

***UFO'S: A History***  
***1952:***

***November –***  
***December***

UFOs: A HISTORY  
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1952

by Loren E. Gross

Privately Published

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Fremont, California

### Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank pioneer UFOlogist Vincent Gaddis for the gift of his collection of UFO newspaper clippings covering the early years of the UFO mystery, as well as George Earley who took the time and the trouble to copy considerable material for my use from his UFO files, and Stanton Friedman, who was equally helpful by permitting access to his extensive library of aerial phenomena. Furthermore, Lucius Farish has provided some vital items, good advice, and strong encouragement. Fortunately, Brad Sparks, probably the leading authority on CIA involvement and the career of E.J. Ruppelt, lives in nearby Berkeley and was kind enough to share his views in a number of discussions.

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

UFOS: A HISTORY:  
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See talks to General Samford.

The November issue of See magazine featured an interview with Chief of Air Force Intelligence General John A. Samford by the periodical's Washington editor Serge Fliegiers.

The General, for the most part, repeated what he said during the big press conference at the end of July. He acknowledged that 25 per cent of UFO reports were made by military personnel, rejected professor Donald Menzel's theories, and insisted that evidence of visitors from space was lacking. Have UFOs been seen over Russia, asked Fliegiers? The General replied that the U.S. Air Force didn't know. The Air Force, according to Samford, also lacked satisfactory proof of the supposed "ghost rockets" reported in 1946. Before Flieger left Samford's corner Pentagon office overlooking the Potomac, he questioned the General about the possibility Communist agents were spreading flying saucer reports to put fear into Americans about Russian secret weapons. The General answered: "We cannot discount that possibility. It is under investigation." 1.

"Don't tell the press that."

With the See interview fresh in our minds, it is interesting to recall some material in a draft of an article for the Air Force Air Intelligence Digest's August issue authored by E.J. Ruppelt. The draft, typed doubled-spaced, has this instruction as a preface: "It is suggested that items inclosed in double parenthesis be omitted from the article in order that it might be declassified from restricted to unclassified. In this manner the article could be used as a press release if necessary." 2. Just what were these sensitive sections? The sections are given below along with some of the unsensitive parts of the text:

- "These objects may be natural phenomena, balloons, high-flying friendly aircraft (or, since they are as yet unidentified, global missiles or space ships from another planet.))" 3.

- "It should be stressed that USAF intelligence has no indications that any foreign nation has a super-weapon capable of flying anywhere in the world at will, nor that craft from outer space are coming near our planet Earth. It would be foolish, however, to say that either is impossible, no matter how highly improbable it may sound. Fifteen years ago, the atomic bomb was highly improbable.

"((The impact of the atom bombs on the entire world is well known, and it immediately posed a problem to any nation that held dreams of conquest. It would seem natural for a nation with the apparent plans of the Soviet Union to use any means possible to negate the leadership strength that possession of the bomb has given the U.S.))

"((It is possible to suppose that UAOs might be a Soviet propaganda weapon, in which case, they could be either 1) planted fakes or 2) a clever use of natural phenomena designed to create hysteria. If this be true, it has been as miserable a failure as the balloons upon which the Japanese placed so much reliance during World War II.))

"((If UAOs are being used for propaganda, it would be reasonable to assume that the USSR would choose first to frighten pro-American nations in Europe with the appearance of a radically new weapon, to compensate for the atom bomb. To support this theory, it will be remembered that strange objects appeared over the Scandinavian countries in 1946. The objects observed there were reported to have unusual range and unusual performance characteristics. When these incidents subsided, strange objects were reported to be flying over the U.S. The hypothesis here is that the Soviets could be attempting to frighten both the European nations and the U.S. by a new device that they hope will be construed to mean that the Soviets are far ahead of the rest of the world in technical know-how.))" 4.

"The public press has nurtured and substained our interest in UAOs ((whenever it could find the slightest excuse to keep the story alive.))" 5.

"Few pictures are available, with the exception of obvious hoax shots, for most people do not go about with a camera cocked to catch a breath-taking flash in the sky.

"((One of the best pictures was taken in 1947. On 7 July, William Rhoads of Phoenix, Arizona, saw a disc circling his locality just at sunset, and took two pictures. These pictures, showing a disc-like object with a round front and a square tail, have been examined by experts, who state that they are true photographic images and do not appear to be caused by dirty lenses or imperfections in the emulsion.))" 6.

"They have also taken into consideration the aerial activity that was taking place over the SW United States at that time - the much publicized 'Green Fireballs.' They attempted to tie up the two, but could find no association between the fireballs and the flying objects that they had seen.

"((How green are the fireballs?))

"((The reported green fireballs that flashed across the skies of SW United States in great numbers during 1948, '49, and '50 are still a matter of great conjecture. They were thought by some scientists to be meteors. Dr. J. Kaplan of the Scientific Advisory Board is one such scientist, but he qualified his belief: 'The daytime "fireball" incidents are completely baffling. No meteor would persist for as long as thirty minutes. (EDITOR'S NOTE: The daytime incident of 27 March 1949 lasted more than half an hour. This duration is much longer than any recorded genuine meteoric incident.) The characteristics of the nocturnal green fireballs, of relatively the same height and having no sound, are ones which are difficult to observe without very careful instrumentation as to their (height).))

"((Dr. Lincoln La Paz, director of the Institute of Meteorites, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, made a comprehensive study of the fireballs and felt that they were not meteors. Dr. La Paz stated: 'Most of the reports of "green fireballs" state that they appear to move in horizontal paths, throughout its entire extent, to the plane of the horizon. Such persistent horizontality stands in the sharpest contrast to the downwardly concave paths traversed by genuine meteorites, when these penetrate deeply into the atmosphere of the earth.))

"((In the case of genuine meteorite falls, with luminous paths terminating even at heights considerably greater than those at which the real paths of the green fireballs are situated, the observed luminous phenomena are always accompanied by extraordinarily violent noises. No noises whatever have been observed in connection with any one of the horizontally-moving green fireballs.))

"((The anomalous greenish luminous phenomena show a curious association with well-known meteor showers, although none of these annual meteor showers normally produce extremely bright green fireballs. The relationship cited might indicate an attempt to render the green fireballs less conspicuous by causing them to appear only when there is a background of considerable natural meteoric activity.))" 7.

Kidnapping humans?

Certainly the most interesting reading was in magazines smaller than See like Pic and Bluebook. Pic had an article that was pure speculation, "How Do Saucers Fly?" by John Campbell Jr. Bluebook's contribution was bizarre, an editorial done with a humorous touch about some fellow journalist who wanted the magazine to do something about "flying saucer occupants kidnapping humans," asserting that when a report turns up in the press, a mysterious disappearance is reported the same day. The editor of Bluebook decided: "...if these chaps operating the saucers really are kidnapping some of our lads, they must be pretty darned smart, and someone we guess we'd better not mess around with too much." 8.

The UFO problem and the Eisenhower strategy.

A historian might inject something here in "defense of the CIA's position." In regards to UFO hysteria and tensions between East and West, we should consider the speeches made by Eisenhower during 1952 which made him a front runner in the Presidential race by a wide margin and thus something the CIA had to prepare for.

The frustrating experience of a limited war in Korea, a Truman administration policy that led to a disenchantment with the Democratic party, played a significant role in the campaign. Military historian Andrew Krepinevich, explains that Eisenhower proposed a strategy of "Massive Retaliation." Krepinevich:

"Using the marked U.S. superiority over the Soviet Union in nuclear forces, the proposed strategy would avoid American involvement in unpopular limited wars by threatening to escalate the conflict immediately to a nuclear exchange." 9.

One can well imagine how much closer a nuclear madness now loomed and what a danger UFOs might pose. Almost at the very hour Eisenhower was being nominated by the Republican Party, UFOs were swarming over Washington, D.C., the most sensitive area of the nation, daring the military to identify them and take appropriate action.

The CIA also had to consider the fact that "atomic bombs" would soon be obsolete, that a new weapon vastly more powerful would soon be in America's arsenal and eventually in Russia's. Some nicknamed it the "Hell Bomb."

November 1st.

The world's first full-scale thermonuclear explosion tore the sky at the ATC Eniwetok island proving grounds in the Pacific November 1, 1952. It was the birth of the hydrogen bomb. No UFO activity was reported in the region in spite of the fact Navy crews and Air Force security forces were briefed to be on the look-out for anything suspicious and to notified project BLUE BOOK immediately. Project chief E.J. Ruppelt of BLUE BOOK and others of his staff planned to be observers at the bomb tests in the hope some UFOs would show themselves, but the ATIC team failed to get transportation thus they settled for second best and gave some instructions to other personnel who would on watch during the course of their normal duties. 10.

Gathering the evidence.

Special efforts were now being made by the Air Force to improve data evaluation, and while BLUE BOOK was re-investigating selected UFO cases and pursuing leads to news sources of evidence, it attempted to establish arrangements with other groups to develop a UFO review body or jury. During the months of October and September General Walter B. Smith, Director of the CIA, vetoed attempts to create a scientific UFO methodology panel at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; so the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence, the Air Force, and the Defense Department, kept negotiating. 11.

"...has contacted Albert Einstein."

As the plan for a scientific UFO jury sorted itself out, Ruppelt became anxious for impressive data. Hopefully there did seem to be some potential in an alleged correlation between UFO sightings and radiation, for in the past year Ruppelt had heard a number of rumors and now the time was ripe to learn something definite.

During the summer of 1952 Ruppelt did get some confirmation concerning a UFO-radiation correlation at a research lab at an "unspecified location." It seems a friend of the BLUE BOOK chief happened to be an acquaintance of a person who had first hand knowledge so a meeting was arranged at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood, California.

When Ruppelt met the man, make that men because there was two persons willing to talk, he found they were a couple of physicists employed by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. 12. The scientists wanted no publicity but were quite willing to discuss their findings. Ruppelt obliged the scientists in his retelling of their story by omitting the identity of the gentlemen and the location of their lab where the radiation tests were conducted, but other than that, admits to no other omissions and makes the claim nothing about the incidents had previously found its way to ATIC. 13.

The declassification of many military records over the years since have revealed more of the facts. The site of the research lab in question was Mt. Palomar, California, and the year was 1949. The reason the Air Force never received any information was no doubt because the scientists were working for another branch of the armed forces. The men were doing work on a Navy cosmic ray contract.

Ruppelt learned that on two occasions high radiations readings were

recorded while some unidentified objects were seen in the area. It had been a mere chance happening and "officially" the correlations were attributed to: "...freakish equipment malfunctions." 14.

In 1950 the two scientists were transferred to the Los Alamos atomic labs in New Mexico where the correlations at Mt. Palomar were discussed with colleagues. Their fellow scientists became intrigued and interest mounted for some new tests that would be designed to achieve the maximum results. A group of Los Alamos scientists met on weekends at a shack atop a low mountain near the New Mexico installation where they build a "UFO detection station."\* The device they designed consisted of a series of Geiger tubes fixed in rows which had the advantage of providing a redundancy which would do away with a reliance on a single tube that might malfunction, which had caused doubts about the initial incidents, while providing some information on the direction of the radiation source. When constructed and put into place, the equipment operated around the clock with a tape recorder hooked up to it to provide a record any radiation detected. At the same time efforts were made to learn of any UFO sightings being made in the Los Alamos area.

Nothing unusual was recorded until one day in December, 1950. No UFO reports were made in the Los Alamos that day(to their knowledge), yet the intensity recorded was interesting. For some unexplained reason the Geiger tubes showed a sudden increase of a 100 times in radiation above the normal background level.

Within 60 days, however, the UFO detection station came up with three more or less definite radiation-UFO correlations, and in one of the three a radar contact provided substantiation of something solid in the sky. 15.

No more unusual radiation readings were recorded up to the time the monitoring was halted in June, 1951. The months following the shut down were spent studying the results. The equipment was also studied, being checked and rechecked. Experts in various fields (there many at Los Alamos and quite a few that visited the labs) were consulted to help explain the test results. After a year's work no satisfactory answer was offered to explain the three UFO-radiation correlations obtained by the detection station. 16.

The Los Alamos experiments happened to inspire a more elaborate scheme which Ruppelt learned about during the summer of 1952 when a certain Colonel Hood (Who was in charge of an important project at Wright Field) stopped to see the BLUE BOOK chief at his ATIC office. Colonel related the story of a similar UFO detection system at a "eastern laboratory." Ruppelt was extremely interested and asked Colonel Hood to round up all the documentation he could. That was something the Colonel didn't think he could do, but he did relate everything he could recall from memory. 17.

We know from documents later declassified that "Colonel Hood" was Lt. Colonel John R. Hood, Air Material Command, Field Engineering Office.\*\* The "eastern laboratory" was the Oak Ridge National(Atomic) Laboratory. While stationed at the Oak Ridge installation, Colonel Hood had been approached by the head of the physics department of Vanderbilt University who wanted to try and duplicate the

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\*Ruppelt refers to the group as the "Mineral Club" but that was just to maintain the organization's anonymity. The actual name was the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association."

\*\*Chief of the Nuclear Powered AIRCRAFT Branch of WAAC.



Los Alamos tests for it seems Oak Ridge was a good place to try. The area already had ten radiation counters and air samplers at selected sites in the Oak Ridge restricted zone to monitor possible leakage from its gaseous diffusion plant. It was also known that the Oak Ridge area was having more than its share of UFO sightings.

Someone recommended the study of ionized air that might be left in the sky by a nuclear-powered engine. Dr. D.H. Davis of Oak Ridge suggested that the tracking of a nuclear-powered aircraft, if that was what UFOs were, might be better done by the use of airborne Giger counters and air samplers. To cover all the bases just in case UFOs did not utilize nuclear energy, the Oak Ridge experiment would include a magnetometer to detect electromagnetic field fluctuations.

The concept of a "nuclear-power aircraft" was not a strange one for the Oak Ridge people because America's nuclear aircraft project, titled: "Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft (NEPA)," was headquartered at the Tennessee facility. \*

Additional information about UFO-radiation correlations were offered to Ruppelt in late October, 1952, but he didn't get sufficient details at the time. Now, in November, he was determined to rectify that oversight by sending the following letter dated November 3rd to Dr. Homer T. Gittings of Los Alamos:

"When Col Bower and I were at Los Alamos on 23 Oct. giving the briefing on unidentified aerial phenomena, we discussed the correlation between sightings of UAP and the detection of certain types of radiation. At that time, we unfortunately didn't get too many details down on paper as we were too busy talking. Upon returning to Dayton we discussed this correlation with several people and fortunately a great deal of interest has been aroused. I was wondering if it would be possible for you to collect all of the details you can get concerning the visual sightings and the radiation detection on both the incidents at Palomar and at Los Alamos. We are now attempting to run down your reports to the Los Alamos security people and the Navy reports at Palomar. We may not be able to find them, however, and would like to have what you can dig up.

"The following are some of the details we would like to have on each incident, if you can get them:

- "1. Description of visual sighting including shapes, apparent speed (fast, hovering, etc.), time of day sighted, dates, etc.
- "2. Description of type of radiation detected if it is known, how time this radiation was detected correlates with the visual sighting, type of equipment used, etc.
- "3. Persons who made visual observations and instrument readings, and a little bit about their experiences or background. We would like to have their names if they don't mind; we'll be sure that they don't get out. This information is necessary so we can show that the persons making the observations were experienced in their fields. I believe some instrument readings were correlated with newspaper reports. In these cases forget about the observer, but if you can remember which newspaper the visual sighting came from, we can check back on the source.
- "4. Any comments you might have as to conclusions reached, checks made on the possible origin of the radiation, etc.
- "5. Any additional information you may have or can think of that might be of interest.

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\* See Appendix.

"6. The possibility of instrumentation was discussed. Col Hood said that during 1950 an airborne counter had been devised and attempts were made to use it in the wing tank of an F-47 at Oak Ridge. As far as he knew, this was never done because they could not get a powerful enough power source. He stated he didn't believe an airborne system would be too successful because the area that would give radiation would be too localized. His idea on instrumentation was to utilize a magnetometer in an effort to establish whether or not a reported object was material or not. (Contrary to what we've been told, he believed a magnetometer could be easily obtained that had a fairly long range - up to 50 to 75,000', if not more.) He suggested a setup of several types of instruments all cross checking each other, a magnetometer, a directional coincidence counter for radiation and radar.

"7. During his visit to ATIC this summer, Col Hood had mentioned the fact that his branch was interested in Einstein's latest theories on a relationship between gravity and lines of magnetic force(???). His branch has contacted Einstein and obtained the names of several people whom he thought could pursue this idea further and determine how his theory could be utilized for power. The Office of Flight Research is now contacting these people to see whether or not they would accept a study contract.

"8. Col Hood's suggestion was that we go ahead with a limited instrumentation program now. His idea was that the cost would be low and he believes we could get at least preliminary data that we could expand on. He offered ATIC any aid his branch could give.

#### "Conclusions

"9. The only conclusion is that these people made a very preliminary type of study on the correlation of unknown radar pickups and rises in radiation. There is definitely nothing to 'get our teeth into'. Again, however, there are indications that there may be some correlations present.

"10. The use of a magnetometer may be feasible to determine whether a material object is present and if this object is in any way utilizing the earth's magnetic field in any way.

#### "Recommendations

"11. More details on the incidents at Oak Ridge should be obtained. Mr. Bettis and the head of the Physics Department at Vanderbilt University should be contacted to see if any correlations have been attempted since 1950.

"12. Someone at WADC should be contacted to learn more about magnetometers.

"I almost forgot to add that we would also like to have a list of dates, times, and locations, you or any of your friends detected an unidentified radiation you could not correlate with a visual sighting and we will check all of the local newspapers in an attempt to dig up correlations for you. I checked the list of October of 1950 dates that one of the people at the meeting gave me, and we had nothing. This doesn't mean anything, however, as our files are far from complete in covering sightings at that time.

"I realize that all of these requests are going to cause you and your people a great deal of extra work. We would appreciate anything you can give us, however, as we fully intend to follow this through, up to the point of setting up a net of visual and instrumental locations if necessary. Your information will be used to determine just how far we will go.

As I said before, your names will not be brought into this but we would like the names of the persons involved in case we have to check farther on some points.

"The idea of air sampling has been brought up on several occasions, and we'd like to get your collective opinions on this. Would air sampling give the same, better, or no results compared with the equipment that was used in the incidents we discussed?

"If you think all of the above data is too much to get into a letter or you would rather not put it in a letter, we can come back down to see you. We could meet you in Sante Fe or at one of your homes. I'm going on leave for 10 days beginning 10 November, so it would be after that. If you want to do this, let me know by collect wire. The address is Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Attn: ATIAA-5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

"The reports on the project, that your group requested, have been forwarded to Lt. Parrish, Director of Intelligence, 34th Air Division (Defense), Kirtland. He will pass them on to you. As I told you at the meeting, he is acting as the focal point for all reports in the area.

"If you people have any further data you want, feel free to write and ask for it. If it is classified, we'll get it to you through channels.

"I'm sending this registered because, although it is not classified, we wouldn't want it to get out.

Sincerely Yours,

Edward J. Ruppelt  
Captain, USAF" 18.

Before continuing with the radiation story, we should take cogizance of the mention of magnetics in Ruppelt's letter, a striking omission by him when he retells the events in his book on UFOs. In the forementioned mis-sive information attributed to Colonel Hood confirms great official interest in the subject of magnetics and it helps to substantiate the Canadian Wilbert Smith's "Top Secret" memo of November 21, 1950 which indicated the U.S. was desperate enough to ask Canada for help in the study of magnetics as well as providing support to Smith's claim that there was an extremely secret UFO investigation being conducted by the Americans headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush.

This brings up the question of Smith's credibility. It is known Smith kind of "went off the deep end" in the evening of life so how reliable is his Top Secret memo written much earlier in his career? And how come he had access to such sensitive information? How true was the information?

Going over his memo we can see that his claims are not that outlandish in tone. He asserts he learned what he knew through the Canadian embassy staff in Washington D.C. by "discreet inquiries" and not by being officially informed. Since he had boasted of making some acutal progress in research dealing with magnetics, its quite possible someone felt he had the "need to know." That still put limits on Smith. He was to act just as a consultant and to work through one of Canada's top scientists, a Dr. Solandt, which seems a reasonable arrangement.

Strange metal

While we're at it, lets ponder another Wilbert Smith story equally sensational.

On another occasion Smith once claimed to have showed Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles, U.S. Navy, retired, a piece of strange metal twice the size of a man's thumb, a portion of a larger fragment weighing a pound. According to Smith the metal had been shot off a flying disk that had been intercepted over Washington D.C. during July, 1952! The way the story goes, the disk was glowing when first sighted and shed the fragment after being hit by machine-gun bullets. The fragment that broke off glowed as it fell earthward, enabling the pilot of the interceptor to note its landing spot and to radio instructions to persons on the ground. The metal was quickly located when search teams converged on the site since it was still glowing.\* Smith further claimed that the metal was loaned to him for a "very short time" by the U.S. Air Force (For magnetic research?). An analysis, Smith said, showed the substance to be a matrix of magnesium orthosilicate containing thousands of 15-micron spheres.

He was asked if he returned the metal sample to the U.S. Air Force after examining it. The Canadian expert replied that he gave it back to the Americans but not to the Air Force. When it was suggested that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was the recipient, Smith chuckled and expressed his regrets: "I can say to you that it went to the hands of a highly classified group. You will have to solve that problem - their identity -- for yourselves." 19.

The radiation story continued.

When he had collected all the data he could on the UFO-radiation correlations, Ruppelt submitted the paperwork to a scientific BLUE BOOK advisory body (Probably the RAND Corp.) for their opinion of its value. The advisors found the material interesting but not conclusive. Later, when Colonel Hood was informed he was unhappy with the judgement. Similarly, the two Los Alamos scientists expressed displeasure that their effort had failed to impress, but the ruling stood. 20. Ruppelt nonetheless felt the idea had merit but that it needed more and better equipment tied in with other sensors.

"Classified Briefing in Progress."

During this period the BLUE BOOK team talked to a number of scientists representing different disciplines collecting opinions on the UFO problem so the Air Force could prepare for the upcoming UFO review. American experts were urged to confer with their European colleagues.

Ruppelt confesses he was always surprised with the reception given BLUE BOOK briefings, for in spite of what scientists may have said publicly, often laughing at the subject, privately there was intense interest and never a jovial attitude. Behind many closed doors with the sign: "Classified Briefing in Progress," Ruppelt found that the scientists expressed concern about the mystery. The BLUE BOOK chief especially remembered the "Beacon Hill Group," an organization of high repute composed of scientists and industrialists that advised the Pentagon on the toughest, most

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\*Other stories support this incandescent quality of a fragmented disk. The reader is urged to check this writer's works covering the late 1940's which tell of a R.J. Strong watching a break up of a "saucer." Also, there is the famous Ubatuba, Brazil case.

complex problems, a group that gave Ruppelt and Col. S.H. Kirtland a day long hearing and were very serious listeners. 21.

Currently, however, Ruppelt was giving special attention to the radiation story. The BLUE BOOK chief phoned Major Fournet at the Pentagon on November 3rd and asked him to contact a fellow named "Holloway" who was associated with the Office of Naval Research Cosmic Ray project in the hope more data could be obtained concerning the UFO-radiation correlations at Mt. Palomar.

#### Southern U.S.

On a dry, cold, moonless November night at Laredo AFB, Laredo, Texas; a 20-year-old control tower operator was gazing through an open tower window, scanning the black sky for a T-33 jet due to arrive at any moment (6:30 p.m.). There was a slight breeze blowing slowly pushing along some clouds (5,000 scattered, 10,000 broken). Suddenly the operator, A 1/C William Mallory saw a moving object approaching Laredo field out of the southwest. The object was not the expected jet, but whatever it was, it stopped and hovered in the air just south of the airstrip. Puzzled, Mallory called to the other controller, A 2/C Charles Le Master, to come and verify the strange object. The object was elliptical in shape and bluish-gray in color with fuzzy or blurred edges. It stood out clearly against a dark cloud bank. After pausing for a time south of the field, the object moved away to the southeast. 22.

#### Germany.

The next day, November 4th, a UFO report came from Germany. It seems that three U.S. airmen, A 1/C Stephen Arslanian, A 1/C Leonard Bebenias, and A 2/C Gualfardso Mondino; all saw a dark oval-shaped object at 700 feet moving in an eastern direction over Edding(?) AFB. The object tumbled slowly end over end as it made its way through the air. 23.

Meanwhile, Fournet got back to Ruppelt on the radiation matter, sending to BLUE BOOK the following teletype message:

"REF OUR PHONE CONVERSATION 3 NOV. LCDR THOMAS OF ONR HAS MADE INQUIRY RE. 2 REPORTS FROM PALOMAR EARLY 50. HOLLOWAY REMEMBERS SEEING THEM BUT THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE HERE NOW. THOMAS IS WRITING IS WRITING TO PASADENA OFFICE A OF ONR, FROM WHICH REPORTS ORIGINATED, AND ASKING FOR COMPLETE CYS. HE WILL ADVISE ME OF DEVELOPMENTS AND I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. INCIDENTALLY HOLLOWAY STATES THAT LIDELL EVINCED QUITE A BIT OF INTEREST THESE REPORTS WHEN FIRST RECD. HOWEVER UPON DECIDING THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS A SHORT CIRCUIT IN COUNTERS HE PROMPTLY BURIED IT WITH THE OTHER EXPLAINED REPORTS HOLLOWAY NOW EXHIBITS INTEREST IN OTHER SIGHTINGS OF SIMILAR NATURE WHICH YOU HEARD ABOUT AT LOS ALAMOS." 24.

One would like to know if the "Lidell" mentioned above was actually a misspelling of the name of Urner Liddell, of the Bendix Aviation Corporation and the Atomic Energy Commission, who was so anti-UFO he even out did Menzel during the October meeting of the American Optical Society.

#### France.

In France that Wednesday a couple of hunters near Wges in the department of Rhen spotted a mysterious "flying cigar" at 10:00 a.m., and not long after a similar, wingless, metallic-looking rocket-like object was seen by passengers of a train near Nice. 25.

In the Southern Hemisphere a minor UFO flap inspired the formation of a UFO study group in New Zealand consisting of aircraft pilots, astronomers, and various technicians. 26.

In North America in early November a mysterious, crackling, flaming object sped over Wingham, Ontario, and was witnessed by some members of the Royal Canadian Air Force at Centralia. 27.

In Washington D.C., in the U.S.A., in answer to a summons by a Colonel William Adams, AEC, a nuclear scientist by the name of Dr. Leon Davidson visited the Pentagon where he spent two hours with both Col. Adams and Major Fournet discussing the UFO problem. Fournet even took the opportunity to show Dr. Davidson the Tremonton, Utah, UFO movie stopping the film to point out frames of interest. 28. Dr. Davidson had been invited by letter, dated October 23, 1952, from Col. Adams, thus it may have had something to do with Ruppelt's visit to Los Alamos on the day, but in fact we know little about the background of this or its subsequent results, although it would be Dr. Davidson who would publish the work: Flying Saucers: An Analysis of the Air Force Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14 in December 1956 which was very strong attack on the Air Force's technical document, spotlighting omissions, the "studied awkwardness of the illustrations," faulty logic, and the use of misleading statistics.

November 6th.

In the meantime word came from Dr. Whitman, Chairman of the Research and Development Board, who had been approached earlier to undertake a study of UFOs and that some inquiries in the Air Staff did not disclose: "...undue concern over this matter, but that it had been referred to the Air Defense Command for consideration." 29.

So, momentarily, it seems, a review of the UFO problem was put on hold but new life would be put into the effort by November 25th because: "Recent reports reaching CIA indicated that further action was desirable..." 30. That is somewhat a puzzling statement. What could top the reports made earlier that year?

"Rugby football."

At 9:50 a.m. two French pilots were in an auto and had just departed the city of Agde, France, on their way to Marignane, when a star-like point seen to the south grew into a something the shape of a "rugby football" which was casting off a silvery light. It approached at an estimated 1,500 mph, banked steeply, turned south, and then climbed away. 31.

"Fear has big eyes."

The silence of the Russian leadership was shattered by a high Communist official by the name of Pervaklin, as reported by the November 7, 1952 edition of the New York Times. Sharing a platform with Premier Stalin (who appeared hale and hearty), Deputy Premier V.M. Molotov, and Marshal Nikiolai A. Bulganin; Pervaklin inserted the following in his speech at the Bolshoi Theater for a meeting of the Communist Party as reported by the Times:

"Mr. Pervaklin drew laughs and chuckles from his audience when he asserted that as a result of war and atomic bomb propaganda in the United States many Americans had developed war jitters. He said they saw all sorts of flying objects in the air--flying objects in the air--flying saucers, flying saucepans, greenballs and the like.

"He said Americans feared these were weapons directed against them from Russia or perhaps some other planet. In contrast, he said, the Russian people saw no such objects in the air and did not live in fear. 'Fear has big eyes,' he said." 32.

The American magazine Flying, in its November issue, carried a story on UFOs behind the Iron Curtain remarking that it had received news of: "... flat, round objects flying at various altitudes and speeds over Poland." 33. It added that: "If the Soviet attempt to 'plant' stories on the free nations they certainly do not spare their own people as well," 34.

Contrast the forementioned stories to an Intelligence report filed by Col. Philip R. Hawes, Air Attache, USSR (Moscow?) on November 13, 1952 evidently in response to a request from the Pentagon:

"1. No mention has been made this year by Soviet Press or radio of unidentified flying objects over Soviet or Satellite territory. No records exist here of such information for previous years.  
 "2. To our knowledge, Soviet press and broadcasts have never made comment on sightings over the United States." 35.

Presque Isle, Maine.

By November 4th BLUE BOOK fully recognized the potential significance of the Presque Isle, Maine, case when back on October 10th a "circular orange object accompanied by four green lights" was observed high over the state by two different theodolite stations. Extrapolating azimuth angles from both sites, it was estimated that the big cluster of UFOs was moving at 27 mph at 300,000 feet; too high even for upper atmosphere research balloons, however that did not keep Lt. R.M. Olsson of BLUE BOOK from attempting to correlate the UFO(UFOs) with a balloon that had floated over Toronto headed in an east-ern direction. 36.

November 6th.

Perhaps we should overlook a letter found in BLUE BOOK files from a truck driver living in Green Bay, Wisconsin. It was mailed September 24th and addressed to "whom it may concern" in military Intelligence, Washington D.C., expressing the fellow's worry over what he called the "proper protection of our Democracy." He informed the military he had joined the civilian group titled the "Aerial Phenomena Research Organization" back on June 7th and since then had come across what he chose to term: "...conflicting procedure, and information..." 37., whatever that was suppose to mean, which seemed worthy of an official investigation..

The letter floated around in channels until it landed at the Air Force's Counter Intelligence Division. On November 6, 1952; Lt. Col. Lucius L. Free, Chief, Sabotage & Espionage Branch; forwarded the missive to the Topical Intelligence Division since "no investigative action was contemplated by Col. Free's office. 38.

November 7th.

A teletype message was sent to BLUE BOOK from Presque Isle AFB on November 7th which failed to inform the people at ATIC that they had discovered an error in their calculations and had known for sometime the UFO was just a planet. All the message related was that the Presque Isle base Intelligence Officer had been transferred and thus could not help ATIC answer any questions regarding the UFO. 39.

Theology and dogma not in difficulty.

In a rather unlikely publication, the official Jesuit periodical Civiltà Cattolica, there appeared a UFO article on November 7th by a Rev. D. Crassi who wrote that he agreed with the opinion that UFO reports had yet to be explained satisfactorily, and going further, stated: "...if, in the near future, science should ascertain the existence of life in other worlds, neither dogma nor theology would be in difficulty." 40.

November 8th.

Another silver cigar was seen over France on the 8th near Forcalquier, Basses Alpes. For about ten minutes the spindle maintained a stationary position and then moved at a slow velocity in an eastwards direction. 41.

In the U.S. there were three reports. One each from New Mexico, Alabama, and Georgia.

The New Mexico case was a mysterious radar contact by the 767th AC&W squadron at El Vado. A very large blip, larger than a B-29 bomber, was picked up 45 miles from the radar site. The speed of the target varied from 600 to 1400 mph, traveling outbound at 145 degrees. The blip faded at 130 miles but soon thereafter the same blip, apparently, reappeared at an azimuth of 145 degrees heading for the radar site. The target halted when it reached a distance of 65 miles, at which point it remained stationary for about 2 minutes, after which it turned and moved out of range again, this time for good. A tech rep from the Philco Company was on duty and he was puzzled by the target. He changed the radar's frequency a number of megacycles but the mystery blip remained clear and strong. Weather and winds were normal at the time of the contact and no air traffic was scheduled to be in the area. 42.

Auburn, Georgia.

Two Colonels and two medical doctors were in an auto returning from a football game 5:00 p.m. when about 4½ miles east of Auburn, Alabama, the men happened to notice people gazing at the sky. The auto was stopped and the men got out and looked up themselves. High up was a glowing object:

"The object appeared to be oval or spherical in shape. It was considerably higher than any of the clouds in the sky. Col(...deleted) would not venture a guess as to its size other than to state it was very large. He stated that it might have been out of the earth's atmosphere. It did not appear to be an astronomical phenomenon because of its regularity in shape. It was circular. The outer edge of the object appeared to be translucent, and emitted a green light. The largest mass in the center was of a dull, shadowy appearance, with slightly lighter spots thereon. There were two large lights affixed in the exact center which emitted a bright white light. The light definitely came from within the object, and could not have been reflected light from the sun. The light was steady and clear. The green hue along the edge of the object was also from within, since any reflected light would not have been that color, and any haze or fringe would not have been as regularly shaped. Col(...deleted) stated that the object appeared to be composed of metal. This object remained in a fixed position for a period of thirty minutes or longer. Col(...deleted) remained only long enough to view it carefully through the binoculars, leaving before it had disappeared.

"Col(...deleted) felt that the object was what is commonly referred to as a 'Flying Saucer.' Because of the apparent metallic construction and the regularity in form, he thought it to be a man-operated



space vehicle. The self-emanating light indicated a controlled electrical system. Through binoculars it was evident that the two lights in the center of the 'saucer' were similar to head lights, and he felt that they were probably used for that purpose." 43.

Hovering over the woods.

A UFO was seen near Brinson, Georgia, this day. An Air Force OSI document says:

"On 8 November 1952, a strange aerial object was spotted hovering over the woods approximately two miles north of Brinson, Georgia, by a farm worker. When the object was first observed, it was hovering above the trees making a peculiar noise, immediately after which it went straight up and out of seeing distance. The object was described as being shaped like a lamp shape." 44.

Iranian Army dispatch.

A CIA document discusses an Iranian Army dispatch originating from a frontier post at the city of Astars that stated that very early in the morning of November 8th, at 4:30 a.m., a luminous, round, body with a tail was seen in air at about 8,000 meters altitude for 30 minutes. Across the frontier it was noticed that Russian searchlights were switched on. 45.

Towards a denouement?

Events, it seems, were moving toward a climax with different individuals in the UFO controversy watching developments with great expectations, and where possible, making their contributions to a denouement.

Al Chop remembered that back in the early 50s he dismissed UFOs as "unadulterated bunk," and in those days he only held a low level PIO position at the Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson; but when he assumed the senior post of Chief of the Press Section, he wasn't so sure his "bunk" belief was justified. A top scientist, a Dr. Reiskaywitz, told Chop the saucer business required an open mind, and an Air Force Colonel for whom Chop had a high regard, steered around making any flat statements about the aerial riddle.

When Col. Richard Searles had Chop transferred to ATIC's UFO project, like it or not Chop found himself right in the middle of the UFO debate. 46.

What got Chop thinking that UFOs may actually represent something extraordinary, was an early 1951 report by some General Mills scientists. While engaged in tracking a large balloon using a theodolite, the men noticed a strange object drop down out of the sky and begin making passes at the balloon. Later the balloon was recovered and the scientists discovered an unexplained dent in it ten feet in length. The General Mills report had plenty of data to convince the skeptic, elevation and wind measurements, figures on the UFO's track, etc., all compiled by highly competent witnesses.

By 1952 UFO reports had almost totally convinced Chop the Earth had visitors from the starry unknown. Chop slept through the UFO's first mass appearance over Washington D.C. on July 19/20 but he got a second chance when on the night of the 26/27 the strange objects/blips returned to the radar screens. An FAA PIO man phoned him in the middle of night to alert him to the fact that UFOs had returned to the skies of the capital. Chop phoned Fournet and said he would meet him at Washington National. Jumping in his car, Chop raced across town, and in his great hurry and the light traffic, he believes he may even have run some red lights and stop signs.

When Chop arrived at Washington National tower, he noted the ante room crowded with news people protesting their lack of access to radar operations.

At that time Chop felt no reason to keep the press outside so he gave permission for them to enter the controller's working area and see the blips for themselves. Fournet was already there helping to track up to 14 strange targets moving across the wide scope face, and before much time passed, jets summoned to the area entered the air space around Washington and asked for intercept vectors. Worried about what might happen, the news people were told to leave. In spite of considerable apprehension, no unpleasant confrontations took place between the UFOs and the armed Air Force interceptors, but there was one tense moment when one jet pilot radioed he was surrounded by strange glowing UFOs and he requested advice from ground control. Fournet was busy talking to Bob Cinna of Life magazine over a phone hook up when it occurred, but Chop heard and saw everything and he vividly recalled looking at the controllers gathered around the scope and they looking back. No one could think of a thing to say. A feeling of helplessness came over Chop and the controllers.. Chop said later: "...there were no disbelievers around that scope. We all knew these objects represented something with which we could not cope." 47.

Like Al Chop, Dewey Fournet found UFOs quite unbelievable at first. He had been assigned to the Intelligence section at the Pentagon at the beginning of 1952 as Monitor for project BLUE BOOK. It took only a few months before Fournet's exposure to UFO reports convinced him that he was dealing with a serious mystery. The Montana and Utah UFO films in particular Fournet found "very curious."

Fournet labored for months on a presentation to be given the proposed CIA panel, featuring what he felt was the best UFO evidence, especially radar trackings. He even dared to suggest a conclusion: UFOs were extra-terrestrial. The Fournet documents made the rounds in Air Force Intelligence and received a favorable reception by many officers at the command level although they hesitated to officially indorse the idea that "space visitors had arrived." 48. UFO skeptic Dr. Donald Menzel, who had given many talks on the aerial mystery to military groups in Washington D.C. the Summer 1952, conceded that those convinced UFOs were from outer space consisted of a "sizeable number," causing unrest that was leaking out. 49.

Apparently, however, men like Chop and Fournet were not aware of the true situation. Keyhoe wasn't either, but the ex-marine did piece everything together years later into a view of events that differs from any a person can glean from Air Force sources.

The way Keyhoe eventually determined the situation goes something like this. The CIA wanted to debunk UFOs and the proposed review panel was to be the primary means to that end. Not only was the CIA afraid of public fascination with the mystery, it also feared a strong tide of pro-UFO feeling within the Intelligence community. Fournet and his UFO study did not have the influence to sway "the-powers-that-be" but it was possible he might get considerable assistance from none other than the Secretary of the Navy, Dan Kimball.

Kimball and the Navy.

UFOs have a bad terrible habit of appearing at the wrong time and place to be properly witnessed. An outstanding exception, however, occurred in early 1952 over the waters of the Pacific when a zooming UFO twice circled an aircraft carrying Dan Kimball, and moments later twice circled Admiral Radford's plane following 50 miles behind. Donald Keyhoe heard the story from the Secretary's own lips. Kimball said the UFO's speed was amazing: "My pilots estimated it between fifteen hundred and two thousand miles an hour." 50. After landing the Secretary had an official report sent to the Air Force since the other services were constantly reminded that the Air

Force had exclusive jurisdiction over UFO investigations. Later (he was still profoundly puzzled over the aerial encounter) Secretary Kimball had a member of his staff make inquiries as to what action the Air Force was taking concerning his UFO report. The aide was brushed off with the excuse that case analyses were not shared with witnesses, not even, apparently, if witness happened to be a member of the President's cabinet! Annoyed, Kimball asked his staff to bring him information on UFO reports being made by Navy and Marine personnel. Checking over the material, the Secretary learned that he had not suffered a personal snub. He discovered that the Air Force denied similar information to witnesses as a matter of routine unless a sighting made the newsmedia, and in that case, a debunking statement was quickly issued. Intrigued, Secretary Kimball summoned his Chief of Naval Research, Admiral Calvin Bolster, and requested him to keep duplicates of UFO reports forwarded to project BLUE BOOK and to investigate earlier Naval and Marine cases that had remained unexplained. According to Keyhoe this alarmed the Air Force since the Office of Naval Research was in effect conducting its own UFO investigation project, a rival to the ATIC group. This could lead to clashes on UFO policy with the ONR having support from the top, Secretary Kimball, something the Air Force was not looking forward to in the months ahead, yet it would take time for Kimball's people to build a case so the danger of being challenged was not immediate. This lack of urgency seemed justified if the ONR was restricted to Navy and Marine sources, but then, as it happened, the UFOs again favored the Navy much to the consternation of the Air Force. On July 2th probably the best photographic evidence ever obtained, forty feet of color film shot through a three-inch telephoto lens, was shot at Tremonton, Utah, by Chief Petty Officer Delbert C. Newhouse, a Naval Aviation cameraman. Newhouse gave the film to the Navy. 51.

What occurred next depends on who you consult.

According to Ruppelt and BLUE BOOK files the original film was obtained from the Navy without any hassle, and a copy made because of the many times it was shown to experts at ATIC, the repeated running of the film making it dried and frayed. After finding the film unexplainable, BLUE BOOK then sent the film to the Navy's Photo-Interpretation Laboratory at Anacostia for a second opinion. Ruppelt wrote about the episode in an article in True that says: "We decided to send them...[to Anacostia]" 52.

A different view is that found in Hartmann's account in the government's 1969 University of Colorado UFO study (The Condon report) on page 421 where it states the Utah films were: "...forwarded at the request of the Navy [to Anacostia]." 53.

The Air Force BLUE BOOK file has this disposition form dated 15 October 1952 addressed to Major Fournet from Major Robert Kennedy, Air Adjutant General, ATIC, which reads:

- "1. As per your request inclosed herein for your inspection is the 35mm film from Tremonton, Utah, showing unidentified aerial objects.
- "2. Also inclosed is a photostatic copy of an analysis performed by the Photo Reconnaissance Laboratory, Wright Field.
- "3. The 35mm roll is the original film and no duplicate has been made.
- "4. It is the opinion of ATTA-5 that the film should be submitted to an ornithologist,\* perhaps at the Smithsonian Institute in Washing-

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\* Did they ever do this?

ton, to obtain an opinion as to whether the objects may not possibly be birds in flight." 54.

In Keyhoe's book Aliens From Space he claims that the Air Force tried to seize the film from the Navy and that Secretary Kimball intervened, ordering his people to give BLUE BOOK only a copy of the original. 55. Keyhoe gives Kimball as his source yet BLUE BOOK records give no indication such a thing occurred.

Another troubling discrepancy is that no formal report on Kimball's UFO encounter can be found in BLUE BOOK files, nor does Ruppelt mention it in his book The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. The Kimball sighting can be independently verified by an article in the May 5, 1952 issue of the Boston Traveler. There may be something Orwellian about all this.

As far as the CIA goes, Keyhoe says that the agency saw these moves by the Navy as a threat to the continuing debunking of the UFO subject and felt it was time to "take over" the investigation.

In spite of the threat presented by Kimball, the CIA, according to Keyhoe, had reason to hope they could out maneuver the Navy Secretary. The Presidential elections were in November and Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, was leading Democratic opponent by a wide margin in the polls. A Republican victory would mean that by January Kimball would no longer hold office, his place taken by someone appointed by Eisenhower. The announcement of a scientific panel to review the UFO problem would fend off any big splash Kimball might engineer or help to bring about in the meantime. 56.

November 9th.

UFO reports for the 9th are on the vague side. We have a brief note from Canada that said there was a sighting at Wetaskiwin that was published in the Calgary newspaper Albertan. No other details are available.

La Paz.

Another statement was issued to the newsmedia by Dr. Lincoln La Paz on November 9th when he declared that the latest series of unusual meteors being reported were truly exceptional. The New Mexico professor was quoted as saying: "...there has never been a rain of meteorites fall in history that has been one-fifth as high as the present fall. If that rain should continue, I would suggest the phenomenon is not natural." 57. As before, it was the green-colored meteors that especially intrigued La Paz, a fall which seemed restricted to Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. Meteors of that hue zoomed in straight lines across the sky rather than arcs, were silent rather than noisy, and had a brilliant intense color. 58.

November 10th.

UFOs and the newsmedia.

No reports of UFOs were made this day but there was some official documents drawn up on this date which are of interest.

Checking Air Force OSI files we find a letter from the Inspector General, OSI; to the 13th OSI District, Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska, which detailed the proper procedures for filing UFO reports. Of special interest is this: "...no requirements exists for reporting information concerning unidentified flying objects received through news media. However, it is suggested that newspaper clippings pertaining to these incidents be retained in your files

for possible future references and in event of investigation being requested by the ATIC or this office." 59.

This might well explain why at times the Air Force seemed "blind" to UFO activity in the newsmedia. Unless something was "officially reported" it did not "officially exist!"

Colonel Cox's impact.

When Col. Albert L. Cox Jr., the Air Force's Liaison Officer for the President and the Senate, encountered a UFO while flying over New Mexico in October, his subsequent report on the incident caused a ripple in Washington. The following is a brief letter found in Air Force BLUE BOOK files. The names on letter were censored:

"Dear (...deleted):

The inclosed report of an unidentified object has been presented to me with an unusual degree of fervor by the author. He states that up until the time he saw the darned thing he was an unalloyed sceptic, but that now he is a through-going convert. His qualifications for unbiased observation are considerably higher than most people's. He further makes the point that he had co-observers with qualifications and pior attitudes similar to his.

Sincerely(...deleted)." 60.

November 11th.

"A man of good sense and not addicted to fantasy."

A "brilliant spot" was visible rising above the western horizon as seen from Aix-en-Provence, France, 4:30 p.m. November 11th. The witness was M. Rene' Dou, town councilor and president of the local Aero Club. M. Dou watched the point of light as it went into a gentle ascent. At some 40 degrees above the horizon the "brilliant spot" halted for several minutes before rising even further, this time in a vertical fashion. The light then stopped for the second time and hovered for approximately 10 minutes. It then zoomed at an oblique angle toward the north where it stopped again. As the bright point hung overhead at the zenith, M. Dou bolted for a pair of binoculars he had in his house only a few steps away. Unfortunately, when M. Dou returned the thing in heavens had moved on out of sight. 61.

Balloon or weird UFOs?

On the same date an American had his own UFO experience:

"While working in my front yard preparing to lower a 50 foot television antenna mast, I was facing due north and looking up toward the top of the mast when I saw two objects at about 75 degrees elevation and 20 degrees azmiuth, that were comparatively much larger than Mars or Venus, apparently at great height and moving in a general ESE direction. Both objects were the same size, not appearing metallic, bright or sharply defined, but of a misty or fuzzy cloud-like appearance, cloud gray in cloud, roughly globular in form, and it was definitely determined that they did not have any form of wings, elevators, fuselage, etc.

"The objects tumbled over each other vertically with a regularity of once every 3 or 4 seconds always staying the same distance apart, held together by a taut, wispy gray band, ragged and irregular in width and of the same color and cloud-like structure as the two objects possessed.

After rotating vertically for about 40 seconds, they slowly tilted to the right until they were rotating horizontally, than after 15 or 20 seconds they again tilted until the vertical rotation was resumed. The shaggy, wispy connecting band appeared taut and was visible at all angles during tilting and rotation. The motions duplicated exactly a barbell being turned end over end and vertically, than tilted slowly until rotating horizontally. This movement and action continued toward the ESE to about 48 degrees elevation and 95 degrees azimuth, when they seemed to slow down somewhat in forward movement, they turned sharply toward the NE to about 75 degrees azimuth apparently still on a level course." 62.

November 12th.

UFOs over the Pacific.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin requested some UFO information from the Air Force and November 12th printed what it learned from Ruppelt's BLUE BOOK office:

"Eleven reports of flying saucers in the Hawaiian area have been investigated by the Air Force since July 7, 1947, and all but one of them has been attributed to known causes.

"Altogether, the Air Force said, mysterious disc-like spheres have been reported 24 times in the Pacific and Far East since an unknown person at Hickam Village first described seeing one more than five years ago.

"At the request of the Star-Bulletin, the special section of the Air Force evaluating reports of saucers compiled the record of sightings in the Pacific and Far East.

"Of the 24 reports, 10 of them were of daylight sightings, while 14 observers said they saw the discs at night.

"The only Hawaii sighting which the Air Force evaluators could not explain was made last July 16th by the crewmen of the submarine Burgara off Lahaina, Maui. The men who saw the phenomenon through binoculars said in a report that an oval disc that varied in color from white to red as it moved across the sky.

"In forwarding its compilation, the Air Force noted that 'no photographs (of mysterious flying objects) are available from your area.'

"Other Pacific sightings were reported from Wake, Midway, Clark Air Force Base in the Phillipines, eight airplanes and one merchant ship." 63.

Los Alamos again.

A minor incident occurred at Los Alamos, New Mexico, when a quartet of blinking, glowing bodies, flashing red, green, and yellow-white; were seen hovering in the air. The lights then traveled slowly north over an area prohibited to aircraft. The sighting lasted from 10:23 p.m. to 10:39 p.m. No radar contact was made but a jet interceptor was put on standby. 64.

The question of invisibility.

What may have been something of an answer to a major question concerning the UFO mystery involved an incident that happened November 12, 1952 at Bethesda, Maryland. The phenomenon was viewed from a window in building #7 which housed labs associated with the National Institute of Health. The window was on the third floor where animals were kept and where at the time a half dozen research doctors and technicians were conducting tests. The sky that day was clear, dry, and cold. Because the air was so transparent

a strange phenomenon which the witnesses estimated to be 5 miles away was clearly visible. The objects were noticed near a water tower.

Only the names of two persons survived the Air Force censor's pen, a Mr. "Hallalaugh," and a Mr. "Gilmore."

The first person to spot the "coin-like" objects was a woman technician on her way to get a specimen when she happened to glance out the window. She then summoned others. The following is an official Air Force composite narrative:

"At 10:29 Mr. (...deleted) saw two dark, almost black objects shaped like a loaf of French bread, one to the left of the tower and one to the right of the tower.

"The object at the left then started rising slightly to the left and stopped above the tower, about the height of the tower. The object to the right of the tower started rising to the right in a straight line. When it reached the level of the first object, it quickly veered to the left and seemed to merge with the first object, then the object moved down and to the right in a straight line, moving somewhat like it was on an escalator, down to a position a little more than 1/3 of the way between and slightly above the horizon. At about 10:30, somewhere between position (B) and (C), Mr. (...deleted) called the incident to the attention of Mr. (...deleted); then a few seconds after Mrs. Gilmore and Mr. (...deleted) came in.

"Between (C) and (D), Mr. (...deleted) and the others came in. This was about 10:31.

"The object did not stop at (C); it just slowed down. Then, from position (C), the object started very unusual gyrations, leaving smoke trails. The object at this time also changed from the 'loaf of bread' to a variety of shapes. The object was changing form at all times. At one time it looked like a coin slowly revolving; at one time like a bean bag that had been activated, bulging out and contracting, sometimes getting almost oval. The one thing that all the observers agreed on was that the diameter of the object and the long side of the 'loaf' never varied in measurement but that the short side would get smaller, at times disappearing, and then it would expand until equal to the long side, becoming a circle. As the object became more circular it appeared darker (almost black) then when it was more the shape of the loaf of bread.

"One of the observers said at one time the object appeared bluish. The object was a uniform gray. (Mr. (...deleted) and Mr. (...deleted) said they saw dark irregular streaks running through the object, but this was not verified by the others.)

"The object was 'sort of translucent, not transparent, no illumination. The object then careened to the ground and disappeared (D). (F) At about the spot the object disappeared, a little closer to the tower, at a spot on the horizon more than 1/3 the distance between (1) and (2), there appeared what seemed to be smoke, billowing similar to smoke from a large factory smoke stack. This smoke then appeared to form into an object, like the loaf of bread. The object then moved up and to the left, disappearing from time to time and changing shape from time to time. When the object was over the tower, it disappeared; then a trail of smoke appeared going up and to the right, forming the object and disappearing from time to time, and then disappearing entirely. It seemed to the observers that the distance between where the object disappeared and reappeared was covered at a remarkably fast rate. However, the object it-

self moved rather slowly when it could be followed. The smoke trails were observed by all. Dr. (...deleted) said that at (E) the object assumed a definite shape. This was substantiated, although not as positively by Mrs. (...deleted).

"Mr. (...deleted) states, and it was verified by Mr. (...deleted), that he watched the objects from 10:30 to approximately 10:45." 65.

Did this report, which boasts an ample number of credible witnesses, prove that UFOs could make themselves invisible at will? If so, did that ability also include an ability to fend off radar waves which are merely another part of the electromagnetic spectrum?

November 13th, the pattern continues.

The reader may notice as we go along that the number of UFO reports has fallen off, but the pattern is still clear. Reports were still coming in from the northern part of the U.S. and the northern part of Europe. And, in keeping with the southern movement, more reports were coming in from southern Europe and points further south. Reports from the regions in between were limited.

Africa.

There were some UFO activity over British Cameroons in Africa at the cities of Yala and Bansa, two places about 250 miles apart. The location of these cities is just a few degrees north of the Equator. 66.

The U.S. contributed three reports. All better than average.

The first incident we will considered happened at Wichita, Kansas, which is definitely located in the mid U.S. This indicates that it either is an exception of the southern shift or a leading element a second UFO wave shifting out of the northern tier of states. Various factors in the reports indicate its conformance to other "good" UFO sightings. The time was 2:30 a.m. and it occurred over an airport. The movements were jerky, thus unlike anything known to fly.

The witness observed the phenomenon from the southwest corner Kansas National Guard Hanger at the Wichita airport. The object was in view 5-7 minutes:

"An object was sighted by two observers. It was described as a round blue light with an orange colored glow averaging about 3 feet in diameter and varying in shape. After watching the object a few minutes Major Wallander sent Airman Phipps for Capt. Belleman, so that the Captain might watch the object. The object was sighted by A3/C Phipps at an est. 1400-1500 feet above and over the approx. center of the runway. It moved in jerky upward sweeps gaining about 40' in altitude with each sweep and pausing at the top of each sweep for 10-15 seconds. A3/C Phipps states that on each leap the orange glow was strung out behind the object like a comet's tail. The object disappeared toward the NNE after about 5 minutes.

"Major Wallander, who was standing nearby apparently saw the object at a slightly later time. When he sighted it, the object appeared to be hovering over the Wichita Municipal Airport Terminal building on a bearing of approx. 293 degrees from his position and approx. a mile way. Major Wallander reports that the object was at an elevation of about 20 degrees from him at the time. It moved to a position NNW of the city of Wichita and then hovered for approx. two minutes. At this time the elevation of the object was approx. 40 degrees with respect to the observer and...It hovered for approx.



2 minutes, then moved to a position due north of Wichita and traveled out of sight on an approx. course of 360 degrees and rising." 67.

The witnesses also noted that the glowing object was elliptical in shape and a blue-white color when stationary. 68.

Related cases?

There was some debate by BLUE BOOK evaluators about whether these next two cases were related. Both incidents took place in the same general area and occurred only 23 minutes apart.

The first case deals with a radar target picked up by an AC&W unit based at Opheim, Montana. For an hour and 10 minutes a target was tracked by the station's radar indicating an object moving at 250 mph and at an incredible 150,000 feet. 69.

The second incident involved a civilian observer:

"The objects were sighted by Mr.(...deleted), Glasgow, Montana, who is an observer with the U.S. Weather Bureau Office there. His observation was made on 13 November 1952 at 0243 hours (MST) while he was taking scheduled winds-aloft measurements using balloon and theodolite. He first noticed a faint bluish-white light coming toward him from the northwest. As it got closer he could see the light was the glow from what appeared to be five oval-shaped objects traveling in a V-formation. They seemed to be about 30 to 50 feet in diameter with no trails or exhaust. He heard no noise whatsoever. He estimated their speed as 'that of fast jets' and the altitude at from two to three thousand feet. As they approached the edge of Glasgow, they made a sharp turn to the right (approx. 90 degrees) and continued in a southwest direction. The two outside objects seemed to bank and move out of formation a little. Estimated distance from observer to objects at the closest point was one mile. Point of observation was from the roof of the First National Bank Building in Glasgow." 70.

The investigating officer added:

"Inquiry was made around Glasgow as to the integrity of Mr(... deleted), and as a result it is believed that he would not be the type to just 'dream up' a story of this nature.

"It is not felt that there was any connection between the visual sighting and our electronic pick-up at the time. Although we had a track about the same time, it was travelling east and exhibited nothing unusual in the way of speed or sudden change of direction. The visual sighting came from the northeast and disappeared to the southeast. 71.

November 14th.

After duplicates were made, the Montana UFO movie film was returned to its civilian owner, Mr. Mariana, on this day with Colonel William A. Adams, Chief, Topical Division, Deputy Director for Estimates, Directorate of Intelligence, expressing his sincere appreciation for the gentleman's assistance, stating that the film would make a definite contribution to project BLUE BOOK but further comment on the images could not be made pending more exhaustive analysis. 72.

November 15th.

UFOs return to Washington.

In the dead of the night, 2:40 a.m., November 15th, A Special Agent of the 4th District, Air Force OSI (also a rated pilot with a 1,000 hours combat time), was jarred awake as a loud strange roar shook his house which was located near Bolling AFB. The Agent's wife joined him at the window of thier bedroom. They both saw a weird object in the sky:

"...its altitude was estimated at 4,000 feet moving in a southerly direction. All that could be observed was a white or pale blue blue light moving at a speed in excess of any conventional aircraft ever observed by the Captain or his wife. There were no wing lights; and from the angle first observed, a green right wing light as well as a white light should have been seen. The total time of observation was seven or eight seconds before this craft made a left turn to the south, that seemed normal and made an adnormal ascent of about a 45 degree angle." 73.

Later on in the day, at 6:55 p.m., something remarkable happened 3 miles north of Frederica, Delaware, on North Bowers Beach Highway. An excited civilian living just off the highway phoned the military. The call was recorded by the Air Force this way:

"Mr.(...deleted) stated that he was observing an unidentified flying object purported to be approximately 400 feet in altitude with alternating red, white, and green lights rotating clockwise in a circle, in an area approximately four miles south of Frederica, Del.

"In order to verify the existence of this object, Mr.(...deleted) had immediately called a friend Mr. Koottens and his wife (who located the object). The Koottens described the object as emitting a 'deep orange glow with intermittent white lights, with faint white smoke around it.'" 74.

As mentioned, there was the object seen and heard near Bolling AFB very early that morning. Later, in the evening, beginning at 10:00 p.m., a series of inexplicable visual sightings were made in Newfoundland, Canada.

The 10:00 p.m. sighting was by an air policeman on guard on the Flight Line at Argentia Naval Station:

"He sighted an object over Placentia Bay, moving in a northerly direction toward Piercos Peak which is directly west of the Flight Line about 1½ miles away. Estimated speed 150 to 200 mph, altitude unknown. The object halted in what appeared to be the area of Piercos Peak for about 20 minutes before disappearing. He believed it dropped to earth. The object was nearly completely orange in color. As observed from the ground the object looked like a straight line about one foot long. The object kept blinking frequently and then stopped blinking for approximately five seconds and then started again. Object was sighted from 2000Z to 2040Z." 75.

At midnight a S/Sgt aboard an aircraft approaching Argentia spotted what he believed was a shooting star, but it did not shoot straight down or at a slant, instead it moved "in an arc." 76. It appeared so odd he filed a UFO report.

The most fasinating of the bunch was the appearance of a huge fireball 15 minutes later "that made a turn!" According to a T/Sgt. he observed:

"The direction of flight of the object sighted came from the southwest and then made a sharp turn west. Immediately after the change of course, it made bounding or skipping motion, angled southwest again and then started to climb into the southwest. It appeared to be a star at first, but all of a sudden I had a feeling it was coming toward me, so I placed my hands before my face. I estimated the size of the object to be that of a grapefruit. When it made its turn to the west, then angling off to the southwest, it gave off a brilliant light. It also appeared to have broken red and blue lines about it in an egg shape. Unable to estimate altitude, but it appeared to be three miles away. No jet or rocket stream was observed. Estimated speed was between 600 and 700 miles per hour. Duration of observation was between 5 and 6 seconds." 77.

Enhancing the value of the case was corroboration by an Air Force lieutenant:

"I noticed a large brilliant object approximately the size of a grapefruit intensely white, tinged with red, approaching McAndrew AFB, from the southwest. I first noticed this object heading for the flight line with a terrific speed (estimated 300-400 mph), when I was leaving the Marine Gate of Argentia Naval Station. It approached and I assumed it was a jet, though I had never seen a jet with a white afterglow. I stopped the OD vehicle, turned off the ignition and watched the object from the running board. It appeared to have an altitude of 4000 to 5000 feet and when nearly overhead, with no noise, made a flat 90 degree turn to the southwest and disappeared in this direction with an undulating motion like a bobbing cork at a very high speed. Object was sighted at 0015Z." 78.

We will have good reason to refer back to these sightings in Newfoundland when we reach December 5th.

Keyhoe wonders.

Mid-November, 1952, Donald Keyhoe spent his time discussing Pentagon UFO policy with his contacts within the military. The UFO author had mulled over what he had read in the press, learned from official statements, been given during personal briefings, and heard whispered to him in Pentagon corridors. Now he wanted to know the true status of the sky mystery.

Keyhoe was well aware there were some in the military who would never accept UFOs unless one crashed into the Pentagon's front door, on the other hand he knew there were some who were quite willing to agree with Keyhoe's views on the riddle but were not sure how to proceed. The way Keyhoe saw it, some "believers" wanted to procrastinate until the public was more prepared, as for the remainder, the UFO author felt they wanted to put off making an official admission indefinitely.

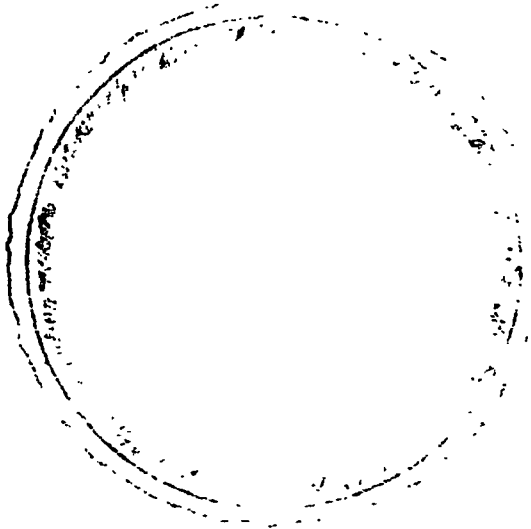
Keyhoe's first book on UFOs, besides attempting to prove UFOs existed, tried to make a case for the military being forced to accept the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Since then Keyhoe had monitored the military closely and had received mixed signals. He interpreted the Air Force's cooperation with Life and Look magazines early in the year as due to the "UFO liberals" within the military, but the huge UFO wave hitting the nation during the summer he interpreted as giving strength to the "silence group."

As it happened, Keyhoe got some feedback at this time that had a bearing on his speculations. An Air Force Intelligence officer told Keyhoe he had

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

52-350

SKETCH OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED BY 1ST LT. L. N. BASS AND  
A. I. BARNARD, OVER AEG CASE CONTROL, 1943



PHOTOGRAPH AND OTHER DATA ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT

Sketch by both Lt. Bass and Lt. Barnard.

read Flying Saucers Are Real and conceded that some Air Force Intelligence officers had embraced the "saucers are real" idea back in the days of project SIGN, but most officers, then as now, hesitated to commit themselves to any theory and were just profoundly puzzled.

Chop's remarks did not, however, do much to mitigate Keyhoe's suspicions. 79.

Keyhoe and the Fournet study.

UFO program monitor for Air Force HQ, the Pentagon, Maj. Dewey J. Fournet, Jr., had completed a study during the summer of UFO maneuvers and reported its results to the office of the Directorate of Intelligence. Fournet felt the data showed that UFOs were intelligently controlled. This study of reported maneuvers was not Fournet's own idea, he prepared it because his Branch and Division chiefs specificly requested it. Fournet claimed the request was made since in certain quarters there existed "apathy and/or bias" concerning UFOs and the study was to be a "weapon" to combat it. 80.

The existence of the Fournet report evidently was leaked in the late Fall to columnist Robert S. Allen whose column "Inside Washington" carried a rather sensational treatment of the information, terming the study "breathaking" and claiming that it had convinced its scientific and military authors that UFOs were real objects and were from "sources outside this planet." 81. Furthermore, Allen asserted the Air Force was inhibited from making the findings available to the public because the sensational nature of the conclusions would trigger wide spread alarm. 82.

When Keyhoe read Allen's column he was inclined to believe the writer because of the help he had been receiving from Air Force sources, some tips off-the-record and some official, confirming his suspicions that a group of extraterrestrial believers in the military were pushing for an official acceptance of the alien theory.

The Pentagon PIO officially denied the story as told by Allen, and so did Lt. Col. Searles who dismissed the story of a special study as merely a rumor. Keyhoe's favorite source, Al Chop, likewise gave the story the brush-off: "There is absolutely no secret report saying the saucers are interplanetary." 83. Chop was telling the truth. The report only indicated that the UFOs were "intelligently controlled." There was no data to prove their origin, and there was no hard evidence that the saucers did in fact exist. Personally Fournet may have felt that UFOs were from Mars or somewhere else in the starry reaches, but his study could not prove beyond a doubt that the phenomenon was extraterrestrial.

Foo Fighter!

A statement by an Air Force lieutenant named Barnard:

"At 1345 hours, 15 November 52, I was flying as an observer with Lt. Layton S. Bass. At this moment we were orbiting above Ash Cake Control at an altitude of 10,500 ft., awaiting the arrival of a flight of fighters which we were prepared to control in putting in a strike. We were making a steady, circular left hand orbit. And after reaching the mentioned altitude continued to hold the altitude and the orbit. The

time can be fixed because the scheduled time over target for contacting the fighters was set for that hour, and when our clocks indicated the scheduled time, Lt. Bass contacted Ash Cake Control and was informed that as yet they had negative contact with the fighters.

"Shortly after this moment, certainly less than a minute, Lt. Bass drew my attention to the object. I do not recall his exact words, but they were in the nature of a brief, noncommittal, general comment like 'Do you see that?' There was no suggestion of what he had reference to, and the direction in which he was looking was my only clue as to the location of the sighting. He was gazing to our left front, and immediately I looked in that general direction, I sighted the object. It was an obvious sighting and seized my attention immediately. It was a silvery, shimmering, apparently perfectly spherical object, with a slight halo or corona. This halo was not thin in comparison to the diameter of the object, being a mere hairline in apparent thickness, a sort of hazy radiance, which did not, however, in any way or at any point blur or mar the hard, sharp outline of the spheres circumference.

"The sphere itself was rather darker around the periphery than at the center, as a globe of translucent substance will appear when silhouette against a source of light. However, at no time during the sighting was the object actually in direct line between us and the sun and there was no other conceivable source of light at the time. The surface of the sphere appeared to glint or shimmer, as if with reflected light. However, this shimmering appearance was, if anything, somewhat more apparent when the object was between us and the general direction of the sun, when presumably the surface presented to our view would be shadowed, then it was when we were looking at it with the sun at our backs. The word 'translucent' flashed into my mind spontaneously almost immediately upon sighting it.

"At the precise instant that I personally sighted it, it was, as I have said, off our left front, and was at that moment at the closest range that it was to be during my own personal sighting. I am unaccustomed to establishing distances between objects at a high altitude in the open air, but I am inclined to believe, from my momentary first impression of the object in relation to the terrain that it was between 500 and 1,000 yards in the distance (more like 500)..." 84.

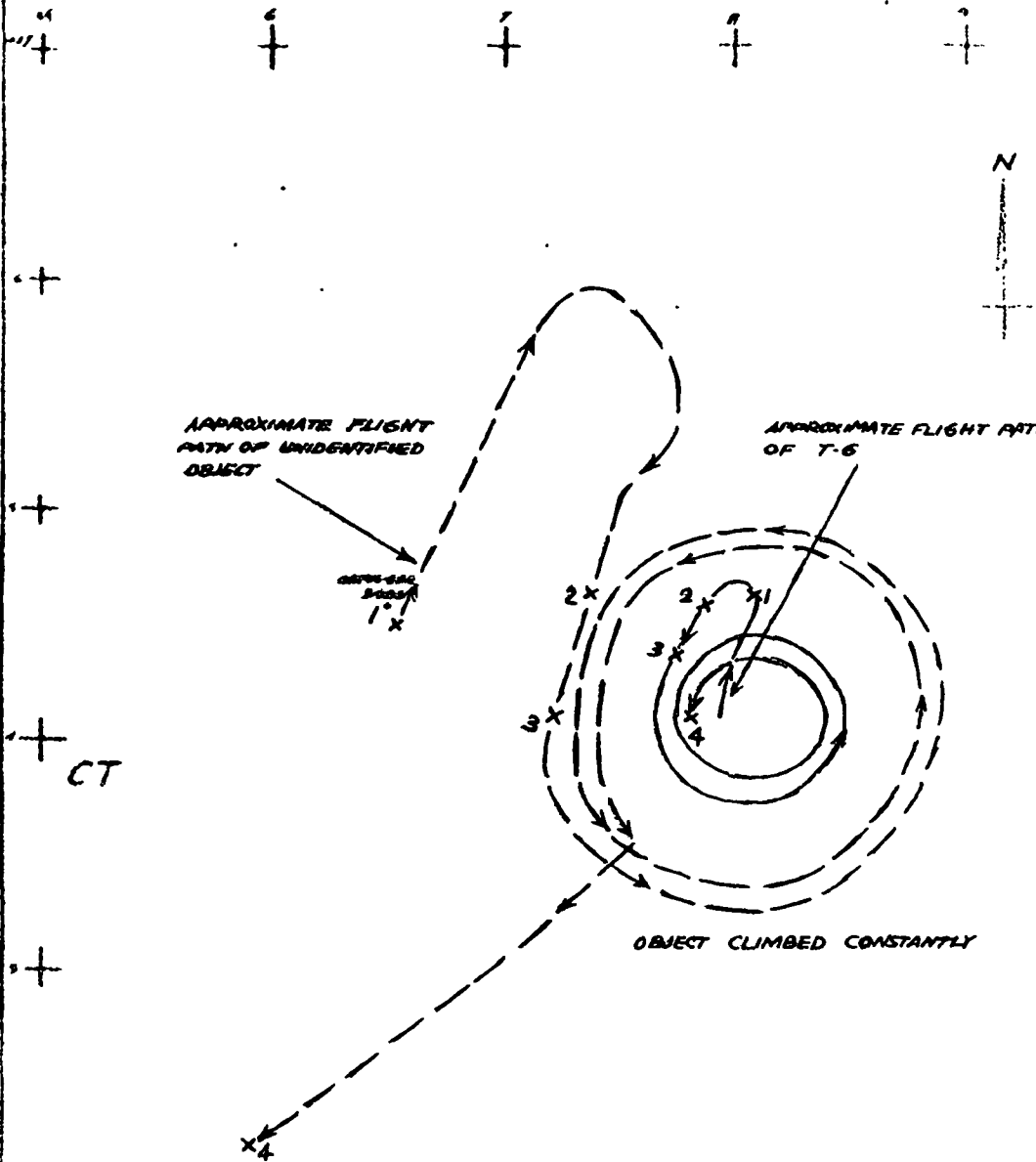
Also: "I had to turn my head sometimes toward the front and sometimes toward the rear of the plane to keep the object in view, but always toward the left hand side." 85.

And:

"When I first spotted it...climbing fast, so I first saw it silhouetted against mountains on the horizon. It climbed to an approximate altitude level with us heading a general southerly direction that is opposite to our direction of travel at the moment. Being in a left hand orbit and having the object too in a left hand orbit.

"It performed one full cycle of orbit on an approximate level with us, meanwhile receding slowly, which signified that it was lengthening its radius of orbit. It then began to climb rapidly; continuing its orbit and continuing slowly to increase its radius. It continued this process for at least two and possibly three full cycles...finally at

52-350



UFO encounter as depicted by Lt. Bass and Lt. Barnard.

NOTE  
NUMBERS - FLIGHT POINTS OF  
T-6 AND OBJECT INDICATE  
POSITIONS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 08-24-2011 BY 60324/UC/STP

18,000 feet at which it broke from its orbit and headed in a general SW direction toward the general neighborhood of the sun.

"Until the object left its orbit, it maintained an approximate uniform position in relation to us, varying a few degrees forward or aft of our left wing and, of course, higher as it began to climb. At one point it apparently had accelerated somewhat and its orbit gained on ours so that I was looking backward at about 45 degrees, but Lt. Bass either opened up on the controls or tightened our orbit, or both, so that we brought it back approximately in line with our left wing.

"I had deduced at the outset that it was following a larger orbit concentric with ours, and this impression was confirmed. We were evidently at opposite ends of the diameter, and the fact that we and it held our same relative positions for so long in spite of disparity of orbit sizes is significant in regard to its speed. In order to maintain the same angular velocity in a such larger orbit, its linear velocity must have been greater in direct ratio to the circumferences of the orbits." 86.

This raised the question: "Was the object powered?" Lt. Barnard replied to that possibility with:

"The fact that it kept receding indicate that it was increasing its orbit, therefore it must have been accelerating rather uniformly and smoothly to maintain its same relative position.

"The motion of the sphere during the entire period of observation was smooth and forceful, devoid of any jerkiness, wiggling, wavering, humpiness, and there were no irregularities or deflection of travel which suggested influence by air currents. It is impossible for me, generally, to conceive of an inanimate object, obeying the laws of physics, to act in such a manner with out intelligent, artificial control and direction." 87.

A veteran of 40 combat missions, in civilian life 1st Lt. Richard Barnard was a time and motion analyst which required great skill in recording and observing.

The pilot of the T-6, 1st Lt. Layten S. Bass, filed his own statement on the incident which confirmed all of Lt. Barnard's observations.

A final remark about this case would be to point out that the location of sighting was the Korean warzone. The year 1952 started out with UFO reports in Korea causing concern in the Pentagon and by the end of the year there were still mysterious objects being encountered in the Far East.

November 16th.

"I'm still horribly scared by the sight!"

Emilia in Italy is about the same latitude of the saucer-plagued French department of Provence. It is a rural area with many poor farmers quite content with their humdrum existence of working the land. It is no surprise then, that on November 16, 1952, the Emilia police were astonished by the appearance of farmer Nello Ferrari at the station house. It seems Ferrari had been laboring in his field minding his own business when something happen that so frighten him he immediately dropped his tools and ran to fetch the police.

According to his story, a red light unexpectedly enveloped him while he was working, and when he looked around to find its source, he spotted two large circular "things" in the sky, strange metallic-looking objects floating



only some 30 feet above his head. The objects were quite big, perhaps 60 feet in diameter, one just above the other.

"Three men."

The rest of the tale strains credibilty. Inside one of the objects, Ferrari continued, there were three "men" visible. At least he supposed they were human although the "men" were covered with a flexible material and were wearing globlular helmets. Mr. Ferrari also claims he heard a couple of things. One was the sound he surmised was created by the object's engines. The other was the unknown language the "men" used. He believed the "men" were addressing him, but not understanding the words he could make no response.

Shortly thereafter the top most object lowered until it was neatly stacked on the object beneath it, and when that movement was completed, the locked pair rose vertically until they were out of sight. Ferrari ended his testimony with: "I'm still horribly scared by the sight!" 88.

Saucers over the South.

The following quotes are from some family correspondence that were sent to the Air Force to be preserved in BLUE BOOK files. The fate of the film mentioned is unknown.

The first letter reads:

"Dear Bob:

"I promised to write you about the flying saucers we saw a couple of Sundays ago, so here goes. We were returning from down around Spartansburg area and were traveling in a northerly direction, that is toward Tryon, when I saw them. I almost jumped out of my skin in my excitement, and David(...deleted) Jr., who took the pictures, immediately pulled his Lincoln up on the shoulder of the road and we all got with the exception of his aunt, a blase old lady from N.Y. who just couldn't be bothered.

"When I first observed them they were strung across the western horizon in this fashion: [drawing deleted or would not reproduce].

"When I glimpsed them they were about the size of a conventional automobile tire and were the color of aluminum. I could not observe any forward speed at any time, but I did get the impression that they were traveling in a westerly direction, that is, away from us, and I base this on the fact that they diminished in size, from that of an auto tire to about the size of a tennis ball.

"They did, however, show a definite north to south movement at times. At other times one would go straight up like an elevator while another would show a like downward descent. This up and down movement was quite marked both in speed and visibility. Some times several would disappear and at times we could see varying numbers of them although we never saw more than eleven and never less than three. The color when first seen by me was burnished silver which gradually changed to a burning orange. There was no noise, due no doubt to the great distance, nor were there any vapor trails to be seen.

"I tried to view them objectively and attempted to keep a proper sequence in my mind. I repeatedly, while looking at them, would ask (...deleted)...for their impressions which in each event would agree with what I was seeing. As you know, (deleted)...are camera bugs. (deleted) had his little 8 mm Bell and Howell and attempted to take movies of them. As the light was fast fading, the time being about 5:15, he opened it as wide as he could, F 3.5 stop. I do hope they

come out good and if he has any luck will send them on to you...." 89.

Having received the letter about the UFO sighting, the person wrote back and asked for more detail. The UFO witness then wrote a second letter which contained the following:

"Dear Bob:

"Just finished your letter and am glad something might come of the 'saucer' pictures. In regards to the data you request about the 'saucers': The following is about what happened. We sighted the objects in the sky on the 16th of Nov. 1952, at 5:15 in the afternoon. I am positive as the time of day as I glanced at my watch at the time, so there is no arguing that point.

"The weather was clear where we were standing but off to the west on the horizon where we sighted the objects there were a few broken clouds, enough to give us some color in the sunset. When I first saw the saucers they were eleven(11) in number and were stretched out exactly like a string of beads, and appeared as large as an automobile hub cap. As I stated previously, one would leave its formation and ascent straight up while another would do the exact opposite and descend downward.

"The ascending and descending saucer made an abrupt right angle turn in leaving the formation. We at no time saw more than eleven objects and no less than four. I am convinced had not David Bunch taken off the telescopic lens we would have captured the whole sequence of events.

"I would judge the time element, that is, the time we were able to view them, was in the neighborhood of twelve minutes. I observed no variation in altitude the entire time but I did get the impression they were traveling in an east to west direction and I base that on the fact that when first seen they were about the size of the hub caps on my Ford and when we finally lost them to view they were about the size of tennis balls. There were no aircraft visible at the time and I remember reading the Charlotte Observer the next day, Nov. 17, 1952, at which time the same objects were reported sighted over Anderson, S.C. and Marion. The article went on to say they were sighted over the two places at exactly the same time we saw them, Sunday, Nov. 16, 1952, at 5:15 p.m...." 90.

Here are the UFO articles as they appeared in the Charlotte Observer:

"Marion, S.C. Nov. 16 (deleted by BLUE BOOK censor), chief of police at Nichols, near here, said tonight he had received more than a score of telephone calls from people seeking information about an unidentified object sighted in the sky west of Nichols this afternoon. The object was sighted between 4:30 and 5 pm. Chief Eppe said information indicated the object was silver in color, about twice the size of a house, was whirling and rising at an angle." 91.

Also:

"Florence, S.C. Nov. 16. AP. It's flying saucer time again and followers of that craze apparently have a couple of hundred converts here today, including an official of the CAA station.

"Shortly after 5 o'clock this afternoon, a shiny object was reported in the skies west of Florence. It slowly circled to the southwest and then disappeared. Telephones at the Florence Morning News were flooded with calls. So were those at the U.S. Weather Bureau station and the CAA offices at the Municipal airport.

"(...deleted), aircraft communicator for the CAA for 11 years, and a licensed pilot, said the object was 'unlike anything I have ever seen.' Ellis said that when he first saw the object it was in the west at about 10,000 feet and that it slowly moved to the southwest before disappearing. He added that he watched it for six minutes which dispelled an (...not readable) early thought that it was a jet aircraft or even a magnesium flare such as the type used by aircraft in target practice. 'It lasted too long and moved too slowly,' he said.

"The CAA official described the object as glowing extremely brightly and likened its shape to a saucer tilted at an angle of about 30 degrees with a thin edge down and heavier lip up. He said he had heard no sound and saw no smoke.

"Ellis added that a check with Shaw Air Force Base at Sumter showed no jet aircraft aloft in the vicinity. He also said that the CAA station at Lumberton had reported sighting the object. A Marion motorist reported he saw it and tried to follow it toward Florence but lost sight of it over the Pee Dee River. A sumter newspaperman travelling toward Florence, stopped at the CAA office to say that he had seen the object in the sky toward Dillon and Mullins." 92.

"Mystery sphere" at Imperial Beach.

A log entry at the lookout tower, Naval Communication Station, Imperial Beach, California, dated November 16th, informs us that a Carl Crittenden, Asst Supervisor Security, arrived at the tower at 6:38 p.m. to relieve a fellow named Parks. The weather was clear with unlimited visibility in the late twilight. Before Parks left the tower both he and Crittenden spotted a yellow sphere the apparent size of a barrel head hovering in the air. The sphere remained stationary for about 3 minutes and then zoomed out to sea. Crittenden alerted the Officer of the Day, Chief Nichols. Shortly thereafter Parks was on patrol on foot when he radioed Crittenden in the tower and exclaimed "There it is again Crittenden!" Parks, it seems, had sighted the round object zooming silently and at great speed just above the wavetops. Crittenden saw it and later told investigators he thought he detected something of a "bluish reflection" around its perimeter. 93.

November 17th.

Mc Andrews AFB visited again?

The report from Newfoundland reads:

"On 17 November 1952 at 0917Z, S/Sgt. Canny reported seeing an object. It was sighted moving over McAndrew toward Red Island with an unknown altitude. Object was going in which he believed to be a circular motion and climbing at a terrific speed. Object was of a white color at that time. Object then started moving southeast towards Placentia, and then took about a 160 degree left angle turn towards Fox Harbor before disappearing at 0942Z. Object during this time seemed to change from a white color to an orange-like color and then to a green color. A/2c(...deleted), A/1c(...deleted), and A/3c(...deleted) also witnessed the same phenomenon." 94.

Project SECOND STOREY members meet.

The Canadian UFO committee convened on November 17th in the DRB Board Room, Ottawa. Present were: Chairman: Dr. P.M. Millman, Dom. Observ.; members: Major D.M. Grant, D.M.I.; Major F.B. Perrott, DMO&P; S/L E.L. Howey, J.I.S.; F/L W.B. Birch, D.R.B.; Mr. W.B. Smith, D.O.T.; Lt. Cdr. K.A. Stone, D.N.I.; and the

secretary:Mr. H.C. Oatway, DRB.

Not much of importance was discussed, mostly the problem of questionnaires, a sample card system, and a proposed reporting procedures. Only Smith had something to offer. He produced bulletins published by the Los Angeles-based Civilian Saucer Investigations and promised to reproduce portions thereof that might be of possible value. Smith also reported on the only significant endeavor the group seemed to have initiated, the fake UFO launched back on September 8th and he had to confess that no UFO reports had been generated. 95.

November 18th.

"'Flying Saucers' over Baluchistan."

The following news clipping came from The Times of India:

"Quetta, November 18: Tribesmen saw 'flying saucers' trailing bluish flames roar across the evening skies of Baluchistan on two successive days last week, according to reports reaching here.

"The reports said the 'saucers' were first seen darting across the sky at Lora Bugti in the Sibi district and brilliantly lit an area of between 30 and 40 miles radius with a dazzling beam.

"Several months ago two pilots of the Pakistan Air Force reported seeing similar 'objects' high above Karachi." 96.

November 19th.

The rush to corral UFO evidence for the proposed UFO jury had led to re-investigations of the well known Great Falls, Montana; and Tremonton, Utah, UFO films; also even the lesser known John Riley still photos.

On November 19th the Air Force dispatched agents to question John Riley concerning the photos he was supposed to have taken back on July 31st. Riley was interrogated, as was his father and Riley's friend, George Stocks, all witnesses to the supposed event. According to their testimony the object had approached slowly and then hovered nearly overhead which enabled Riley to dash indoors and grab his camera. The object was motionless for a few moments, and then drifted due north where it stopped once more, and this time it tilted at a 45 degree angle. In that position it pivoted in a complete circle. Riley suggested that the object apparently used:"...the lower end of the angle as its axis as though to give its dome a clear view of what was below." 97.

There was also more about the "ring of smoke" to be learned, according to Riley's testimony. Air Force agents wrote this:

"...just prior to its change of direction to the north and just prior to its start of its forward motion, the object developed what Riley thought to be a vapor ring around its entire outer edge. He said that this ring became more dense as the object got further away and picked up speed. He could not judge how dense or how thick the vapor ring was...[and]that the vapor-like ring did not trail off in smoke fashion after the object started off to the north, however, the ring seemed to go along with the object without changing the vapor ring's shape." 98.

Besides the usual investigation of Riley's background and a search of his residence, Air Force agents showed an interest in something else. Some two miles from the alleged photo site was a Federal Telecommunications Laboratory that specialized in the manufacture of radar and micro-wave equipment. A tall 350 foot tower decorated with an array of experimental antenna's was the company's grounds. Evidently the agents believed the UFO was checking on the signals being generated by the laboratory. The president of the lab, Admiral Carl Holden USN (Ret.) was interviewed as were members of the staff to determine if any electronic equipment was in operation the day the UFO seen. None

"Myth or Menace?"

Coronet magazine came out with a little article in its November issue: "Flying Saucers: Myth or Menace?" which contained nothing new but it mirrored the state of much of the public thinking which the essay put this way in its conclusion: "Hidden somewhere in the skies from which the saucers come and into which they vanish, lies the answer. Some day soon, the truth may break in the greatest news story of all time." 100.

What's flying over Venezuela?

The American Air Attache in Caracas read in the local press that "flying saucers" were sighted by the whole population of the town of Cuanarito on the 19th of November during the morning hours. It seems that a pair of "mysterious aircraft" of unknown origin passed over at high speed. The two were soon joined by another pair of a "smaller size." 101.

More South American reports.

The Civilian Saucer Investigation organization in Los Angeles was still tallying the results of its request for UFO reports. In its second bulletin dated: "Winter, 1952," the group stated that it was not yet prepared to analyze data received after September. Scanning the pages of bulletin #2 one can find a number of foreign UFO reports one would not find in any other American source. These cases are worth noting although the bulletin editor did not always include the date of the incident. Some of the cases listed are quite fascinating. Here are some samples.

At a Peruvian town named Huandoval, flying discs were reported to have been visible for some 10 minutes and two of them were said to have approached a church steeple within a few feet. The CSI evaluator could find no reason Huandoval would be of interest to anyone, earthly or otherwise, with the exception of existence of nearby tungsten and iron mines. As to the date, it says the sighting took place "a few weeks ago."

Peru seems to have been a prominent UFO visitation area but that probably reflects the fact CSI had a correspondent there. Quite possibly the rest of South America was similarly visited.

The CSI agent gleaned some data from Lima's Jornal do Comercio which told of an eerie green disc having a silver tail zooming over Carauari in the Amazon department of eastern Peru. Crowds of afternoon shoppers watched as the object passed by just above the treetops, flew in a circle around the town, and then shot skyward.

Near Lima the pilot of a DC-3 sighted a trio of objects in V-formation passing by at a greater altitude, an estimated 2,500 feet separation. Each object was a disc-shape circled by a big red band of color. The phenomenon was also observed by personnel at the Navigational Aid Station located at Punta de Lomas.

Another pilot at the helm of a passenger plane viewed a circular object some 200 feet across while he was flying his plane near Ancon, Peru. The round object appeared to have a bright metallic surface and emitted a crimson radiance as it sped passed the airliner. A trail of reddish-blue color was left by the strange object.

Red discs were also spotted above the Peruvian towns of Matucana and Chimbote. These discs left "sparkling blue" vapor in their wakes.

At Trujillo, Peru, a "saucer" was seen exhibiting classic behavior, zigzagging and occasionally hovering.

Elsewhere, at an irrigation facility close to Celendin, Peru, a couple of orange-colored ovals came into view from different directions. When the objects approached each other, they slowed, joined up, and then were seen leaving the area together as they passed over a mountain range on the horizon.

Still another airliner report came from the pilot of a Lima - Panama passenger plane. He told the press a red disc came within a half mile of his aircraft as he flew over Guayaquil, Peru. The object was under observation for about one minute. The UFO paused for a moment, "as if to watch the plane" and then zoomed off at high speed.

Several witnesses in Jaen, Peru, including the sub-prefect, swore they saw a big glowing, circular-shaped, object travel across the sky.

A pair of flying discs hovered above a prison for three minutes at Ayacucho, Peru, and were watched by an officer of the guard and a number of wardens.

An object the size of a football slowly moved over Huarochiri, Peru, at a low altitude. It had a tail of green that tapered to a reddish hue. School children and construction workers were among those who witnessed the phenomenon.

Yungay, Peru, was host to an orange-colored disc that displayed a yellow tail. No other details were made available.

Other South America countries mentioned include Columbia where a bright oval sailed over Bogota in plain view of hundreds of residents. The object left a smoking wake which might indicate a meteor although witnesses estimated the object's altitude as only 8,000 feet.

What CSI thought was a well authenticated report came from Coari, Brazil, in the Amazon basin. In the early summer of 1952 the mission town was visited one evening by a bright, elongated mass which hovered over the mission building. It later passed over the horizon. In a matter of only a few minutes a town some 300 miles away was visited by the same, or similar, "luminous airship." In this latter locality, the town newspaper, The Jornal do Comercio, reported that the UFO in question, a bright-green, elongated, mass sporting a silver tail, caused excitement as it flew in a wide circle over the area and then sped away. 102.

Clearly there is a need to do more research on the 1952 flap in Latin America.

Unfortunately CSI gives little about the dates of the cases published, but a survey of other South American reports from other sources suggest they may fall into a period between August 3rd to August 30th.

November 20th.

"Hump-backed" phenomenon.

What is an "ant bed?" Ranchers out West must know because a newsitem out of Alamosa, Colorado, on November 20th declared that a local rancher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor, witnessed an airborne object they said resembled an "ant bed," which soared above San Luis Valley and then disappeared behind the peak of Mt. Blanca. The "thing" was described again in the news account as "humped-backed," a silent moving object that produced a long vapor trail. What made the object really strange was the fact that it travelled with a "swimming or oscillating" movement. 103.

The "Adamski UFO report."

The next item is being dubbed the "Adamski report" not because there is any real connection with George Adamski, but for a reason that will become apparent

as we cover the rest of this month. Since there is controversy concerning the report, we will quote it exactly as it is found in BLUE BOOK files:

"UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SEEN PILOT LOCHARD[EE] AIRCRAFT B-50 5626 ON A ROUND ROBIN FROM DAVIS-MONTHAN. OBJECT SEEN AT 2005 MOUNTAIN TIME 10 MILES EAST OF SALTON SEA, ALTITUDE 16000 FEET. AIRCRAFT WAS ON A HEADING OF 275 DEGREES AND SIGHTED OBJECT AT 1100 O'CLOCK TO HIS POSITION. OBJECT WAS STATIONARY AND WAS CHANGING COLOR FROM WHITE TO RED TO GREEN. STARTED IN MOTION IN N.W. HEADING AND DISAPPEARED LIKE TURNING OUT A LIGHT. THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF PROPULSION OR LOCOMOTION AND THE PILOT WAS UNABLE TO DESCRIBE SIZE OR SHAPE. 104.

It might be very interesting to check Phoenix newspapers to determine if word of the sighting reached the press where Adamski's Arizona friends could have read about it.

November 21st.

According to London, England's Sunday Dispatch something startled the residents of Littlehampton, Margate, Isswich, and Chichester. Persons in those cities reported objects in the sky variously described as "tadpoles," "odd white balls of light," and even a "green beetle with a flaming tail." 105.

The CIA -a preliminary review.

In the U.S. at ATIC, Wright Field, Ohio, four scientists met for three days to review some UFO reports as a preliminary to recommending the appointment of a panel of the some of the nation's best scientists to act as a UFO jury.

In Ruppelt's book it was stated that this four man meeting actually named the scientists, both practical and theoretical, and tentatively set a date for the UFO jury to be convened which was to be sometime late December 1952 or early January 1953. 106.

After this preliminary review, according to UFO researcher Brad Sparks, the Director of the CIA, Walter B. Smith, requested that the UFO jury business be submitted to the IAC, the Committee of the Combined U.S. Intelligence. 107.

Why this was necessary is not known. Perhaps it was done so some input could be gained. Another possibility is that Smith wanted to end any disension and obtain the appearance of unanimity.

"Had been travelling while invisible."

Five people witnessed the following:

"The unidentified flying object was sighted in the vicinity of Port Benning, Georgia at approximately 2120 hours on 21 November, 1952. When first seen it was of a bluish-white color and travelling a WNW direction but following a zig-zag course. It turned to a dull orange color and disappeared from sight. It reappeared in approximately one minute and it had returned to its original color and its position indicated it had been travelling while invisible [!?!?]. At this time the object turned to a South-South East direction. It held a constant course in this direction until out of sight.

"All observers seemed certain it was neither a meteor nor a weather balloon but none would venture an opinion as to what they thought the object was." 108.

Something over the atomic plant.

The AEC security Division filed this report:

"This headquarters received a call on 24 November 1952 from Mr.(... deleted) the Security Division, AEC, Savannah River Operations Office, Augusta, Georgia. Mr.(...deleted) stated that at 212322Z two heavy equipment operators working at the AEC Installation made a visual sighting of a glaring red fireball. Fireball was round, of unknown size, with no trail or sound. Object moved fast and seemed to fade away from sight to the SSE. Object was observed for approximately thirty seconds before disappearing." 109.

November 1952(exact date not known).

An Airline pilot with wartime experience with B-17s and PBVs and some 7,000 hours with a commercial passenger carrier, gave the following testimony concerning an incident that occurred in November 1952(exact date not given). The pilot states:

"At that time I was flying a C-46 between California and New York. At approximately 1:00 a.m. between Prescott and Winslow, Arizona, at an altitude of 11,000 feet, I saw what at first appeared to be falling star. It appeared in the eastern sky which was clear at that time. It kept coming closer and increased in size and brilliance.

"The object continued toward us until it seemed that it would collide with us headon. The other pilot and myself both saw the whole incident clearly. I pulled up into a steep climbing turn to the right. In the middle of the turn, the object which we estimated to be 100 feet in diameter, and glowing a brilliant yellow, passed directly under us.

"I came out of the turn on a reverse heading, and we watched it continue westward until it climbed upward and out of sight. The glow lit up the entire passenger compartment, which at that time was in total darkness. Several dead-heading crewmen who were in the passenger compartment, saw the light at the same time.

"That same day we landed in St. Louis and New York, and both places verified the fact that an unidentified object was picked up on radar, speeding across the United States at better than 2,000 miles per hour. The times and locations given coincided with our sighting." 110.

Green fireball lights up the Southwest.

According to United Press:

"A bright green fireball sailed across southwestern skies last night, displaying all the characteristics of eight other flaming objects that have puzzled meteorologists and residents of four states during the past three weeks.

"Dr. Lincoln La Paz, head of the New Mexico University Institute of meteoritics, said the latest fireball was sighted about 10:42 p.m.

"Pilots of two Air Force planes and a Transworld Airliner pilot first reported the latest phenomenon, but the meteorologist said a later check revealed the object had been sighted from points as distant as Dodge City, Kan., and Lubbock and Big Springs, Tex.

"The fireball, La Paz said, gave off an intense light and was described as being 'livid green' in color.

"During the past three weeks, eight others have whizzed over the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico..." 111.



November 22nd.

36

Caribbean Sea.

A western Union message flashed to E.J. Ruppelt from Major Fournet in Washington alerted BLUE BOOK on the 22th that an aircraft had encountered something strange over the Caribbean. The pilot reported:

"A LARGE OBJECT LIGHT RED IN COLOR TOO LARGE AND TOO BRIGHT TO BE ANOTHER ACFT FLEW PARALLEL TO US ABOUT 20 MINUTES. OBJECT BEGAN FOLLOWING ABOUT 15 MINS NORTH OF MA4 SAME ALTITUDE AND AIRSPEED. OBJECT DISAPPEARED AFTER ABOUT 20 MINUTES." 112.

Europe, Africa.

A large rectangular zone of some 100x200 kilometers in France experienced a strange noise and light show between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. November 22th. From various towns in the area came descriptions of explosions, streams of multi-colored stars, dazzling spheres, and blinding flashes. Particularly odd were sightings made at Lhomme and Picoiseau which mentioned a: "...multi-colored cigar, red and yellow predominating; length seventeen to twenty times greater than width; climbed at 80 degrees; emitted white smoke." 113.

From an observer near the town of Cholet came this report: "...luminous cigar of great size; descended point-first and changed color; climbed again, slowly, with luminous trail and then disappeared in mid-air." 114.

Bocaranga, French Equatorial Africa.

More mysterious was the account found in the records of the Service Meteorologique of the Oubangui Chari concerning an incident at 10:00 p.m. the 22th at Bocaranga, French Equatorial Africa:

"...the Reverend Father Daniel of Carnot with five companions perceived four reddish discs travelling from the south-south-east. They climbed to an angle of thirty degrees, circled four times and then disappeared. They appeared to be joined in pairs by whitish bands." 115.

"What the devil is it?" "Wow!" "Look at it go!"

Our next case was supposed to have taken place over the Atlantic some 600 miles to the south of New York sometime during the Fall of 1952. In the area at the time were three Pan American airliners piloted by Captains Charles Zammett, Robert Harris, and William Hutchins. The three airliners were flying close enough together to enable all three pilots to see the UFO in question simultaneously. The UFO was a huge, brilliant green ball of light larger than the moon and motionless in the sky. The huge dazzling orb impressed the airmen observing it. One pilot radioed another: "Do you see that?" 116. The other pilot answered: "I'll say I see it! What the devil is it?" 117. The third pilot cut in: "We see it too. Who could miss it!" 118. For some 45 seconds or so the UFO remained stationary, and then it suddenly zoomed westward, diminishing gradually in size evidently due to perspective as it quickly put distance between itself and the airliners. One pilot was on the radio when the UFO took off: "Do you think we'll pass it ---Wow! Look at it go!" 119.

November 23th.

Another huge "ball."

A motorist by the name of Mr. Gauci travelling the Lorcmaria highway in France, was near the city of Belle-Ile when he saw a giant luminous sphere in the sky. The "ball" was hard to ignore since it was several times larger than the full moon and made changes in its appearance, flattening out a disk turning

over?) and shifting color from orange to white. The UFO's then began to move in a pattern. It sank to a lower altitude, hovered, and then moved horizontally. It then stopped, after which it rose to its original altitude. The "ball" went through this cycle four times before it sped away to toward the southeast. 120.

George Adamski and the "contactee" phenomenon.

While waiting for the Air Force to clear some official military UFO reports for his use, Donald Keyhoe thumbed through some recent newspaper clippings and noted that an unusual number were from Europe: Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and France; with the last mentioned country producing the most remarkable case, a fantastic sighting of a "giant cigarette-like object" leading a convoy of small flying discs over the city of Oleron on October 14th. However, the lone American story in the stack was even more amazing than the Oleron item, an account about a certain George Adamski of Palomar Gardens, California, who was supposed to have experienced an "encounter with a flying saucer pilot!" Keyhoe, in spite of his pro-alien beliefs, found the yarn weird to say the least. Was it a sample of third rate science fiction? What had happened out west? 121.

In certain sections of booklets in this series about UFO history, the name of George Adamski appears, but until November 1952 he had only a minor role to play in the UFO story. The Californian often lectured on flying saucers in the San Diego area, making assertions that inhabitants of other planets understood earth languages and had already established contact with the U.S. Federal Communication Commission, but that the American government was keeping the fact secret because the alien society had an advanced, Communist-type, social system which Capitalist Washington found embarrassing. Adamski felt that he could do something about the impasse by raising 5,000 dollars and using the funds to construct his own radio station. At least that was what he was telling everybody. Apparently Adamski had developed his claims and ambitions no further regarding "space folk" by late Summer 1952 and such talk never got him into hot water, but his political prating almost did.

When he got on to politics, Adamski got carried away a bit, pronouncing immediate war with Russia which would lead to a quick victory by the Communist forces over a decadent America. This reached the ears of agents in the San Diego Office of the FBI which opened a file on Adamski in the Spring of 1952 to keep track of the strange fellow and determine if he might be engaged in subversive activities, 122. but by late Fall agents composed an official memorandum which notified the Bureau's Washington headquarters that no further investigation was being contemplated since the facts did not warrant any concern. 123. Adamski did nothing but talk and there was no law against that. In any case, Adamski, by late Summer, had moderated his fiery political outlook and became instead fascinated with space stories and the pseudo-scientific.

It might be appropriate here to quote Lenin, believe it or not. There was an exchange of opinion between H.G. Wells and Lenin in the year 1920 concerning interplanetary communication:

"I [Wells] said to Lenin that the development of human technology might some day change the world situation. The Marxist conception itself would then become meaningless. Lenin looked at me and said:

"You are right. I understood this myself when I read your novel The Time Machine. All human conceptions are on the scale of our planet. They are based on the pretension that the technical potential, although it will develop, will never exceed the 'terrestrial limit.'

"If we succeed in establishing interplanetary communications, all our philosophical, moral and social views will have to be revised. In this case, the technical potential, become[ing] limitless, would impose the end of the role of violence as a means and method of progress..." 124.

The "Prescott group."

What apparently did much to make Adamski's affairs considerably more complicated might be attributed to the "Prescott group," some people living in Arizona. This group sought to receive messages from saucer pilots in numerous ways and finally claimed to have achieved some success in late August 1952 by using telepathy and a home-made Ouiji board. One of these "space messages" was supposed to have urged the group to contact George Adamski of California if they wanted to see a "3-D flying saucer." 125, 126.

Actually, the best guess as to the way the "Prescott group" got to know Adamski was probably either from the Californian's lectures in Arizona, or the article in the September 1950 issue of Fate which featured the "Palomar astronomer's" search for saucers. Adamski was more than a Southern Californian personality by this time. Because he had a secretary and enjoyed expressing himself, Adamski established a number of epistolary friendships with persons across the country, perhaps the most notable being Mrs. Clara Louis John, Karl Hunrath, and Jerrold Baker.

According to James Moseley, four members of the Arizona group, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt Williamson, first met Adamski in person in August 1952 (and apparently late in the month with their "mental radio" efforts still being conducted as late as the 26th). When Williamson first encountered Adamski he was a serious student of the book Oahspe, or what has been called the New Bible. The Oahspe was a monumental volume, a work that had been around for a hundred years or so and is quite familiar to those who follow the occult. Its authors were supposed to have been some "celestial angels" that came to a barren earth some 79,000 years ago to populate it with a race of primates called man, a race of beings that were a mix of soil and spirit. The ethereal hosts, the Oahspe says, have ever since maintained a vigil of the world and are always attempting to move mankind toward higher civilization and spiritual development. The book states further that although these spirits use psychic means and stratagems, they use some sort of vehicle to travel through the air. George claimed to believe firmly in the Oahspe writings and often fell into a trance to make contact with the supposed heavenly guides. The Williamson trances, real or fake, impressed Adamski. 127. Again according to Moseley:

"Williamson interpreted certain sections [of Oahspe] as a prophecy for a contact to be made with a spaceman on a certain date - a date which he predicted for George Adamski, who went out into the desert to help fulfill the prediction." 128.

Moseley's assertion could be the best of several possible seminal influences for the "contactee" event. Such a claim, according to writer Dennis Stamey, has an extensive historical context. One example Stamey gives is this case:

"In 1866 the William Denton family of Wellesley, Mass., lectured on their alleged psychic-vibration communique from the planet Mars. Young Sherman Denton claimed astral voyages into outer space and observed the Martians which he claimed greatly resembled earth people. "They travel about on individual flying machines and they have been investigating the earth since the late 1700's, the youth informed awed lecture audiences." 129.

The desert "contact."

Jerrold Baker was a young(23) soft-spoken Air Force Sergeant who helped train recruits at Lackland AFB, Texas. Quite taken with the UFO mystery, Baker started corresponding with George Adamski in November 1951. A year later when Baker finished his hitch in the service and was discharged, the ex-serviceman travelled to California to pursue his interest in the aerial riddle. He went to see Adamski and perhaps not having anything better to do, hung around Palomar cafe doing odd jobs in exchange for room and board. Approximately mid-November, according to Baker, he just by chance turned on a tape recorder and heard ten minutes worth of a voice describing a "psychic communication" about a desert contact with a flying saucer. The so-called surprise of November 20, 1952 could not have been, Baker later testified, because it was nothing more than a "planned operation." He said he heard who was to go and what was to transpire before Adamski's loyal secretary, Lucy Mc Ginnis, caught him in the act and ordered him to switch off the machine.

The evening of November 18th Adamski phoned the Baileys and the Williamsons and asked them to meet him at the California-Arizona border near the town of Blythe the morning of the 20th. Just after sunrise on the 20th, Adamski left Palomar Gardens accompanied by Miss Mc Ginnis and chauffeured by cafe owner Alice Wells, a good friend of the "professor." Hours later the trio arrived at Blythe and joined up with the two Arizona couples. These seven hardly constituted an impartial bunch of witnesses, therefore what happened that afternoon is not necessarily the events related in Adamski's book, Flying Saucers Have Landed. Baker, who seems to be the only one on which we can have reason to rely on to any extent, was not asked to go so we cannot be sure if anyone even made a trip to the the Mojave wilderness that day, let alone confirm subsequent fantastic assertions. There is no doubt, however, about what occurred a few days later in Phoenix. 130.

"Get a firm grip on your chair."

In the November 24, 1952 issue of the Phoenix, Arizona, Gazette staff writer Len Welch had a tongue-in-cheek article that led off with a warning to his readers they should "get a firm grip on their chairs" before proceeding to read further for it seems that people had stopped by at the Gazette office and announced that a California by the name of George Adamski had met and communicated with a Venusian pilot of one of the mysterious flying saucers.

According to the Gazette's visitors, Mr. and Mrs. George Williamson and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bailey, the "historic contact" took place near Desert Center, California, back on November 20th. The supposed saucer pilot used telepathy and sign language to express to Adamski his concern over mankind's atomic tests which were "poisoning outer space with radiation."

Welch's story was accompanied by a photograph of the Baileys and the Williamsons, sketches of the Venusian's footprints which was suppose to show some strange markings, and a vague photo of the extraterrestrial scout ship.

It's possible Adamski faked the contact (No one else beside him "saw the man from Venus") just to impress his Arizona admirers, but there were many factors that may have played a role.

There was Adamski's manuscript about Jesus coming to the earth in a space ship which was reportedly submitted to Ray Palmer, editor of Amazing Stories at the time, back in 1946. Palmer maintained that this early work was the same used by Adamski in 1953 to write a flying saucer book, except that Jesus was changed to a Venusian. 131.

Furthermore, if Adamski read Amazing Stories during that same period he could

have also picked up some ideas from the story "The Green Man" published in the magazine's October 1946 issue.

Some critics that viewed the saucer scene from a distance sought a more obvious choice, suggesting that Adamski had been inspired by the 1951 Hollywood motion picture The Day the Earth Stood Still.

Certainly a much lesser known source of inspiration but still a valid one, was the writings of Eugene H. Drake, Director of the "Fellowship of Golden Illumination" headquartered on Lake Street in Los Angeles, who penned, in 1950, the booklet: Life on the Planets - A Visit to Venus. Drake claimed a visitation from two Venusian saucer pilots named "Aramian and Estralon" who: "...impressed me to go to a certain desert location to be picked up." 132.

Another apparent source of ideas for the Venusian encounter was Adamski's 1949 novel, Pioneers of Space - A Trip to the Moon, Mars, and Venus, ghosted by one of witnesses to the so-called Desert Center, California, contact, Lucy Mc Ginnis. 133. Adamski also evidently drew on some of his early 1930's Royal Order of Tibet writings for inspiration. Extracts from an old Royal Order book shows "space brothers" substituted for "Royal Order," an ink pen editing job in Adamski's own hand which shows how he wanted to up date the material and give it a new slant. 134.

This alleged contact with a saucer pilot by Adamski on November 20th brings into focus the reason for dubbing a case on page 25 of this book the "Adamski UFO report." The fact that the Air Force had a legitimate UFO report on file for November 20th for the area of Desert Center, California, seems to give support to Adamski's story, but one should note that the pilot making the report landed at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona. If the pilot talked to the press there, Adamski's Arizona friends could have learned of it before going to the Phoenix Gazette.

"A speed so great..."

As a Paul T. Collins got out of his car in East Glendale, California, at 3:48 p.m. November 24th; he observed four gray-colored balls speeding to the north-west. He estimated they were at 2,000 feet and were travelling at some 200 mph. The weather was clear that afternoon so he got a good look at the objects during the one minute they were visible. The objects had a certain luster to their appearance as if they were giving off a faint glow. The objects were in formation with one leading and the trio behind equally spaced from each other. There was no sound during the passage.

As the objects left the vicinity of Glendale, they appeared to change shape a little, becoming a little more flattened or elliptical. Their lustre diminished also, due to what Mr. Collins assumed was the presence of a very slight haze in that part of the sky. After leaving the outskirts of Glendale, the objects shifted their course to the northeast toward the mountains and at the same time put on a: "...burst of speed so great that it seemed as though they practically melted into thin air." 135.

The sighting was corroborated by three other men who were fellow workers at Mr. Collins' place of employment, Timm Industries. One was Al Manasero, an aircraft inspector. The others were a Ralph Hicks and a Charles Plant.

The three men continued to watch the sky after the objects passed out of sight. Not knowing exactly what to do and certain they saw something very strange, the witnesses contacted the FBI. That agency referred them to the Air Force.

The witness that filed this report, Mr. Manasero, remarked:

"It was impossible for these spheres to have been weather balloons, because of the tremendous speed with which they disappeared. I have

seen weather balloons, metcors, countless numbers of meteorites, fantastic displays of the aurora borealis, and various other strange astronomical phenomena, and this sighting could not possibly be confused with such phenomena, nor could it have had anything to do with light reflected from objects moving on the ground or in the air, or with vague 'blobs' of light caused by a contact of layers of air of different temperatures. I have been watching the skies for forty years from Canada to Mexico, and from coast to coast, but this is the first time I have ever seen anything that could be definitely put in the so-called 'flying saucer' category." 136.

"Flying saucers have come to Iran."

Military Intelligence cabled Ruppelt on November 24th: "Flying saucers have come to Iran. Iran G2 has recd numerous repts of strange objects in air over northeast Iran-USSR border. Objects appear at night and in some instances seem to be controlled in that they are repto to fly over border into Iran and then return to USSR." 137.

The Air Force asks for help.

A brief memorandum in BLUE BOOK records show that Colonel William A. Adams, Chief, Topical Division, Air Force Intelligence requested the Director of Naval Intelligence (ATTN:OP322Y5) to analyze a roll of 16 mm Kodachrome movie film, which was, one assumes, the famous Great Falls, Montana, film; and compare it with another UFO movie film previously scrutized which undoubtedly was the Tremonton, Utah pictures. 138.

Objects over Ojibwa.

The civilian ground observer post at Ojibwa, Wisconsin, manned by post supervisor Earl Childers, made an "aircraft flash" report to the Filter Center on November 24th concerning unidentified lights in the sky. The local Air Force radar site phoned the GOC post and asked for more information. The lights, Childers said, were reddish, slightly bigger than stars, three in number, and about 20 miles away from Ojibwa. The lights moved very fast in an orbit which was not round but a "series of squares." The phenomenon, according to Childers, was visible for 15 minutes, afterwhich the lights faded out. 139.

UFOs and the GOC.

In spite of the great amount of UFO activity in 1952, very few reports made by the civilian volunteer Ground Observer Corp appear in Air Force BLUE BOOK files, particularly since during the summer the GOC had conducted "Project Skywatch," an intensified search of the heavens by the organization's 150,000 personnel manning some 6,000 observation posts around the nation.

A possible answer to this mystery is provided by Don Berliner who visited a GOC filter center at Columbus, Ohio, in late November, 1952. A filter center was where reports from regional observer posts were received, plotted, and interpreted. Civilian volunteers did the work but they were supervised by at least one Air Force officer and one Air Force enlisted man.

Mr. Berliner observed and listened while at the center to learn if GOC people were seeing strange things in the sky. The answer was yes. Although the filter center he visited covered only the southern part of the state of Ohio, the number of UFO sightings being made was impressive and

compared favorably with the number being made nation wide on a percentage basis. The last week of July, which was the peak period for the country, listed some 30 GOC UFO reports for southern Ohio. The whole month of August produced 40, September about half that, and for all of October there were 9 incidents. November was running about the same, some 8 reports, when checked late in the month.

Berliner noted that not all of the GOC UFO reports were vague. A silver disc was seen in broad daylight over Marion, Ohio, on July 25th, a sighting that compared well with a sighting of an "aluminum disc" visible over Norwalk, Ohio, that same afternoon. On the 18th of August a "round red/white" object sped over the towns of Springfield, Lebanon, and Dublin, Ohio, according to the teams of spotters that were standing watch at posts in those communities. Similarly, five days later a GOC member saw a "flat oval" zip through the air above Goshert, Dayton, and Troy. What CSI found interesting about the forementioned sightings was that the towns were fairly close together, some 50-70 miles, providing evidence that the object may have real since it seemed to following a definite track. Were there more such GOC reports that we don't know about?

If the experience of the southern Ohio filter center was typical, Mr. Berliner calculated that a national total of some 4,000 GOC UFO reports must have been made and might be on file somewhere. They certainly are not to be found in any quantity in Air Force BLUE BOOK records. 140.

Mr. Berliner noted that in one case a USAF Sergeant discarded one GOC report of "maneuvering lights" over Cincinnati by making a hasty, and it seemed, an incorrect, judgement. However, vivid "flying saucer" descriptions were not laughed off or thrown away. Such reports were: "... carefully recorded and logged and treated in a rather special way." 141.

#### Virginia.

More to the east something happened in the skies of Virginia from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The military teletype message describing the incident looked like this:

"ONE ROUND IDENTIFIED GLOWING OBJECT CMA SIZE BASEBALL SIGHTED OVER ANNADAPE CMA VA. APPEARED IN SOUTHERN SKY CMA HEADED NORTH OVER ANNADAPE THEN SHOT OFF ON RIGHT ANGLE. WHEN ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT CMA MADE 180 DEGREE TURN AND HEADED BACK TOWARD ANNADAPE. REPEATED THIS PATH NUMEROUS TIMES. NO AERODYNAMIC CMA EXHAUST OR TRAIL FEATURES NOTED. SPEED WELL OVER 1000 MPH CMA ALTITUDE ESTIMATED 50,000 FEET. NO MANEUVERS OTHER THAN RIGHT AND 180 DEGREE TURNS. SIGHTED CONTINUOUSLY BETWEEN 1830 AND 1930 HOURS 24 NOVEMBER 1952 BY LAWRENCE L. BRETTNER CMA CIV EMPLOYEE OF NATL AVIATION PUBLICATION PAREN WOULD NOT GIVE NAME OF PUBLICATION PAREN. BRETTNER SIGHTED OBJECT WITH NAKED EYE LATER WITH 9 POWER BINOCULARS. SIGHTING CONFIRMED BY BRETTNERS WIFE. SKY CLEAR CMU VISIBILITY UNLIMITED." 142.

The resulting report on Air Force UFO reporting forms showed some sketches by Mr. Brettner. (See opposite page)

November 25th.

Back on November 6th the Chairman of the Air Force's Research and Development Branch claimed that inquiries made among the "Air Staff" showed no concern over the UFO problem. It is supposed that what was meant by the "Air Staff" was an R&DB group and not the Air Force High Command. The Chairman further stated that

the issue had been referred to the Air Defense Command for some action and had heard nothing more on the matter. In other words, there had been a rejection of the idea UFOs warranted a major research project by the R&DB. This did not totally satisfy the CIA. A CIA document says:

"Recent reports reaching CIA indicate that further action was desirable and another briefing by the cognizant A-2 and ATIC personnel was held on 25 November. At this time, the reports of incidents convince us that there is something going on that must have immediate attention. The details of some of these incidents have been discussed by AD/SI with DDCI.\* Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and travelling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles." 143.

At the briefing ATIC Chief Colonel Bower met Mr. E. Tauss and other CIA people and gave the impression he was quite willing to cooperate fully, although some three weeks later when Ruppelt wished to visit the CIA on a trip to Washington D.C. hand carrying UFO analyses and reports, Bower would intervene for some reason.

"This Command is on Yellow Alert."

A military readiness alert message, passed to the Pentagon from the Panama Canal Zone, was relayed to BLUE BOOK after no enemy was encountered. It seems the Canal Zone security forces were puzzled:

"THIS COMMAND IN YELLOW ALERT 1825R-0052R, 25-26 NOV. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT OVERFLYING CANAL TRACKED BY RADAR INTERMITTENTLY. ALTITUDE 27000 TO 1000. FOUR US AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED. NO CONTACT ESTABLISHED. TWO SEPARATE UNCONFIRMED VIS SIGHTINGS BY SERVICE PERS OF UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT 1850R. SIGHTING OF HIGH SPEED ELONGATED YELLOW GLOW AT LOW ALTITUDE BY AF MAJOR AT FRANCE FIELD ABOUT 2330R. RADAR CONTACTS APPEARED FIRM, CONSISTANT. WEATHER GENERALLY CLEAR." 144.

Word was leaked to newsman Drew Pearson whose article "Sky Objects Mistify Canal Zone" was given a prominent place in the December 21st issue of the Washington Post. We will have more to say about this later.

Spooky doings at White Sands.

A White Sands employee was motoring along a road 8:30 p.m. the night of November 25th when he noticed some distance ahead some strange lights. His first impression was that some Army troops were in the area on night exercises utilizing pyrotechnic devices. Moments later what appeared to be a ball of light fell to the middle of the middle of the road about a ¼ mile ahead. The light had a green center which faded to a weak bluish tint at its exterior. Nothing was seen as the motorist passed the spot but minutes later something more impressive was observed:

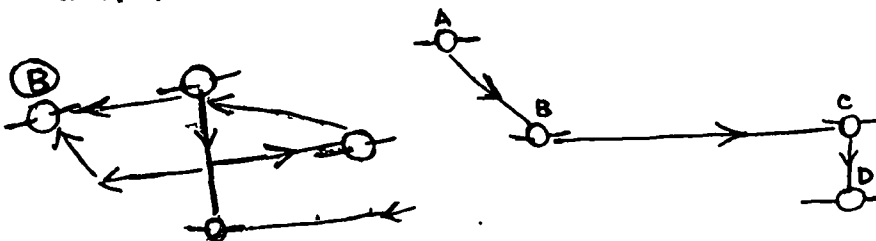
"...I observed a light, or series of lights, approaching from the right side of the road, in the heavens, at an altitude of about three to five hundred feet and between ¼ and ½ mile distant. I thought

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\* AD/SI: Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence. DDCI: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.



26 Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object in question is in. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.  
150 feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and of about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- a. Head of a pin
- b. Pin
- c. Disc
- d. Nickel
- e. Quarter
- f. Half dollar
- g. Silver dollar
- h. Baseball
- i. Grapefruit
- j. Basketball
- k. Other

22.) (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.)

- a. Certain
- b. Fairly certain
- c. Not very sure
- d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? SUDDENLY - DIRECTLY  
Behind A BRIGHT PLANET. THE LATTER  
WAS EITHER JUPITER OR SATURN.

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

A SOPHOMORIC query. I haven't the IMAGINATION FOR this. God KNOWS what IN IT - it WAS! I don't, (Let the WRITERS of "SCIENCE FICTION" MAKE A GUESS). I do hope - IN ALL SINCERITY the USAF TAKES THESE MATTERS SERIOUSLY I WOULD, HOWEVER, MAKE A GUESS that possibly this OBJECT WAS OF METALLIC CONSTRUCTION.

that probably, in conjunction with the night problem, this was an airborne drop of troops. I first thought it might be a C-119 or a C-123. However, this object made a right hand turn above the road and then disappeared at an angle of approximately 90 degrees, straight into the sky. I can not state whether it was a plane or a type of aircraft. I can merely state that there were two rows of what appeared to be windows, brilliantly lighted, and I would estimate that they were five to six feet in height and six to eight windows in each of the rows. After this object disappeared, I stopped my car and got out to see if I could see if I could hear the motors of a plane but I could hear no sound. I then proceeded to White Sands Proving Grounds." 145.

November 26th.

Peculiar radar targets were detected at the Panama Canal Zone until 4 a.m. the morning of the 26th. No danger threaten so the yellow alert then in force was ended.

Goose Bay.

An Air Force jet pilot with some 650 hours of combat time encountered an odd flying body over Goose Bay. An Intelligence report stated in part:

"On 26 November 1952 at 2156Z, an unidentified flying object was sighted by an F-94B pilot assigned to the 595th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron stationed at Goose Air Base while in aerial flight in the immediate Goose Base area.

"The object was first observed by both the pilot and radar operator as the F-94B flew over Goose Air Base, then it followed a course of 180 degrees for approximately 40 miles. The altitude of the object varied from 1500 to 12,000 feet; estimated speed 250 to 425 knots, with a general direction of flight between south and southwest. No definite shape or size was noted by observing[... not legible]. Color reported as bright orange-red with light blue-green. No jet or rocket exhausts were noted; no sound was heard, and the manner of propulsion was unknown. Object displayed excellent maneuvering as it followed friendly aircraft in steep banks and turns, always maintaining the same relative distance from aircraft; speeds were synchronized until object disappeared at 2218Z." 146.

November 27th.

France. "Split in two."

A number of witnesses, including a contractor named Paul Bellocq, spotted a disk-shaped luminous body that hovered above them, and while doing so "split in two," and then re-united, before zooming away. This occurred at 6:30 a.m. the morning of the 27th at the city of Mont-de-Marsan. 147.

New Zealand. "Gigantic cymbal."

A New Zealand pilot was awoken at home in Nedin, a suburb of Auckland, by a jet-like roar. Looking out his bedroom window, he saw what he said looked like a "gigantic cymbal" surrounded by a grey-green glow passing overhead. 148.

November 28th.

An Air Force jet encountered a second orange-red object in 24 hours. The latest incident took place near Delta, Utah. The official Intelligence report states:

"The object was first sighted at a position of approximately one o'clock high to the T-33. The object had passed the Air Force aircraft and was going away very fast. The strange object was described as looking very much like a meteor being composed of a main body of light, yellowish orange in color with an orange to light red tail streaming out behind it. Its altitude was estimated by Captain Pendergrass and the cadet as being from 45,000 to 55,000 feet.

"Both individuals observed the object for approximately 20 minutes, during which time it at first maintained a straight course directly away from them and then appeared to zig-zag until finally it became stable to their sight over the right wing tip of the aircraft. Both individuals, in using the stars as reference, were able to determine that the object was much closer to them than any of the stars." 149.

Enigma at Edmonton.

Something particularly strange was reported in Alberta, Canada, on November 28th by a Fred Clarke, a man employed by the Foothills Tank and Pipeline Company. Mr. Clarke made his report to Don Boyce, editor of the Fairview, Alberta, Weekly Post:

"My wife, granddaughter and I were driving on the highway just west of Bluesky when my wife pointed out the object in the sky thinking it was a plane...The strange craft was at a height of about 2,000 feet and we were looking at it from about a 45 degree angle, at a distance of possibly half a mile. From this angle the craft was shaped like a boot (?) and shone very brightly in the afternoon sun...We drove about a quarter of a mile to a point where we could see it from a different angle. From this point we could see that what had appeared to be markings on the side of the craft were actually circular-shaped discs protruding from the main point of the plane on an arm that appeared to be no more than a couple of feet long. The craft had no visible propeller or jets of any kind. The shiny body appeared to be a mass of curves. The craft remained stationary, despite a strong west wind, for about six or seven minutes until it started off without a sound and disappeared over the horizon within the space of 15 seconds. It moved as fast, if not faster, than any jet plane I have ever seen. As it went away from us it appeared yellowish and seemed more rectangular from the angle we saw it then." 150.

Another African case.

An Argentinian missionary, Father Carlos Maria de Beata Assumptione, accepted a ride from a M. Lasimone, a Bourar businessman, one evening late in November 1952. The priest wanted to go to Bourar to have some dental work done and was glad for the lift. In the back of the truck was six of the local natives. All eight of these people would become UFO witnesses.

After travelling about 50 kilometers M. Lasimone stopped for a time at a village to visit with a couple of army geographical specialists. At 8:00 p.m. the truck, with M. Lasimone at the wheel, continued on toward Bourar. Motoring along the Chutes de Lancrenon road, it was almost 10:00 p.m. when the truck neared Dbrahim-Foulbe village which put them close to the town of Bocaranga. To left side of the road there was a line of treesthrough which Father Maria spotted what he thought was a "large disc" low down and apparently moving across the dark sky. M. Lasimone, the businessman and driver of the vehicle, saw much more from where he was seated. The night was brighter than usual and he could make out a quartet of silver discs in a square-shaped pattern hovering above some tenuous fleecy clouds. His first reaction was to flick his headlights and engine off to do

away with the possibility that by some trick of the atmosphere he was seeing an optical illusion. The truck rolled to a stop and a check of the sky failed to indicate that the objects were due to an odd refraction of light. Lasimone restarted the truck and resumed his journey, all the time discussing the strange phenomenon with Father Maria until they reached the village of De Gaulle (They were in French Equatorial Africa) where it was noticed they were out of gas. Gas stations being rare in that part of the world the problem was not a serious one because they had extra fuel for just such an emergency. While one of the natives poured gas into the truck's tank, M. Lasimone strolled down the road a bit while Father Maria stayed with the truck to supervise the refueling job.

The businessman had not wandered far when he began to shout to the priest, urging Father Maria to hurry down the road where he was standing where there was a good view of the heavens. As the priest ran up to him, M. Lasimone yelled: "Look!" When Father Maria looked skyward he saw four discs hovering in the dark starry vault above in a square formation, with two objects high and two low, all giving off a pale silvery glow.

The objects did not stay motionless for long. One by one they executed a strange maneuver. Before showing any motion, however, each disc would blaze up a dazzling red, and then the object in question would dive with the speed of a jet plane to a lower elevation. When the lower elevation was reached, the disc would then zoom back up to its original position where it parked itself and lost its bright red appearance, fading back to a dull silver gleam. Each disc in turn went through this performance during the 20 minutes the objects were under observation. M. Lasimone claimed that when the objects were in their crimson condition he could discern some details on the objects. He said he saw what appeared to be a swelling on one end and a dark section in the middle about 1/3 the total length of the object.

Having done enough of the strange sky dance, the objects assumed their square formation and remained motionless. The witnesses then left the scene and did not observe what eventually happened to the objects.

Father Maria was later quoted as remarking: "There is nothing I can add. What I saw was neither a fireball nor a shooting star, nor anything of that kind. It could only be some machines which were the product of human brains." 151.

#### Aerial ghosts over Washington yet again.

It certainly was not a hot July night at Washington D.C. this time. Instead it was cold, clear, and the calendar showed it to be November 30, 1952. The airway traffic control center at Washington National began to pick up strange targets on its radar at 6:30 a.m. which exhibited the same maneuvers and appearance as the mysterious blips detected that Summer. Speed was the same as previously reported and the targets showed up in the same areas. Air traffic was directed around the targets but no pilot reported any visual contact and there was no sightings of anything in the air by ground observers. It was noted that the targets had the same strange habit of sporadic appearing and disappearing. The blips resembled regular aircraft returns and travelled slowly, 90 to 100 mph. Most mysterious of all was that there was no temperature inversion. There was not the slightest chance of anomalous propagation. 152.

According to Ruppelt December marked the end of the big UFO wave of 1952. UFO reports arriving at BLUE BOOK were running at an average of about one a day. The unknown category, however, was still high, some 20% of those reports received by the Air Force. 153.

Speaking of the banner year of 1952, BLUE BOOK scientific advisor J. Allen Hynek said:

"...the flow of reports was so great that case evaluations had to be cursory and final evaluations left for much later. As I recall, the summary sheets for 1952 were not completed until several years later, and many cases hurriedly labeled 'unidentified' at first, were later declared 'identified.'" 154.

The fate of the radiation evidence.

A BLUE BOOK memo states:

"Reference telephone call from Maj I. Herman on 1 Dec 52. After briefing by Col Bower and Capt. Ruppelt of this Center on unidentified flying objects at Los Alamos on 23 Oct 52, Dr. W. B. Crew arranged a special meeting with a small group of people from the laboratory. Several of these people had evidence that there was a possible correlation between sightings of unidentified objects and unusual radiation detection. Among this group were a Mr. (...deleted) and a Mr. (...deleted). The preliminary data obtained from these people has been studied and it is now believed advisable to contact them again and get more details to determine whether or not ATIC should make a more complete study of the subject. It is requested that if it can be organized, a meeting with these people be set up for the morning of 10 Dec 52. The expected duration of the meeting will not be more than four to five hours. ATIC personnel will be Maj Edgar W. Gregory II, who has an Air Force Top Secret clearance, and Capt Edward J. Ruppelt, who has an Air Force Top Secret and an AEC "Q"-type clearance. Request reservations be made on morning Careo Airlines flight and that ATIC be advised who to contact if requested meeting can be arranged." 155.

Scribbled across this memo are the words: "Killed by the order of Col Bower 2 Dec 1952." The exact reason for Col. Bower's actions is not clear.

In a memo to the CIA Director from OSI Chief Chadwell on December 2, 1952, it was stated that Walter G. Whitman, Chairman of the Defense Department's Research and Development Board, was to: "...investigate the possibility of undertaking re-research and development studies through Air Force agencies." 156. Now that an appropriate agency had agreed to a major scientific effort, would the "powers-that-be" permit it?

A CIA meeting.

Some CIA scientific advisors met 11:00 o'clock the morning of December 2nd to be briefed. A CIA document tells us about the briefing and names some of the people originally approached back in August. Note allusions to having trouble getting Air Force cooperation. Another interesting part is the difference of opinion between Berkner and Zacharias. OSI Chief Chadwell wrote on December 3rd:

"At 1100 yesterday morning I met with Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Executive Vice President and Provost of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Dr. Max Millikan, Director of CENIS. I briefed them on the various new reports of sightings including the Limestone Base Case, the Florida Scout Master, the Utah Motion Pictures, etc. I also brought Dr. Stratton up to date on developments which had occurred since our previous discussion of the subject in August. Dr. Stratton reiterated his earlier position that this is a subject which must be investigated and he said that probably the best means of getting a thoroughly competent review of the problem would be through Project LINCOLN. He said, however, that in view of the delicate position in relation to the Air Force, as a result of the 'Summer Study Report,' any acceptance of this project by LINCOLN must be based on Air Force

concurrence or on an independent proposal from one of the other services. He said that Alfred Hill would be the best man to head the group. Assuming that it might prove impractical to place the Project at LINCOLN, we explored other possibilities including Princeton and Cal Tech. Dr. Stratton felt very strongly that Cal Tech would be the better of the two in view of the presence there of Robertson, Lauritson, Spitzer (on temporary duty from Princeton), Millikan's brother and others. Dr. Stratton asked particularly that we keep him informed of the progress that we make in having this problem investigated as he is personally very interested as well as fully aware of the potential danger and implications of the situation.

"Following the meeting with Drs. Stratton and Millikan, I had lunch at the Faculty Club with Lloyd Berkner and Jerrold Zacharias and briefed them on the recent cases and our feelings regarding their implications. Berkner, while apparently not interested in taking a personal part, felt strongly that the saucer problem should be thoroughly investigated from a scientific point of view. Zacharias did not appear to be greatly interested in the problem and made only one suggestion, i.e. that Shirley Quimby of Columbia University be brought into the picture. Quimby took his physics degree at the same time as Zacharias; is now at Columbia University, having during the war been a Navy scientist working on ASW. Zacharias suggested Quimby because the latter is probably the most expert man in the country on magic and general chicanery.

"My conclusion from these conversations is that it will probably be necessary to secure the full backing of DCI in order that a scientific review of this problem may be laid on. Without this backing, it would probably be impossible to secure the Air Force cooperation which would be necessary, particularly in the matter of availability of reports, etc.

"Attached hereto is a draft memorandum to the NSC and a simple draft NSC Directive establishing this matter as a priority project throughout the intelligence and the defence research and development community." 157.

The reference to the "Summer Study Report" must be the CIA OSI Study effort of August 1952 composed of Strong, Eng, and Durant; which prepared material for the November 21st DCI - ATIC briefing. Evidently the OSI Study Group's highly critical comments about the Air Force's UFO investigation methods offended ATIC.

December 3rd.

Nothing of significance occurred on this day but there was an important meeting on the day following.

December 4th.

The Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC), composed of the Directors of Intelligence for the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, the Atomic Energy Commission, the State Department, Joint Chiefs of Staff, a representative from the FBI, met on the 4th to discuss the proposed study of the UFO phenomena. For this particular meeting there was also some 15 specialists representing the Defense Department, State Department, and the CIA. The minutes of the gathering are given below:

"INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"Minutes of Meeting held in Director's Conference Room, Administration Building Central Intelligence Agency, on 4 December 1952.

"Acting Deputy Director (Intelligence) Central Intelligence Agency Mr. Robert Amory, Jr.

"MEMBERS PRESENT

"Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr., Special Assistant, Intelligence Department of State.

"Brigadier General John M. Willems, acting for Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army.

"Rear Admiral Carl F. Espe, Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy.

"Major General John A. Samford, Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, United States Air Force.

"Dr. Walter F. Colby, Director of Intelligence, Atomic Energy Commission.

"Brigadier General Edward H. Porter, Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff.

"Mr. Meffert W. Kuhrtz, acting for Assistant to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"ALSO PRESENT :

Dr. Sherman Kent, Central Intelligence Agency.

Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell, Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Paul Borel, Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Ludwell L. Montague, Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Philip Strong, Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Joseph W. Smith, Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. William C. Trueheart, Department of State.

Mr. Miron Burgin, Department of State.

Lieutenant Colonel T.C. Anderson, Department of the Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Edgar H. Thomson, Jr., Department of the Army.

Colonel John J. Morrow, United States Air Force.

Colonel Jack E. Thomas, United States Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Grant, United States Air Force.

Colonel S.M. Lansing, The Joint Staff.

Captain John A. Holbrook, USN, The Joint Staff.

--Richard D. Drain, Acting Secretary." 158.

That part of the minutes which dealt with UFOs stated:

"The Director of Central Intelligence will:

"a. Enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in the light of pertinent scientific theories.

"b. Draft and circulate to the IAC a proposed NSCID, which would signify IAC concern in the subject and authorize coordination with appropriate non-IAC departments and agencies.

"Discussion: The acting Chairman, Mr. Amory, presented to the committee the DCI's request that this subject be informally discussed. Dr. Chadwell briefly reviewed the evidence and peripheral considerations, and noted that most of the available evidence is processed by ATIC. General Samford offered his full cooperation. It was recognized that the problem is best approached if directly related to specific problems of intelligence and defense. It was thought desirable that the action noted above under 'a' be undertaken immediately, with consideration of a proposed NSCID to depend in some measure on the results achieved by the scientists' studies." 159.

What were the details of Dr. Chadwell's presentation? We would like to know if he mentioned anything about the high strangeness of the many UFO cases on file. In the CIA document quoted, vague wording was used about some sort of "relationship" with "specific problems" that had to do with "Intelligence and Defense." It would seem the CIA was continuing to stress the "psychological effect" of UFO reports.

The last sentence is of special interest, in that it states that the drafting of the directives urging action on the mystery would depend "in some measure" on the UFO panel's findings. As it would turn out, "in some measure" was hardly the way the panel's findings would be honored.

Fortunately, the FBI representative at the IAC meeting, Mr. Kuhrtz, took some notes which were written up in a memorandum by Bureau official V.P. Keay. Reading Mr. Kuhrtz's version of what transpired we find no hint of the alien visitor possibility being entertained at the gathering, but we do learn what Dr. Chadwell thought was important. Surprisingly, Chadwell emphasized two things which were certainly not at the top of the Air Force's UFO mystery list! In fact subsequent investigation would readily prove them inconsequential.

Mr. Kuhrtz also has a different way of defining what the proposed UFO jury's objective would be. The jury was to evaluate a possible Russian development only. Here is the memorandum:

"Pursuant to instructions, Supervisor M.W. Kuhrtz of the Liaison Section attended the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting on December 4, 1952.

"None of the agenda items are of direct interest to the Bureau; however, Dr. H.M. Chadwell, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), directed the members' attention to some aspects of the 'flying saucer' phenomena. He said that a recent presentation of a theory on 'saucers' was made by a German atomic scientist, (...deleted). According to Mr. Chadwell, efforts are being made to obtain the German scientist's paper on this theory. Also, it was stated that a recent 'saucers' observation in Africa presents some evidence that the 'saucers' are not a meteorological phenomena, which theory has been held to date by the Air Force. Instead, this latter incident indicated the possibility of the 'saucers' being a scientific development. The details of this African observation were not presented; however, appropriate contact will be made by the Bureau's Liaison Section with the Air Force to determine the details of this latter report.

"As a result of the above, the Military members suggested a logical approach which would call for a group of scientists to make a study of the new 'saucers' data in an effort to identify the phenomena. If an identification can be made by the scientists and it can be determined that the 'saucers' are a scientific development, then IAC should determine a further course of action for the U.S. Government. It was further suggested that the IAC should only concern itself with this matter on the basis that a competent scientific group might determine the 'saucers to be a scientific development under the control of our enemy.'

"Dr. Chadwell was directed to draft a paper on this problem for IAC consideration. Upon receipt of this draft, appropriate Bureau recommendation will be made prior to IAC approval.

"ACTION: Liaison will obtain the details of the 'flying saucers' observation in Africa from the Air Force." 160.

Scientific vs Intelligence research.

Two documents reveal more of the IAC's plans and how the UFO problem was being interpreted. One is the proposed letter to Secretary of Defense Lovett and the other is what was called a "Draft Cover Sheet." The only indication that a non-Russian origin might be explored is the reference to "fundamental scientific research," but it should be noted that any such research was expected to support the military's concern about the Communist threat.

The "Draft Cover Sheet" stated:

"INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



"Flying Unidentified Objects (Flying Saucers)

"1. Attached is a proposed letter to Secretary Lovett, alternatively: the NSC, from the DCI recommending the initiation of fundamental scientific research with respect to the nature and causes of unidentified flying objects (Flying Saucers).

"2. While it is recognized that the implications of Flying Saucers are of primary concern to the Defense Department in carrying out its responsibility to defend the United States, it is also believed that intelligence must request of appropriate authority such assistance as it needs to carry out its responsibility. It is believed that the scientific research required and the intelligence research contingent thereon can be most fruitful if they go hand in hand.

"3. Recommendations:

a. That the IAC concur in the proposed letter to the Secretary of Defense.

b. That the IAC request the Watch Committee to give close attention to indications which may reflect Russian actions are being taken with respect to or on the basis of cognisance of Flying Saucers or with respect to the state of United States public opinion in respect of Flying Saucers.

"4. (...deleted?) \*

"5. Conclusions:

a. The instigation of fundamental scientific research is the primary responsibility of the Defense Department.

b. The DCI, after IAC, should dispatch to Secretary Lovett, alternatively: the NSC, along the lines of attached. The cover sheet explaining to the IAC why the proposed letter is submitted is also attached (We should discuss this draft & the idea with A-2 before IAC).

c. It is far too early in view of the present state of our knowledge regarding Flying Saucers for psychological warfare planners to start planning how the United States might use U.S. Flying Saucers against the enemy.

d. When intelligence has submitted the National Estimate on Flying Saucers there will be the time and basis for a public policy to reduce or restrain mass hysteria.

(Signed)

James Q. Reber  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination" 161.

The "Draft Letter" stated:

"MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of Defense(alternatively:the NSC)

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\* There is blank space of about a half an inch where a #4 should be.

"SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects (Flying Saucers)

"1. The IAC has reviewed the current situation concerning unidentified flying objects which have caused extensive speculation in the press and have been the subject of concern to Government organizations. The Air Force, within the limitations of manpower which could be devoted to the subject, has thus far carried the full responsibility for investigating and analyzing individual reports of sightings. Since 1947, approximately 1500 official reports of sightings have been received and, of these, about 20% are as yet unexplained.

"2. It is my view and that of the IAC that this situation has possible implications for our national security with respect to the vulnerability of the U.S. to air attack. Intelligence, however, cannot discharge its responsibilities with regard to estimating the capabilities of an enemy to create and use such phenomena against the U.S. unless we first determine through scientific research whether or not such phenomena can in fact be generated and controlled by humans.

"3. It is therefore recommended, that the Department of Defense undertake an expanded scientific research program to reveal the nature of the various phenomena which are causing these sightings and means by which these phenomena may be identified immediately. It is also recommended that in such a project there be close cooperation between those conducting the research and scientific and technical intelligence research. The IAC agencies are prepared to do their part in such a project." 162.

Of special interest is point "d." which suggests that there was a definite goal to "reduce or restrain" what was termed "mass hysteria" by means of a "public policy." Apparently the implementation of this "public policy" was not contingent on the results of the investigations then underway!

"Go-to-hell approach."

True's persistence in pursuing the facts behind the UFO mystery gained an admirer by the name of Leonard H. Stringfield who wrote the magazine praising its effort as a much needed "forward, fact-rooted, go-to-hell, approach." The periodical published Stringfield's letter in its December, 1952, issue which brought him to the attention of an energetic Illinois UFO researcher by the name of Bill Culmer. It was Culmer's correspondence with Stringfield that encouraged the latter to eventually establish the Ohio-based Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects (CRIFO) in the mid-1950s; one of the largest civilian UFO groups of its day. 163.

"Dear President Kennedy."

The UFO wave of 1952 was so intense years later reports were still being compiled. An example was one man's 1952 experience he put down on paper in 1961 when President Kennedy was in office. He wrote the White House (he felt so strongly about the incident he went right to the top) that his sighting took place one evening in December while jogging along a highway near St. Augustine, Florida. While running he (his name is deleted from official records) he saw off to his right about 250 feet from the road and approximately 200 feet in the air was a large oval object with lighted "windows" and a "spinning outer edge." The thing stayed in view for about 10 seconds and then a blue flame gushed from one end which propelled the object out of sight at a fantastic velocity. The witness to this manifestation expressed doubt in his letter to the Chief Executive that the strange object was either American or Russian because over the years since no government has made such advances in space science. 164.

"Stalked by an orange globe."

A crew of laborers at a worksite at a dam at Anseromme in Belgium and were in the right place at the right time to have a UFO experience. Five of the men are named as witnesses in a report on the incident which occurred at 4:30 p.m. December 4th. The witnesses were: Messieurs Lambert, Croibien Andre, Jules Laloux, Roger Leonard, and a Fenand Huysman.

Huysman told investigators Laloux called his attention to an aircraft that was flying overhead, which was certainly nothing to get excited about, but there happened to be an orange-colored globe just above the aircraft keeping pace. The globe did not, however, maintain its position and speed for long. Huysman saw the strange, round, object, halt; dim to a steel-like lustre, and then resume speed and become orange-colored again. A bit later as it travelled across the sky, the orange globe paused, turned, and then shot upward at terrific velocity until it was lost from sight. 165.

"The pilot, out of sheer fright..."

The following is an Air Force summation of a jet-UFO encounter over Laredo, Texas, on December 4th:

"On the night of 4 Dec 52 an Air Force pilot was flying locally in a T-28 type a/c. It was at this time he noticed a rapidly moving bluish light at approximate traffic altitude (1500' to 2000'). It was approximately 8 o'clock low to his position, which was about 2 miles SE of the base at 6000' directly SW of the base traveling on a SE course. The pilot considered the object to be a 4th jet a/c outside the traffic pattern until he noticed the absence of position, passing, and fuselage lights. The pilot steepened his turn to the left to keep the object in sight. The object continued on a SE course until approximately 6 miles SE of his position which was approximately where he had originally sighted the object. At this time the object rose immediately to the pilot's altitude of 6000' and began a wide sweeping counter clockwise orbit of the base. The terrific speed of the object still led the pilot to think it was a jet aircraft until he realized from previous jet experience that the speed should have been considerably dissipated after such a maneuver. At a position approximately 3 miles N of the air field in the object's orbit, it immediately descended to approximately 19,000...[?]...1500 to 200' again and continued its orbit to the left around the city of Laredo, Texas, until it reached approximately the center of the business district, at which time the object made a very rapid flitting ascent due S to approximately 15,000'. The rate of climb was terrific. At this point, the object was approximately 6 to 8 miles SW of the pilot's position (which was directly over the ramp on a S heading). The object then turned Eastward and immediately descended to the pilot's altitude of 6,000' again and proceeded Eastward until approximately 6 miles SE of the base again and it seemed to stop as if it were hovering, going straight away or coming straight toward the pilot's aircraft. At this the pilot added full power and proceeded directly SE toward the object. The pilot's intentions were merely curiosity. Approximately 2 seconds after this action was taken by the pilot, the object appeared to close at a terrific rate in a head-on approach. At approximately 100 yards in front of the pilot's a/c the object seemed to waver slightly in a vertical plane as if determining on which side of his aircraft to pass. The object passed very closely off the left wing of the a/c within 50 yards distance and the pilot noted a blurred reddish-blueish haze of undetermined size and shape but definitely no larger than his a/c. This action happened so rapidly that the pilot was unable to take

any evasive action. Immediately after the object passed, the pilot broke sharply to the left in order to keep the object in sight. The object rapidly made a flitting ascent again to approximately 15,000' and circled to the left and began to descent as if positioning itself for another pass on the pilot's a/c. At this point, out of sheer fright, the pilot turned off all his running lights and spiraled steeply to the left, keeping the object in sight and leveled off at 1500'. At this time the object seemed to level off from its circling descent towards the pilot's a/c, turned sharply to the right on a S heading and made another rapid flitting ascent into the atmosphere until out of sight. The object was observed by the pilot for approximately 7 minutes and the exact time of the head-on-pass was 2053. The object has been referred to as an 'object' because it was identifiable only by the small, flickering blueish light by which the observer was able to track its flight path, the size of the light was described by the observer as approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of the glow emitted by normal position light on a T-33 type aircraft. Its speed was estimated to be in excess of 500 MPH and its maneuvers, which consisted mainly of rapid flitting ascents and descents, were unusually outstanding, because they were certainly not conventional. The observer parked his a/c on the Laredo AB ramp at exactly 2105 and shortly thereafter reported the incident to the proper authority.

"ATIC COMMENT: ATIC believes that it was an a/c and that the maneuvers were exaggerated." 166.

"Right angle turns."

An Air Force Staff Sergeant attached to an Air Police Squadron, Strategic Air Command, Camp Carson, Colorado, was on the infiltration course at 11:30 a.m. on December 4th when he happened to spot a speeding aerial body coming out of the east. The object was easy to see in the clear atmosphere, and when the Sergeant first saw it, he believed he was observing a jet plane approaching because of the object's high velocity (It took only 30 seconds to cross the sky). As the object drew near, the Sergeant became convinced he was watching something inexplicable so he called out to a civilian standing nearby, a Small Arms and Artillery Repairman employed by Post Ordinance, and directed his attention to the UFO.

According to the Sergeant (name deleted in official records), the object was a round-shaped aluminum-colored thing some 25 feet in diameter at an estimated 7,000 feet altitude. In his opinion the object was flipping over and over. The civilian agreed and expressed his impression this way: "...a momentary pulsation or projection out from the side was noticed two or three times." 167. This, the civilian suggested, may have been due to a "tipping motion."

When the object passed overhead, it approached close enough to be the apparent size of a basketball at arm's length. At that range the object's true shape could be discerned, appearing as an oval rather than a sphere which explained the "tumbling" also the apparent "pulsations and projections."

If the object was making any sound, it could not be heard because of some machinery in the vicinity was making a loud racket.

The most mysterious portion of the report is the remark by the Sergeant that mentioned: "While overhead the object made two right turns to the north and then west, each time without slowing down." 168. A drawing made by the witness shows these turns to be right angles.

December 5th.

The Tremonton UFO film and the Navy.

The Air Force photo lab at ATIC had ruled out aircraft to explain the images on the movie film taken at Tremonton, Utah, July 2, 1952. The BLUE BOOK team had ruled out aircraft because of the lack of sound, and if the distance of 10 miles was correct the speed would be far too high. A balloon explanation was also rejected due to the number of objects, and the fact one of the objects moved off in a direction opposite to the motion of the others.

After weeks of study the Air Force admitted it was unsure just what the images could be. Finding the aircraft and balloon solutions unconvincing, the soaring bird hypothesis was considered but it was not accepted unless there could be some way of proving the camera was slightly out of focus, a condition that could not be substantiated. The impasse prompted the U.S. Navy to request a chance to study the footage at their Anacostia Photographic Interpretation Center.\*

The Navy released its findings on December 5, 1952, the work being conducted by Lt. Comdr. Neasham and civilian Harry Woo under the direction of Arthur Lundahl.\*\* According to one source, the Navy team suffered from prejudice and was: "...inclined to accept unknown aircraft," 169. which was symptomatic of the fact that: "...members of several official groups were privately concerned with the serious possibility that 'flying saucers' might exist in fact." 170.

The Navy report declared that the images were not birds since the images' brightness was continuous which indicated an intrinsic source (they glowed). That was underscored by the assertion that no bird was sufficiently actinic (reflective) to produce the images on the film. The speed was computed to be 3,700 mph, assuming a distance of five miles from the camera. 171. Having apparently disposed of the of the strongest theory opposed to the objects being "extraordinary aircraft," the Navy team composed a carefully worded conclusion. Although not stating it in so many words, the implication was that the objects on the film were space ships. 172.

With Keyhoe as our authority, the Navy's evaluation of the Utah film dismayed the "silence group" and they requested that the Navy do nothing about their "unknown objects under intelligent control" opinions until the Air Force completed its own studies. A confident Secretary Kimball complied, having no worry about a short delay. 173.

CIA "guidance."

The number of UFO believers had been on the increase during 1952, a fact that was certainly true among the general public which was impressed by the mere quantity of reports being made. Among those in the military the story was the same because of the quality. The best example was the Michigan UFO-jet chase of July 29th that, according to Ruppelt, absolutely convinced "many of the Intelligence people he knew" that UFOs were from outer space. And then there was the study by Major Dewey Fournet, Colonel W.A. Adams, and Colonel Weldon Smith, key members of project BLUE BOOK, which analyzed reported UFO maneuvers and concluded that such objects must have been under intelligence control. Others in similar key positions were either "believers" or so unsure they felt uneasy. A case in point was Ruppelt's experience when he visited ADC HQ at Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the Fall and was challenged

\* As we have seen, this "request" is a matter of controversy.

\*\* During World War II Lundahl had been decorated a Knight Commander of the British Empire for his photo Intelligence liaison work in England. A decade later Lundahl would be the one to inform President John F. Kennedy that aerial photos showed Russian missiles in Cuba which set off the famous "Cuban Missile Crisis."

by a suspicious Major Verne Sadowski, liaison between the Air Defense Command and BLUE BOOK, who bluntly asked Ruppelt if he was "withholding information," showing a lack of confidence in ATIC's UFO policy. Moreover, in mid-October Colonel Albert L. Cox, Chief of the Air Force's Senate and White House Liaison, witnessed a spectacular UFO display that changed him overnight from a hard core skeptic to a true believer. Few people were positioned like Colonel Cox to preach the merits of the "UFOs are real" argument. Ruppelt even admits that some persons in the Pentagon requested that BLUE BOOK sent observers to the Pacific early in November to watch for aerial intruders during the H-Bomb tests be they "earthly or otherwise." What could halt this momentum?

Late in the year as CIA influence grew, attention was focused on a "UFO jury" to be held toward the end of the year, encouraging everyone to defer judgement on the UFO riddle, but this focus was just the Agency's idea because apparently the evidence was so impressive not everyone felt the UFO jury was needed. In Ruppelt's writings there is a definite indication that the effect of the UFO data gathered that summer was so strong it could threaten the jury's conclusions if such conclusions were negative.

In Ruppelt's book on UFOs he relates a real eyebrow-lifter of a UFO sighting at Goose Bay, Newfoundland, "early in 1952."\* There is a problem concerning Ruppelt's version of events because there is no such case in Air Force files for "early 1952." Instead, the case Ruppelt was referring to is without a doubt the one logged for November 16, 1952 (See pages 17-18 of this booklet). Was the mistake accidental? Perhaps not. A pursual of Ruppelt's account shows the Goose Bay case closely linked to a certain briefing held by Ruppelt, which he indicates in his book on UFOs took place in "mid-June, 1952," but, according to BLUE BOOK files, that is impossible since the Goose Bay incident occurred in mid-November as previously stated. When we shift the briefing from mid-June to mid-November, a possible motive for the displacement is apparent. The shift would put the briefing close to the convening of the UFO jury and during a period of some tension concerning the possibility that UFOs might represent alien visitations. Let us review the Goose Bay case and the forementioned briefing and make comparisons with the BLUE BOOK file and what is known of the general UFO situation.

#### The briefing.

The way Ruppelt tells it, this is the Goose Bay case. One evening "early in 1952" at 10:42 p.m. an Air Force C-54 was approaching Goose AFB after a flight from Westover AFB, Massachusetts, and while some 200 miles out the transport radioed ahead that a huge-looking fireball had overtaken and passed their aircraft and was last seen heading in the direction of Goose AFB. The Officer-of-the Day at Goose happened to overhear the radio message just as he was about to leave Flight Operations, so when the officer reached his car a few steps outside the building, he told his driver about the fiery phenomenon that might appear in the local sky any second. The driver left the car and joined the officer in scanning the southwest horizon. Within seconds the fireball appeared, growing rapidly from a pinpoint to the size of a golfball as it rushed toward where the men were standing. Fearing the worst the two military

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\* The reader is referred to pages 195-196 in Ruppelt's The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects.

men scrambled under the car for protection but the fireball did not hit the airstrip, instead, as the Air Force officer and his driver watched from their hiding place, the dazzling blob made a 90-degree turn when it reached a point over Goose AFB and left the scene on a northwest course. The Goose AFB control tower operators reported the same vision. The Air Force conclusion on this case was: "unknown." 174.

According to Ruppelt this case caused him some trouble during a briefing one morning in "mid-June" during what he expected to be a routine talk in a fourth floor briefing room at the Pentagon. Present was Director of Air Force Intelligence General Samford, some of the General's subordinates, a couple of Navy Captains representing Naval Intelligence, and "some people Ruppelt could not name." Ruppelt might have sensed trouble when Fournet told him that the talk's main emphasis should be the recent "alarming increase in UFO reports."

Ruppelt proceeded with the briefing by recognizing that there had indeed been an increase in the number of UFO reports but that they could still be dismissed as having conventional explanations if a few assumptions were made. At that, one of General Samford's subordinates, an unnamed Colonel, spoke up:

"Isn't it true, that if you make a few positive assumptions instead of negative assumptions you can just as easily prove that UFO's are interplanetary spaceships? Why, when you have to make an assumption to get an answer to a report, do you always pick the assumption that proves UFO's don't exist?" 175.

Ruppelt expected such a question sooner or later since he was well aware that spaceship speculations were making the rounds in Washington although no one dared to be too public about such discussions. Now that such sentiments had been broached in an official briefing, Ruppelt had to face the music.

Before Ruppelt could gather his thoughts, the same Colonel brought up the 90-degree maneuver of the UFO over Goose AFB and asked why BLUE BOOK had classified the case "merely unknown."

In defense, Ruppelt suggested that the classification was adequate since the incident "might be explained" by the "passage of two different meteors combined with an optical illusion of some sort." The Colonel, incredulous, immediately countered with: "What are the chances of having two extremely spectacular meteors in the same area travelling the same direction, only five minutes apart?" 176. Ruppelt mumbled something about a rather minuscule mathematical probability.

"Yes, why not?"

Enbalden by such a weak response, the Colonel snapped: "What kind of an optical illusion would cause a meteor to appear to make a 90-degree turn?" 177. Backed into a corner, Ruppelt blurted out: "I don't know." 178. Sensing victory, the Colonel answered his own question:

"Why not assume a point that is more easily proved? Why not assume that the C-54 crew, the OD, his driver, and the tower operators did know what they were talking about? Maybe they had seen spectacular meteors during the hundreds of hours that they had flown at night and the many nights that they had been on duty in the tower. Maybe it was some kind of an intelligently controlled craft that had streaked northeast across the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Quebec Province at 2,000 miles per hour.

"Why not just simply believe that most people know what they saw." 179.

On that note a lively exchange broke out that had everyone talking at once, the confusion ending the briefing, and although the questions raised by the Colonel were valid, Ruppelt knew he dared not implement a policy of "positive assumptions."

Some comments.

In Ruppelt's account of the Goose Bay case there is some discrepancies worth noting. He omitted details that greatly enhanced the case's strangeness. The BLUE BOOK record says the UFO appeared much larger than a "golf ball" (Ruppelt), instead it was "oval-shaped" and grew in size until it appeared the size of a "grapefruit," moreover the official file states the object had "broken red and blue lines about it." 180. Furthermore, after making the 90-degree turn, the object travelled in a "bouncing or skipping motion," and while still in sight the object changed direction a second time going into a climb' 181.

In Ruppelt's account he states that the extraterrestrial hypothesis had been gaining adherents in growing numbers within the military for several months. If the "mid-June" date for his briefing was correct, then he meant March, April, and May, rather quiet months UFO-wise, but if we shift the briefing to November then the months would be August, September, and October, certainly a more logical time period. Similarly, there is a reference to an "alarming increase in UFO reports." Since the big 1952 UFO flap was just getting under way in mid-June, it seems unlikely that the date is correct, but if we again consider the mid-November date, then Ruppelt is referring to the summer months which certainly makes more sense. The shift seems ill-disguised and raises an intriguing thought: did a censor re-write this part of Ruppelt's book?

Who was at the briefing?

Since Ruppelt gives no names of those at the meeting, other than General Samford's, it is interesting to speculate on their identities. Why would an Air Force Colonel challenge Ruppelt in front of General Samford if he was one of the General's subordinates and knew Samford was a UFO doubter? Was this Colonel just trying to test Ruppelt, or did this Colonel want to prove a point because he disagreed with Air Force policy? Why would some Colonel risk such a bold move? It is quite possible the Colonel was William A. Adams of Wright Field who wanted his UFO maneuvers study accepted by the Pentagon and/or General Samford. It is significant that the unnamed Colonel chose to refer to a UFO maneuver to prove it was intelligently controlled and that in Ruppelt's account of the same case, two of the maneuvers reported were omitted. Also, it should be noted that shifting the date of the briefing to mid-June would put it before Smith's study was conducted which would tend to throw a person off the track in identifying Colonel Smith as the one doing the questioning. And what about those Navy people? Could it be they were pushing the startling results of the UFO film evaluation by the Navy's Neasham and Woo? Last of all, who were those people Ruppelt "couldn't name" for security reasons. The best guess is that they were CIA representatives. Again here is another reason for moving the briefing to mid-June because at that time the CIA was not actively involved in the UFO investigation but by mid-November, on the other hand, the secret organization was deeply involved.

What constituted proof was already a sensitive issue and would become more so after the much touted UFO jury finished its deliberations.

"Confidential analysis."

Donald Keyhoe also makes a reference to a special meeting at the Pentagon during this period (November-December?) and possibly the same one Ruppelt wrote about. The purpose of the meeting according to Keyhoe was a: "...confidential analysis of the UFO evidence." 182. Keyhoe names some of those in attendance: Colonels William A. Adams and Wesley S. Smith of the Directorate of Intelligence, Al Chop, Maj. Dewey Fournet, and Capt. Ruppelt. For some reason a "General" from Wright Field was there although his name was not remembered. Unlike Ruppelt account, Keyhoe says nothing about Navy Intelligence people



being present. And where Ruppelt relates that "some people he couldn't name were at the meeting," Keyhoe's version states that some scientists predisposed to doubt UFOs were selected by the CIA and were among the invited guests. The gathering, according to Keyhoe, was CIA arranged and it steered the attending scientists toward a negative view of the UFO subject. 183.

Keyhoe tried to learn more about the "saucer briefings" being held at the Pentagon, and when Admiral Bolster was summoned to one such briefing in early December, Keyhoe pressed Al Chop for details. Chop refused to answer questions saying that such briefings were classified and tried to reduce Keyhoe's curiosity by insisting that the discussions between Intelligence people and Defense officials merely covered recent UFO reports. That failed to satisfy Keyhoe who knew that Admiral Bolster's briefing lasted two-three hours! 184.

December 6th.

9,000 mph ?

Donald Keyhoe made much of the next case in his writings on UFOs. If the reader of Keyhoe's version wonders how the official file relates the event, here is the clearest and most complete statement in the BLUE BOOK record:

"On 6 December 1952, while flying over the Gulf of Mexico towards Galveston, Texas, the flight engineer finished transferring fuel and I then turned on my radar set.

"I noticed an unidentified object approaching our aircraft at a terrific rate of speed. I timed it as best as I could with my stopwatch over a known distance and the instructor flight engineer computed the speed as 5,240 mph. I alerted the entire crew to look for the object visually and some flashes of light were noticed. The closest the objects came were approximately 20 miles. I saw about twenty objects in all, sometimes as much as two and three on the scope at one time. I re-calibrated the set and there was no change.

"The object was small and possibly round, with the exception of one very large return shaped as follows:"(" -- moved as arrow indicated.

"I also noticed a large return come up to within 40 miles of our tail from behind, and then disappeared.

"To the best of my knowledge, I believe that this object was real and moved at an extremely high speed and was not a set malfunction or optical illusion." 185.

The foregoing information was the statement of 1st Lt. Norman Karas. His crewmate, 1st Lt. William W. Naunann, had this to add:"Contact was broken off at 0535 after a group of the blips merged into a ½ inch curved arc about 30 miles from our a.c. at 320 degrees and proceeded across the scope and off it at a computed speed of over 9,000 mph." 186.

Flurry over New Zealand.

A whistling, blue-green disc-shaped object sailed over Auckland, and other towns in New Zealand's North Island December 6th. 187,

That same day at Plimmerton, New Zealand(no time known) a bright green luminous ball-shaped object with a band of bright spots, was seen traveling toward the south. A faint hissing sound was heard. 188. That same evening, at 9:45 p.m., at Palmerston, New Zealand, a green ovoid was sighted moving toward the southeast while emitting a low hissing noise. This green sphere was approached by a blue object, shape not mentioned in report, and both UFOs travelled together toward the southwest, the blue object flying above the green one. 189.

December 7th. Nothing of consequence.

December 8th.

"Not a saucer, But --"

Under the headline: "Not a saucer, But --" the Chicago Sun-Times reported a story about some strange lights:

"Flying 'lights' not saucers reported sighted near Chicago by a veteran airplane pilot.

"Ernie Thorpe said he saw the lights while piloting a C-46 cargo plane at 2,500 feet six miles southwest of O' Hare Field Monday night.

"Thorpe said he saw a string of lights 'flying alongside' his plane about a quarter of a mile away.

"'They didn't conform to any plane I've ever seen,' he declared. 'There were five or six white ones and a rapidly blinking red one -all in a straight line.'

"'It wasn't a flying saucer. But I don't think it was an airliner or military plane. It's got me stumped.'

"He said his co-pilot, H.S. Plowe, saw the light string also.

"Military authorities said they knew of no large aircraft in the area and added radar posts had reported nothing unusual. But Chicago filter spotters said they had a report that a large unidentified craft was flying near Naperville at about the time Thorpe saw the lights." 190.

December 9th.

Phenomenal speed, erratic flight.

The location was Ladd AFB, Alaska. It seems that a F-94A jet piloted by a 1st Lt. Donald Dickman, with radar observer 1st Lt. Thomas Davis, was approaching Ladd field preparing to land when Lt. Davis visually sighted a strange moving object that was oval, white-colored, and giving off a diffused glow.

The aviators watched as the mysterious airborne object sped along at a constant speed in a straight line at 2,000 altitude for some 60 seconds and then began to accelerate. As the UFO passed from right to left, pilot Dickman had to turn his jet to begin his final approach for landing but both he and Lt. Davis managed to keep their eyes on the mysterious oval as it: "...ascend[ed] at a phenomenal rate with a straight course and very erratic flight characteristics." 191. As the UFO zoomed skyward its color appeared to shift from white to red. When the F-94A touched down and rolled to a stop, the UFO was still visible in the heavens. Lt. Dickman and Lt. Davis observed the UFO travelling in an erratic manner for a number of seconds and then saw it go into a dive gradually slowing its descend and getting redder and redder. How the UFO was lost from view was not specified. 192.

Presque Isle.

A big push was on to confirm the astonishing calculations by weather people at Presque Isle AFB. A message from ATIC on December 9th to Presque Isle notified the airbase that a Lt. A.G. Flues of project BLUE BOOK would arrive soon to make a personal investigation of the UFO case and requested that local officials provide equipment and personnel to help recreate the conditions at the time of the incident. An explanation blaming the excitement on a bright planet was making the rounds at ATIC but BLUE BOOK was determined, apparently, to pursue the issue. The case turns up in a CIA paper dated December 9th authored by a F.C. Durant which mentions the planet "Saturn." In addition, Durant's memo referred to a mysterious opposition of Colonel Donald Bower to cooperation with the CIA:

"1. At 1015 hours today I talked by telephone with Captain Edward J. Ruppelt (Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch, Analysis Division, ATIC). The purpose of the call was to determine if Captain Ruppelt would be in Washington during the next few days so that he might meet with Dr. Robertson. Also, if there had been any developments in the Limestone-Presque Isle case

"2. Captain Ruppelt stated that he had put in a request to come to Washington last week but that he been 'running into a snag' in getting away and he intimated that his intention to specifically visit CIA may have been the difficulty. By oblique references it was determined that Colonel Donald L. Bower (Chief, Analysis Division) was blocking his trip. Note: If this is true, it is difficult to understand since Colonel Bower, in discussions with E. Tauss and myself on 25 November, indicated complete willingness for cooperation. Ruppelt stated that he would try again and hoped to be in Washington next week. I gave no indication of the agreements reached on this subject in the IAC meeting on 4 December.

"3. Regarding the Limestone-Presque Isle case, Captain Ruppelt reported that the observation is suspected of being the planet Saturn. A sighting of Saturn with the same theodolite will be made within the next few days. An examination of this data with possible theodolite readings errors should indicate whether the sighting could conceivably have been of this planet. I find it difficult to believe that the moons of Saturn could be seen visibly.

"4. Captain Ruppelt stated that he had a package of analyses and reports which he desired to have O/SI study and was planning to hand-carry to Washington. I mentioned that someone from O/SI might be making a trip to ATIC within the next week or so. Ruppelt stated that he would be pleased to hear from me at any time. 193.

December 9th.

No radar contact!

More mysterious flying lights near Chicago. An Air Force report states:

"Four bright lights in diamond formation were sighted at 1745 by a captain and a lieutenant [W.D. Dridges and 1st Lt. J.E. Johnson] in a T-33 aircraft located south of Madison, Wisconsin. The pilot followed until they overtook the objects and continued following them until low on fuel at which point they returned to their base. At no time was a silhouette visible, even against the lights of Milwaukee. Visibility was almost unlimited with a broken cloud deck at 25,000 feet. The observing aircraft was an altitude of 8,000 feet.

"Local radar was contacted to determine if they picked up the unidentified objects with negative results. The objects were traveling at a very high speed, excessive for weather balloons. The only possible explanation would center around aircraft in the area. To fit the speed of the object the aircraft would probably have to be in the jet category. There is no record of local or transient aircraft in the area. Furthermore, local radar was carrying the T-33 on its scope but had no return from the unidentified object. If the unknown was an aircraft it would have been evident on the scope.

"Conclusion: 'Unknown.' " 194.

December 10th,

"Summary of current situation."

The chief of the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence, H. Marshall Chadwell, wrote a memo for the agency's director on December 10th titled: "Summary of Situation," a document that apparently indicated what the CIA believed was of importance. Of the two items indirectly identified, the reader should recognize the Presque Isle case and the Florida scoutmaster "Sonny" Des Vergers incident. One should note that when Chadwell gets specific, he is concentrating on whether solid objects of unknown origin exist, not on anything psychological. The memo alludes to photographic images, theodolite measurements, and it the scoutmaster incident evidently to the puzzling burning of the grass roots.

The memo reads:

"1. The following is a summary of the current situation with respect to the investigation of unidentified flying objects. Recent incidents include:

- a. Movies of ten (10) unidentified flying objects (unexplained on the basis of natural phenomena or known types of aircraft), near Tremonton, Utah, on 2 July 1952.
- b. A very brilliant unidentified light over the coast of Maine for about four hours on the night of 10-11 October at a height computed to be two or three times that which can be sustained by any known device.
- c. Alleged contact with a device on the ground in Florida late this summer which left some presently unexplained after-effects.
- d. Numerous other sightings of lights or objects which either in configuration or performance do not resemble any known aerial vehicle or explainable natural phenomena.

"2. In furtherance of the IAC action on 4 December, O/SI has been working with Dr. H.P. Robertson, consultant (former Director of Research, WSEG), toward establishing a panel of top scientists and engineers in the fields of astrophysics, nuclear energy, electronics, etc., to review this situation. Wholehearted cooperation has been assured by DI/USAF and ATIC, and a visit by AD/SI, Dr. Robertson, and Mr. Durant of SI to ATIC is planned for Friday. It is hoped to organize the panel and undertake substantive scientific review of this subject within the next two to three weeks." 195.

"Killed by Colonel Bowers."

Colonel Bowers' name comes up again during this period. It seems that there was suppose to be a meeting to be held on December 10, 1952, between a group of Los Alamos scientists and BLUE BOOK representatives, arranged by Dr. H. H. Crew of Los Alamos, to discuss unexplained radiation readings and UFO sightings at the New Mexican facility. BLUE BOOK was to be represented by a Maj. Edgar W. Gregory (who had a Top Secret clearance) and E.J. Ruppelt (who had a Top Secret and "Q"-type clearance). Scribbled in pencil across the message was this: "Killed by order of Col. Bower 2 Dec. 1952." 196.

"Possible balloon?"

In the sky over Odessa, Washington, which is near the Hanford atomic works, an object was spotted on December 10th which the Air Force termed a "possible balloon."

The following is an Air Force report on the incident which includes an official commentary:

"I. Description of Incident.

Two pilots in an F-94 made a visual and radar contact with a large, round white object larger than any known type of aircraft. A dim reddish-white light came from the object as it hovered, reversed direction almost instantaneously and then disappeared. The object appeared to be level with the intercepting F-94 at 26,000 to 27,000 feet. Airborne radar and visual contact were simultaneous and lasted for 15 minutes. F-94 attempted to contact local GCA but without success. Weather was clear above 3,000 feet. Time of sighting was 1915 PST.

"II. Discussion of Incident.

Two additional F-94 were in the general area but at lower altitudes and thus are eliminated as possible cause for the sighting. The description of 'large, round and white and extremely large' is significant. Upper air research balloons are tear-shaped and made of translucent polyethylene and at cruising altitude expand to as much as 90 feet in length. The equipment hanging below the balloon is capable of making a return to airborne radar. Although ATIC has received no record of upper air research balloon tracks for this date the description of the object allows a preliminary evaluation of 'possible balloon.'" 197.

As can be seen by the the discussion above, the explanation is based on a "negative assumption." UFOs don't exist so the object in question is a "possible balloon." One might just as easily explain the object as a "possible UFO."

True comes out swinging.

The magazine True had launched a new investigation of the UFO mystery under the guidance of Donald Keyhoe with the results appearing in its December issue: "What Radar Tells About Flying Saucers." The article had the usual hard-hitting writing style, giving case after case of puzzling episodes from declassified BLUE BOOK files. For every expert backing the skeptic's position, Keyhoe found one to back his (The True article would form the heart of Keyhoe's next book on the UFO mystery). Keyhoe countered the complacently engendered by General Samford's July press conference by getting quotes from the controllers on duty during the incidents. Harry Barnes, the chief controller, was quoted as saying 'ie rejected outright the temperature inversion theory to explain the blips seen on the scopes. Barnes told Keyhoe he had watched those same scopes for six years and: "...absolutely nothing - high speed jets, storms, inversions, or anything else - has ever caused echoes that manuvered like that, and we have had identical weather conditions many times."

The extremely small temperature inversion that existed at Washington the night of July 20th(1 degree Fahrenheit) and the night of July 26th(2 degrees Fahrenheit), was touted as positive proof an inversion could not explain the Washington blips. If you threw in the apparent intelligence movements of the and the visual sightings, the case for actual machines was very strong in Keyhoe's eyes.\* 198.

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\* This writer has his own doubts about the weather theory. If the blips were due to natural phenomena, why would they all be uniform in size? Would not not some be big and others small? Wouldn't they vary in shape?

### The Washington D.C. radar targets: reflection tricks?

The Civil Aeronautics Administration released a long statement on December 10th that was intended to explain the UFOs on Washington D.C. radar the previous July as temperature inversions although the agency advised further study. 199.

The source of the statement was the CAA's Technical Development and Evaluation Center which claimed it had checked with tower radars at Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, and New York. It said it found that when mysterious targets appeared on the scope temperature inversions "almost always" were present.

The Evaluation Center postulated that the odd returns resulted from reflections from "isolated refracting areas," which were atmospheric eddies produced by the "shearing action of dissimilar air strata." 200.

The team of CAA experts came up with some interesting calculations when discussing the horizontal movement of these strange blips. It was asserted that the bending of the radar beam would produce speeds twice that of the wind at certain levels and a direction much similar. The New York Times, which carried this story, summed up: "While the C.A.A. report was conclusive in tracing the saucers to 'secondary reflections of the radar beam by atmospheric conditions,' the agency stated that it would seek 'additional evidence.'" 201.

December 11th.

#### Object near Orion.

Two teachers in New Jersey (city name censored) wrote the Air Force to say that on the night of December 11, 1952 they were walking down the street when they decided to observe the constellation Orion. It was while they were studying these stars, that a "meteor-like" flash just to the left of Orion took on the form of a star-like body which, upon reaching a point above what is called Orion's sword, reversed its heading instantly and sailed away to the right in an erratic up and down motion. Shortly thereafter the object settled down to a smooth motion as it travelled out of sight. 202.

December 12th.

#### Another New Jersey mystery.

Between 12:25 and 12:30 a.m. December 12th some airmen stationed at Mc Guire AFB, N.J., observed a glowing orange-red ball maneuver over the airfield. There was no sound heard nor was there any indication of how the object was propelled. When first seen the UFO appeared slightly larger than a star as it veered and made several turns, moving at an estimated 700 mph. None of the airmen thought the object was a jet and they knew of no military activity at Mc Guire that would account for the phenomenon. The pass of the UFO over the airbase a second time was at a lower altitude and that enabled the airmen to clearly discern the UFO's perfectly round shape since it appeared "half the size of a basketball." 203.

#### The Adamski "scoutship" photo.

A couple of weeks after the alleged November 20th "contact near Desert Center," Jerrold Baker had a long talk with George Adamski on the subject of saucer photography, pointing out that two photographers with two different cameras at separate locations was needed for the best results. Baker suggested that Adamski should set up his camera equipment at its usual location "when a saucer was due" while he, Baker, stationed himself elsewhere on the property. The ex-Air Force Sergeant was still under the spell of the "professor" during this period, believing that Adamski actually knew when his space friends would appear.

On December 12th Baker drove Alice Wells to Escondido to buy supplies for the cafe she operated. According to Baker, he had no inkling Adamski was up to anything, in fact he was in no particular hurry to get back to Palomar Gardens because he and Miss Wells spotted a fire on the mountain and out of curiosity paused at the local ranger station to make inquiries about the blaze. Upon arriving at the cafe, Adamski surprised Baker by declaring he had taken some good saucer pictures that very morning and had rushed them to Carlsbad to have them developed by D.J. Detwiler who did such work for him on a regular basis. 204. 205.

The following day, the 13th, Detwiler showed up at Palomar Gardens with prints. There was a number of visitors at the cafe when Detwiler appeared. Among those present were George Williamson, a Mayme Malm, and a Hal Nelson. Desmond Leslie, who was not there, credits an unnamed source as saying that Baker was very excited that day, running around boasting he had taken one of the sensational pictures Detwiler had brought. 206. Later a sworn statement by Baker was circulated identifying him as having snapped at least one of Venusian spaceship photos. 207.

The most famous and controversial pictures Adamski ever produced were among those allegedly taken on December 12th. They are supposed to show a close-up view of a "Venusian Scout Ship" at two different angles. One should consult the picture opposite of the title page in Adamski's book Flying Saucers Have Landed and another picture opposite page 112 in the same volume.

The basic shape of Adamski's supposed "scout ship" was certainly not new. The reader is referred to the back cover of Amazing Stories, Vol. 20, August 1946 #5, for some craft that have a strong similarity. (UFO author Frank Edwards felt Adamski had adapted an old Sear Roebuck chicken brooder.) As late as September 1975 a flurry of excitement occurred in the English press when a Richard Lawrence discovered a bottle cooler in an Italian restaurant that had startling likeness to the Adamski picture. This caused a sensation in England where many believed the Californian. Typical was the headline in the Evening Standard: "THE LID COMES OFF A UFO MYSTERY." Eventually, however, a refrigeration engineer by the name of Frank Nicholson admitted over the BBC that he had designed the cooler lid in 1959 by copying the Adamski photo. 208.

Adamski could have been inspired also by widely publicized "saucer" photos that had appeared in the press: the May 1950 Trent photo, the July 1952 Stocks photo, and the Guy B. Marquand's photo of November 1951 that is almost a dead ringer (at a distance) and was taken near Riverside, California, which is not too far from Adamski's neighborhood.

Another view is that of David Wightman who noted J. N. Mansour's comments that Adamski's camera-telescope arrangement was too crude to produce the results claimed and suggested that an ordinary camera was used to take a picture of a model about a foot across. Wightman asserts that Adamski obtained his inspiration from a picture of a domed-disc configuration space ship made in 1932 by a professional photographer and amateur astronomer by the name of Lonzo Dove. It was Dove who crafted the model. It is Wightman's charge that Adamski received a photo of the Dove model from Clara Louis John who published a UFO-occult bulletin out of Washington D.C. titled: The Little Listening Post. Furthermore, according to Wightman, a correspondence between Mrs. John and Adamski was extensive before and after November 20, 1952 and that it was no accident Mrs. John was working on the "professor's" crude notes in preparation for a book on the "desert contact." And that is not all, Wightman says Mrs. John not only passed on Dove's pictures, but Dove's research notes which include dates of possible future alien landing and that Adamski made a big mistake to pick one - November 20th. 209.

There is one significant thing about the Dove model and the other "saucers" mentioned as inspiration for Adamski, and that is the lack of a ball shaped landing gear. Adamski's alleged 35-foot scout craft was suppose to

have three spherical wheels that allowed it to land in any direction. There seems to be little doubt Adamski had followed the Frank Scully story (Baker at least knew Scully quite well). In the True magazine story about Scully in the publication's September, 1952, issue authored by J.P. Cahn there is sentence:

"The third ship alighted in Arizona's Paradise Valley, right above Phoenix, and it was different from the others in being only a 36-foot two-seater and having a three-point landing gear consisting of steel balls rolling in sockets." 210.

Everything considered, there are many reasons to question all of Adamski's claims.

December 14th.

Mystery object off the Japanese coast.

The location was a radar site on the coast of Japan at Tsutsu Saki. Just before 4:00 a.m. December 14th an airman by the name of K.B. Pentel felt the need to escape the stuffy air of radar operations, a dark, crammed, room lit only by the soft glow of the surveillance screens, weakly illuminated plotting and weather display boards, and a few tiny desk lamps. Airman Pentel found a window ajar, opened it, and took a deep breath of cool night atmosphere. While doing so, Pentel noticed something glowing a brilliant yellow he estimated to be some 10 miles off shore hovering in the sky. The bright dot jumped about, up and down, right and left. The erratic motion was more than one would expect from an illusion the displacement being as much as 7-10 degrees. Airman Pentel alerted airman Edwards who was on scope duty but nothing could be detected in the sector where the UFO was doing its dance. In the meantime a radar maintenance man, A/3C Ellis, joined in the observation and noticed that the UFO, which they all believed to be a round object but the glare made that assertion uncertain, was casting a kind of spot-light beam down toward the water. While the three witnesses watched, the UFO moved away in on a rising course until it reached an estimated 20,000 feet, and then continued to move away on a descending course. The color of the UFO changed as it increased its distance, shifting to a dull orange hue. The strange dot in the sky disappeared below the horizon at 4:20 a.m. 211.

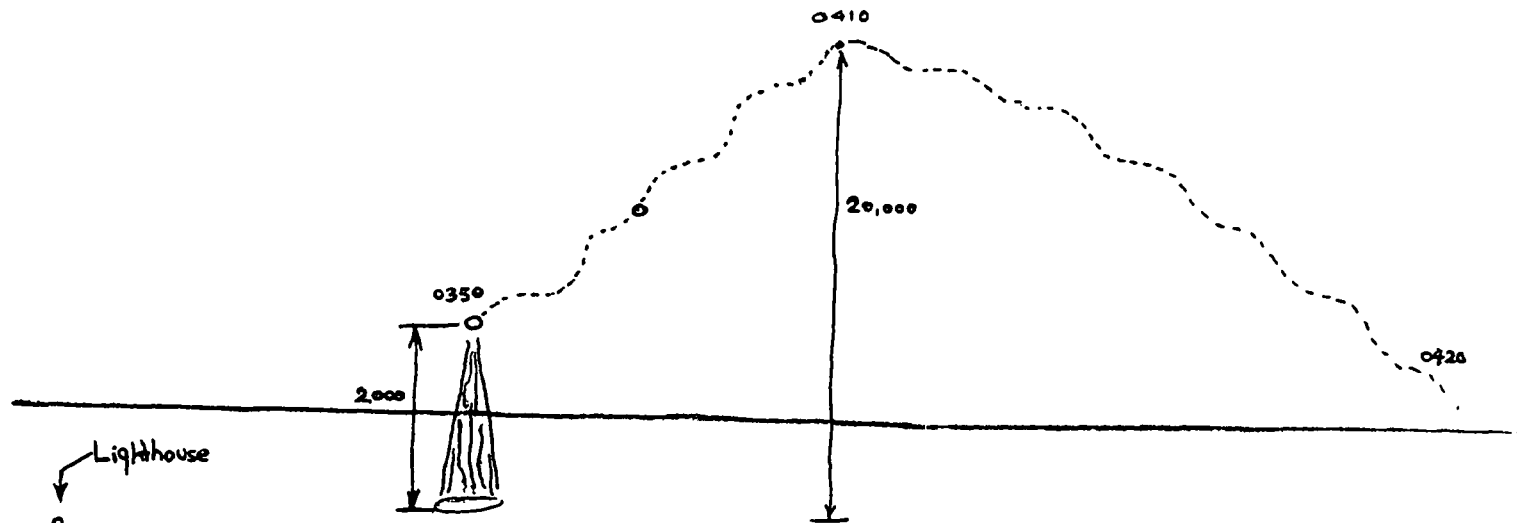
"Unfamiliar aeronautical object."

Although the story was highly unusual, military authorities passed on the information to E.J. Ruppelt quickly because the observer making the report was exceptionally well qualified, a Ray Franke, aeronautical engineer and former test pilot. Moreover, two additional witnesses verified the sighting.

At the University of Virginia airport, Charlottesville, Virginia, about 11:45 a.m., Franke was having a talk with 19-year-old student pilot Harry Pont Jr. During his conversation Franke noticed a "column of trash tumbling in the air" not far away. At first he believed the phenomenon was just a small whirlwind, but looking closer he saw a strange glowing fireball hovering just above the column of trash, apparently responsible for the "up draft." Astonished, Franke summoned his wife and his airplane mechanic. The mechanic arrived too late to see the fireball but his wife saw the object before it put on a terrific burst of speed and zoomed out of sight. The student pilot, of course, witnessed the entire incident and helped a lot by supplying some interesting drawings of the fireball to BLUE BOOK. 212.

Mr. Franke was a 39-year-old Associate Engineer working on a classified

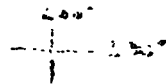




Lighthouse



Radar Operations



Tsutsu Saki, Japan

project for the Bureau of Standards. He had a commercial pilot license with over 10,000 hours in the air. Furthermore, as a test pilot for Curtis Wright, he had an additional 2,000 hours flight time.

December 15th.

The radiation story continued.

A possible reason for Colonel Bowers' canceling a trip to Los Alamos by BLUE BOOK personnel is contained in the following memorandum. Once the misunderstanding was cleared up, Ruppelt went ahead with his inquiries. The memo has some deleted names but they have inserted where the person's identity is apparent. Two of the gentlemen are known. One is W.W. Carter, Ph.D. from Cal Tech, who worked at Mt. Wilson Observatory which is not far from a similar observatory at Mt. Palomar. In 1952 Dr. Carter was employed in the Weapons Division at Los Alamos. The second scientist was H.T. Gittings, Jr., who had a B.S. in physics from the University of Arizona. In 1952 he worked in the equipment Lab at Los Alamos. The third gentleman referred to cannot be identified.

The memo detailed a phone call from Ruppelt to Gittings on December 15, 1952:

"...The purpose of the call was to contact Mr. Gittings in regard to some previous data that Capt. Ruppelt had obtained about a correlation between the visual sightings of UFO and radiation from unknown sources. Previous to this, Capt. Ruppelt sent Mr. Gittings a registered letter requesting the data, but the letter was returned as unclaimed. Mr. Gittings explained that when the letter arrived, he had been out of town and the post office had gotten mixed up on his instructions to hold any mail and had returned the letter.

"Although not too much data could be obtained over the telephone, Mr. Gittings did shed some light on some of the questions that had been asked in regard to the correlations. In the first place, a Mr. Carter was the person who knew people at Mt. Palomar who had also seen unidentified aerial objects at the same time they had detected some radiation. Contrary to previous beliefs, Mr. Carter was not there at the time and only heard of the incident through personal letters from these people at Mt. Palomar. Mr. Gittings stated that he was sure that Mr. Carter could give us the names of the people at Palomar and there is a possibility that they are still there. The other gentleman involved in the sightings at Los Alamos is a Mr. (...deleted). Mr. (...deleted) stated that between 1 Oct 51 and 1 Oct 52 he had picked three or four definite indications of radiation from unknown sources and that several of them had correlated with newspaper articles within two hours. He was not sure how many Mr. Carter obtained.

"In describing the nature of the radiation which had been picked up, Mr. (...deleted) stated that 'they picked up a vertical component - a particle that penetrated three thin walled tubes and the roof of the building.' The tubes are 5/8 inches in diameter and 2 inches on center. He stated that they had checked all sources of radiation from the laboratory and that this type of radiation was far out of line for any cosmic activity.

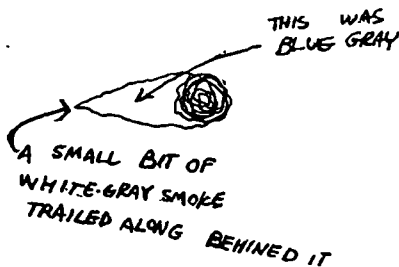
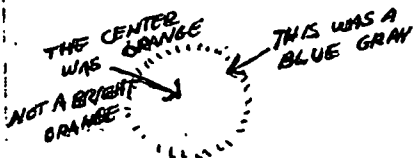
"Mr. Gittings was asked to obtain more information on the type of equipment that was used to get the radiation, the exact dates and time of all indicated radiation, and little bit of background on each of the people. He was also told that personnel from Blue Book would try to contact him personally within the next two or three weeks to obtain all of this information." 213.

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

a. Sound \_\_\_\_\_

b. Color \_\_\_\_\_

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include any other things about the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially indicate the direction of the object with an arrow to show the direction the object was moving.

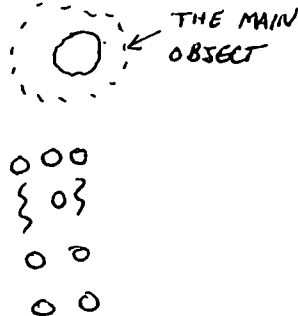
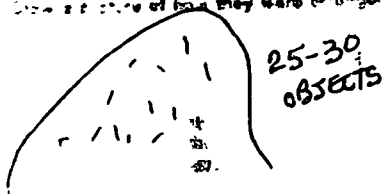


EDGE OF DISCHARGE WAS FUZZY.

18. The edges of the object were

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

19. Were there MORE THAN ONE color? How many were there?  
Size & shape of how they were arranged and what they were doing.



Charlottesville, Virginia

Student pilot drawing.

December 16th.

A UFO "takes a look at Ladd."

Airman 1/C Richard Long first sighted a strange light in the sky at 5:55 a. m. December 16th. Long was watching from Ladd AFB, Alaska, an installation that seemed to get more than its share of UFO activity. At first the light just moved up and down but suddenly it headed directly toward the airbase travelling at the speed of a jet. Quickly, however, the light braked to a barely perceptible velocity and briefly blinked out. Airman Long summoned Airman Koach who was just a short distance away. A third witness was a Lt. Leroy P. Oakley who was inside a hanger but ran outside in time to see the odd light coast over the field, blink a second time, and then ascend slowly until it was out of sight. 214.

At 10:00 p.m. December 16th at Gisbourne, New Zealand: "Luminous blue object with lighter spot in center, moved erratically, very fast, eastward." 215.

December 17th.

Objects over San Diego.

Six persons were engaged in technical work when one of their number happened to notice some strange bright objects flying around above the city of San Diego. After several glances the witness became convinced he was observing something highly unusual so he asked others in the room to come to the window and verify the phenomena. Five of the witnesses are named in Air Force BLUE BOOK files; C.F. Althouse, Electronic Scientist; Nate Waddington, Electronic Mechanic; N.C. Kelly, Electronic Mechanic; and H.W. Volberg, Electronic Scientist. Here is a statement of one of the men:

"The phenomena occurred at approximately 3:15 PM, Wednesday, 17 December 1952. The area, as viewed from Room 1061A, Building 33, U.S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, was clearly visible and encompassed North Island and downtown San Diego. A heavy rain cloud was off to the right and extended to sea level at the Coronado Rhodes. Rain clouds also formed a ceiling over the visible area but at much greater height and extended inland to the mountain tops. There were several types of aircraft in flight around North Island at the time enabling a direct comparison between local aircraft and the object seen. The North Island Tower rotating-light was clearly visible with glaring brightness.

"Two objects were seen by the undersigned and three associates as they appeared from the vicinity of the large rain cloud over Coronado Rhodes. Their altitude was roughly the same level as Building 33 and their travel was in a northerly direction generally estimated to be somewhere over the western end of North Island. It was clear that their bodies masked any portion of the city corresponding to their silhouette area.

"The objects themselves were of the same order of brightness as the North Island Tower light, and appeared to have a round shape well defined at the edges as compared with a glaring light. It is emphasized at this point that the North Island Tower light was not brilliant enough to cause a retention of its brightness in the eye.

"The color composition of the objects appeared to be white. Both objects were at slightly different levels when first seen and as they proceeded to a point approximately over Barge 4 in the channel, the lower object abruptly turned downward in a jerking manner quite unlike an object dropped from level flight. The descending object was lost from sight due to the mask of ground in front of Building

MESSAGE

SECURITY INFORMATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

~~RESTRICTED~~  
ROUTINE

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED  
NO UNCLASS REPLY OR REF  
IF DTG IS QUOTED

FROM: CINCARIB QUARRY HEIGHT CZ FROM J2

TO: CSUSA WASH DC FOR G2

NR: CINC 63099D

Mymsg CINC 630250 DTG  Nov. Miami Herald  
Drew Pearson column 20 Dec carried detailed rept of 2 flying  
saucers over CZ. This rept was picked up and published in  
Panamanian papers. No rpt no press release was made  
locally and J2 intentionally used term "unidentified  
object" rather than saucer in confidential dispatch.  
Dirintel CAIRC states first rept to Dept AF was made in  
clear 20 Nov via TWX. Pearson art indicates no rpt no  
official release of news hence possible leak. Investigation  
and time delay indicate leakage not rpt not local. J2  
forwarding copies of local news art via mail.

NOTE: ~~IS DA II~~ ~~120 NOV 327 82~~

ACTION: G2

INFO: AF, CI

DA IN 720251

33. The other object continued at approximately the same level, still headed north, and then in a random manner seemed to head inland toward the mountains as it disappeared from sight over the city.

"The size of the object appeared to be comparable to the size of the tail assembly of the jet aircraft on the runway that was in use (generally N-S). Their speed varied from velocities comparable to the local aircraft to speeds much faster. Their motion was not always smooth and at times made sharp changes of course. Turbulence did not appear to be present in that particular portion of the air since jets appeared to be flying around smoothly in the area." 216.

Also on the 17th members of the Ground Observer Corps reported a flat, round, orange-colored object soaring very fast over Newcastle, Indiana, 3:22 a.m. There was no sound and the object disappeared to the south in the distance like a normal aircraft. 217.

December 19th

"Ghost Rocket" near Guam.

A metallic-looking mystery cylinder spewing a bright silver flame was spotted for a few seconds as it passed between some clouds by personnel of the 54th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron 6:50 a.m. the morning of December 19th. The place was Anderson AFB, Guam.

Apparently sighting the same aerial object was two pilots of a B-17, a Maj. D.G. Mc Donald and Maj. R.E. Mc Known. They were flying about 130 miles from Guam at 6:45 a.m. when they saw a strange object in the sky. The object they sighted passed about 25 miles away at their altitude of 7,000 feet. The two flyers said the cylinder was silver-white and trailed a blue flame with a vapor trail three times the length of its body. 218.

Bay of Cannes.

On December 20th a Frenchwoman was a witness to something in the sky at 4:00 p.m. French time. Over the Bay Cannes off the south coast of France the object in question was first seen motionless high above the island of Sainte-Marguerite. The object appeared to be a large, brilliant, silver-colored, disc. The disc then glided away, pausing for a moment above a U.S. Naval vessel anchored off shore, and then retracing its course until it reached its original position above Sainte-Marguerite. The thing did not stay for long hovering over Sainte-Marguerite. It moved toward the south on an upward slant until it diminished to a star-like point. 219.

December 20-22th.

Drew Pearson shakes up the military.

The UFO situation was quiet during this period with the exception of Columnist Drew Pearson learning about the sighting of UFOs by the military over the Panama Canal Zone back on November 20, 1952; the unknown aerial objects detected over the strategic area for "five hours and 36 minutes."

The U.S. Army authorities in the Canal Zone were upset by the Pearson revelation because there had been no official release of the information. It was suspected that a breach of security had taken place. Concern about a possible leak was detailed in an official message to Washington on the 22th. (See reproduction) 220.

The CIA's interest.

BLUE BOOK's liaison with the Air Defense Command, Maj. Sadowski, phoned

2300 Quebec Street, N-W.  
Apt. 1217  
Washington 8, D. C.

29 December 1952

Professor J. Allen Hynak  
Graduate School  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Professor Hynak:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 23 December confirming the astronomical calculations transmitted earlier by telephone. We are in agreement with your findings and appreciate your assistance in this matter.

It was a pleasure to renew our acquaintance at Dayton and to learn of your consultant work. I hope that we shall see you again in the not too distant future.

With best wishes for the coming year,

Cordially yours,

*H. Marshall Chadwell*  
H. Marshall Chadwell

Distribution:  
Ogns/SI - 3  
AD/SI - 1

OSI:FCDurant/ntw (29Dec52)

Ruppelt on December 22nd to inquire about an itinerary concerning a series of briefings to be given to ADC units. Ruppelt told Maj. Sadowski that such talks would have to be postponed until late January or early February, 1953, due to the work being done on a CIA survey of UFO data, a review of the problem by a panel of scientists tentatively scheduled for early January. This is how the CIA's interest was explained:

"...CIA's interest is from a standpoint of reports similar to present reports of unidentified flying objects being used as psychological warfare and to add confusion in possible attack. They believe a system for rapidly sorting out false reports or reports of known objects and phenomena should be established..." 221.

The "Flying Saucer" Model.

The one UFO case for December 22nd is conspicuous due to the fact that the Air Force later selected it as one of the 12 cases on file that were of possible value in any attempt to construct a "flying saucer model," a case that had sufficient detail in regards to physical appearance, flight characteristics, etc., to prove that a "class" of unexplained aerial bodies existed. Designated as example "VI," the case as it is depicted in a military publication is reproduced on the opposite page. (See illustration) 222.

A check of BLUE BOOK records contributes little additional information on the case. The location was near Banning, California. The observer estimated that the UFO was 1,600 feet high, 4 miles away, and moved at a speed of 180 miles per hour. Weather conditions were dry, clear, windless, and cold. 223.

The German scientist and an African sky blast.

For two weeks the FBI's V.P. Keay pressed for an elaboration of two items stressed by the CIA's Dr. Chadwell during the December 5th IAC meeting. One was an alleged scientific paper by a German atomic scientist pertaining to the possible manufacture of a flying disk craft. The second item was the need for further data about a certain African observation that was supposed to suggest that flying saucers may be a scientific development.

The Bureau's liaison agency learned on December 23rd that the African incident was merely an aerial explosion of a meteor and impressions that it was otherwise had been derived from sources of "unknown reliability."

As for the German scientists' paper, the CIA had not yet even received a report on the matter! 224.

It is curious that Dr. Chadwell would dwell on these two items. With so much well documented UFO information of greater import available, why dramatize material having such a want of substance?

A possible explanation for Dr. Chadwell's choice of material could be that it offered a direct tie-in to speculation on the existence of an atomic powered aircraft. This would also explain why Ruppelt's BLUE BOOK group was requested to seek additional information concerning strange radiation readings at Mt. Palomar, Los Alamos, and Oak Ridge. This emphasis on a possible "machine" utilizing a nuclear engine proves that the upcoming UFO jury would be worried about more than psychological phenomenon.

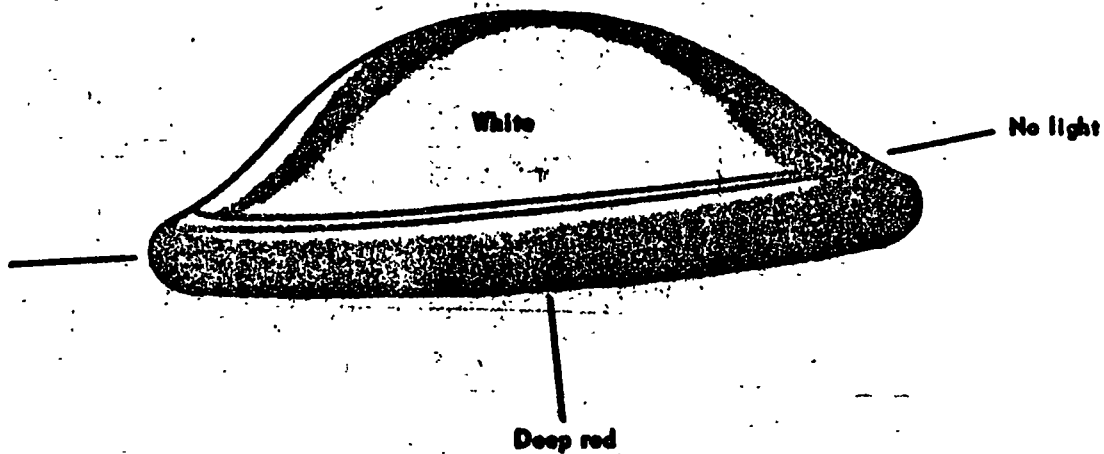
Presque Isle explained.

The big hubbub over the Presque Isle case was put to rest by BLUE BOOK scientific advisor J. Allen Hynek on December 23rd in a letter to the CIA's Dr. Chadwell. (See Photocopied letter) One would think after reading Dr. Hynek's letter that the Presque Isle file would never again see the light of day.



**Case VI (Serial 4822.00)**

An instrument technician, while driving from a large city toward an Air Force base on December 22, 1952, saw an object from his car at 1930 hours. He stopped his car to watch it. It suddenly moved up toward the zenith in spurts from right to left at an angle of about 45°. It then moved off in level flight at a high rate of speed, during which maneuver it appeared white most of the time, but apparently rolled three times showing a red side. About halfway through its roll it showed no light at all. It finally assumed a position to the south of the planet Jupiter at a high altitude, at which position it darted back and forth, left and right alternately. Total time of the observation was 15 minutes. Apparently, the observer just stopped watching the object.



"Flying saucer model"

December 24th-26th.

Nothing of interest occurred between December 24th-26th with the exception of a report from Camp Carson, Colorado.

A silvery object was sighted at 6:17 a.m. which the witnesses, all Air Force enlisted men, said looked to be the "size of a baseball." Apparently it appeared to be baseball size at arm's length. There is no estimate of how far the object was from the observers.

At first the UFO appeared circular as it hovered in the air for two to three minutes giving off an intermittent white light. It then "changed" shape, taking on a "tear-shaped" appearance. Whether this "change" was an actual alternation in physical dimensions, or because it turned in the air to show a different profile, is not indicated by the airmen observers.

After this "change," the UFO zoomed away at: "...a high rate of speed. 225.

At this point it seemed that the big UFO wave of 1952 was evaporating. Did it mean that UFO activity would return to a random pattern characteristic of non-flap years, or would another wave appear out of the north or south?

There was some indications of Canadian activity although the details have not been documented. On December 19th something odd was seen at Prince Rupert, British Columbia; and on December 20th there was suppose to have been a sighting of something at Flin Flon, Alberta. Only a December 27th report made at Regina, Saskatchewan, provides any information. It seems that an Air Traffic Controller and a meteorological officer witnessed a phenomenon on two occasions from the Regina Airport control tower. A round body with a flashing red light on top and a green one on the bottom was spotted in the area. 226.

Just after Christmas Donald Keyhoe called on a friend in the Washington D.C. area. The friend was a retired ex-serviceman who knew a lot of people in the Pentagon and still kept in touch with many big shots in high places. Keyhoe referred to the man using a fictitious name (Henry Brennard). This "Brennard" was curious about the Air Force declassifying UFO cases for Keyhoe's benefit and happened to ask about the fate of the Tremonton, Utah, UFO film. Since military Intelligence was still keeping the film under wraps, Keyhoe was baffled by the question. "Brennard" knew most of the details of the Utah case, and after obtaining assurances from Keyhoe not to repeat what he was about to tell him, related the events of July 2th when a Navy man took some movies of a flock of UFOs near Tremonton, Utah. Even the progress being made by ATIC's Photo-Reconnaissance lab and the Navy Photo-Intelligence center was known to "Brennard" who informed Keyhoe that it was the opinion of the experts that the film showed objects making turns at 1,000 mph. The impact on Intelligence, according to "Brennard," was shattering.

The very next day Keyhoe sought out Al Chop at the Pentagon and announced he had a "hot tip" concerning a Tremonton, Utah, UFO film. Surprised, Chop conferred with his superiors. Chop returned to Keyhoe and told him all the Air Force asked was for him to hold off on publishing about the case until it was officially cleared. Chop even added details to what "Brennard" had revealed, stating that the film had been submitted to studies for three months before declaring it unexplainable.

Keyhoe then tried to get Chop to confess the Air Force finally had proof the flying saucers were interplanetary, but the Pentagon press chief denied the military was about to admit any such thing and that the Navy report on the film was not officially due until January 15, 1953, and everything would have to wait until then. 227.

December 28th.

"A semi-circular cloud."

The director of Harvard's Blue Hills Observatory, a Mr. Charles F. Brooks, received a phonecall on December 29th from a resident of Beverly, Massachusetts. The caller wanted to report a "comet." The fellow said he and three other people had seen something in the sky that was very strange and had lasted for five minutes:

"A semi-circular cloud, possibly the condensation trail of an airplane at six o'clock last evening [December 28th].

"It came in low from the north, low in the sky, near the horizon. It travelled on a level for a full minute and then veered around and upward." 228.

December 29th.

The scramble for evidence.

CIA official H. Marshall Chadwell acknowledged Dr. Hynek's recent letter, going on record as accepting the Jupiter explanation to the Presque Isle case:

"Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 23 December confirming the astronomical calculations transmitted earlier by telephone. We are in agreement with your findings and appreciate your assistance in this matter.

"It was a pleasure to renew our acquaintance at Dayton and to learn of your consultant work. I hope that we shall see you again in the not too distant future." 229.

What Dr. Chadwell meant by the "not too distant future" evidently referred to the soon to be convened CIA UFO jury during which Dr. Hynek would be asked to testify.

Meanwhile, Lt. Flues of BLUE BOOK was checking a lead that might help in understanding the Tremonton UFO film. Here is a BLUE BOOK travel report:

"On 29 Dec 52, Lt. A.G. Flues went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to contact the Field Representative of ONR and the General Mills Corporation there. The purpose was to determine if the UFO's in the Tremonton, Utah, movies of 2 July 52 might be pillow balloons.

"On 30 Dec the films were run off in the balloon room of the Physics Building, University of Minnesota. The following were in attendance:

Lt. Malcolm Ross, USN.

S2C Leroy Harger, USN

CPO Louis, USN

Dr. Nye, U. of Minn. Balloon flights and geophysics

Dr. Winkler, U. of Minn. Balloon flights and geophysics

Frank G. Jewett, Exec. Vice-President, Research Dept., General Mills, Inc.

J. R. Smith, Chief, Meteorology Dept., General Mills, Inc.

"There were various others present all of whom have had experiences in flying pillow balloons.

"The films were run off eight times, at various speeds, and were frequently stopped at good frames. All were informed of the background data.

"It was the consensus of opinion that the objects resembled pillow balloons in flight very closely and did nothing that pillows would not do in similar circumstances. J.R. Smith was the least convinced of this hypothesis; however, he felt that the objects were a bit too bright and maneuvered a bit too fast.

"The head meteorologist of GMI pointed out that winds to 8,000 ft. at Hill AFB would probably be different from those at Tremonton because of topography and land-sea effect. The extreme stability of the atmosphere on day would, he added, make ascent very slow and would tend to stabilize a pillow at a given altitude. Additionally, wind direction is capable of 180 degree shift within perhaps 500 ft. of altitude which could account for a high or low balloon, with relation to the group, to proceed in an apparently opposite direction.

"If the objects are pillows, the consensus was that they are not over 6,000 feet altitude, probably much less. If this is so, they cannot possibly have been aloft for more than 12 hours, and this only if filled with warm air or underinflated with gas or ballasted for a given altitude. There is a much greater probability that they are ascending and have been released from a nearby point not over ½ hour before.

"None of the persons present placed much faith in the computations of angular velocity, since all were predicated upon Newhouse's holding the camera still.

"Lt. Flues went over to GMI later on and obtained from J.R. Smith the names and addresses of consignees who received pillow balloons during the period Sep 51 - 2 Jul 52. Also Lt. Flues picked up some photos of pillow balloons and the flight tracks of three Navy Skyhooks released in Sept 52 from Tillamook, Ore. General Mills had no movies of pillows which approximated the Tremonton films as GMI's footage seemed to be shot against cloud background and when the balloons were lower. However, they will be launching pillows from Wendover, Utah, in Feb 53 and will make movies then.

"The course of action recommended was for ATIC to check all persons in the western U.S. who received pillows. There were some other shipments to GMI home and farm appliance stores, and (deleted - Smith?) agreed to send ATIC the names and addresses of such consignees." 230.

As the reader of the above can tell, merely running the UFO film for normal viewing produced nothing conclusive in the way of an explanation, but Mr. Smith did notice two characteristics that were, to him, mysterious: the objects seemed too bright and too fast. This was a subjective judgement of course, but the impression was just enough to bother his experienced eyes.

Atomic-powered UFOs. The inquiry continues.

The attempt to gather data on UFOs as sources of unexplained radiation did not ease up. In fact Ruppelt made plans to learn as much as he could right up to last minute before the CIA UFO jury was to convene.

BLUE BOOK records contain a memo that tells of Ruppelt's exertions in regards to the radiation inquiry:

"At approximately 1330 on 29 Dec 52, Capt Ruppelt called Lt Col Paul H. Butman..., Division of Military Application, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington D.C. Purpose of the call was to coordinate the visit to Los Alamos. Col Butman has previously been briefed on the possible correlation between detection of radiation from unknown sources and unidentified flying objects by Capt Ruppelt during a visit to AEC approximately two weeks ago. Col Butman was requested to contact Los Alamos laboratories and request that Mr. Carter, Mr. Gittings, and Mr. Simmons\* come to Albuquerque for the interrogation if possible. If

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\*.Possibly it was Mr. Simmons' name that was censored in the memo dated: 15 December 52. See page 52 of this booklet.

this was impossible, it was requested that Capt Ruppelt and Lt Olsson be given a clearance to talk to them at Los Alamos. Col Butman stated that he would wire to Los Alamos and that they wire back directly to ATIC stating which of the two plans would be followed. (i.e., Whether we would meet them at Los Alamos or Albuquerque.) Col Butman was also informed that the Sandia Corporation had also requested a briefing and that ATIC planned to do this on either the sixth or seventh of January. Col Butman stated that it would be alright for ATIC to make direct contact with these people to arrange for a briefing.

"At approximately 1500 on 29 Dec 52, Capt Ruppelt called Lt Glen D. Parrish, Director of Intelligence, 34th Air Division, Kirtland AF Base. The purpose of the call was to advise Lt Parrish that Capt Ruppelt and Lt Olsson would be in Albuquerque on Sunday, 4 Jan 53, and to inquire as to whether or not it would be alright to hold a meeting in Lt Parrish's office. Lt Parrish stated that it would be alright and that he was anxious to have us come down. Lt Parrish was also asked to contact Mr. William R. Perret, Division 5111, at the Sandia Corporation, who wrote the letter to ATIC requesting a briefing. Lt Parrish was asked to inform Mr. Perret of the proposed briefing and to have Mr. Perret wire ATIC as to a final date." 231.

UFO reports, December 29th.

La Rochelle, France.

Our source does not give the exact date besides stating that the incident occurred between December 29th and December 31st, but there was enough detail in his account to merit reviewing it.

A M. Rene Sacre of La Rochelle, France, was watching a group of birds and after awhile the flock failed to hold his attention and his gaze shifted to a white cloud. While observing this cloud, M. Sacre saw an object dart from the cloud and shoot upward. The vertical climb of this object, however, was shortlived. The object halted, and then zoomed toward the east with terrific speed, spewing some vapor as it took off. The ribbon of vapor enabled Sacre to follow the object's course for some distance. It seems the object turned away from its eastern rush and headed back toward him. After travelling in his direction for a brief period, the object paused again. Finally, the object moved away to the northeast.

A qualified pilot, M. Sacre maintained that over the next few days he saw the same, or similar, objects moving swiftly in the heavens. He was sure that the objects were unexplainable in anyway known to him. 232.

"Three times the size of a C-54."

The following Air Intelligence Report was filed by an Air Force officer. It speaks for itself:

"On 29 December 1952 I, Captain William T. Bowley, participated in a routine night navigation cross country flight. In the company of Captain Herbert T. Lange, I departed Perrin AFB, Texas at 1945 CST and flew VFR direct Wichita Falls, RIO Amarillo, G-4 Tucumcari, and returned over the same route. I was flying B-26 5865. The west bound flight altitude was 6000 feet. ATA at Amarillo was 2057 CST. Approximately 30 nautical miles west of Amarillo on airway green 4 and at 2105 CST, Capt Lange and I observed a white light of round shape and great intensity. Our aircraft was on a heading of 257 degrees and the object seemed to be at the eleven o'clock position at our same altitude. As we drew closer to the light, I noticed it was of bluish white color and frequent green tints. I judged it to be forty miles from us and moving ahead and parallel to our course.

PROJECT LOGS SECOND QTR

1. DATE <b>30 Dec 57</b>	2. LOCATION <b>AMARILLO, TEXAS</b>	3. COLLECTION
4. TIME OF OBSERVATION <b>10/2100Z</b>	5. NAME OF OBSERVER <b>PAE Pilote</b>	6. TYPE OF OBJECT
7. ALTITUDE <b>20 mi</b>	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <b>1</b>	9. COLOR
10. DIRECTION OF MOTION	11. SPEED	12. OTHER DATA
13. WEATHER	14. COMMENTS	15. SKETCH
16. OBSERVER'S SIGNATURE	17. COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE	18. OFFICER IN CHARGE'S SIGNATURE

Round blue-white object with greenish tint traveled at an estimated speed of 750 knots in horizontal flight then climbed vertically 7,000' in five seconds. Size of object was estimated to be 4 times the size of a C-54 a/c.

~~VENUS~~  
**VENUS** 21h 4<sup>15</sup>m  
 on horizon at 230°

Venus explanation for Amarillo case.

The size of the object I estimate at three times the size of a C-54 aircraft. After watching the light for five minutes, it made a vertical climb of 7000 feet in about five seconds and entered a broken overcast at about 13,000 feet. As it entered the clouds it imparted a glow to the clouds similar to a search light striking clouds. At this time I contacted the CAA operator at Tucumcarti and told him of my observation. Shortly thereafter the light re-appeared beneath the clouds. We informed the CAA operator that it was roughly south-west of town, but he was unable to see the object from outside his building. After two minutes the object climbed to the west and disappeared. The weather directly above us was clear and a full moon was out. Visibility was in excess of fifty miles. To the west there was a thin broken overcast at 13,000 feet. (All altitudes in this report are MSL). We arrived over Tucumcarti at 2123 CST, climbed to 7000 feet and completed the flight without further incident. No attempt was made to intercept the object. One east bound aircraft was observed at about 7000 feet shortly before we reached Tucumcari." 233.

"Ferris Wheels" over Japan.

An Air Defense radar site in northern Japan picked up an unidentified track that disappeared at 6:57 p.m. some 12 miles east of Chitose auxiliary airbase. Later, in Chitose tower when A/IC William Popajol was on duty as aircraft controller, the "hot" line from ADCC erupted with a ring at 7:30 p.m. The ADCC people said radar had an unidentified target 30 miles southeast moving directly toward Chitose field. Airman Popajol replied that he knew nothing of any air traffic in the area. He then asked the other controller in the tower, A/3C Cuatis Callaway, if he knew of any aircraft that might explain the unknown radar plot. Airman Callaway replied in the negative and ADCC was informed that Chitose tower could help in explaining the radar pick-up.

Both airmen in the Chitose tower began to make an intensive visual check of the evening sky. 234. Callaway remembers being warned of an object approaching at "jet speed." While searching the heavens, Callaway spotted a glowing dot that changed colors from red, to white, and then to green. The dot, or object, rotated vertically, tilted to a horizontal position, and then tilted back to a vertical position. The object(?) would also change brightness. While under observation the object did not appear to shift from its general location.

This peculiar sight prompted Callaway to summon Popajol and the A0, 1st Lt. Donahue Simmons. 235. Lt. Simmons was aware radar had an unknown to the southeast and that his controllers had been trying to raise the supposed aircraft by radio without results, so he hurried to the tower and looked to the southeast. Callaway pointed out the strange light and Lt. Simmons confirmed the vivid colors and color changes. Lt. Simmons then left the tower to confer with a Lt. Seals. 236.

Meanwhile, airman Popajol studied the light and agreed with Callaway about the peculiar motion and colors being displayed. It was Popajol who coined the expression "ferris wheel" to describe the phenomenon. 237.

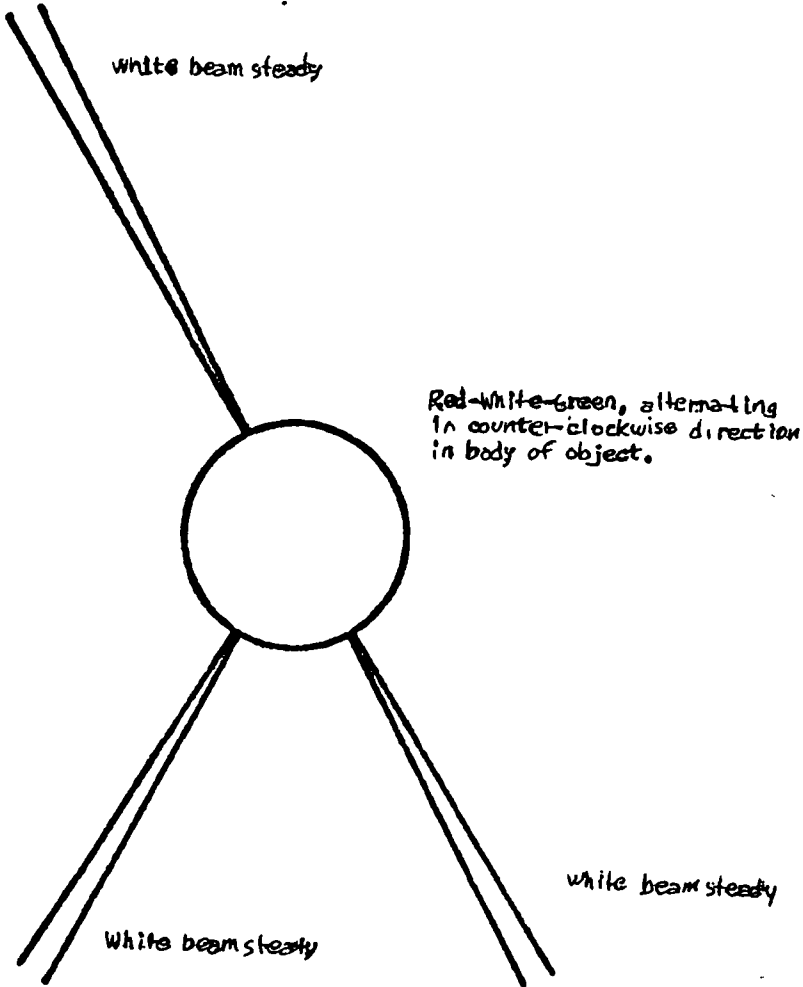
Below the tower Lt. Simmons and Lt. Seals were watching the "ferris wheel" without binoculars and were discussing the situation when a shooting star suddenly flashed north to south between the UFO and the horizon. The officers noted the apparent meteor but hesitated to speculate about a possible relationship with the UFO.

At 7:05 p.m. airman Callaway discovered a second "ferris wheel" to the southeast at 30 degrees above the horizon.

At 8:00 p.m. a third such phenomenon was seen to the northeast at a low altitude.

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

1. TITLE	2. REPORT NUMBER	3. DATE
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"Ferris wheel" over Japan

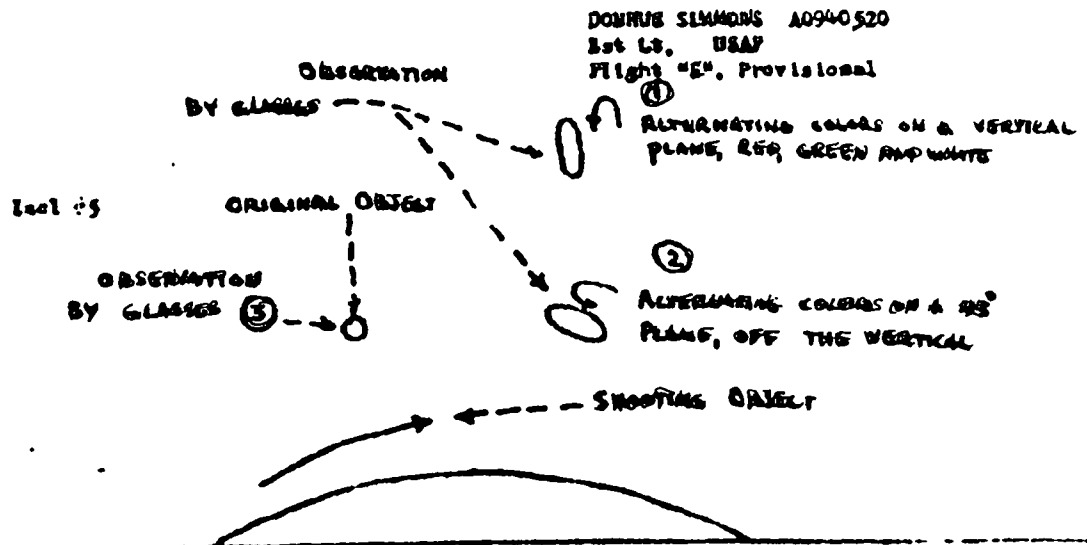
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 18 YEARS  
DOD INR 5300.10

1970



The original that I observed appeared to be a vertical wheel. It resembled a ferris wheel with alternating red, blue, and green lighted seats. After a few minutes of observation, the predominant colors were red and green. After observing the object for a few minutes longer, it appeared to tilt to the left a probably 45 degrees. I did not see the object tilt, but did observe it in both positions.

Time: 19301 to 20031; 2) December 1947.



AIC 107096E

"Ferris wheels" over Japan

By this time Callaway was able to raise a flight of F-94 jets, Call Sign "Gander 42," which was passing through the area. Airman Callaway informed the jets of the UFOs being viewed from Chitose. 238.

The jets were flying over the northern tip of Honshu and they hardly needed to be informed. The "ferris wheel" objects were so visible to them they could make out some detail. The pilots radioed that they had first sighted a "ferris wheel" at 7:48 p.m. and that they had kept it in view until 7:50 p.m. The pilots had noted that the appearance of the "ferris wheel" was one of a cluster of rotating lights: red, white, and green. That agreed with the ground observers but the pilots added this:

"Beyond the prominence of the colors common to the body, (possibly the center of the body) the most prominent item of description appeared to be the 3 beams of light that worked from the body outward in straight shafts of white light. The 3 beams never changed their relative positions, and actually were located at about 11 o'clock, 5 o'clock, and 7 o'clock." 239.

When the leader of the flight first saw the UFO he was flying at 27,000 feet. Assuming that the UFO was at a greater altitude, he put his jet into a climb. He lost sight of the UFO until he reached 35,000 feet, the level he believed the UFO to be at. While at 35,000 he sighted the UFO again and had it under observation between 8:00 and 8:05 p.m. Losing sight of the UFO a second time, the flight leader took his flight back to Misawa, his home base. The flight leader was a full Colonel with an extensive combat record. 240.

Lt. Seals went up to the tower after talking with Lt. Simmons and spent some time listening to the jet's radio chatter as an attempt was made to get near the UFO. Of interest is Lt. Seals' assertion that at one point a pilot claimed to be at 34,000 feet and "500 feet above the UFO." 241. Also: "... the pilot stated that the object was about three miles off of his wing tip. Several minutes later the pilot said the object was growing smaller and going to the north." 242. These are the only significant statements that the lights were not fixed points. For some reason nothing like these statements were included in the official statements filed by the pilots.

In any case, military Intelligence had no difficulty in becoming convinced that ice clouds in the vicinity of northern Honshu had distorted the image of the planet Jupiter, however since there were three "ferris wheels" in the sky the military had to blame two more astronomical bodies:

"The planet Venus is at maximum magnitude at this time of year, appearing white and very bright. The planet Mars is predominately red. Both planets assume approximately the same relative position late in December and from a great distance could well appear to 'move' in a circular motion due to the refraction effect of the atmosphere near the horizon." 243.

Did the Air Force apply such astronomical solutions too loosely? It would take an expert to check the angles and directions of the lights as seen from Chitose, and to compare them with the proper sky charts, but even an untrained person might have second thoughts about the explanation given the December 29th incident as witnessed by Captains Bowley and Lange near Amarillo. The reader is invited to check a reproduction of a BLUE BOOK UFO file card on the case dated December 30, 1952, which has the "Venus" explanation marked on it in no uncertain manner. (See photocopy)

Australia.

The UFO witness in the next case was a Wing Commander Tomkins, RAAF, who was on a beach at Terrigal, New South Wales, at noon-time, December 30th. There he observed a light in the sky an estimated 2,000 feet high and two miles away.

The light was as brilliant as an carbon-arc lamp but it did act like a meteor. The thing moved slowly north when first seen and then after a minute appeared to change course toward the east, doing so at great speed once the turn was made. 244.

Adamski gains another follower.

What of that fellow George Adamski with his fabulous yarn about "meeting with a flying saucer pilot." It seems that only the Oceanside, California, Blade Tribune did a followup on the story in the Phoenix Gazette, making Adamski only a little more known than before. Adamski continued to lecture in the Southern California area, attracting scant attention until he tangled with the FBI in January 1953 over a minor matter, but one the Bureau found irksome. The problem had its beginnings on December 30th when yet another correspondent, this time from Ohio, showed up at Palomer Gardens desiring to work with Adamski. Like Baker, this gentleman would turn out to be an unwelcome guest as time passed. He was a 35-year-old man of German extraction who smoked a pipe and had a tendency to reply "ya-ya." The person in question was Karl Hunrath. 245.

Puerto Rico.

The last UFO report of the year came from Puerto Rico:

"On the morning of 31 Dec 52, at approximately 0445 hrs., an Aircraft Commander, First Pilot, and left scanner of an RB-36 #2007 sighted and closely observed an unidentified object until the time of its disappearance, at approximately 0450 hrs. During the time of sighting the object, it was noticed by the Aircraft Commander and the First Pilot that they were flying an outbound heading of 073 degrees from the radio beacon at Ramey and were at an altitude of 8,000 feet. As verified by the above mentioned personnel it was a clear, moonlit night and, for the time of night the sighting was made, visibility was excellent.

"Both aircraft officers concur that the object was spherical in shape. The left scanner corroborates the statement of the Aircraft Commander and First Pilot that the object appeared as a reddish-orange ball of flame. The object appeared on the horizon, was seen to approach the aircraft to the left, pass over the left wing at a distance of approximately three hundred feet or greater, travel away from the tail of the aircraft at a high rate of speed, and then commence to climb until out of sight." 246.

"Object presents a serious flying hazard."

Apparently upset at the phenomenon, the preparing officer of the Intelligence report, Major Bradford Hussman, wrote these remarks:

"If any information is available regarding the nature or origin of this object it is requested that this office be advised. No programmed missile lanes are scheduled to be in this immediate vicinity. The close proximity of the reported object presents a serious flying hazard. Any knowledge or opinions offering a solution to this sighting will be helpful." 247.

Years end - some comments.

The situation as of December, 1952.

First there is what Ruppelt wrote. According to Ruppelt, for project BLUE BOOK the month of December meant the cumulation of some special efforts. For some months the project had been re-investigating selected UFO cases and also had conducted what he termed: "...studies of certain aspects." 248. This

was done, in Ruppelt's words, so an "over-all picture" could be presented to the CIA panel. He admitted that interest in the panel was running high at ATIC because so many of the Intelligence officers felt that the extraterrestrial hypothesis would prevail!

Well aware, however, that the data so far gathered lacked quality, a proposed instrumentation program was conceived and by late December planning had achieved an impressive level after BLUE BOOK had consulted with missile tracking experts, camera and electronic technicians, and astronomers. The plan involved long focal-length cameras fitted with telescope lenses that would be synchronized with radar antennas. The idea was that any part of the sky that showed a strange radar return would be photographed at the time the blip registered on the scope with the hope that this arrangement would finally provide confirming evidence of a solid body in the atmosphere. Backing up the radar-camera system would be a series of radiation detectors, magnetic field meters, and heat sensors. The forementioned would be supplemented by visual spotting stations equipped with sighting devices that would record azimuth and elevation. All of this would be tied together by a communications network directed by a central command post. The place picked for this endeavor was the notorious UFO sighting region of northern New Mexico.

Ruppelt's immediate superiors at ATIC gave their approval to the instrumentation program in December, after which the paperwork was sent to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. for a blessing by General John Samford as well as others at "higher levels." As of late December Ruppelt and his people were still waiting for word on the fate of the proposal. 249.

This wasn't the first time, or would it be the last, the Air Force expressed intentions to do something of a decisive investigative nature so as to appease concern after a particularly disturbing series of "UFO apparitions." The impression one gains from reading Ruppelt is that the future was bright for BLUE BOOK with all of the re-investigations, special studies, and ambitious plans, but unnoticed was some language in the IAC December 4th UFO study authorization. Instead of the CIA UFO panel playing just an "advisory role," it was empowered to be a body that could declare the UFO problem as having no true scientific interest, a killing blow to serious treatment of the data.

The CIA's secret ally: Edward Ruppelt.

While Keyhoe did discover the involvement of the CIA in the UFO investigation, he never did suspect the game Ruppelt was playing. Many students of UFO history have wondered why Ruppelt "changed" from being pro-UFO to anti-UFO as shown by his revision of his book on his experiences as chief of project BLUE BOOK, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, published in 1956.

In reality Ruppelt never changed at all. He always was "anti-UFO." This should not be too hard to entertain. One must remember that Dr. J. Allen Hynek was quite capable of switching sides in the controversy as his subsequent actions show, but he was a disbeliever for years and did not completely convert until 1966(!) and Hynek was a man of superior analytical powers and hardly had the distractions that bedeviled Ruppelt, but there was more to it than that.

Ruppelt knew that the men at the top were anti-UFO but for what reason he was not sure. He was quite willing to cover the tracks of the debunkers when he had to because he knew his place in the scheme of things, just an Air Force Captain (promoted in August, 1952) and in no position to rock the boat. He could be censored or transferred on a mere whim.

Ruppelt willing went along with the debunking policy. He even made some

suggestions along that line. At the same time he made himself "approachable" to people like Keyhoe, saying and writing just enough to make it appear he was sympathetic to an objective view or at times even pro-UFO. He was thus able to keep tabs on the CSI organization and learn Keyhoe's next move for example.

Other than the forementioned reasons, why would Ruppelt go along with a debunking policy? Well, like most good military men he of course wanted to please his superiors, but there is no doubt being BLUE BOOK chief was starting to become an ego trip. He was now briefing Generals, foreign military representatives, the newsmedia, the Secretary of the Air Force, and even the President's Air Aide! His picture and a story about him appeared in Look magazine, one of the biggest periodicals in the nation. He gave talks to important industrialists, and scientific groups of great prestige, and if we can believe Ruppelt, these people were fascinated by every word he said. He played to packed houses in the Pentagon and military installations. Everyone, just about, wanted know about UFOs and he was the man to ask. In the years after 1952 Ruppelt would become a best selling author by writing about UFOs, and he would be a guest on radio and T.V. shows. To top it off, he would play himself in a Hollywood movie!

Ruppelt was an Air Force Reservist who was called up for the Korean emergency. Could he now resign and go back to being just an obscure aeronautical engineer working for an aircraft company? That was his eventual fate but he avoided complete obscurity by taking a pro-UFO stance, befriending Keyhoe and writing a "pro-UFO" book.

During the first half of 1952 there were moves to vastly increase the size and importance of project BLUE BOOK (This may have been due to some degree to the Navy's launching its own effort). If Ruppelt could keep everyone happy, he might stay on as top man and rise quickly in rank. The CIA, however, made some moves of its own and wrecked the scheme for a bigger BLUE BOOK. In time Ruppelt realized the power and determination of the agency and cooperated. If we check the record we can learn something about the Air Force's ambitions in regards to its UFO investigation.

#### A bigger BLUE BOOK.

Buried in project BLUE BOOK's administration file is some paperwork that deals with an abortive plan for an "expansion of effort." The papers prove that the Air Force, or at least some people in ATIC, were not happy with what was being accomplished in spite of what was being said to the newsmedia.

#### "Staff Study."

The first pages of material we will examine will be a "staff study" authored by E.J. Ruppelt which was apparently prepared during the late summer of 1952. Because the document was not meant for public consumption, it is candid about the military's investigative shortcomings and difficulties:

"1. In the spring of 1952 it became evident that the limited ATIC staff, assigned to unidentified aerial objects, could not possibly handle all the vast number of reports which volunteer observers were sending to the Center in exceedingly increasing quantities. After several conferences of the Center's staff, the Chief of the Center submitted by letter to the D/I a plan to increase the scope of operations. On 5 June, the Deputy Director for Estimates replied to ATIC's proposal stating, in part:

'It is generally agreed that some expansion of effort is called for at this time. An advisory group composed of high-level scientific

personalities would be excellent for the purpose of providing guidance to the \*\*[?] working level, and as spokesman representing the Air Force to the public. \*\*\* Our recommendations \*\* are to supplement further ATIC effort by inviting one contractor to attempt to resolve the problem, \*\*\* It is considered that ATIC must remain the responsible D/I agency \*\*. (\*See below)

"2. On receipt of this directive, ATIC began consideration of plans to implement it. Dr. Von Karman was invited to assist, and designated Dr. Joseph Kaplan as his representative. These plans were presented to Dr. Kaplan on his arrival at ATIC ten days ago. Following this, ATIC conferred with other private and Air Force agencies whose collaboration is needed. The advice of these experts, and recognition of the problem of coping with the recent very large increase in voluntary reports of sightings of UAO's, enable us to present to you at this time a workable plan for future operations.

"3. I would like to preface this plan with a brief reference to ATIC intelligence procedures. The mission of our Center is to prevent technological surprise by air. Our interest in UAO's is based on the fact that they can be of foreign origin. We must then determine identifying their characteristics and performance.

"When we encounter identifiable aerial objects, for example, new types of foreign aircraft missiles, we attempt to obtain their configuration, performance and characteristics by measuring and recording devices, if possible, especially if we cannot get close enough to inspect them accurately in detail. Reliable data is essential. Only as a last and temporary resort do we use the report of an untrained non-technical person's visual observation of a complicated aerial object, especially if the information is volunteered.

"4. It is of significance to note that an inquiry of technical employees of U.S. aircraft plants revealed that they could not give complete and reliable descriptions of the technical aspects of their own plants with complete accuracy. Likewise, the Air Force long ago eliminated its observers rating for crew members, supplanting these visual and audio observation duties with photographic and electronic recording devices. Any plan to determine if any UAO's are of foreign origin will require full use of measuring and recording instruments.

"5. Because it is almost impossible to obtain technical intelligence from voluntary verbal reports of non-technical observers, ATIC proposes that the receipt and analysis of such reports by the USAF be discontinued in the future. Our evaluation of the enormous amount of correspondence and reports received over the past five years demonstrates that there is extremely little technical intelligence to be obtained from these voluntary sources. The plan which ATIC presents to you might be best described in the phrase, 'going on instruments.'

"6. Basically, any moving light source is either the result of (1) air expenditure of energy, e.g., an aircraft, missile, meteor, ionized clouds, etc., or (2) the reflection of light from another source, e.g., the sun, moon, etc. In the past, projects reflecting light from another source have been identified and eliminated from consideration only by tedious and expensive investigation and analyses by ATIC and other Defense Dept. agencies.

"7. By application of the known basic laws of science, any aerial object which a foreign power might fly over the United States will require dissipa-

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\* These asterisks appear in the original text.

tion of energy. It should, therefore, be possible to detect the presence of such an object by the use of electronic, infra-red and nuclear instruments, and to record its flight path and/or appearance by the use of a camera, especially if the camera is used in conjunction with a telescope, defraction grating and radar scope, or carried aloft by aircraft. By limiting its study to only those observations, obtained or correlated by quantitative analysis so that ATIC might determine if any UAO's are of foreign origin. This plan does not preclude consideration of sightings by competent technical observers who make such sightings as part of their regular employment (e.g., astronomers, weather observers, military and airline pilots, surveyors, trained personnel of the Army, Naval, Coast Guard, CAA, Merchant Marine, and possibly certain civilian aircraft Spotters, etc.) Rather, this plan suggests that such personnel carry photographic equipment and be trained to record the technical data required of such observations so as to improve the quality of their reports.

"8. By requiring the use of instruments for the collaboration of such sightings, the USAF will eliminate many needless scrambles of its interceptor aircraft (E.G., the incident near Columbus on 23 July when the UAO was identified as balloons by ATIC's Consultant Astronomer using the Ohio State University Observatory's telescope). By designation and instrumentation of specific sources, as the field collection agencies, for data regarding UAO's, the USAF will simply speed and secure the processing of this data.

"9. This plan will also relieve the military personnel who are presently engaged in these activities as additional duty in order to handle the many voluntary reports presently being submitted to the Air Force. Reliance upon instrument observations will, with the exception of meteors and trains, not only provide for the positive identification of many objects, but in some cases certain performance characteristics (speed, climb, altitude and configuration) can be obtained enabling observers to eliminate reports on known objects at the source and relieve the expense and burden which would otherwise be placed on the reporting agencies and the vital military communication networks. Air Defense Command should find this quite advantageous to its 'Operation Skywatch,' filter centers, etc.

"10. The operation of the plan is illustrated on the accompanying chart. The designated field collection agencies will hold reports of those observations which do not permit technical evaluation due to unreliable or incomplete evidence until they can be collaborated or discarded. Reports containing quantitative technical data suitable for analysis will be forwarded to ATIC.

"11. The first step on receipt of a report at ATIC will be to screen it to determine whether further study is required by one or more of its special group of analysts. This screening will be based primarily on the behavior of the objects. If slow or hovering, it might be checked by the balloon Group. The Aircraft Group would examine those objects traveling at speeds similar to those of aircraft and guided missiles, while the astronomical group would investigate objects having a performance similar to meteors, meteor trains, solar flares and astronomical bodies. Groups for other categories would be organized if required, e.g. a group familiar with the problems of radio activity in the event the instrument program picks up any evidence of such in the observation of UAO's. The reports of the analyses performed by these special groups would be returned to ATIC.

"12. The first step will identify some of the objects reported. A further study by ATIC's staff of analysts is the second step. In this phase ATIC will call on its scientific staff of specialists in electronics, geophysics, nuclear energy, photography, and photo interpretation, astronomy, missiles, aerodynamics, armament, materials, etc. When required ATIC's research

staff will consult with technicians at Wright Air Development Center and other Air Research and Development Command facilities. This step will identify additional objects.

"13. Those reports remaining will be processed by the third step which will be conducted by ATIC's Scientific Advisory Committee. This Committee is Chairmaned by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, who like many of the members also serves on the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. It is not intended to keep any committee member constantly occupied with this work nor to have the full committee meet together at less than two or three month intervals, except on receipt of technical data requiring the immediate attention of all members. It is planned that reports of UAO's will be referred individually to committee member according to their field of interest.

"14. Those incidents which are not resolved by the committee will be processed by the fifth and final step. Upon the advice and recommendation of the Committee, ATIC plans to submit to the Director of Intelligence the names of a general contractor (Rand has been suggested) and certain specialized contractors and consultants to undertake the analysis of those objects not identified by previous study. In some cases this might require considerable time, experiment and study (even to the extent of recreating the incident if necessary), but it is planned to pursue each case until the object is identified, which is the purpose of this project.

"15. As each reported sighting is identified, compatible with security, it is planned to make available to those in the field responsible for the observation, information as to the nature of the object. In addition, ATIC's monthly report of sightings will continue to be compiled. It is recommended that this be disseminated to all military establishments contributing to the work of the project. In addition, an unclassified version, e.g., the statistical summary, of this monthly report could be released to the PIO in the event the press continues to clamor for information on the adoption of this plan to have the Air Force decline voluntary reports by non-technical personnel.

"16. I would like to take the remaining few minutes to discuss the over-all operation and the work of collaborating agencies. It is recommended that wherever possible existing military facilities and agencies be used. Many organizations can contribute the required technical data on observations of UAO's. To minimize expense and complications, it is recommended that one organization be responsible for the field collection and transmissions of observation reports in the ZI. It is believed that ADC is the logical organization inasmuch as the command which has responsibility for intercepting enemy aerial objects should be the command which operates air observation and instrument network for spotting UAO's.

"17. Major contributors to the field collection operations would be:

A. Military:

1. Air Defense Command (for ZI) thru
  - a. Radar network (including Navy picket ships).
  - b. Attached Army Anti Aircraft Units.
  - c. Intercept operations.
  - d. Civilian Aircraft Spotters.
2. Strategic Air Command.
3. Tactical.
4. Air Research and Development Command.
  - a. AF Missile Test Center (Patrick AFB, Cocoa, Fla.)



- b. AF Special Weapons Center (Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N.Mex.)
  - c. AF Flight Test Center (Edwards AFB, California).
  - d. AF Cambridge Research Center, Cambridge, Mass.
  - e. Other Centers.
5. Overseas Commands.
  6. Department of the Army.
    - a. White Sands Proving Ground.
  7. Department of the Navy.
    - a. Naval Observatory.
  8. Research and Development Board.
  9. Military Transport Service thru
    - a. Flight Service.
    - b. Air Weather Service.
- B. Government Agencies.
1. U.S. Weather Bureau.
  2. Civil Aeronautics Authority.
  3. Atomic Energy Commission.
- C. Civilian Agencies.
1. Scheduled Airlines.
  2. Public and Private Observatories (including Departments of Astronomy at Universities and Colleges).
  3. American Astronomical Society.
  4. American Physical Society.
  5. Optical Society of America.

"To fully utilize consistence of all these agencies it is extremely desirable that the Air Force assure them that it is making efforts to identify these objects by collection in their analysis of technical information. In the past, it has been desirable for ATIC to shield its scientists from identification with this Project in order that they might have the confidence of their professional associates. This is especially true of private organizations and ATIC plans to send out letters to them soliciting their help.

"In order to accomplish the above it will be necessary for the Air Force to make a PIO release similar to 'white paper.' In addition to explaining the Air Force policy (and proposed plan) for investigating future UAO observations, this paper should note that valuable scientific data will become available as a result of the proposed plan for implementing the collection thereof by use of instruments. It should be pointed out that only such data that is of military nature will be classified, whereas fully scientific data will be released to the scientists cooperating on the project and will be valuable to them in their studies.

"As in the collection activities, so in the analyses operation it is planned to hold costs to a minimum by the employment of existing military and public agencies to a maximum. For this reason conferences have already been held with MATS to work out arrangements whereby the Balloon Screening activities will be monitored by the Air Weather Service and Aircraft Screening will be monitored by Flight Service." 250.

Another series of pages in the same file quote a letter to a Colonel Porter from a Colonel O'Mara that outlines three proposals:

"Dear Colonel Porter:

"Your letter of the fifth (June 1952 subject 'Project Bluebook') is acknowledged. We are glad to obtain your general concurrence with our recommendations. There appear to be three possible methods of handling the situation, one of which (Proposal I) is at present utilized.

"PROPOSAL I. (ATIC alone)

- a. Project Blue Book would be handled by ATIC alone. There would be no organized outside help.
- b. ATIC would receive all reports, consider and segregate them into two categories: (1) 'ACTION,' for immediate processing in a numbered folder; and (2) 'NO ACTION,' for ATIC reference file.
- c. ATIC would be responsible for all PIO actions.
- d. ATIC would prepare and furnish AFOIN-2 with semi-annual reports on the situation. These reports would list all sightings during the period, with individual action, conclusion and recapitulation of origins (planet Venus, balloons, aircraft, mirages, etc., unknown).

"PROPOSAL II. (ATIC plus Contract Technical Group plus Advisory Committee)

- a. High Level Advisory Committee.
  1. Would not exceed three people.
  2. Would act as counselor to ATIC.
  3. Chairman would act as high level spokesman on Blue Book matters for USAF (Material for utterances would be furnished by ATIC).

NOTE: Suggested names might include: General Doolittle; Dr. Griggs; a member of the scientific advisory board; others. They would be selected and appointed by AFOIN-2.

- b. Contractor Technical Group.
  1. Contractor would set up technical group of scientific personnel (not exceeding three persons) to whom data on all sightings would be furnished in a numbered folder for immediate consideration.
  2. Group would, when necessary, conduct interrogations.
  3. Group would make continuing analyses of all incoming data to determine category into which phenomena could fall.
  4. Group would return to ATIC completed action numbered folders on all sightings.
  5. Contractor would make available, to the technical group, members of his scientific staff as consultants in various fields (including, for example, that of psychology).

NOTE: Suggested names of contractors might include: Rand Corporation; Battelle Memorial Institute; General Mills, others.

- c. ATIC Monitoring Activity
  1. ATIC would set up a new project to continue to monitor all phases as at present.
  2. ATIC would be responsible for press releases in the early stages of all sightings (One additional PIO type personnel required).
  3. ATIC would furnish the contractor technical group all data on sightings as they were received.

4. ATIC would plan the procedure to be followed and take necessary operational steps.
5. ATIC would investigate all sighting reports and prepare a folder in duplicate (1 copy for ATIC files and 1 copy for contractor technical group).
6. ATIC would furnish the high level advisory group with bi-monthly summary reports based on the completed action numbered folders furnished by the contractor technical group. These summaries would supply the high level advisory committee with the necessary material for information releases and would eventually be prepared by the Contractor Technical Group and coordinated by ATIC before submission. This, however, would not occur until the contractor had acquired the necessary experience.

NOTE: Direct communication with Contractor would be necessary. Contractor Technical Group might have to be located near or in ATIC.

"PROPOSAL III. (ATIC plus Contractor)

a. Contractor Handling of Projects.

1. Contractor would be given complete monitoring, planning, handling and assessing of Project Blue Book under the overall supervision of ATIC who would act as AO (Approving Official).
2. There would be two handling categories: 'ACTION' and 'NO ACTION.' The first ('ACTION') would be sent immediately to the contractor in a numbered folder for processing. The second ('NO ACTION') would be filed at ATIC for reference.
3. Contractor would conduct all interrogations and would necessarily have to be in a position to operate with agencies in the Department of Defense since some needed actions might require collaboration by Air Force, Weather Bureau units, etc.
4. Contractor would furnish ATIC with:
  - (a) Flash report, based on available information, with a rapid assessment. (This would be required within a few hours of receipt of the 'ACTION' folder or telephonic information of the contents of this 'ACTION' folder).
  - (b) Interim report.
  - (c) Completed action report on each action sighting number folder.
5. Contractor would furnish ATIC with semi-annual reports on the situation. These reports would list all sightings during the period with individual action, conclusions and recapitulation of origins (planet Venus, balloons, aircraft, mirages, etc., unknown).

b. ATIC Responsibility.

1. ATIC would be responsible for all press releases and would act as spokesman for Project Blue Book. Alternately, it would furnish information to the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, for press releases or briefing actions.

"It is considered that of the three possible methods outlined above, PROPOSAL II would yield the best immediate results. This proposal leaves the responsibility for Project Blue Book activity with this Center, but it provides both the authoritativeness of a high level spokesman and the technical capabilities, in all scientific fields, of a reputable contractor. It is further considered that Rand Corporation, if available, would most adequately fulfill the contractual requirements. We propose, if no objections exist, to adopt PROPOSAL II as soon as possible.\*

"Insofar as the future is concerned, the tendency should be to increase the responsibility of the contractor in proportion to his experience and thus more closely approach the procedure outlined in PROPOSAL III.

Sincerely,  
 John A. O'Mara  
 Colonel, USAF " 251.

More paperwork states why some UFO reports lacked follow-up, or "disappeared" in the system:

"When the project was reorganized in July 1951, the basic premise of the reorganization was that if a large volume of complete reports could be obtained it might be possible to correlate these and possibly plot the track of an object and from triangulation obtain altitudes and size. Thus AFL 200-5 was designed to obtain all possible reports of unidentified aerial objects.

"AFL 200-5 has been only moderately successful in fulfilling its purpose. It has been widely disseminated although on several occasions it has been noted that some lower echelon organizations are not aware of its presence and are reporting under old regulations.

"In many instances AFL 200-5 has not been followed in reporting. A survey of 100 reports submitted in June 1952 showed that 37 reporting agencies did not follow-up the wire message with a written Form 112. In all of these cases the wire message stated that the report was in compliance with AFL 200-5 indicating that the reporting agency was familiar with the Air Force Letter. This discrepancy has been investigated to some degree and the reasons for not complying with the letter were:

- a. There was a manpower shortage in typists.
- b. The reporting agency had no more data other than that inclosed in the initial wire message and did not have time to collect more data.
- c. AFL 200-5 was interpreted to mean that some other agency would submit the Form 112.
- d. The reporting officer did not believe in 'flying saucers.'

"In a few instances no report of any type was submitted although the source was known to have reported the incident to an Air Force installation.

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\* Date of this letter: 2 July 52.

"Observations by sources other than AF personnel are received in compliance with AFL 200-5 when they are reported to AF installations. Magazine and newspaper articles have stated that civilians should contact their nearest Air Force installation to report an unidentified aerial object. (This statement was not officially sanctioned by ATIC.) Civilian pilots contact CAA facilities who in turn relay the report through AACS communications nets to flight service centers who make the report in accordance with AFL 200-5." 252.

There is also discussions of how UFO reports were investigated, what a "CIRVIS" meant, and a comment on UFO information volunteered by civilians, all of which is instructive to the UFO historian:

"During the peak of sightings that occurred in June and July of 1952, it became evident that AFL 200-5 was inadequate in the sense that a large percentage of the reports received did not contain enough information to evaluate or the reliability of the source was extremely doubtful. In only a very few cases did the report contain enough data to thoroughly evaluate the report. The cost of these communications in money and manpower was not balanced by the amount of useable data obtained.

#### "2. Further Investigation of Reports.

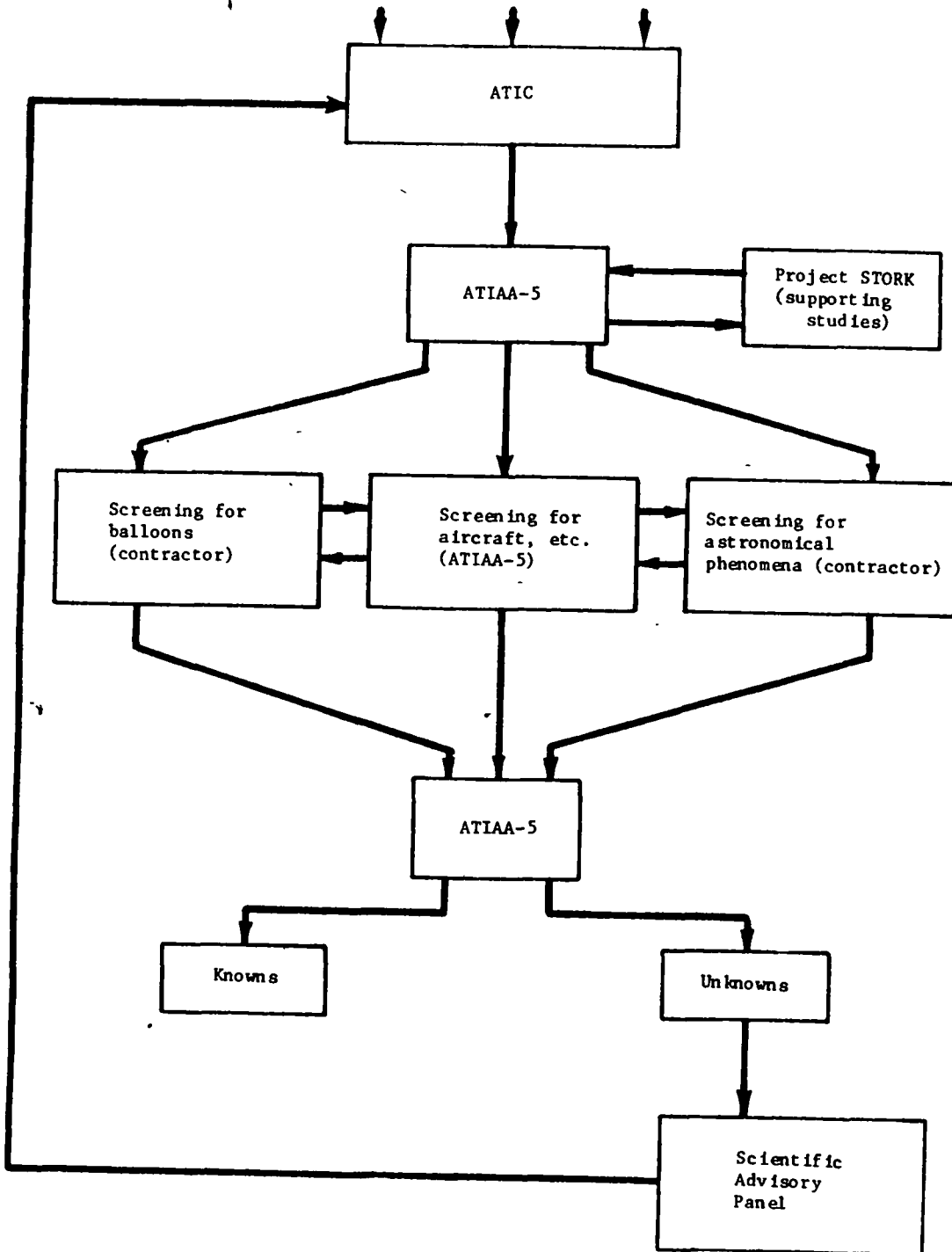
"Since many reports of sightings are unique and the information desired cannot be covered by one standard AFL, more information than that asked for in AFL 200-5 is needed. This is obtained by phone calls, wire messages, or interviews by ATIC personnel. Since a thorough field investigation by ATIC field investigators may take up to a week, the manpower situation has greatly limited these trips. Only the most outstanding incidents have been investigated. Phone calls and wire messages are only practical when a very few specific items of information are needed. The inability to send investigators on field trips is, however, not a great disadvantage. It has been found by experience that only in the most important cases does it pay to send people to obtain more data. Except during the June-July 1952 peak, most incidents which have required a field investigation have been fairly well investigated. The need for the time and personnel to make field investigations was best exemplified by the Washington D.C. radar sighting. In this instance, if ATIC had had the personnel to investigate this sighting immediately the newspapers could have been given an answer and a lot of the publicity which was received would have been eliminated.

#### "3. CIRVIS Reports.

"JANAP-146(b) (CIRVIS) states that any U.S. aircraft flying worldwide will report an observation they believe to be of vital intelligence nature to the nearest U.S. military installation. This includes the reporting of sightings of unidentified aerial objects. ATIC receives such reports relayed from the D/I, as it does not receive direct distribution of such reports. In the past CIRVIS reports have not been utilized due to the fact that the information is too incomplete to evaluate.

"It is understood that the recent peak of sightings of unidentified aerial objects saturated the service communication net. This is

Reports from Civilians, Military, etc.



Comments on reports and suggested future operations.

(Bigger BLUE BOOK plan)

unfortunate and should be corrected because as was previously stated CIRVIS reports are generally not evaluated.

"4. Letters from Civilians.

"Many reports are made directly to ATIC by letter. Magazines and newspapers have stated that ATIC is responsible for reports of unidentified aerial objects, consequently they are forwarded directly to ATIC by mail. This presents a major manpower problem since all such letters are acknowledged and filed. The quality of 95 percent of these letters is such that they are of no value. An attempt is being made to obtain information from these letters; however, by sending questionnaires to the sources. 253.

The military record, moreover, contains scribbles on note paper that never reached the stage of becoming a formal document. The condition of these notes indicates the endeavor of an "expanded effort" was abandoned.

According to the forementioned notes found in BLUE BOOK files, apparently plans were made on July 10th to discuss the proposals with Kaplan and Von Karman during the week of the 14th. There was also a desire to pick a chairman of the proposed advisory group and name its members.

A number of scientific disciplines were suggested to be represented in the group along with a name of an expert: Meteorology (no one mentioned), Physics, Irvine Langmuir; Upper Atmosphere, Kaplan; Astrophysics, Valley; Nuclear Physics, Hafstadt; Psychology (no one mentioned); Applied Physics, Dr. Alex Wetmore. 254.

Other names tossed around:

- Dr. Van Allen
- Dr. Fritz Zwicky, professor of astrophysics (rockets)
- Dr. William J. Crozier,\* Harvard University.
- Dr. E.O. Hulburt,\* Chief Scientist, NRL, Dept. of the Navy.
- Dr. F.A. Jenkins,\* professor of physics(optics).
- Dr. E.H. Land, Director of research, Polaroid Corp. Member of S.A.B.
- Dr. L.N. Ridenour,\* private consultant.
- Dr. J. Strong,\* professor of physics(atmospheric radiation)John Hopkins University. Member of S.A.B.
- Dr. E. Teller,\* professor of physics(green fireballs) University of Chicago. Member of S.A.B.
- Dr. F.L. Whipple, professor of astrophysics(meteors).

After the members were to be selected and approved, they were to be briefed at ATIC. After that the first order of business would be to discuss UFO questionnaires and methods of procedures with input from the contractor. The contractor would, at that time, also begin work on an estimate of costs.

Finally, a note was made that asked:"What to do to help Ruppelt in the meantime?" 255.

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\*Spelling not clear in notes.

Here speculation by the historian is called for. Based on declassified documents not yet widely circulated, and a close study of material readily available, Ruppelt emerges as a man having dreams of being the chief of such an "expanded effort" like that proposed. Reasonable conjecture paints Ruppelt as ambitious, and not someone who believed in UFOs like Keyhoe. What killed the "expanded effort" was the "take over" of the "UFO investigation" by the CIA in the Fall of 1952. Ruppelt, a disappointed man, nonetheless cooperated closely with the CIA and at the same time helped the agency keep tabs on Keyhoe and others by pretending to be sympathetic to the extraterrestrial theory. The true feelings of Ruppelt did not surface until he revised his UFO book years later.

#### The secret plan.

As expected, the November election victory of Eisenhower took care of any threat from Kimball, but some believers at ATIC had worked out a secret plan to "give the public all the facts." Several senior grade officers, probably Colonels W.A. Adams and Weldon Smith who directed Fournet to do the study on reported UFO maneuvers, along with Maj. Fournet and Al Chop, were preparing a plan so daring Keyhoe was incredulous when he was first told of it. This "pro-UFO" group wanted a press conference to be called without any advance publicity thereby catching the "silent group people" by surprise.

During the press conference the case for the UFO would be presented using the best cases on file with the Air Force. The leadoff item would be the Tremonton, Utah, UFO film and the newspeople would be informed of the "unexplained" answer arrived at by both the ATIC and Navy photographic laboratories. The conclusion of the presentation would be a statement that UFOs were most probably vehicles from outer space observing our world.

The lack of hostility shown by UFOs would be stressed and previous secrecy about the subject explained as a necessary precaution to help in the investigation of the problem. 256.

One miscalculation was made in the preparation of this plan. Fournet confided in Ruppelt.



## APPENDIX

## The NEAP and UFOs

In General Twining's famous "Flying Saucers Are Real" letter of September 1947, he directed that information collected about the phenomenon be sent to a number of agencies, with one of them being the NEPA project or "Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft."

The possibility of proving that a nuclear-powered aircraft of some sort existed would have been a powerful motivation to certain people in their quest for information about UFOs. Any of the persons involved in the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation NEPA Division situated at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for example, would have a lot to gain if it could be proved atomic engines were feasible, be they Russian or Martian. The budgetary hassels with Congress would be put to rest. Jobs would become secure in the case of civilians, and in the case of the military the prestige invested would not be lost. With that in mind, it is not surprising that Colonel John Hood of the Air Material Command Field Engineering Office, Oak Ridge, whose pet project was apparently the Air Force's proposed atomic plane, led the effort to investigate strange radiation readings at the Tennessee facility.

A brief history of the NEPA project:

In October, 1945, Congressional hearings initiated a controversy that persisted for years and cost hundreds of millions in tax dollars.

Senator Homer Ferguson asked: "Do you see a future for atomic power in an airplane?"

J. Carlton Ward, Jr., President of Fairchild Engine & Airplane Corporation, testifying on Capital Hill, replied: "The whole tactical concept of war will change to the nation that first solves that problem."

The next day the Chicago Tribune headlined: "PREDICTS ATOM WILL END LIMIT ON PLANE RANGE."

Many experts, however, did not find the answer so clear cut. "Hogwash," snorted atomic scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer. "Too dangerous," roared nuclear expert Edward Teller. Other detractors, senior engineers, exclaimed: "slow, expensive, complicated, and possibly useless."

The United States Army Air Force, desperate to establish itself as a separate service branch so it could drop the word "Army" from its title, saw in Carlton Ward's words a possible salvation, for without a very long range bomber the Air Force would forever be tied to the Army in a support role. A nuclear powered plane would in theory have almost unlimited range and would dominate the globe, exciting thoughts for Air Force Generals. The High Command obtained funding and eventually 14,000 people in seven states were hard at work a futuristic bomber. A commitment of money did not, however, give the project respectability in the eyes of many in the Atomic Energy Commission. For example, Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee had its nuclear aircraft team assigned to a dilapidated building behind the power plant.

In 1947 the Pentagon's Scientific Advisory Committee, headed by J. Robert Oppenheimer and Harvard University President James Conant, recommended termination of research on the atomic powered plane since the radiation shielding problem seemed insurmountable (and not helping matters any was that veterans of the Manhattan Project resented the Air Force's intrusive behavior). This rebuff to the Air Force's ambitions was not calmly received, especially when the United States Navy's atomic-powered submarine plans were going for-

ward quickly without serious technical difficulties. There was no love lost between the Air Force and the Navy in the competition for the most advanced weapon systems.

Vigorous lobbying in Congress won for the Air Force a review of the atomic bomber project before termination was implemented. In the summer of 1948 some 45 engineers, metallurgists, aeronautics specialists, and physicists, gathered at Lexington, Massachusetts, for a secret brainstorming session. After extensive talks the Air Force managed a narrow victory and the project was allowed to continue on the recommendation of the experts.

The attraction of an atomic powered bomber to the Air Force almost seemed to border on the unreasonable. A more rational solution to the Air Force's problem of achieving a long range capability was in-flight refueling of conventional bombers (A solution pushed by the Air Force's think tank RAND and one that was eventually adopted), but the in-flight concept was intentionally ignored.

It might be asked: "What about rockets?" Here the problem was a, in one of range. The only thing available was improved versions of the Nazi V-2 brought to the U.S. after the war in Europe and the range of that missile was only some 250 miles, hardly making it the intercontinental weapon system the Air Force wanted.

Besides design difficulties involved in the problem of increasing range, there was heated debate among the services about which one should be in charge of rocket warfare. Many felt missiles should be considered a kind of artillery therefore the gunnery experts of the Army and the Navy were encouraged to seek exclusive control of what was asserted to be basically a ballistic weapon. Missiles, it was argued, did not "fly" so why give them to the Air Force? The Air Force put up a half-hearted fight since it did not look forward to being "silo-sitters," the soul of that service imbued with the romance of flight. Air Force Chief of Staff Curtis Le May tyfied the mood. He allocated meagre funds for Air Force missile research, and to a critic of his missile prejudice Le May snapped: "Sir, a missile has neither loyalty nor discrimination."

Of course the Air Force would have had no trouble at with their atomic plane plans if it could be proved the Russians had already developed a similar craft that could travel to North America, maneuver, and then return to Asia. Le May could have had a blank check from Congress.

Here something else enters the picture. The Air Force had an enormous amount of verbal Intelligence that indicated the possible existence of an aircraft of foreign manufacture that did have extreme range capabilities, while displaying powers of maneuverability that were on the same level of amazement as atomic energy. This verbal Intelligence was of a most extraordinary character. The Air Force was receiving hundreds of "flying saucer" reports.

It was probably no accident that James Conant of Harvard was the chief of the Air Force's first UFO investigative effort, project SIGN. At the time of project SIGN, Conant, serving on the Pentagon's scientific advisory committee, was under great pressure to evaluate whether the atomic bomber was a rational concept. There were just too many questions and no assurance how much time and money it would take answer them.

This view of events shows how concerned the Air Force was about the possibility "flying saucers" were atomic powered aircraft. It also shows that there was a very substantial reason for censorship of UFO material other than the

"aliens from space" idea pushed so hard by Keyhoe.

Although the atomic powered aircraft plan was scrapped some years ago ( it was a billion dollar bust ) much information concerning the work is still classified and those files might well contain a number of interesting documents pertaining to the UFO mystery.

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