the saucer swept so low that tremendous pressure

# Flight of Luminous

By DOYLE KLINE

A flight of luminous objects—at least 10—passed over Albuquerque at 9:30 last night.

Whatever they were, they made a "flying saucer" believer out of me. They resembled nothing I had seen before.

Their flight, if it was flight as we know it, was soundless and graceful. At first they appeared overhead from the south. They were clustered together in no apparent pattern, heading due north.

Then they shifted to a perfect V. The shift was done with great precision. The formation resembled a flight of geese.

Within a second or so they formed a new pattern.

This formation presented two

rows with the objects in front spaced at exact intervals. Take your pencil and place five dots on a piece of paper. Then at a distance as far behind the dots as the dots are apart, start a new row. Place the second row of five dots so they center between the openings of the first row and you'll see how the formation appeared.

## Incredible Performance

If the objects were about 2500 feet over the city, as they appeared, they moved only about as fast as an F-86 Sabre jet. Going on this assumption, their shifts in position were incredibly swift, fantastically violent—in terms of our experience.

But if their nearness to the



SAUCER?—This is a picture of a "flying saucer," according to Alan C. Dumas, 22, of Culver City, Calif.

7/30/52 Tribune

# Objects Maneuvers

ground was an illusion—and the Air Force has said it believes such phenomena may be tricks of the atmosphere—they performance takes on even more incredible aspects.

Their size appeared about one third the size of the moon when it is overhead. But the light they emitted was very different. It was not as intense as a star, nor as bright as the moon. There was no color except white.

It was soft, almost suggesting reflection from lights of the city. The objects appeared low—yet at a great distance, if such contradiction is credible.

If they were at a great height, and this observer would like to

believe they were, their speed must be beyond comprehension.

## Witnessed Fireballs

I was a witness on several occasions when fireballs, both green and blue white, flashed through the skies at various points in the southwest. On one occasion I reported in detail what I saw to Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, director of the University's Institute of Meteoritics and a nationally-known authority on such things.

Dr. LaPaz told me today that the objects I saw last night "definitely are not associated with the Perseid meteor shower." He said the meteors are coming from the northeast, that they do not change formation nor exhibit "intelligence or coordination."

Col. William Matheny, commander of the 34th Air Defense, here, reported he knew nothing of any military flights at the hour of the "saucer maneuvers" and requested me to relate what I saw to his air defense intelligence officers.

The flight of aircraft also is familiar to me. The "lights" indulged in maneuvers impossible to modern aircraft.

I have witnessed the flight of rockets, German and American, at White Sand Proving Ground in daylight and at night. The saucers were something different altogether.

Four years ago an Albuquerque resident telephoned The Tribune and said a "flying saucer" had landed in her yard. I went

# Over City

to see it and it turned out to be the radio unit from a weather balloon.

Two years ago near Holloman Air Force Base a group of persons was peering into the sky at a "saucer." Inspection through binoculars convinced me it was a balloon of some sort, reflecting the intense June sunlight. The objects last night resembled no balloon.

In April, I witnessed the detonation of an atomic bomb in Nevada. The light the saucers emitted last night was of a different order.

My observation of the objects last night was accidental. I was conversing with my landlady, Mrs. George Gibson, 910 Gold SW, on the front steps of her home.

The quick movement of the "stars" caught my glance. Mrs. Gibson, who was under the porch roof, failed to see the objects before they passed from view behind trees across the street.

The Air Force can call the objects hallucinations, tricks of the atmosphere or perhaps anything falling within the limits of logic.

Several persons, on and off the record, have said they believe the saucers are visitors from space.

But if you see them, you will be struck with the impression that it is much easier to say what they are not, than to suggest what they are.

"A white light which gradually grew in size blazed across the night sky over the Centerville area last night about 10:15 o'clock. About 14 adults at Gilson Ridge Watched the mysterious sky visitor make 40 passes before it disappeared.

"A Saegertown area resident also saw a flying object about the same time. G. R. Bowersox, of Saegertown, Route 1, said it had three rays of white light which revolved and emitted sparks.

"It crossed the sky from west to east slowly, circled about and then streaked fast for the west again. This maneuver was repeated for more than 15 minutes.

"The witnesses at first thought the light was a beacon. But it acted too odd for that.

"The path of light it cut across the sky lengthened each time. The bright light was about a foot across when they first saw it. Then it gradually got larger until it was about a yard long or more.

"Emerson Stoeks of Titusville, Star Route, said 'it was as big a dishpan at first.' " 'On its way back each time it left a light streak behind it,' he declared.

"Mr. Bowersox said he and his family watched it to the northeast from his home. At times it sped back and forth and again stood still.

"Asked if it went fast, he said: "I never saw a jet fly as fast.'

"He saw the object at 10:30 p.m. and it lasted until almost 11. That time would about coincide with the report from Gilson Ridge, for the residents there saw it between 10:15 and near 11.

"The Saegertown man said he could hear a hissing sound. The 'thing' banked like a plane on its runs and the lights kept revolving at a speedy rate.

"When the light ceased making its runs over the general Centerville area it gradually disappeared to the north." (xx.)

(xx.) Franklin, Pennsylvania. *News-Herald*. 30 July 52.

29 July Adrian, Michigan. (about 10:30 p.m.)

"At least it looked like one."

County superintendent of schools sees saucer:

"Milton Porter, county superintendent of schools, said today he saw what could have been a flying saucer over Adrian about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"He was driving toward the city from the southwest when he saw a disc-shaped object with clearly defined outlines and emitting a strong glow moving slowly over the city. It was about the size of the moon, he said, but he was unable to judge the distance. The object disappeared when a shadow moved across its surface, he added." (xx.)

(xx.) Adrian, Michigan. *Telegram*. 30 July 52.

29 July. Atlanta, Georgia. (10:30-12:00 p.m.)

Bright orange lights.

A newspaper story says:

“Flying saucers visited Atlanta Tuesday night—or so a score of residents have reported today.

“Bright orange-colored lights that did everything from jump up and down to pulling a disappearing act were seen in the sky between 10:30 p.m. to midnight, a score of residents in scattered sections reported. The objects, none of which was described as traveling faster than a plane, were reported at altitudes of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet.

“The Atlanta Weather Bureau said there was no natural phenomena last night that could have caused the lights.” (xx.)

(xx.) Savannah, Georgia. *Press*. 30 July 52.

29 July. Near Niwot, Colorado. (10:30-11:00 p.m.)

According to our source.

“Illuminated and moving at great speed, a flying saucer was sighted by Mrs. M. L. Swearingen from her home southwest of Niwot between 10:30 and 11 p.m. Tuesday.

“Mrs. Swearingen said the ‘saucer’ was moving westward, apparently just over Longmont ‘much faster than planes fly.’ There was no sound discernible, the Niwot woman reported, but the object was illuminated with one complete ring of light which formed a circle, apparently at the bottom of the saucer.

“There also appeared to be an unlighted, or shadowed, portion extending above the lighted ring Mrs. Swearingen said she was unable to determine accurately the height or exact size of the object, although she would judge it to be very large and at a great distance above the earth.” (xx.)

(xx.) Greeley, Colorado *Tribune*. 30 July 52.

29 July. Salt Lake City, Utah. (evening)

Cavorting, vari-colored objects.

A Salt Lake paper printed.

“‘Flying saucers’ made another late evening appearance over Salt Lake City Tuesday night

“Among persons who watched the vari-colored object cavort about the sky for 20 minutes was the J M Hays family, of 7415 West 2400 South St.

“Mr. Hays reported the object, whose color shifted from red to orange and green, made erratic motions in the sky, darting to the rear, straight up, and to the side. It would hover for a minute and would then suddenly move forward at a

tremendous speed, he said

"Officials at Salt Lake Municipal Airport said several planes landed at the field during the time the object was seen.

"Mr. Hays later said he saw a plane land at the airport at the time and that the 'saucer' was radically different.

"Two staff members of the *News* also watched the strange orange-white-blue color that is difficult to describe, one newspaperman said." (xx.)

(xx.) Salt Lake City, Utah. *Desert News*. 30 July 52.

29 July. Northern Michigan. "Tag game denied." (See clipping below)

This Clipping From  
IRONWOOD, MICH.  
GLOBE

JUL 30 1952

## U. P. 'Saucer' Stories Denied By the Air Force

### Jets 'Played Tag,' With Discs, Report

By The Associated Press

The Air Force today denied reports that some of its jet fighters engaged in a 600-mile-an-hour tag game with mysterious flying disc over Northern Michigan last night.

The reports, emanating from usually reliable sources, said the Selfridge Air Base jets were sent aloft to investigate the mysterious aerial visitors.

**JETS CATCH UP**

The informant said the jet caught up with the flying discs or saucers near the Upper Peninsula

and flew along on their trail for several minutes. The discs reportedly varied their speed from very slow to highs of around 600 miles an hour.

According to the source, the jet gave up their flight after a while and turned back towards Selfridge only to have the discs change from pursued to pursuer and follow the Selfridge jets for a brief time.

An Air Force spokesman at Selfridge said some jet units were aloft last night on routine maneuvers, but said they saw no discs or saucers.

The story about the tag game between the jets and discs came amidst a rash of reports that the mysterious aerial visitors had been sighted over Michigan.

**SEEN BY PILOT**

Several of the reports came from people with a sound background of aerial knowledge. They included a wartime B-17 pilot in Detroit, a former Canadian Air Force flier and a sergeant at an Air Force warning station at Battle Creek.

The former B-17 pilot, Henry Tison of Detroit, said he saw a silvery, disc-shaped object over his home yesterday afternoon. "It was not an airplane, not a dirigible, not a weather balloon. I've seen all of them," said Tison.

The Selfridge Air Base said it had received many calls since the weekend from citizens who told of seeing mysterious flying objects.

29 July Laguna Beach, California. (night)

"The most startling report of the week."

The Santa Ana *Register* informed its readers:

"Probably the most startling report of the week came from two Laguna Beach volunteer ground observers for Operation SKYWATCH.

"The two observers, Mrs. Adelaide Newinger, 459 Pearl St., and Miss Amelia Lusekus, 475 Graceline Dr., Laguna Beach, were on duty Tuesday night at their observers post. The women's tour of duty is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and they are stationed atop a garage.

"Mrs. Newinger stated that she was the first to notice something unusual over the ocean.

" 'It had been cloudy and overcast and when the haze lifted I was watching the stars across the ocean when I saw what at first appeared to be a mass of small stars in shape similar to that of a half of a watermelon coming toward me.' "

"The skywatcher said she drew the attention of her companion to the lights in the sky and they both saw the 'thing' draw closer.

" 'It was heading right for us so I quickly grabbed the phone and called the Filter Center in Santa Ana.' "

"As the lights approached at a rapid rate of speed, Mrs. Newinger described what she saw to officials at the center.

" 'As it got closer I could make out a definite shape. It was round on the bottom and flat on top. It grew very bright as it came nearer. It was right over the ocean in a southwesterly position from us. It moved quickly right at us.' "

"Miss Lusckus, in terror, shut off the lights of the observer post.

"The 'top' moved along at a 30 degree angle from the horizon, the women reported, and its rounded bottom glowed with a white heat.

" 'Just as it got close to us,' Mrs. Newinger reported, 'the object tilted sideways at an 80 degree angle. I could see the darkness of its flat upper portion perfectly. Then it turned around and raced back in the direction it came with a tremendous burst of speed until it was no more than a red dot far out on the ocean.

"The women said that as the object sped away, haze or a vapor trail was left in its wake.

" 'There was no noise and we saw the thing for almost three and a half minutes,' Mrs. Newinger said. 'It was awesome and frightening. It couldn't have been lights reflected on clouds because the overcast had cleared and the stars were out.' " (xx )

(xx ) Santa Ana, California. *Register* 3 August 52.

29 July. Annville, Pennsylvania. (11.00 p.m.)

"Elongated ball of fire." (See clipping on page 100)

29 July. Bryan, Texas (about midnight)

Mysterious objects over Bryan AFB:

"During the past week reports have been received by local newspapers of mysterious objects seen in the sky over Bryan Air Force Base.

"August I. Nowak, a cashier of the First National Bank, says that about midnight Tuesday he saw an 'enormous object with a pink glow and brightly lit windows' sweeping across the sky in the direction of the Bryan Air Force Base at a

LEBANON, PA.  
NEWS-TIMES

JUL 31 1952

## Flying Saucers ~~Sighted in County~~ By Annville Woman

Flying saucers apparently have infiltrated the Lebanon County area

The first of the flaming discs reported in this vicinity since the mysterious objects were ordered tracked by Air Force jet interceptors near Washington was spotted Tuesday night at Annville

Ralph Seese, 43, Annville R D. 2, a welder at the Standard Boiler Co., Lebanon, said that his wife, LaGatha, spotted the object at 11 p.m. while looking out of a bedroom window

"It looked like an elongated ball of fire," Mrs. Seese told The NEWS last night.

She went on to explain that the disc was moving at "a very rapid but steady pace"

Mrs. Seese said that when she first noticed the object, she called it to the attention of her husband and two children, William, 12, and Richard, 7.

They watched it for about five minutes and then related the story to Mrs. Ed Imber, their landlady. Mrs. Imber said that when she went outside the object was still visible

Seese indicated that he was rather puzzled because no one else had reported the object.

"It was such a bright night, that I thought everyone probably would have seen it," he said.

Getting back to the Annville man's description of the disc, he pointed out that "during the last pass it made across the sky, it seemed to bank, then turned and went back in the opposite direction."

Following the reversal of its path, Seese said, the object became a perfect disc. "Of course, it was a little elongated because we were looking at it from an angle," he commented.

According to the Seese family, the outer edges of the object were bright, while the inner portions were blacked out. "It was like a huge lighted rim," Mrs. Seese said.

The Seese family, along with Mrs. Imber, seemed to spurn all ideas that the object was a balloon, cloud, or a hallucination, as Air Force officials have been trying to explain.

They weren't sure what it was, but it was "something."

terrific speed. He said it made no sound.

"About five minutes later a smaller object—one that really looked like a saucer—swept by on the same path," Nowak said. This one was of a pink glow, and there was a blaze of fire behind it, he said.

"Nowak said that he did not believe the reports he had heard about flying saucers, and I wanted to see one. 'Now that I have seen one,' he added, 'I don't want to see any more'" (xx.)

(xx.) Waco, Texas *Tribune-Herald* 8 August 52.

29 July Lafayette, Indiana (before? midnight)

"A most peculiar lighting phenomenon."



A news story tells of strange lights witnessed by GOC observers at the Lafayette observation post atop the Lafayette Loan and Trust company building:

"Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Corns and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mink, on duty at the Lafayette post before midnight, observed a most peculiar light following near a plane passing overhead. The weird-looking light appeared first in front of the plane, then jumped behind it and then to the side. But the light was observed after the plane passed.

"The information was phoned to the South Bend filter center. Radar being beamed on the Cairo vicinity was transferred to the Lafayette area immediately. The conclusion reached by the filter station was that the peculiar and rare occurrence was caused by a beacon light from the Purdue airport and another light coming from the east meeting at one spot and reflecting off a cloud." (xx.)

(xx) Lafayette, Indiana. *Journal & Courier* 30 July 52.

30 July Council Bluffs, Iowa. (about 9:00-9:20 a.m.)

"Hovering around the sun."

A railroad crew sees "things" near the sun:

"Several silvery objects—not airplanes—were sighted high over Council Bluffs about 9:20 a.m. Wednesday by the crew of a Burlington switch engine.

"The spokesman for the crew, Switchman A.W. Wintersteen, did not know whether the objects might be the so-called 'flying saucers.' But, he did say they were not airplanes

"Wintersteen sighted one or two of the objects by himself about 9:00 a.m. Later, the whole crew watched the sky objects, high over the Burlington tracks near Twentieth avenue

" 'We saw 8 or 10 of them hovering around the sun,' Wintersteen said. 'Then one by one, they took off like a shot and disappeared.'

"He said they were 'about the size of a pin head'

"Other crew members who Wintersteen said saw the objects were: Woodrow Hansen, engineer; Al Frieze, fireman; Don Rath and Earl Loder, both switchmen." (xx.)

(xx.) Council Bluffs, Iowa. *Nonpareil* 30 July 52.

30 July. Alexandria, Indiana. (1:10 p.m.)

"I saw a strange-looking cloud."

Press tells of strange objects:

"Reports of strange objects flitting through the air have finally reached Alexandria with the viewing Wednesday by a family of four of 'flying saucers'

"Mrs. George Vaught, 939 West Washington street, reported seeing the 'flying saucers' at 1:10 p.m. Wednesday in the back yard of her home.

" 'I saw a strange-looking cloud,' Mrs. Vaught stated, 'and called my two teen-age daughters, Laura and Phyllis, and Mrs. Laura Oliver to the yard.

" 'While we were looking up in the sky we saw six strange, flat-like objects streak across the cloud, merge together and then disappeared. They looked like aluminum. The whole thing happened in a minute. It was a strange sight and there was no sound.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Alexandria, Indiana *Times-Tribune* 31 July 52.

30 July. Sante Fe, New Mexico. (morning)

Sante Fe housewives see ???.

According to the local newspaper:

"Three Santa Fe housewives today added their reports of flying objects in the skies to those which are cropping up nationwide.

"The three, Mrs. C. C. Borland, 1929 Kiva; Mrs. K. C. MacDonald, 1920 Kiva, and Mrs. R. A. Brown, 1923 Kiva, reported seeing 'about 50' silver colored disks in the skies above the city yesterday morning.

"The housewives, who were called out to look at the objects by children in the area, said they appeared to be crescent-shaped, apparently because they were turning around so that the light caused them to seem to 'disappear and come back.'

"Mrs. MacDonald said she thought they reflected various colors. However, the other women agreed that they remained silver.

"They said that the objects seemed to be very high, in formation and traveling toward Albuquerque in the sky to the southwest of town." (xx.)

(xx.) Sante Fe, New Mexico. *New Mexican*. 31 July 52.

30 July What to say?

Rumors that GOC observers taking part in "Operation SKYWATCH" were reporting "flying objects" in Northwest skies reached the Spokane *Chronicle*. The newspaper made inquiries at the Spokane filter center but reporters were referred to McChord AFB. Officials at the headquarters of the 27<sup>th</sup> air division at McChord only made a terse announcement which admitted there had been numerous sightings. As for any other information, officials explained: "We don't know just how much we are suppose to say about this matter." (xx.)

(xx.) Spokane, Washington. *Chronicle* 30 July 52.

30 July Commentator Henry J. Taylor sounds off again.

Here is a newspaper account of Taylor's radio broadcast:

“‘Flying Saucers’ are no longer a laughing matter, according to Henry J. Taylor, ABC commentator and journalist, who made his first broadcast on the phenomenon two years ago last March, has pursued the subject since, and delved more deeply into it Monday night on KTMS, *The News-Press* station.

“In his ‘Your Land and Mine’ ABC Radio Network program Monday at 7:30 p.m., he revealed that the forerunner’s of today’s ‘flying saucers’ were metallic streamers that were released during World War II by bombers approaching radar-protected enemy targets to ‘jam’ enemy radar detection screens.

“‘After the war,’ he said, ‘I knew great strides were made secretly in our country toward improving such streamers. These began to take the shape of white discs, large and small. They gave the same or better electronic effect but could be better controlled. They could be towed at great speed—dangling and gyrating and suspended far below fast airplanes too high to be seen. The discs can hover or maneuver, can be set free or guided.’” (xx.)

(xx) Santa Barbara, California. *News-Press*. 30 July 52.

30 July. Secretary of Defense Lovett

Lovett has explanation.

An AP dispatch out of Washington states:

“Even Secretary of Defense Lovett has seen a ‘flying saucer’—but he had an explanation for it.

“Pentagon sources said Lovett, returning to Washington from New York Sunday, was a fellow passenger aboard an airliner with persons who insisted they had seen a white disc whirling along beside the plane

“Lovett, however, reportedly said he had been watching a searchlight playing into the clear, moonlit sky and at one point its cone of light caught and held a tuft of cumulus cloud, creating the impression of a circular body keeping pace with the plane.

“‘That’s how many a flying saucer gets born,’ one officer said.” (xx.)

(xx.) Abilene, Texas *Evening Reporter-News*. 30 July 52

30 July. The Einstein letter.

Although very brief, Einstein’s reply to Rev. Gardner was probably the most quoted comment about the UFO flap if the Air Force’s Romeike newspaper clipping collection is any indication. (See page 104)

30 July. “The Air Force should tell the Public ” (See clipping on page 105)

30 July. “The Air Force’s official opinion.” Al Chop. (See clipping on page 105)

30 July. Truman not worried.

THE ORIGINAL  
**ROMEIKE**  
PRESS CLIPPINGS

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Cir (D 351,436) (S 764,629)

This Clipping From  
LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
EXAMINER  
JUL 30 1952

## Einstein Not Interested in Discs

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

July 23, 1952

Dear Sir:

Those people have seen something.  
What it is I do not know, and I am not  
curious to know.

Sincerely yours,

*A. Einstein*

encl.

Albert Einstein.

Mr. Louis A. Gardner  
911 West 7th Pl.  
Los Angeles 14, Cal.

**THE ANSWER**—Here is a copy of the letter the Rev. Gardner received from Dr. Einstein. It reads: "Dear Sir: Those people have seen something. What it is I do not know and I am not curious to know. Sincerely yours, A. Einstein." The letter was air mailed.



**GETS REPLY**—The Rev. Louis A. Gardner of Los Angeles holds the letter he received from Dr. Albert Einstein in answer to his question whether the scientist thought "flying saucers" originate in outer space.  
—Los Angeles Examiner photo

# 'Flying Saucers,' Whatever They May Be, Not Result Of U.S. Experiments; Air Force Anxious to Find Cause

The Air Force has exhausted its supply of previous news releases concerning its investigation of flying saucers. However, an official Air Force spokesman has issued a summary outlining the findings made in the exhaustive probe of saucer reports since 1947. In the following signed article Al Chopp, an Air Force information representative, reports that whatever the unidentified disks may be, they are not the result of secret defense department experiments. He also explains how the use of a special camera may help solve the 1952 flying saucer mystery.

By AL CHOPP  
(AF Information Representative)

WASHINGTON, July 30 —The demand for copies of past press releases on "flying saucers" issued by the Department of Defense has completely exhausted our supply. However, the information contained in these releases is summarized below and constitutes the official opinion

of the Air Force on the subject of "flying saucers."

In the fall of 1947, the United States Air Force took official notice of reports of so-called "flying discs" because the reports from the public indicated that the problem might be related to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States.

On Dec. 30, 1947, the Air Force directed its Air Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, to set up a project to collect and evaluate all available facts concerning reported flying saucer incidents.

To perform this job, the Air Materiel Command obtained the services of well-known scientists, such as astronomers, psychologists, electronic specialists, and meteorologists.

On Dec. 27, 1949, after 375 reported sightings had been in-

vestigated, the Air Force, with the concurrence of the Army and the Navy, announced the findings of the "flying saucer" project.

The evidence at that time indicated that the majority of the reports of unidentified flying objects could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a mild form of hysteria, meteorological phenomena, or hoaxes.

There remained, however, a number of reported sightings that could not be thus explained, and the Air Force has continued its investigations.

As far as luminous phenomena are concerned, the recent development of special photographic equipment may make it possible to gather data hitherto unobtainable through ordinary photographic methods. This equipment consists of a grating camera which separates light into its component parts (spectrums) and registers them on different portions of film.

The principle involved is that used by astronomers in determining the composition of the stars. In this manner Air Force scientists may be able to determine the composition of the light phenomena and consequently identify its sources.

It has been suggested that what people actually have been seeing is the result of some of our own secret experiments, guided missiles, or new types of planes or flying weapons. This is emphatically not the case. None of the three military departments nor any other agency in the government is conducting experiments, classified or otherwise, with disc-shaped flying objects which could be basis for the reported phenomena.

The Air Force would like to assure the public that, inasmuch as the air defense of the United States is an Air Force responsibility, it has and will continue to receive and evaluate any substantial reports of unusual aerial phenomena.

7/30/52 The Albuquerque Tribune

## Tell the Public, Writer Urges

By WATSON DAVIS  
Director, Science Service

WASHINGTON, July 30 — If governmental authorities know what causes the mysterious lights and radar "blips" seen in the hot Washington sky a few nights ago, they should tell the public.

Otherwise even skeptical persons who have discounted the fantastic idea of flying saucers, born of comic strips and science fiction, may begin to get worried.

Building up of a secrecy-cloaked mystery, about which almost every competent scientist or aviation authority is forbidden to talk, will contribute to the atomic war of nerves which we seem to be waging upon ourselves.

Civilian defense instructions warn our citizens of the dangers of a sneak attack and the possible dropping of an atomic bomb. We learn to live with this fear, just as people do in other nations, confident that the world situation

must get much worse before this is really likely to happen.

However, if the air force is unable to say what is happening in the sky only a few miles from the capitol many citizens may decide it is time to be apprehensive. It matters little whether the air force just does not know or is concealing something. The effect will be the same.

The air force must certainly be convinced that the cause is not "enemy" invading planes. If there was evidence of an actual attempted invasion, there would be much higher excitement in official Washington.

MARYSVILLE, O.  
TRIBUNE

JUL 30 1952

While General Samford was holding a big press conference to calm the excitement caused by the "UFO invasion of Washington," John Q. Public was told the President didn't have a care in the world:

"President Truman continued his Missouri vacation today in an atmosphere devoid of toil, trouble and news.

"White House Press Secretary Joseph Short could tell reporters only that the President had spent the day, as he did yesterday, talking with old friends, signing mail and official documents, plus eating and sleeping.

"What did the President think of the flying saucers over the nation's capital? Short said he hadn't heard the President mention them." (xx.)

(xx.) New York, New York. *News*. 30 July 52.

? July? Pulaski County, Kentucky. (late evening)

No matter what General Samford said, or how unconcerned Truman was suppose to be, any attempt to get people to ignore UFOs was a hard sell in many parts of the country. A reporter for a Kentucky newspaper wrote: "Regardless of whether they are observation balloons or inter-planetary visitors, 'flying saucers' are being seen in Kentucky. There has been much speculation as to what these strange objects in the sky can be, but that they are there can no longer be denied." (xx.) The reporter then listed a series of UFO reports, of which the most interesting was

(xx.) Somerset, Kentucky *Commonwealth*. 30 July 52.

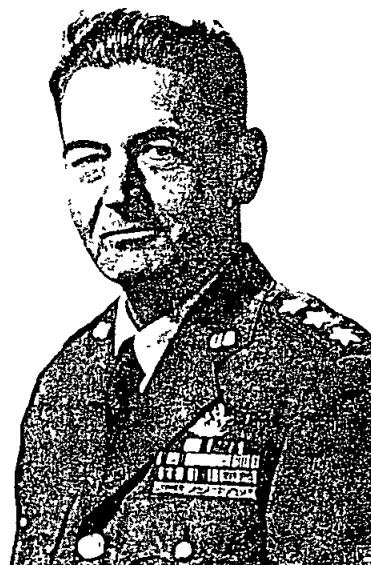
the sighting of a "blue ball." The story:

"Some time ago a man and his wife in this county told this reporter that they had been looking out the window of their home late one evening and were astounded to see an object which looked like a huge blue ball of light approaching through the skies from the west. The object trailed a soft glow of blue light and was traveling at great speed. The light then stopped over a nearby structure and hovered there for several seconds. Then it suddenly darted upward in a perpendicular path, veered to the south and disappeared in a short period of time. They made no official report of this occurrence because they were afraid to believe their own eyes."

(xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SAMFORD This officer represented the U. S. Department of Defense in a news conference called during July 1952. The general stated that UFOs were unexplainable



30 July. GOC Commander Howard Porter of Ohio.

“Even when something is heard but nothing is seen.”

General Samford’s remarks didn’t make much of a dent in the views of Ohio’s GOC Commander:

“‘I rather believe,’ Porter declared, ‘that the Air Force knew what it was doing when it put the [GOC] program into effect. I’m almost inclined to think that the latest crop of saucers was anticipated by Air Force men, so timely was Skywatch inaugurated.

“‘I think the Air Force either knows more about the saucers than they reveal, or at least, Air Force officials are pretty much concerned about the sightings. And I think Skywatch definitely was set up to help solve the saucer mystery.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Wheeling, West Virginia. *News-Register*. 30 July 52.

Porter revealed the fact that his observers had been instructed to: “...keep their eyes peeled for all types of aircraft which can’t be detected [?], all natural and unnatural phenomena in the sky and any cases in which sounds are heard but nothing is seen.” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

30 July. Fullerton, California. Police to report UFOs.

A short item in the press states: “Whether figments of the imagination or Martian tourists on a reduced rate tour of Earth, Fullerton police officers are instructed by a note on the desk log to the effect that: ‘If there are any reports of flying saucers or any strange objects, take the report and call Kimberly 3-2643, the Santa Ana Filter Center. Evidently the Air Force is interested even if there ain’t no such things.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Fullerton, California. *News-Tribune* 30 July 52.

30 July. Suamico, Wisconsin. (2.45 p.m.)

“The five minute aerial show.” (See clipping on page 108)

30 July. Near Racine, Wisconsin. (no time)

Darted erratically like fish.

Another Wisconsin report tells us:

“Mr. and Mrs. Lester Church, 2117 Huffman blvd., have reported seeing 10 mysterious flying objects which darted erratically across the sky like fish swimming in a shallow pond. The Churches spent the weekend at Franksville, Wisconsin.

“The objects were seen by Mr. and Mrs. Church, their daughter Marilyn and two

## Two Report "Saucers" Seen Here

Objects Also Sighted  
At Other State Points

By JOHN TORINUS

Sighting of two "flying saucers" apparently being pursued by a jet fighter plane was reported Wednesday afternoon by two Suamico men. And reports of similar sightings came in today from other points in the state, including Kewaunee and Waupaca.

"I still don't believe it, but I saw them. I've been pooh-poohing these stories about flying saucers ever since they started, but how can you explain this?"

That's how Bill Vickery of Suamico led off his description of what he termed a "five-minute aerial show" in the skies over Suamico about 3:45 Wednesday afternoon.

### Saw Two Objects

Vickery and Harvey Rehn at Suamico both saw two shining cylindrical objects in the sky darting around with a jet fighter plane.

They were working at the Larry Moore sink ranch. Rehn, an aircraft spotter in World War II, noticed a B-25 bomber approaching from the north and called Vickery's attention to it. Then Vickery spotted a jet plane coming over from the east. He pointed it out to Rehn.

"But what are those two things in front of the jet," Rehn then declared. And both men saw the two

"saucers" moving ahead of the jet and at a much higher rate of speed.

Then the "saucers" slowed down and appeared to hover in the sky, Vickery said. "We really got a good look at them then," he continued. "They looked like an inverted bowler hat. You could see the rim around the circumference very clearly, and a bulge in the middle beneath. I've seen balloons before but they weren't anything like this."

### Changed Their Course

The jet appeared to be catching up to the objects when they changed course and disappeared into the northeast in a burst of speed that made the jet look like it was standing still, Vickery said.

Shortly afterward they appeared from the east again and crossed the sky at terrific speed to disappear in the west.

Vickery said he couldn't draw a conclusion as to whether the jet seemed to be chasing the "saucers," but both he and Rehn thought it an unusual coincidence that they both should appear in the sky at the same time and in approximately the same area.

Vickery said that to check themselves he and Rehn wrote down their own descriptions of the objects when they returned to Suamico, and that each of their descriptions "lined up almost exactly" height, however.

At least part of Vickery's story was confirmed by the CAA station at Austin Straubel field here. They said that a jet plane and a B-25 were both over Green Bay about that time. The jet came from Ascoda field near Alpena, Mich., flew over Green Bay and returned to Ascoda. The B-25 was on its way from Houghton, Mich., to Chicago. The CAA didn't know what kind of jet it was or what it was doing. The pilot merely

Green Bay, Wisconsin  
Press-Gazette  
30 July 52.



teen-aged nieces near Racine, Wisconsin. Mrs. Church said the objects were flying in two groups of five each. They were a long way from their car, she said, and looked like rockets. She said there was a smoke or vapor trail but no sound." (xx.)

(xx.) Rockford, Illinois. *Register-Republic*. 30 July 52.

30 July Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. (about 5:00 p.m.)

Mystery cigar.

Another puzzle in Pennsylvania skies:

"Attorney William H. Valentine, of Lehman Township, observed a strange object yesterday in the skies above Tunkhannock. While riding in his car on US route 6, north of Tunkhannock, around 5 p.m. yesterday, with Mrs. Valentine driving, he saw a large white cigar shaped object, in the northwest sky low down on the horizon. The object hung in the sky, perfectly motionless, above Meshoppen. Attorney Valentine stated the object was perfectly symmetrical and situated near a cloud bank.

"It gave the impression of a solid substance when contrasted against the misty clouds. The object appeared about the size of a large airplane. Unable to stop the car, because of a following vehicle, the object was lost to the Valentines' view by a higher elevation on the horizon." (xx.)

(xx.) Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. *Times-Leader News*. 30 July 52.

30 July. Sedalia, Missouri. (8:00 p.m.)

Round with a reddish glow.

Feature attraction at the Drive-in is not a movie:

"The flying saucer scare came to Sedalia Wednesday.

"Several people at the Sedalia drive-in theater sighted a disc-like object at 8 p.m., headed on a due west-to-east course.

"According to one observer, the 'saucer' took eight minutes to go from ten degrees above the west horizon until it disappeared to the east.

"It was on edge, and since it passed almost directly over the theater area, only a slight side view was obtained. From the side sighting a definite round appearance was established, and a reddish glow was quite apparent when first sighted, but gradually turned a lighter color.

"As is customary, there were several different opinions as to what the object actually was.

"Some seemed to think what they saw was only a vapor trail from a jet plane, but all agreed there was no noise, and that if it was a vapor path, it stayed the same length as long as it was in sight." (xx.)

(xx.) Sedalia, Missouri. *Capital* 31 July 52.

30 July. Wenatchee, Washington. (9:30 p.m.)

Lubbock light type phenomenon.

Story by reporter Marilyn Sperline:

"I saw flying saucers last night. They could have been reflections of something, as a good many theories say—but now I wonder.

"They weren't really saucers at all, to me. Just small, star-size lights, miles high, in formation of a crescent. There was no noise; they just moved slowly across the sky and disappeared.

"I was sitting on my lawn on Malaga Street when my eight-year-old brother called my attention to the 'shooting stars.' We watched them glide toward Twin Peaks. It was 9:30.

"So many stories have been written about 'greenish lights soaring with short meteor-like tails' and 'yellowish blobs dashing across the sky and turning at right angle in midair.' Or there have been discs, 'twirling round and round' as they flew.

"The lights I saw were not exactly like those other reports.

"But I know they were flying saucers." (xx.)

(xx.) Wenatchee, Washington. *World*. 31 July 52.

30 July. York, Pennsylvania. (about 10:00 p.m.)

Shifting oblong light.

News report:

"The first report was from a group of North York residents who saw the light about 10 o'clock, moving back and forth across the sky in the direction of Emigs-ville and stopping at intervals.

"Reported to have seen the light were Mr. and Mrs. William D. Poet, 21 East Ninth avenue; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Charleston, same address, and Mrs. Nora Lehr and children, Lois and John.

"Mrs. Poet described the object as a spinning plate which appeared oblong when moving and perfectly round when standing still. The center appeared to be dark while the edges were lighted, she said.

"Her husband, who observed the light through field glasses, said it appeared to be 10 feet in diameter. It seemed to be quite high in the sky, possibly as high as a flying airplane, but no one was able to hazard a guess as to its altitude." (xx.)

(xx.) York, Pennsylvania. *Gazette & Daily News*. 30 July 52.

30 July. Cincinnati, Ohio. (11:40 p.m.)

"It was weird and gave me the chills"

It hung over a school, but who can tell what "it" was interested in:

"A weirdly brilliant flying saucer, or something, hung calmly in the air over Greenhills school for more than a minute Wednesday night. It was witnessed by more than a dozen persons.

"Joseph Ostendorf, 45, of 3 Bachman street, said 'I always said I'd never believe in those things until I saw one. Nobody can tell me now that what I saw was an optical illusion.'

"Mr. Ostendorf said it was 'the most brilliant light I've ever seen—just like sunlight. It was weird and gave me the chills. Then a bluish haze seemed to shoot out of it, and it started to move. The light seemed to diminish and it went in a straight line toward Cincinnati.'

"Neighbors of Mr. Ostendorf who also saw the glowing object at 11:40 p.m. included Joseph Wernicke, Raymond Seiter, Mrs. William Carl, Harry Piatt Sr., and members of their families." (xx.)

(xx) Cincinnati, Ohio. *Post* 31 July 52.

31 July. Edward Sullivan of CSI and Col. Philip Doddridge. (See clippings below)

This Clipping From  
BOISE, IDAHO  
IDAHO STATESMAN

Jul 31 1952

## Flying Saucers Said Causing Undue Concern

### Idaho Civil Defense Director Comments On Rash of Reports

People are becoming unduly alarmed because of the prominence given reports of "flying saucers," Col. Philip Doddridge, Idaho civil defense director, said Wednesday

So far, he said, none of the north Idaho ground observers participating in "Operation Skywatch" has reported any unusual objects in the sky.

His office has received some saucer reports, he said, "but they have been given no publicity and have been passed along to the Air Force for its information."

He said he thought the reports, "if they do appear valid, should

be given to the people who are studying the situation.

"Anyone who sees one should report it to the local police or the local civil defense director

"There's been too much play given in the newspapers and on the radio to these unconfirmed reports—reports with no foundation which rile up the people

"Everyone is groping around in the dark, and no one knows the answer."

Colonel Doddridge said he never had seen a flying saucer, and thinks most of the reports stem from searchlights playing on clouds or what people used to regard as "shooting stars"

"I don't doubt the veracity of these people who see things, but I don't know how many drinks they've had either," he said

"I believe most people are sincere, but they get only fleeting glances—so fleeting that they are unable to give more than a bare description"

He said his office has been receiving the reports intermittently but had received no more than normal recently despite the resurgence of the reports throughout the country

## "Flying Saucers" Not Anything New

LOS ANGELES, July 31 (U.P.) — The president of the civilian Saucer Investigation says there are no more "flying saucers" in the heavens today than there were a year ago but witnesses now feel safe in reporting them

"Our offices were founded back in the days when to admit having seen a saucer immediately labeled the observer a psychopath, a drunkard or a profiteer," Edward Sullivan said

He said the Air Force's action in sending jet planes after the "saucers" has encouraged people to report what they spot in the sky.

Father Francis J. Heyden SJ, head of the Georgetown University's astronomy department.

THE STARS-AND-STRIPES

Page 3

## Scientist-Priest Believes 'Good Faith' of UFO Tales

WASHINGTON, April 10 (UPI) — One afternoon about five years ago Father Francis J. Heyden, head of Georgetown University's astronomy department, saw a brilliant strange object in the sky.

Being a scientist, he had never accepted the more marvelous explanations for the "flying saucers" people were seeing. He didn't believe, for example, that the saucers were visitors from outer space.

Still, there this object was, hanging in the sky over Georgetown's high spires and glowing like the brightest star or planet that ever was.

"I thought," he has since confessed, "that I had made a discovery."

As an astronomer, Father Heyden has at his disposal certain aids to seeing which most flying saucer sighters lack — telescopes. So, he told the United Press International, he proceeded to get a telescopic fix on this odd thing in the afternoon sky.

### Bursts, Disappears

He discerned two lights, one red and the other green, which seemed to be attached to the weird object. As he watched, the whole contraption suddenly burst and disappeared from view.

Father Heyden didn't leave it at that. He investigated further. He found out that the space people at Wallops Island, Va., had rocketed an experimental balloon into the sky that day. He had witnessed the normal end of its mission.

Over the years, Father Heyden has arrived at a one-word explanation which he believes cov-

ers most of the most titillating tales of flying saucers. The word is "imagination."

Father Heyden, of course, is by no means a nonbeliever. He believes many of the people who see flying saucers. He believes they really do "see something."

These people, he says, "are not experiencing hallucinations;

they are reasonably sane." All he quarrels with is their descriptions and interpretations of what they thought they saw.

Many astronomers, including Father Heyden, believe it is possible that other worlds, attached to other suns, may be the seats of brilliant technical civilizations more advanced than earth's. Might not one or more of them have developed spacecraft capable of ranging to this part of the universe?

Would this be possible? Possibly. Impossible? Again the answer is possibly. How do you distinguish between what is possibly possible and possibly impossible? All a rational scientist can do is try to detect a difference between the rational and irrational.

It certainly would have been irrational to assume that what Father Heyden saw over Georgetown five years ago was something irrational.

More and more satellites, more and more weather balloons, more and more space probes are being lofted from the earth each year.

So, says Father Heyden, it is likely that there will be more and more reports of flying saucers. The Father Heydens of this world will seek a rational explanation for them.

Will they prevail? Will they be able to convince the true believers that flying saucers are not alien something from out of this world?

Or will the believers go on believing whatever it is they believe about flying saucers? Said Father Heyden:

"I believe they will."

Father Heyden.

Ruppelt's comment on the priest-astronomer: "I never met him but Dr. Steve [Stefan] Possony was always going to him with our UFO problems. Father Heyden seemed to be very much interested in our problems and couldn't at all be classed as a scoffer." (xx.)

(xx.) Ruppelt's private papers. Copies in author's files.

While we're at it, we should mention that Possony was acting chief of the Directorate of Intelligence Special Studies Group. Because of his position, he "had a direct channel to General Samford." Possony, like Father Heyden, was a professor at Georgetown. (See clipping below)

San Jose Mercury News • **Local** • Sunday, April 30, 1995

## OBITUARIES

# S. Possony, Cold-War ideologue

BY DONNA ALVARADO  
Mercury News Staff Writer

Well-known as one of the architects of anti-communist Cold War strategies in the 1950s, it was only logical for Stefan T. Possony to leave the Pentagon and come West to join the Hoover Institution at Stanford University in 1961.

For the next two decades, he continued to warn the nation's leaders of the dangers of communism and the Soviet Union. His effort sprang not from any dislike of the peoples of the Soviet Union but from a deep and abiding belief that communism was a tyranny that must be stopped.

"He pioneered the philosophical underpinnings of the victory in the Cold War and World War II," said Gregory Copley, a friend from London, England, who worked with Possony for 20 years on a series of strategic defense newsletters and magazines distributed worldwide.

Mr. Possony died Wednesday after suffering a stroke several days earlier.

■ **Born:** March 15, 1913, Vienna, Austria. ■ **Died:** April 26, 1995, Los Altos, Calif. ■ **Survived by:** Wife, Regina Possony of Los Altos; daughter, Andrea Michelle Ross of Hyattsville, Maryland; sister, Christa Lanzinger of Munich, Germany. ■ **Services:** Held April 28 in Palo Alto.

Mr. Possony left his native Austria in 1939. Having earned his doctorate in history and economics from the University of Vienna, he published his first book upon his arrival in Paris.

While in France, he worked with French military authorities to collect information against the Nazis and left before they occupied Paris.

In the United States, he studied modern war strategy at Princeton University before working briefly as a radio news reporter.

Before long, Possony began work as a civilian intelligence officer at the Pentagon, a job that lasted for more than a decade into the Cold War.

During that time, he also began an academic career in international politics at Georgetown University. He wrote and lectured widely on the strategic importance of defending the United States against the Soviet Union.

He published a book in the 1950s, "A Century of Conflict," that became influential in political science and defense circles, said a Hoover colleague, Peter Duignan. "That set the tone for our containment of communism strategy," Duignan said. "Even liberals regarded it as required reading."

After coming West with his wife, Regina, to join the Hoover Institution, he began studying the early history of communism in Russia. But he never lost his interest in public affairs.

He wrote and lectured on space-based weapons 10 years before President Reagan proposed the Strategic Defense Initiative. In the early 1970s, he began writing and lecturing about the impending collapse of the Soviet Union under nationalist pressure — 20 years before it happened.

\$5,000 to corroborate the existence of flying saucers.  
(See clipping)

The magazine *Flying* says the Air Force is serious.  
(See clipping)

Brigadier General James W. McCauley says "flying saucers" are not foreign missiles. "We don't know exactly what they are," claims McCauley. "Russia can't wait much longer," the General warns.

A speech given in Montpelier, Vermont:

"Brigadier General James W. McCauley, commanding officer of the northeast air defense, said the U.S. Air Force is certain that 'flying saucers' are not enemy missiles.

" 'We don't know exactly what they are,' McCauley added 'But they aren't strange weapons from strange lands or foreign countries.'

"McCauley addressed a small group of persons, mostly press representatives, State Police officers and Air Corps officers, in the Vermont Senate Chamber today.

"His talk was concerned chiefly with the 24-hour per day ground observer corps program.

"The general's speech ranged from optimism to pessimism about the defense preparations of America against enemy air attack.

"He said the present defense in the New England-New York area is about 20 per cent effective. This defense relies chiefly on radar and volunteer ground observers to pick up any enemy aircraft that might be attacking the United States.

"While the U.S. is vulnerable to an atom air attack, McCauley said, the next year will also be a critical one from Russia's stand point if the Soviet is considering attack.

"Our military strength in the United States and Western Europe is getting stronger, McCauley claimed. If Russia waits much longer, he added, what ever chances she has of defeating the Allies in warfare might pass

"McCauley described a recent test of defense operations in Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and New York, the area covered in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division.

"The test showed that radar is ineffective in the zone at less than 5,000 feet altitude, he said." (xx.)

(xx.) Burlington, Vermont. *Free Press*. 31 July 52.

This Clipping From  
RADIO DAILY  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

JUL 30 1952

### Will Flying Saucers Produce A TV Sponsor?

Baltimore - Can flying saucers catch a sponsor? WBAL-TV will provide an answer to that question this Friday night.

Temus Bright Baltimore used car dealer, yesterday offered \$5,000 to anyone who could corroborate the existence of flying saucers.

He was immediately challenged by Ivan T. Sanderson, science and research director for WBAL-TV, who claims he'll prove the existence of flying saucers on his weekly program Friday night. In lieu of the \$5,000, however, Sanderson wants Bright to sponsor his program for a couple of months. Bright has agreed and leaves it up to the public to decide whether Sanderson proves his point.

This Clipping From  
HUDSON, N. Y.  
DAILY STAR

JUL 31 1952

### MAGAZINE SAYS AF TAKES STORIES OF SAUCERS 'SERIOUSLY'

In the August issue of "Flying" which contained several articles on Civil Defense Ground Observation Corps in New York State an interesting point concerning recent news stories is made. . . . Another GOC activity and one about which very little has been said, is its potential in observing 'flying saucers'. This is a matter which the Air Force takes very seriously regardless of any opinions to the contrary. Radar almost daily is tracking flights which, due to their speed and unknown origin, could not conceivably be airplanes as we know them. If the civilian Ground Observer Corps were fully organized and activated on a round-the-clock basis, it would provide constant visual observation of every mile of sky over some two-thirds of the United States. This fact has been recognized by the Air Force and provision made for reporting by civilian posts of objects which, lacking any better designation are termed 'flying saucers'.

31 July. Pilots to carry cameras. (See clipping)

31 July. Inspector general of Camp Hanford. (See clipping)

This Clipping From  
PASCO, WASH.  
TRI-CITY HERALD

AUG 1 1952

"These intelligences on other planets are merely observing us, feeling us out, just as any wary opponent does before moving in."

# 'Saucers' Said Aircraft From Other Planet

By VERN BAILEY  
AN ARMY CAPTAIN told Kenne-  
wick Chamber of Commerce mem-  
bers Thursday that he believes  
the flying saucers are aircraft  
from another planet.  
Capt. Maynard Missall, inspec-  
tor general of Camp Hanford, said,  
"I believe we may be receiving  
visits from intelligences of another  
planet."

This statement was made as  
the conclusion of a carefully  
built-up list of evidence drawn  
together by Missall.  
He began his explanation of the  
flying discs by telling the group  
what the saucers are not. His rea-  
soning was based upon four prem-  
ises

- 1 They are not hallucinations
- 2 They are not products of U  
S research
- 3 They are not made by for-  
eign countries.
4. They are not the result of  
air temperature changes

Missall elaborated briefly upon  
each of these statements. He then  
summed up the history of myster-  
ious sighting of object since the  
middle ages.

When asked why the frequency  
of appearance in the last few  
years, Missall said

"Experts tell us that it will be  
possible to do some space travel  
in 50 years. Isn't it also conceiv-  
able that there are intelligences  
on other planets that are propor-  
tionately ahead of us?"

"This would also explain the  
frequency of sighting over mili-  
tary and industrial installations,"  
he said. "These intelligences are  
merely observing us, feeling us  
out just as any wary opponent  
does before moving in."

A FORMER pilot, Missall said  
he is certain the Air Force at  
present has no power plant cap-  
able of the tremendous speeds as-  
cribed to the mysterious discs. He  
read the group an Air Force re-  
port that hinted of a new elliptical  
airfoil in theoretical development  
that would permit unequalled ma-  
neuverability.

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This Clipping From  
LOCK HAVEN, PA.  
EXPRESS

JUL 31 1952

## All American Pilots Carry Saucer-Cameras

Pilots flying All American Air-  
ways planes have joined the  
hunt for flying saucers. At the  
suggestion of the airline's head  
office in Washington, scene of  
recent saucer sightings, pilots  
will carry their cameras with  
them in flight.

Company officials said that  
AAA pilots are in an ideal posi-  
tion to spot the saucer phenom-  
enon as Washington National  
Airport is hub of the airline's  
operations. In addition AAA  
covers seven eastern states.

The case of a pilot named Man-  
tle was cited by Missall as one  
of the best proofs that the saucers  
are real. Mantle reportedly sight-  
ed a saucer while flying an inter-  
ceptor over Alabama in 1950. He  
gave chase saying he was going  
to bring it down. He was never  
seen again. The wreckage of his  
plane was later found strewn a  
mile square area.

"This and many other sight-  
ings of the strange discs by whol-  
ly reliable persons have convinc-  
ed the Air Force that the prob-  
lem is no joke," said Missall.

A bit of irony was injected into  
Missall's speech when he confes-  
sed that he personally had never  
seen a saucer.

Missall concluded his talk by  
emphasizing that the things he had  
stated were his personal opin-  
ions, not the opinion of the Army  
or Air Force.

31 July. Col. Ernest H. Beverly.

Contrast Capt Missall of Camp Hanford with Col. Beverly:

"Col. Ernest H. Beverly, an Air Force ace who downed 13 Nazi planes in World War II, doesn't put much stock in the current batch of ominous rumors about 'flying saucers.'

"Beverly said he would have to have 'something more concrete' before he believed the saucers were a threat to national security. Promoted to Colonel eight years ago at the age of 27, Beverly is visiting his older brother George W. Beverly of the Beverly Apartments.

" 'Radar plays a lot of tricks,' Beverly pointed out. He suggested that the unidentified objects sighted on radar screens might be weather phenomena or that they might be caused by the radar sets being 'out of phase.'

"Nor is he alarmed about the sightings reported from points on the ground and in the air.

"He explained that a pilot flying on a dark night often thinks he's flying right into a star that's hanging in midair.

"And Beverly is positive that the 'saucers' are no mysterious weapon that is being developed by the Air Force. Rumors of such a development have been persistently denied by Air Force officials.

"Now on his way to the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Beverly has been stationed at Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, N.Y., as deputy for operations, Eastern Air Defense Force. That's the force that has charge of protecting the nation's large metropolitan centers.

" 'If the Russians should attack the American continent, we'd be ready for them,' he said 'For months all pilots have been flying with hot guns.'

"However, he warned grimly, 'we probably wouldn't shoot down more than 25 per cent' of a mass attack.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Asheville, North Carolina. *Asheville Citizen*. 31 July 52.

31 July. Col. Francis Gabreski.

Another war hero, like Col Beverly, had his doubts.

He also expressed confidence in the Air Force's scientific department. Was such confidence justified? (See clipping)

31 July. Richard Tregaskis of *Guadalcanal Diary*.

Col. Gabreski's comments lead us to the fact that he had been recently interviewed by a famous author, Richard



## Gabreski Calls It 'Saucer Hysteria'

1952  
BATTLE CREEK, July 31—  
Col. Francis Gabreski, leading ace of the air force takes a dim view of the flying saucer excitement. He was flying last night and landed at Kellogg Airport when saucers were being reported by citizens. He saw none.

He said:

"No flier of my acquaintance has ever seen one. It seems odd to me that they are reported only in the United States.

"I am confident that if they were real, our scientific department of the air force would know the answers. It looks to me like mass hysteria."



Tregaskis, whose best-seller *Gauadalcanal Diary* was made into a classic Hollywood movie. Tregaskis' remarks that touched on the saucer issue during an interview at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas mentioned only the extraterrestrial theory. One thing that stumps UFOlogists is the reference to Tregaskis being an official Army UFO investigator. No student of UFOs has ever found any indication Tregaskis was involved. (See clipping)

31 July. President of the Texas Astronomical Society. (See clipping)

## Russ Fighting Cut-Rate War, Noted Author Says

"Even if flying saucers were an interplanetary threat, I do not think the Russians would cooperate to fight it off. Their first and only interest is to conquer the rest of the world."

So spoke Richard Tregaskis, famed author of "Guadalcanal Diary," in an interview yesterday at the Flamingo Hotel

"Popular imagination to the contrary, stories about finding remains of flying saucers or little men from other planets are undocumented," according to Tregaskis whose work with the army has placed him on investigation teams tracing down such reports.

The lanky, blonde author whose war time experiences were shared by millions of readers, characterized the Russians as "playing baseball, while we want to play basketball."

Amplifying his remarks, Tregaskis said that Americans continue to think of war as a "formal thing along the lines of World War II," while the Russians have so far been victorious by behind-scenes direction of a series of civil wars.

"It's a cut-rate way to fight a war," he added, "and our military leaders apparently haven't learned it yet. It's all down in black and white in the works of Lenin, but we've ignored their outline"

In his Las Vegas trip, Tregaskis has been interviewing five jet aces who flew with Europe's number-one ace, Colonel Francis Gabreski, in Korea. He is preparing an article for the Saturday Evening Post on the life of the greatest ace in all history, after a tour of the country with the flier earlier this month.

The men, stationed at Nellis air force base, are Lieutenant Colonel George L. Jones, Major William T. Whisner, Jr., Shreveport, Louisiana, Capt. Curtis J. Jitterback, Brackettville, Texas, Lieutenant Ivan C. Kincheloe, Cassopolis, Michigan, and Lieu-

tenant Robert L. Moore, Houston, Texas.

Tregaskis, whose visit at the Flamingo and Las Vegas "has been a high spot in my travels," plans to return to his Los Angeles home tomorrow. His latest book, "Seven Leagues of Paradise," is a highly popular work, according to Las Vegas' assistant librarian Mrs. Lillian Flury. (Picture on Page 3).

This Clipping From  
LAS VEGAS, NEV.  
REVIEW-JOURNAL

AUG 1 1952

This Clipping From  
MERIDIAN, MISS.  
STAR

JUL 31 1952

DALLAS—The president of the Texas Astronomical Society, E. M. Brewer, said today he believes the flying saucers "may be some sort of space ships from another planet.

But, the Dallas man added, "If there is life on some other planet, and if it is that far advanced scientifically, then surely they're far enough advanced to have learned to live peaceably."



AT ONE OF the four desks in the small, 30-by-15-foot rooms, partitioned off from the rest of the Air Technical Intelligence center, Rothstein and Ruppelt check off one of the 1,000 sightings reported to their office in the past two years.

## 432 Reports Given AF In '52 On Aerial Objects Sightings

WASHINGTON, July 31—(AP)—The Air Force said today it has received 432 written reports on "sighting of unidentified aerial phenomena" so far this year.

These were reports by civilians and by military personnel, sent through regular Air Force channels to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton, O.

In addition, there have been hundreds of oral reports and sightings which never were described in detail.

The Coast Guard said it has received from the Dayton center a photographic negative of what was described to it as a coast guardsman's sighting in the Salem, Mass., area July 16.

Prints of the photograph will be released tomorrow, the Coast Guard said.

The Air Force said earlier this week that some of the sighting reports, in the southwest and elsewhere, may have been the

result of armed services experiments with rockets and guided missiles.

But spokesmen said today there was no connection with a reported new super secret British guided missile. Some press reports told of such a weapon and the stories sparked inquiries as to whether it might be undergoing tests in America that would account for the strange things seen in the skies.

An Air Force spokesman said this British missile has not been tested here.

The number of written reports to the Dayton center in July had totaled 114, the most for any month on record.

The other monthly totals for this year: January, 10, February, 19, March, 17, April, 91, May, 70, and June, 111.

The reports appeared to have no seasonal trend. There were 115 in 1947, 163 in 1948, 159 in

1949, 147 in 1950, and 141 last year.

The first sizeable flurry was in the summer of 1947, with 19 reports in June, 56 in July and 13 in August.

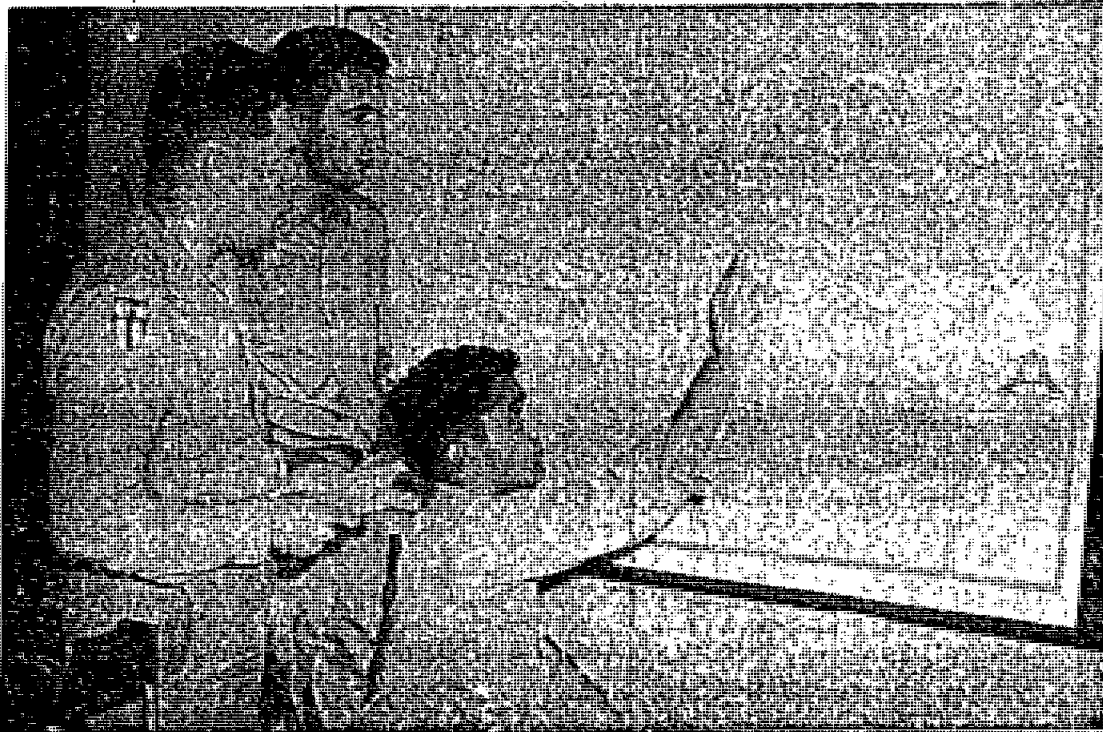
A year later there were peaks of 24 in July, 22 in October, and 23 in December.

The largest totals in 1949 were 21 in March and 18 each in January and July.

In 1950 March was high, with 23, followed by February, with 15.

There was a rash of 40 reports in January, 1951, and 17 each in February and March, with less than 10 a month thereafter except for 11 in August and 14 in October.

Pictures on  
pages 118-120  
are from the  
Dayton, Ohio  
*Journal Herald*  
1 August 52



**PINS IN THE MAP** show locations of "flying saucer" sightings. The map is on the wall of one of the most important rooms in the world. From here may come the secret of the unidentified aerial objects. In charge is Capt. E. J. Ruppelt (left). Lt. Robert Olsson (center) and Lt. Kerry Rothstein (pointing to the site of a recent sighting) assist Ruppelt.

July 1952 radar case.

What Dr J. Allen Hynek told Richard Hall: "...in July 1952 radar case, when so great a furor was caused, four specialists [Hynek was one of them] were called in and kept separate. Four reports were written, but only the hostility question was considered germane." (xx.) We would

(xx) Richard Hall's notes: *Recollections of Hynek interview, Friday August 19, 1956.*  
Photocopy in author's files.

sure like to know who the experts were and what they determined. Apparently the information is not in open files. A diffraction-grid camera project was given a build-up in the press at this time, and how it figured in any recommendations made by the experts is unknown, but Hynek had something to say about cameras as Hall recalls:

"The famous diffraction-grid cameras were proposed by [Dr.] Kaplan, but by the time they were put into production they were only cheap little things, a camera with a grating over one lens—no good because the light required to give an image

is too great.

"As to Schmidt meteor cameras, the astronomers (N.M.) told him they got no pictures, later, the actual workers approached him and confided that they did see saucers [not that they photographed them]." (xx.)

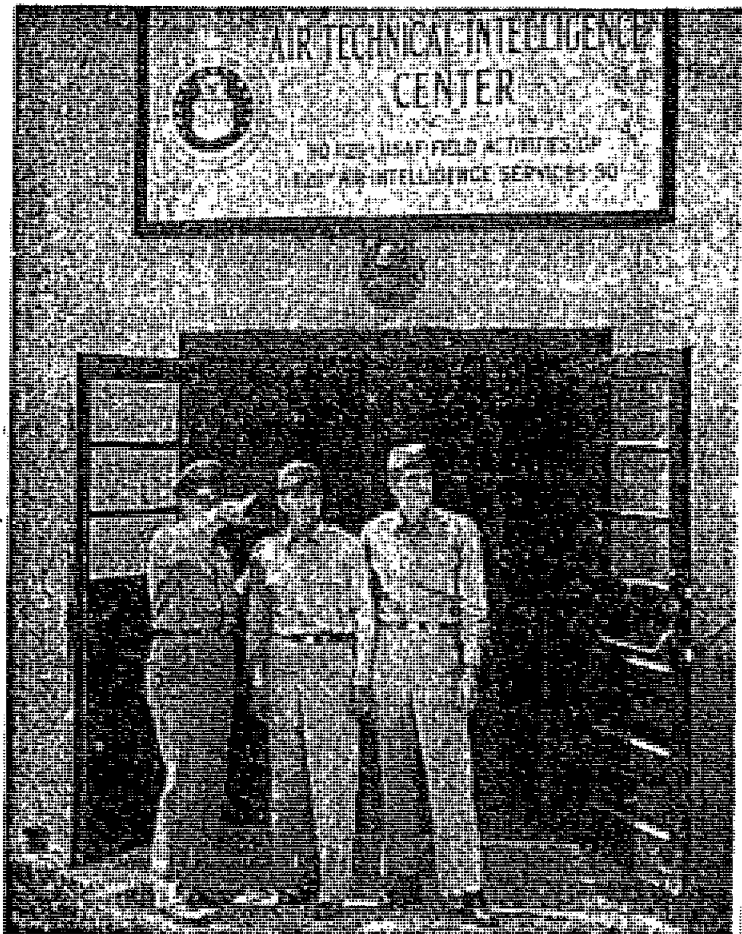
(xx) Ibid.

Another hope for gaining an understanding of UFOs was Dewey Fournet's UFO maneuvers study. According to Ruppelt, Stefan Possony, a key man, was "sold on UFOs" and was "behind Fournet 100% and tended to push him" (xx.)

(xx.) Ruppelt's private papers. Photocopy in author's files

31 July. Nashville, Tennessee.  
(6:00 p.m.)

A press story states:



*IN THE DOORWAY of the building at Wright-Patterson Air Force base in which their office is located are the men most closely associated with Operation Bluebook, the Air Force's "flying saucer" detective agency." Left to right are Ruppelt, Rothstein and Olson.*

"A variation on a theme—this time a flying dishpan was reported in the Nashville area yesterday, over Stewart Air Force base

"The saucer—er, oh, excuse us please, the dishpan didn't land at the airfield, however, but according to A3/C Virginia Sheppard it zoomed straight into the air and disappeared

"The WAF said she walked from her barracks around 6 p.m. and spotted 'the thing' descending from about 2,000 feet toward the ground.

"Then, she said, it abruptly changed course and went straight up until it disappeared. She said the 'dishpan' was going 'very fast.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Nashville, Tennessee. *Morning Tennessean*. 1 August 52.

31 July Decatur, Illinois. (11:18 p.m.)

"Whatever it was." (See clipping on page 121)

AUG 2 - 1952

# Whatever it was Sighted Here

## Company Guard Now Believes in Flying Saucers

A flying saucer—otherwise described as "unidentified aerial phenomena"—was reported over Decatur Thursday night.

Robert Kush, 1452 E. Prairie Ave., said he saw it at 11.18 p. m. Thursday when he was reporting to work as a guard at the Decatur Pump Co., 2750 Nelson Park Rd.

"I never thought much about them before," Kush said, "but this sure made a believer out of me."

Kush described the whatever it was as a glowing yellowish-green disc. It was spinning, Kush said, and had a hump in the middle "just like a saucer."

It came toward the Pump Company factory from the southeast, just high enough to be seen over the trees, made a sharp turn over Lake Decatur and flew away to the northeast, Kush related.

He estimated its speed at "twice as fast as an airplane."

"It couldn't have been a falling star," Kush said. "It wasn't burning, it was glowing and there were no sparks falling from it. It held the same altitude and it turned and flew away."

Neither did it make any noise, he said.

The disc was tilted at about a 15 degree angle as it flew, he said. Kush estimated the object was in view for about a minute.

"I hope they find out what they are pretty soon," he said, "I'm curious now."

### Object 'With Black Spots' Seen Over Binghamton

BINGHAMTON, July 31 (U.P.)—A flying saucer was sighted over this city Monday night by John Turner, 70

"It was about three feet in diameter with black spots on its bottom," Mr. Turner said. "It was way up in the heavens and moving like a shooting star. It followed the horizon."

31? July.  
Buffalo, New York  
(about 9:00 a.m.)

### Veteran Flier Convinced

# Former Army Pilot Sees Flying Saucer by Daylight

A former Army Air Forces World War II pilot who was skeptical about reported "flying saucers" saw one yesterday and is now "convinced they exist." Richard R. Bevan of 1432 Kenmore

Ave., who piloted B-25s and P-38 planes in the 12th and 15th Air Forces in Italy, said he saw the object shortly before 9 o'clock yesterday morning as he drove in Sheridan Dr., near Main St.

Bevan who has 3,800 air hours to his credit and is now a member of the reserves said, "I was skeptical about the 'flying saucer' reports until this morning and even after watching it for five minutes I hesitated saying anything about it until now."

He said he saw the object as his machine topped a rise in the road. "My attention was drawn to it by a glint in the sky and I pulled over the side and took off my sun glasses," he said. "Sure enough, there it was," he added.

The Sun Oil Co. sales representative said it appeared elliptical in form and had no visible means of propulsion. He estimated it was about five miles distant and at a height of between 5,000 to 7,500 feet.

"It definitely was no aircraft, as we know them," he stated. He said the object appeared to be flat and "hovering." He estimated it was about 20 feet long and was made of a metal similar to aluminum in appearance.

Bevan said the "saucer" appeared to "oscillate a bit" as he watched and then either vanished at great speed or went behind a cloud.

"I firmly believed the persons who reported these things before were seeing things but I'm certain of what I saw and my skepticism no longer exists," he declared.

In addition to Bevan, four other Buffalonians said they watched a "bright yellow glow" in the sky while sitting on the Kensington home.



RICHARD R. BEVAN

### Sighted by Two Girls

The round object which was first seen by Theresa Colella, 16, of 146 Oakmont Ave. and Nancy Littlefield, 15, of 114 Oakmont Ave., as they sat on the steps of the Colella home.

Theresa ran into the house and called her father and mother, Mr and Mrs Louis Colella, when they first sighted the object at 9:55 o'clock. Theresa said the first lighted object vanished and then a second appeared some distance away.

She described both lighted objects as being slightly larger than a street light.

Buffalo, New York  
Courier-Express  
1? August? 52

Appendix:

Flying saucers neglected?

Amusement Editor Clifford Sage makes a cultural comment:

"These flying saucers didn't induce in us any more consternation than does the annual report that the Loch Ness Monster had again been sighted off the coast of Maine. But that was before we read about the official-sounding scientific gent, backed up by the high-ranking military character, who vouched that he had recorded The Things' impulses on radar

"Of course, the flying saucers are no greater mystery to us than the theory of radar, yet, somehow, we blindly trust the magic detector. And, in the same unreasoning fashion, we mistrust the other high-sounding, official individual who rationalized the radar activity with a statement somewhat to the effect that warm layers of air between cold layers (or was it the reverse?) at certain times of the year cause such radar manifestations. We are now just about convinced that the contraptions exist, and we are fairly excited about our conclusion.

"However, almost as mystifying to us as the saucers and radar, is the fact that Hollywood, Broadway and the novelist, remain comparatively complacent about this thought-provoking normal or abnormal phenomenon. From the movie studios, thus far, have come only three or four minor features on the fascinating subject; on Broadway, nothing has been produced, and articles have been either reportorial, earth-bound or scientific and dull.

"This flying saucer scare has been going on for quite a while. Not as long perhaps as the prohibition era, or the underworld activities that accompanied it, but remember what Warner Bros and the others did during those dry and bloody annals. And on Broadway everyone from Al Woods to Robert Sherwood was riding the crime bandwagon. And, Lord, the books inspired by those times would not fit in the projected Dallas main public library.

"As it is we haven't even heard about a good saucer song; a satire on the topic in any medium, or even a rollicking children's book. Indeed, most of the latter, Jules Vernean stuff has been produced by the cartoon strippers, and their treatment has been necessarily fantastic, though intellectually unimaginative.

"More amazing than this is the fact that none of those radio and television shows which go in for presenting the eerie type of fare, has offered their 'pilots,' or their origin. And as far as we know, the alleged observers of the saucers have been gathered from all over the country and assembled on a single radio program to describe the machines they claim to have seen.

"We don't know what's going on in the inner sanctums of the creators in New York and Hollywood, and, so we may yet be sorry that we brought all this up. For there might come a rash of saucer theatrical and other literature that will frighten even the saucers away forever" (xx.)

(xx) Dallas, Texas *Times-Herald*. 30 July 52

George Pal's movie masterpiece *War of the Worlds* was in the wings, but could it apply to the flying saucers, a phenomenon that may be, or may not be, alien invaders? If the saucer mystery was to have any real meaning, it would have involve visitors from space. The American public

wasn't nearly ready for that concept. Entertainment fare with that theme at the time was quite tame. There was Commando Cody in a Saturday matinee 12 chapter serial, and then there was "Space Patrol" on radio and television, sponsored by a breakfast food company. Both were strictly for kids. Its amusing to note that "Space Patrol" adventures took place in a future time when travel between the planets was routine. In July 1952 the writers for the show produced a script that had Commander Corry, his co-pilot Happy, female crew members Carol and Tonga, plus Major Robertson, returning to the 20<sup>th</sup> century in some kind of time warp to help track down the flying saucers.

**STARTLING SUPER-SCIENCE!**  
Thrill to space battles!

**HE'S SENSATIONAL!**  
**COMMANDO CODY**  
Sky Marshal of the Universe

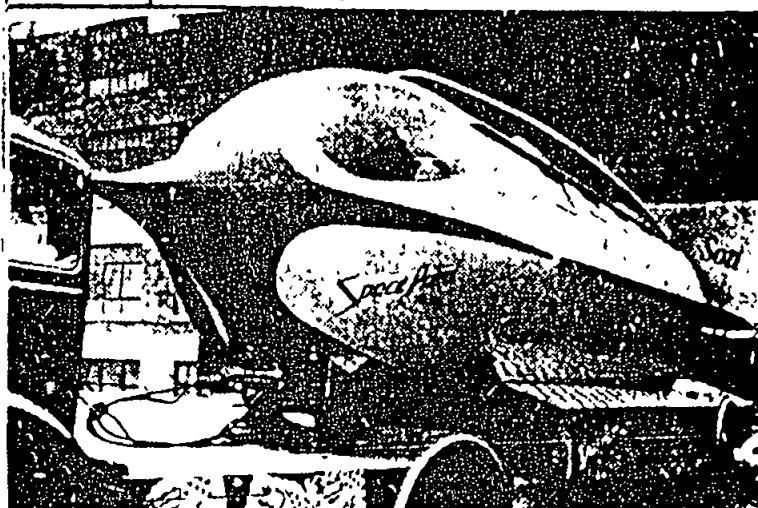
**RADAR MEN**  
FROM  
**THE MOON**

GEORGE WALLACE · ALINE TOWNE · ROY BARHOFF  
WILLIAM BAKERWELL · CLAYTON MOORE  
Written by DONALD HAYESON · Associate Producer FRANKLIN ARISON  
Directed by FRED C. BRADEN

**A REPUBLIC SERIAL IN 12 CHAPTERS**  
Republic Pictures Corporation · Merchants' Sales Corp.

*This Clipping From*  
**CHICAGO, ILL.**  
**NEWS**

**JUL 31 1952**



**SPACE SHIP AT CLARK AND WACKER**

*It does have "truck" with reality.*

## Space Ship Sighted Here---in Parking Lot

With flying saucers getting almost as familiar as street-cars, a Dally News reporter was not surprised Thursday to find a space ship parked in a lot at Clark and Wacker dr.

The space ship, however, turned out to be a \$30,000 toy being sent around the country by a breakfast food firm that sponsors "Space Patrol" on radio and television.

The space ship, mounted on a special trailer, doesn't fly, but it's full of lashing lights, knobs, dials, levers, buttons and other controls for its hull magnetizers, repeller rays and rocket tubes.

It will tour Chicago chain stores for the next six weeks so young space fans can climb aboard and pretend they're headed for Mars.

(In case they get hungry the space food locker is full of the sponsor's products)

• • •

**FIRST STOPS** Friday will be benefit showings (no boxtops needed) at the Shady Oaks Camp for Spastic Children, Lockport, and Joseph B. Kennedy Jr. (St Coletta) mentally retarded children's school, Palos Park.

The public will get its first look at 6:15 p.m. Friday at Thillens stadium, Devon and Kedzie.

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