

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1947 August 1st – December 31st

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA

“UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse.”

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

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

Russian secret weapon?

If the flying saucers were Russian craft, it was assumed they would be seen coming and going from bases in Communist territory. Flights like that meant thousands of miles, which would be quite a feat in 1947, especially for Moscow's inexperienced long range aircraft engineers.

Various approaches to the continental United States (See map on page 2) had different advantages and disadvantages.

The most likely air route would be the one from Siberia (No.1). It was the shortest, and in fact most saucer reports were coming in from the America's Pacific Northwest than elsewhere in the country. However, a drawback was that America had outposts in Alaska, which could give advance warning.

The Polar route (No.2) was much longer but any detection would be by chance observation. No radar fence existed.

The Northeastern route (No.3) led directly to the thickly populated East Coast but it passed over, or near, to nations friendly to the U.S., making detection or interception a possibility even before reaching Canadian airspace. Also, this route paralleled a heavily traveled civilian and military air and sea traffic corridor.

The West and East coasts (No.4 & 5) were wide open but Russia had no aircraft carriers.

A sky invasion from the south (No.6) seemed very unlikely unless a Russian base could be established in Latin American and there was no political reason to expect any government in the hemisphere would cooperate. But it should be noted, Mexico did offer a couple of advantages. America's Spanish neighbor was very close to sensitive atomic/missile testing grounds just across the border in New Mexico and the barren wastes of Chihuahua might conceivably conceal a secret saucer launching site.

American experts didn't believe the Russians could build a craft with enough range to reach North America, maneuver around, and return to base. The only scenario that even seemed remotely plausible was the use of a captured German airframe design and a breakthrough in the use of atomic power for propulsion. Various bits of information fed such suspicions. The Communist newspaper *Daily Worker*, always taking its cue from Moscow, published on July 11th that it considered flying saucer sightings so much nonsense and that if anyone stared at the sky long enough he could end up seeing whatever he wanted. (xx.) Were the Reds just being sarcastic or were they trying to throw the U.S. military off the track?

(xx.) Ripley, Josephine. "Saucers in the Milky Way." *Christian Science Monitor*. 11 July 47.

The Air Force investigators did have something to work with by mid-July. There was the interesting Rhodes photo that resembled the experimental German Horton aircraft, and there was a photo of a heat-generating object that had cut through a cloud over Newfoundland. Less solid, but very compelling pieces of evidence, were the common characteristics that turned up in many flying saucer reports made by apparent credible witnesses.

The radio signals.



Air approaches to the U.S.

Of special interest to American Intelligence was the detection, about the end of July, of definite radio signals from Communist territory apparently intended for remote controlled craft. These radio signals were taken quite seriously and a meeting was convened at Wright Field, Ohio, to deal with the matter.

If the saucers were Soviet, as these radio signals suggested, the military needed the FBI to check for subversion and to forget the hassle over toilet seat covers. Efforts would have to be made to quickly repair relations with the FBI and appease Hoover.

Other steps were taken:

General Spaatz ordered daring reconnaissance flights into the Bering Strait airspace.

Air Force investigators put together a general description of the characteristics of a "flying saucer" so the military would know what to look for.

A call went out to contact and interrogate WW II German designers.

In the meantime, flying saucers reports kept coming in. They were as good, or even better, than those recorded in June and July.

Let us now cover all of these developments on a detailed, day to day, basis as much as possible.

31 July/1 August. Ferret missions.

Ferret missions in the Baltic Sea area and the Bering Strait were apparently related to radio signals emanating from the Rugen area of Russian-occupied Germany. A ferret mission is a reconnaissance flight devoted to the electronic monitoring of radar and radio signals produced by a potential enemy.

A War Department message dated the 31st recognized the completion of three missions in the Baltic in the month of July which were now to be followed up flights further north. The probability the flights would be near Russian airspace is indicated by the need for State Department concurrence. (See page 4)

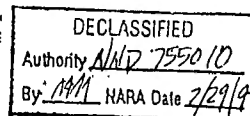
On August 1st ferret flights in the Bering Strait were authorized by General Spaatz. That the flights would be a daring, is proved by the use of the words "utmost precaution" and instructions for a cover story. (See pages 5-6) Granted that the message does not mention "flying saucers," it makes sense that Spaatz would chose this time and place to search for special radio signals. The state of Alaska was the primary air approach to the lower 48. (See page 2)

Fall 1947. Somewhere on Route 66 in New Mexico. (Sunset)

Object lands, takes off?

The witness was a Mr. W.J. Rice who said that in later years he was a missile test mechanic at California's Vandenberg AFB. The area of the sighting was flat desert with mountains five miles to the east and six miles to the west. Mr. Rice refers to the UFO as a "ship" but he observed it, according to his story, close enough to received the definite impression the thing was a solid maneuverable machine of some sort. It was in view about 10 minutes and he estimated its

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TOP SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARAS 511 and 60a (4), AR 380-5

Collection Branch
Air Intelligence Requirements
Division, AG/AS-2, Maj Langbein
4544

31 July 1947

COMGENUSAFE Weisbaden Germany

Nr: WAR 83419

From AFACB signed Spaatz repara UA 5736.

Pertaining ur query "Continued operation to the fullest extent is urged" you are advised that agreement with State Department has been fulfilled with completion of three missions in Baltic Sea area in July. No further flights are to be made at this time in Baltic. A new project to the north is being contemplated when B-29 Ferret and crew can be moved to your area for period of TDY. State Dept concurrence is expected.

End
A.F. 12

NOTE: UA-5736 is CM IN 5013, (30 Jul 47)

ORIGINATOR: Gen Spaatz **GEN. McDONALD**

DISTRIBUTION: Gen Chamberlin, Gen Norstad.

GENERAL PARTRIDGE

CM OUT 83419 (Aug 47)

DTG 041404Z

jc

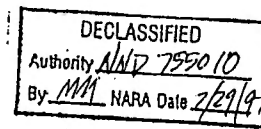
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TOP SECRET IV
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TOP
SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET
RESPONDENCE PER PARAS 511 and 60a (4) AR 300-5

From: COMGEN Alaskan Air Command Elmendorf Field Alaska
sgd Atkinson

To: Hdqtrs Yukon Sector Ladd Field Alaska PERSONAL
for Everett

Info: COMGENAAF Washington 25 DC

Nr: AX 16704

1 August 1947

This is a paraphrase of message received from
Spatz which follows from here:

"15 miles limitation imposed north of Diomedes from
all alien territory and floodlight boundaries not applicable
for PASSIONATE only. Army Security Agency observer will
not participate. Special briefing of crew to cover possible
forced landing or ditching on complete destruction of air-
craft and equipment using necessary materials which will be
furnished will be afforded crew. Mission must not be
disclosed other than being lost on weather mission. Should
repatriation become necessary every effort will be made but
it is expected that efforts will bear no fruit." End of
paraphrase and you are authorized to make such flights if
deemed necessary to complete mission requirements as author-
ized in above from Spatz with exception minimum range
should not be utilized. Instead range which would allow
sufficient coverage without courting such additional dangers
as may be met at minimum range from alien territory is to
be used. Utmost precautions will be encouraged in planning
and preparation of such flights insuring maintenance of suf-
ficient distance from landfall and for obtaining desired
information. Flt Shoefler RCM observer 46th Recon Sqdn will
fly number 7 RCM position in lieu of Army Security Agency

CM IN 418

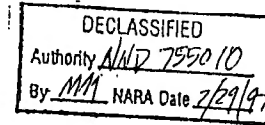
(3 Aug 47)

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SECRET**

Page 2

From: COMGEN Alaskan Air Command Elmendorf Field Alaska
sgd Atkinson

Nr: AX 16704

1 August 1947

observer. Should flights be necessary this Headquarters
will be notified as to proposed course flight plan estimated
time departure and arrival notice will be forwarded on
return of aircraft en sta.

En1

ACTION: Gen Spaatz GENERAL PARTRIDGE

INFO: Gen Chamberlin, Gen Norstad, CSA

CM IN 418

(3 Aug 47) DTG 010245Z WB

TOP SECRET

GEN. WEYLAND

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size as 50 feet by 20 feet.

His narrative of the incident:

"The ship came up over the mountains from the east—came behind and over the car at 100 feet—went west 3 to 4 miles—turned north. Came back to within 100 feet of the car and came down to within 20 feet of the ground. I had pulled the car off the road—had gotten out and walked to the front of the car. When it came back on my right—'north'—I walked around the front of the car to watch the ship land—as it had come down so close.

"At that time I knew nothing of saucers and thought it was a new kind of jet from Edwards A.F.B.—lost or in trouble. I started walking to the ship and had gone only 20 feet when it went up and took off at a very high speed over the mountain. The desert sky was clear and almost blue-white. If I had known then [?] I may or may not have gone out to that ship.

"It was very big in size and I thought it may be some new kind of flying wing as at the time we and England were trying to build them. It was very interesting and somehow I wish that I could get that close again. I have build an 8" scope so I know meteors or [planet] Jupiter—also [the earth satellite] Echo and Venus as I also know a 707 or 747 jet. Then again I have helped to send up a few of our own satellites at Vandenberg A.F.B." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, 3910 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona. 85716. From: W.J. Rice. (no address) Date: ? Probably 1967 APRO files. Reel #1. Photocopy in author's files.

? August. Between Brandon, Manitoba and Rivers, Manitoba, Canada. (midnight)

"Dome-like projection on top."

An auto containing seven persons, six were adults, was traveling on highway #10 when a UFO was encountered:

"Marion's [no first name given in report] husband was stationed at the Rivers Air Force Base as were his two friends. They were all returning to the base from seeing a movie in Brandon. The object was first sighted about 19 to 20 miles east of Rivers appearing suddenly to the left of the automobile and paced it at the car's speed of about 40-50 mph, the object doing the same. The occupants of the car rolled down the windows of the car in order to observe this object better. They watched for about half an hour. During this time the object hung completely motionless just above the wires that bring power into Rivers.

"The object appeared to be 25 feet long and made from one piece of shiny silvery metal. There did not seem to be any windows, doors, or seams. There was a dome-like projection on top of the main body of the object. The underside of the object gave off a very brilliant white light which illuminated the ground and roadway under and around the object. After about half an hour, the object suddenly winked out like a light that was turned off. It was not seen

again.

"When the witnesses reached Rivers, they reported what they had seen to an officer on the Air force Base, who stated that he thought it could have been a secret plane and that they should not mention what they saw to anyone." (xx.)

(xx.) UFO report found in APRO's files. Investigators: "E. Barker and B.C. Cannon." Date of investigation unknown. Photocopy in author's files. APRO file microfilm. Reel #1.

1 August. Near Winnemucca, Nevada. (about 1:00 p.m.)

Boise Idaho Mayor sees discs in V-formation.

According to the *Idaho Statesman*:

"A passenger on United Airlines inaugural Boise-to-Reno southbound flight Friday, Boise Mayor Potter P. Howard said that he spotted 12 discs flying in the vicinity of Winnemucca, Nevada.

"A woman passenger, whose name was not learned, also saw the 12 discs, Mayor Howard said.

"The saucers were several thousand feet below the plane,' Mayor Howard said. He estimated that they were flying about 1,000 feet above the ground."

(xx.)

(xx.) Boise, Idaho. *Idaho Statesman*. 2 August 47.

4 August. Kenneth Arnold gets a scare.

A Twins Falls paper reported an embarrassment experienced by Arnold:

"A plane piloted by Kenneth Arnold, Boise flying salesman who first reported sighting the flying discs, crashed yesterday at the Pendleton, Oregon, airport.

"The Civil Aeronautics Administration station here said Arnold escaped injury when the engine of his two-place airplane quit while the craft was about 30 feet 30 feet in the air.

"The plane's landing spar in the left wing was broken, the CAA said.

"Arnold was en route to Boise from Tacoma [Washington] where he and Capt. E.J. Smith of United Air lines investigated another flying disc story." (xx.)

(xx.) Twin Falls, Idaho. *Times-News*. 5 August 47.

Early? August. Between Philomath and Corvallis, Oregon. (about 7:00 p.m.)

Anti-aircraft gunner sees discs.

A press report states:

"Mr. and Mrs. I.W. Robinson and son, Clifford, observed three 'flying discs' about 7 p.m. recently, the objects moving in a northeasterly direction between Philomath and Corvallis. Clifford, an anti-aircraft gunner's mate in the last war, estimated the objects were moving about four times as fast as an airplane and at from 8,000 to 9,000 feet altitude. The discs were about the size of a large airplane and were flying abreast. The Robinsons were working at their new cold storage locker building when they saw the objects move across the sky, apparently rising and dipping as they moved along." (xx.)

(xx.) Salem, Oregon. *Capital Journal*. 5 August 47.

5 August. 21/2 miles northwest of Ontario, Oregon. (6:30 a.m.)

"They were just like everyone describes them."

The *Argus* newspaper printed:

"The Ross Osburn family spotted one of the familiarly seen 'flying discs' Tuesday morning at 6:30 over their home. The object appeared to be headed in a northerly direction.

" 'As it went farther off,' Mrs. Osburn exclaimed, 'it appeared to be two objects. They are just like everyone describes them, round, just flying discs. They weren't planes, they didn't look like planes.

"The Osburn ranch is located two and a half miles northwest of the city. Mrs. Osburn saw the disc—or discs first and called her husband and son, Larry. While They were looking at the stange aircraft, Mrs. Osburn was phoning neighbors of her Discovery.

"As far as they could determine, the Osburns were the only ones to see the saucers." (xx.)

(xx.) Ontario, Oregon. *Argus*. 7 August 47.

6 August. "Far from solved."

A Spokane, Washington, paper printed:

"Dave Johnson, aviation editor of the *Idaho Daily Statesman* said in a signed statement published in the newspaper today that 'the flying disk mystery is still far from solution unless military intelligence is reaching a decision which may or may be made public.'

"Johnson said Kenneth Arnold, Boise salesman-flyer who first reported sighting the flying saucers, investigated further disk reports at Tacoma, Washington, and 'flatly refused to further discuss the subject.'

"Johnson's article added:

" 'Arnold said he had been requested by military intelligence authorities at McChord field, Washington, to refrain from making public statements concerning his

most recent investigation of flying discs.'

"Johnson declared 'the great flying disk mystery has apparently turned into an earnest effort by military intelligence to uncover the reasons for the stories'." (xx.)

(xx.) Spokane, Washington. *Chronicle*. 6 August 47.

6/7? August. "Are still being reported."

Oregon paper notices continued disc sightings:

"Those 'flying discs,' whatever they may be—new navy flying wings, projectiles, visitors from space or just spots before the eyes—still seem to be with us.

"From the Tygh Valley country the past week came word of a disc seen through field glasses which showed a bump or 'canopy' at the type [sic], indicating some kind of aircraft.

"Again near the intersection of Eightmile and Fifteenmile creeks came a report of a disc sweeping low over a wheat field, and then taking off again, nearly straight up.

"Nope! Nobody wanted to be quoted. 'We're taking enough kidding already,' they told the *Optimist*." (xx.)

The Dalles, Oregon. *Optimist*. 15 August 47.

6 August. Lander, Wyoming. (about 10:00 p.m.)

Newspaper story:

"Mysterious 'flying saucers' have again been seen in the sky above Lander. Mrs. William Shindeldecker was lying in bed before an open window Wednesday night, August 6, at about 10, when five of the bright objects shot across the sky in formation before her eyes. The first formation had no sooner passed than a second, of about the same number, went past at terrific speed.

"The 'discs' were flying southwest, and Mrs. Shindeldecker describes them as big as a washtub, and were tipping from side to side like a plate. 'They looked to be very high,' she said.

"Mrs. John Ferguson reported seeing a 'saucer' the same night from her trailer house at the Knisley-Moore construction camp." (xx.)

(xx.) Lander, Wyoming. *Wyoming State Journal*. 14 August 47. p.9.

7 August. Helena, Montana. (2:00 a.m.)

V-formation.

Six witnesses state:

"Six Helena girls reportedly sighted a number of flying disks travelling in 'V'

formation over Helena at 2 o'clock this morning.

"The girls, on a slumber party at the home of Peggy Mitchell, 610 North Logan, were in bed on the back lawn when they sighted the objects which Jaque Cauble, spokesman for the group, described as being light orange in color and traveling at a terrific rate of speed.

"Miss Cauble who said that she recognized the discs from some that she had seen in Boise earlier in the summer, added that they were traveling too fast to count but estimated that there were about 12.

"The other girls of the party who saw the strange night flyers were Janice Hummell, Ruth Robertson, Jerry Gruner, Joanne Huber and Neya Hardy." (xx.)

(xx.) Helena, Montana. *Independent Record*. 7 August 47.

7 August. Conference at Wright Field, Ohio. (See page 12)

8 August. FBI balks at investigating the flying discs.

A bureau memo said, in part, that: "...it would appear that this is a military situation and should be handled strictly by military authorities." Also: "...it is not believed that the Bureau should be expending its precious manpower on these complaints which thus far have no connection with our Russian espionage program." (See FBI memo on page 13)

8 August. Near Pitanga, Brazil.

"Seven foot tall aliens?"

Since this is perhaps the earliest example of a "contact" case, it rates a detailed look so it can be measured against subsequent claims. Authenticity is in doubt therefore the date of publication has been chosen over the date of the event as given by the witness. (xx.) (See article on pages 14-15)

(xx.) *Flying Saucer Review*. Vol. 7, No.6. November-December 1961. pp.30-31.

11 August. Wright Field, Ohio.

"Distant control of rockets." (See page 16)

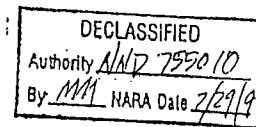
11 August. Tucson, Arizona. (shortly after midnight)

"Huge green-colored fireball."

An AP dispatch informed Americans:

"John Priser, former University of Arizona student who has been doing photographic work for Dr. E.F. Carpenter, head of the university's astronomy department, reported yesterday that he sighted a huge green-colored fireball travelling low on the horizon from west to east shortly after midnight yesterday.

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PER PARAS 511 and 60a (4), AR 380-5

Hq AAF AC/AS-3
AFACO-IE/P Maj Winton AC
73206

7 August 1947

COMGENUSAF Wiesbaden Germany

INFO:

HQ EUCOM Frankfurt Germany

Nr: WARX 83709

From AFACO signed Spacke reurad UA 5756.

Desire attendance of 1 officer your command to attend
RCM Mockup Conference at Wright Field 3 September 1947.
Officer should have operational experience in ferret and
offensive countermeasures and should be familiar with results
of recent ferret flights your theatre. Officer should
report this headquarters approximately 18 August.

End

UA 5756 is CM IN 826, 5 Aug 47

AF 70

H. J. A.

ANALYSIS

GEN. POWERS

ORIGINATOR: Gen Spacke

GENERAL PARTRIDGE

CM OUT 83709

(Aug 47) DTG 071753Z

WB

~~GENERAL PARTRIDGE~~

TOP SECRET

MC 7681

5

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (19)

TO : D. W. LADD *DL*
 FROM : J. P. COYNE *JPC*
 SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS AND FLYING DISCS

DATE: 8-8-47

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Egan _____
 Mr. Gurnea _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Pennington _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Reference is made to the memorandum to you from the Liaison Section dated July 21, 1947, setting forth a request from Colonel Golbranson of the Intelligence Division of the War Department for the Bureau to conduct investigation to determine the origin of the flying discs.

OBSERVATIONS:

It is felt that the situation regarding these flying saucers and flying discs is very similar to the situation which was previously encountered by the Bureau during the past war in handling complaints arising out of the sighting of Japanese balloons. You will recall that at the inception of these complaints the Bureau conducted considerable investigation and located numerous balloons as a cooperative measure for the Army and that after considerable work had been done, the Army then informed that these were military weapons and that they would take over the handling of these completely. This they did and in an extremely short time issued a big press release as to the splendid work of the Army in locating these Japanese balloons. From the information available thus far, it does not appear that these discs should be treated other than as a military weapon. Certainly the Bureau has no way to determine what experiments the Army and Navy are conducting and whether such might be arising out of experiments being conducted by them nor do we have any way of determining how far the Russians have progressed in certain experiments and whether such might be the results of experiments by the Russian Army. It short, it would certainly appear that this is a military situation and should be handled strictly by military authorities.

In this connection it might be pointed out that our present Portland case arose out of the fact that two Army Intelligence officers were returning from an interview of two individuals who reportedly had seen flying discs. If the Army Intelligence officers are handling some of these interviews, it is believed that they should be handling all of these interviews, and it is not believed that the Bureau should be expending its precious manpower on these complaints which thus far have no connection with our Russian espionage program. The military authorities certainly are better equipped to know what they are looking for than we are and have more facilities for handling any material which it is necessary to examine as a result of its being reported as a remnant of a flying disc. It is believed that the Bureau is merely playing bird-dog for the Army by using our manpower to run out these complaints on flying discs.

ACTION:

EX-34 RECORDED

In view of the recent Bureau Bulletin #42 dated July 30, 1947, however, there is attached a letter to the Chicago Office asking that they conduct the requested investigation.

Attachment not given
 20104 8/3/47

The spacemen threw stones

ANOTHER CONTACT STORY FROM BRAZIL

In accordance with our declared policy, we are anxious to publicise the contact claims. Although this meeting is alleged to have occurred some years ago, we think that many of our readers will be unfamiliar with the incident. It has been taken from the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* for May, 1961, published from 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

IN 1947, when the flying saucers were seen frequently in the United States, the sightings were received with considerable scepticism elsewhere. Brazilians were no different from others. One unusual event which took place in that country in 1947 was recorded, then shelved until 1954 when Brazil underwent extensive UFO surveillance. At that time the following incident found renewed interest among Brazilians. Whether or not it is true, we cannot say, but certainly it is an unusual case. It was first printed on August 8, 1947, in *Diário Da Tarde* and the *Correio Do Noroeste*, in Bauru. Then, in 1954, the case was reviewed along with a sketch in *O Cruzeiro*.

A circular ship

On July 23, 1947 (only 29 days after Kenneth Arnold's experience), topographer Jose C. Higgins was working at a location west of the Goio-Bang Colony, north-east of Pitanga and south-west of Camp de Mourao. When crossing one of the few fields in that region, he heard a high-pitched, piercing whistling sound, which seemed to come from the sky. Higgins looked up. He said that what he saw "raised the hair" on his head. Higgins described a "strange, circular air ship with protruding edges absolutely similar to those of a drug capsule" which was coming down out of the sky. The workers accompanying him, all countrymen, became frightened and ran. Higgins said he stayed to see what might happen.

"The strange craft crossed over the field in a closed circle and landed softly about 150 ft. from where I stood," Higgins stated. He said the object was about 150 ft. wide, but not including the edges, which were about 3 ft. in width, and the whole object was about 15 ft. high. "It was crossed by tubes in several directions," Higgins

said, "but there was no smoke or fire, only that odd sound coming from the tubes."

The object, when landed, was supported by curved metallic-looking poles which bent even more when touching the ground. The whole craft appeared to be made of grey-white metal, yet different from silver. Higgins walked toward the machine to examine it more closely, and while looking it over he discovered a kind of window or porthole which appeared to be made of thick glass. Then he saw through the glass two persons watching him curiously. They were very strange-looking. A few seconds passed, then one of them turned his back as though talking to someone in the craft. Immediately Higgins heard a noise inside and a door, which was located on the under side of the craft, opened, and three people came out. They were enclosed in a kind of transparent suit which enveloped their bodies completely, head and all, and inflated like a rubber bag full of compressed air. On their backs there was a metal box that seemed to be a part of the suit. Through the transparent covering, Higgins could easily see what they wore. They had on shirts, short pants and sandals. The garments did not appear to be made of cloth, but rather appeared to be of a brilliant coloured paper. Their strange appearance was partially due to their eyes, which were large and round, and without eyebrows. They had no beards, and their heads were large and round and almost hairless. The length of their legs was greater in proportion to their bodies than those of a normal human being, and their height was about 7 ft. tall—about a foot taller than Higgins.

Higgins called attention to the fact that all the men seemed so similar to one another that they appeared to be twins or at least brothers. One of the men on the outside carried a tube which

appeared to be of the same metal of the ship, which he pointed at Higgins. The strange men talked among themselves, but Higgins was unable to understand what they said, although he said they sounded quite pleasant. He also noted that despite their large bodies they moved with incredible agility, forming a triangle around him. The one holding the tube made gestures motioning Higgins toward the door. He approached the door. Through it he could see only a small chamber limited by another door on the inside, and the end of a pipe coming from the inside. He also noticed several round beams on the side base of the protruding edge.

Higgins then began to talk, asking about the place where they apparently wanted to take him, using many gestures. They seemed to understand, and one of them made a drawing on the ground with a round spot at the centre and encircled by seven circles. Pointing to the sun in the sky, he then pointed to their craft, then to the seventh circle, doing the latter several times.

Higgins readily admitted that he then became frightened. He felt they wanted to take him off the earth, and he began frantically to figure some way to get away from the men. He knew it was impossible to fight them because of their large size and number. Then he had an idea. He had noticed that they avoided the direct sunlight for more than a few seconds, so he walked toward the shadow, and taking out his wallet he showed them a photo of his wife. With a lot of gestures he made them understand (or at least thought he did) that he wanted to go and get her and take her with him on the proposed trip.

Their behaviour

The strange men did not attempt to stop Higgins, so he sauntered casually away and entered the forest. He found a safe place from which to watch them without danger of being discovered and was surprised at their antics when left alone. They were playing like children, jumping in the air and throwing stones of enormous size. After about half an hour and a careful examination of the surroundings, the men got back into their ship which took off with a whistling sound. The craft moved away into the north, and finally disappeared into the clouds.

"I will never know if they were men or women," Higgins said later when he related his story to the press. He continued: "Despite the

characteristics I described, they were somehow beautiful and appeared in excellent health." Higgins remembered the sounds of two words: "Alamo" and "Orque." The first one corresponded to the Sun, and the other to the seventh circle in the drawing.

Higgins concluded: "Was it a dream? Was it real? Sometimes I doubt that these things can happen, and then I think that if it was not for the workers together with me in the beginning, it might have been a strange and fascinating dream."

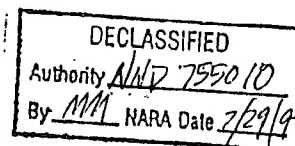
The "Saturn-shape"

That the above described incident was described in the press a month after Kenneth Arnold's sighting, there can be no doubt. The Arnold sighting received little, if any, attention in Brazil. This is one important point in the evaluation of this sighting. It has been established that the incident was first publicised in 1947, only a few weeks after the Arnold sighting. The shape of the object seems to indicate that it is of the "Saturn-shape" type or the "double-washbowl" type, neither of which type had been established through evaluation and compilation of data at that time. Little if any information concerning any type of disc or UFO had been compiled. Higgins apparently described something which was to become "common" to UFO researchers years later.

How much importance can be attached to the drawings on the ground is debatable. At any rate, despite the fact that one of the creatures pointed at the sun, it is not known for certain whether it was our sun to which he referred. The seventh planet from the sun in our solar system is Uranus, and as far as we know it is a cold, inhospitable planet. But we know so little about that planet that we cannot speculate about possible life. The space suits worn by the creatures could signify that they could not survive in our atmosphere, if indeed the incident took place, or they could merely mean that no experimentation with adaptability without protection had been undertaken.

The size and apparent strength of the creatures, plus their throwing large stones, etc., could indicate an origin with a lesser gravitational pull than the earth, and that the gambolling antics of the giants was experimentation with the novelty of the earth's gravitational pull.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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TOP SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CONFIDENTIAL
PER PARAS 511 and 600 (4) AR 380-5

Collection Br Air Intell
Requirements Div AC/AS-2
Capt Macken 6282

11 August 1947

CG, AMC, Wright Fld, Dayton, Ohio

Nr: WAN 83971

For Intelligence T-2 from AFAGE signed Spaatz.

It is requested you send officer interrogator to Fort Bliss to interrogate German scientist Gerhard Reisig concerning book now in Russian hands "distant control of rockets", possibly written by him. Request he be interrogated regarding contents of book and possible location other documents pertaining to Project ABSTRACT. Please inform this headquarters name of officer being sent to Fort Bliss so that Office Chief of Ordnance may be notified prior to his visit.

End (1) AUG 28 1947

AF 107

ORIGINATOR: Gen Spaatz

DISTRIBUTION: Gen Hughes

CM OUT 83971

(Aug 47)

DTG 112210Z mo0

TOP SECRET

GEN. McDONALD

Gen Le May

COPY NO.

5

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

MC 7696

"Priser was photographing the Persus Meteor shower when he sighted the object whose size he estimated at about half the diameter of the moon. (xx.)

(xx.) Nogales, Arizona. *Herald*. 12 August 47.

13 August. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. (daytime?)

The local press said:

"Flying saucers hovering about 300 feet off the ground were reported today by C.A. Westlake, 1530 Rudy Road, near Mount Douglas.

"He described the discs as oblique in shape, and more than a foot in width. 'I thought they were seagulls at first,' he said, 'but suddenly they started to streak across the sky at a terrific rate.'

"The witness said he was puzzled when he saw the objects hovering over his home and then suddenly darting off at a great speed." (xx.)

(xx.) Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. *Daily Times*. 13 August 47.

13 August. Coffeyville, Kansas. (night)

Birds or ?

News account:

"Flying saucers put on a private show for several people in the 500 and 600 block on Maple last night, but the high-flying objects were not observed elsewhere in Coffeyville, a survey indicated. Firemen, when advised of the spectacle, reportedly observed that somebody was 'nuts.'

"The group of neighbors insisted today, however, that they had seen 'something,' but their descriptions of the objects varied.

"Miss Bernadine McCall, 514 Maple, one of the group, said the high-flying objects 'looked like discs of different sizes.' She said they were up 'where we couldn't tell.' Miss McCall said others were 'V-shaped and some looked like clusters, which would spread out and then straighten into a thin line.'

"Mrs. Harold W. Brooks, 604 Maple, described the show as looking like 'a bunch of cobwebs, with some long, others triangular or round.' She said the groups of bright objects would change in shape as they flew in or around the clouds.

"Mrs. Brooks' husband said the group had seen an 'illusion' or that the neighbors might have seen a flight of birds, but she insisted that one or two looked like a light bulb with haze all around. Some were probably several feet long, she added.

"All agreed that the flying objects either gave off a bright light or reflected the lights from the city. Miss McCall explained that some, especially the first ones, appeared bright in the middle with a dark circle around the edges.

"She described the floating of the objects as similar to that of a paper plate

which had been sailed into the air. Some traveled rapidly and others more slowly, she added. None of the group thought today that any of the objects had fallen to the ground. 'They just seemed to float around, sometimes turning around and going the opposite direction,' they said.

"Mrs. Harold C. Foy, 604 Maple, who was the first to notice the unusual display in the sky, said at first she thought the floating lights were leaves or paper from a trash fire, still glowing as they sailed in the air.

"Mrs. Foy described the objects as traveling in bunches, eight or ten to a group, as well as 'lots of singles.' She went on that 'some glided along, while others traveled so fast you could hardly see them.'

" 'They were below the clouds,' Mrs. Foy said, 'and looked like cobwebs with lights in them.'

"Mrs. Dewey Bell, 606 Maple, called a friend or so in other parts of town, but the others were unable to see anything of the sky spectacle.

"Others in the group of observers besides those mentioned included Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Hogan, 514 Maple, Bell and Miss Phyllis Wisner, 512 Maple." (xx.)

(xx.) Coffeyville, Kansas. *Daily Journal*. 14 August 47.

13 August. Twin Falls, Idaho. (1:00 p.m.)

Flying saucer seen at close range? (See pages 19-20) (xx.)

(xx.) Twin Falls, Idaho. *Times-News*. 15 August 47.

The editor of the Blaine, Idaho, newspaper printed the story out of Twin Falls on page one and added a personal note:

"Editor's note: The following story appeared in the Twin Falls (Idaho) *Times-News* August 15. Blue Lakes is located three miles south of Twin Falls in the Snake river canyon, which varies from 450 to 600 foot in depth from the canyon floor to the top of the canyon rim. The editor is personally acquainted with A. C. Urie and believes his story has a good deal of merit and submits it in its entirety." (xx.)

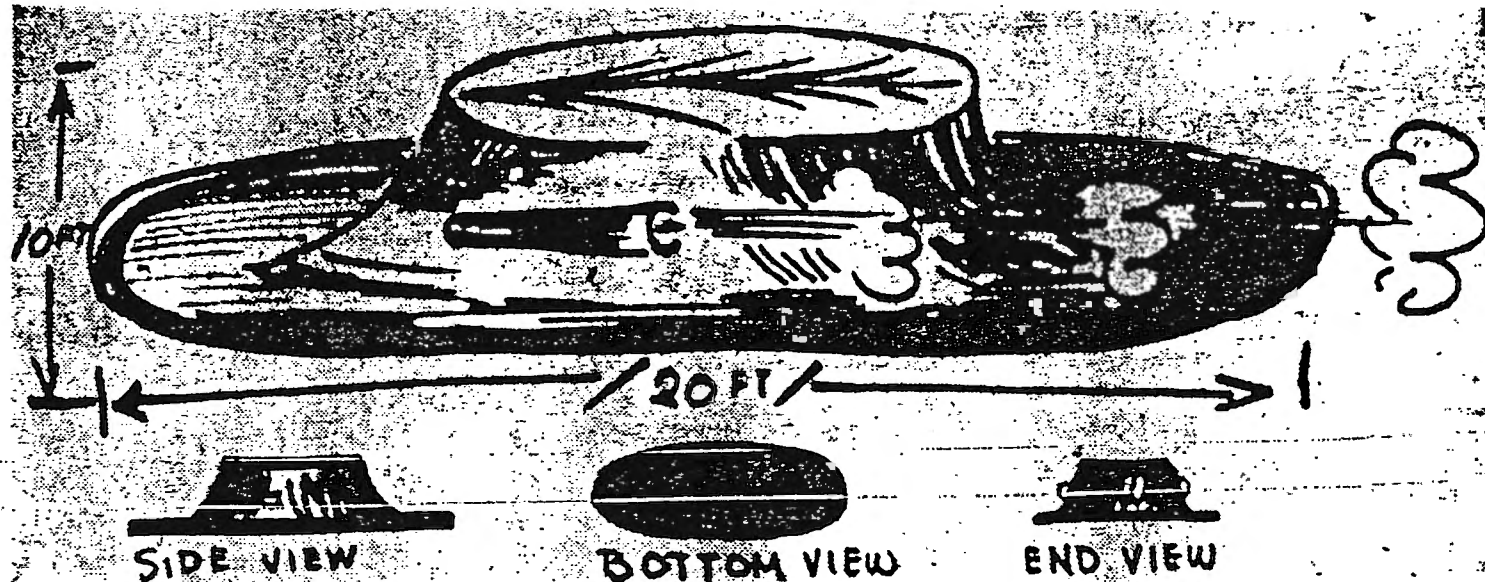
(xx.) Blaine, Idaho. *Blaine Journal*. 28 August 47.

Military Intelligence agents gather additional information:

"As the machine went by Urie, the trees over which it almost directly passed (Morman Poplars) did not just bend with the wind as if a plane had gone by, but in Urie's words, 'spun around on top as if they were in a vacuum.'

"Keith Urie, eight years of age, said he first saw the machine coming down the canyon, heading from east to west and following the contours of the ground. Billy, age ten, saw it almost immediately. Both watched it fly out of sight behind a tree in a matter of moments. They said they then ran to their Father and learned that he too had seen the machine.

Heads Up, Folks! The Discs Are Flying Again



This is an artist's conception of the flying disc that A. C. Urle saw sweeping through Snake river canyon six miles west of Blue Lakes ranch. It seemed to be powered by jets emitting a fiery glow on both

sides, and could well be the inspiration for something new in women's hats, such as a "flying saucer" creation. (Drawing by Vic Goertzen-staff engraving)

Flying Saucer Reported Flashing Down Canyon At 1,000 Miles Per Hour; Two Others Are Seen

By JOHN BROSNAN

Just as Magic Valley and the nation were starting to let go of lampposts after reeling under a welter of flying saucer reports, two more Twin Falls county men revived speculation on the mystery with vivid descriptions of discs they saw.

From A. C. Urle, who operates the Auger Falls Trout farm six miles west of Blue Lakes ranch in Snake river canyon, came perhaps the most detailed account of one of

the fast-flying objects the nation has yet produced.

The flying saucer Urle saw was skimming along through Snake river canyon at a height of about 75 feet at 1 p. m. Wednesday. At 9:30 a. m. the same day, L. W. Hawkins, Twin Falls county commissioner and former county sheriff from Filer, also saw two circular objects soaring along at a great height near Salmon dam 40 miles southwest of Twin Falls.

Here is Urle's eye-witness de-

scription of the flying discs seen by him and his son, Keith, 8, and Billy, 10:

"I obtained a close-up view of the flying saucer as it passed by the trout farm at 1 p. m. Aug. 13 going down Snake river canyon at a height of about 75 feet from the canyon floor. I would estimate the speed at about 1,000 miles per hour."

Urle explained that the incident occurred while the two boys were coming across the river from the north side in a boat. He had be-

come concerned about what was delaying them, and had walked down toward the river to see if they were all right.

"I had a side view at a distance of about 300 feet and almost on a level with the thing," Urle continued. "Two of my boys, Keith and Billy, were below me and they also saw it at about a 45-degree angle. They both got a bottom and a side view, and we were all looking at it from the south side of the

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

'Saucer' Seen Flying Down Snake Gorge

(From Page One)

river facing toward the north. The boys saw it coming about half a mile up the canyon, and we all lost sight of it in less than a mile."

While the impression was still vivid in their minds, the three got together and made rough sketches of what they had seen. These, in turn, were the basis for the artist's conception of the strange affair by Vic Goertzen of Twin Falls for the Times-News.

"It was all one color—sort of a light sky blue with a red, tubular fiery glow at the side of the top or hood," Urie continued.

"The canyon floor is rough at that particular point, and it rode up and down over the hills and hollows at a speed indicating some type of control faster than the reflexes of man. It is my opinion that it is guided by instruments and must be powered by atomic energy, as it made very little noise—just a s-w-i-s-h as it passed by."

Urie described the size as about 20 feet long by 10 feet high and 10 feet wide, giving it an oblong shape. It might be described as looking like an inverted pie-plate or broad-brimmed straw hat that had been compressed from two sides.

Pressed for his candid opinion of just what it was, Urie said that he was convinced that there was something to this flying saucer situation. "I know a number of the people who have also seen them and I know that they're not just imagining something or trying to get their names in the paper," Urie commented.

"I do know that it scared the boys and made me feel pretty uneasy," he added.

Tracking down a rumor that County Commissioner Hawkins had seen an unusual object in the air on the same day as Urie's experience, the Times-News called him at his Filer home.

"Yes, I did," he replied without hesitation. "I'll have to admit I've been skeptical all along until I saw it with my own eyes. I can't say what it was, but I can say there's something in the air."

Hawkins related that while at Salmon dam Wednesday morning, a sound resembling the echo of a motor caused him to look upward, and there he saw two circular objects that reflected light. They were traveling at a great speed and higher than most airplanes, according to Hawkins.

Aside from this, he declined to add details, except to say, "There's something in the air."

His general description, however, corresponded closely to those of hundreds of persons who reported seeing flying saucers after Kenneth Arnold, Boise businessman, had touched off the deluge by telling of coming upon nine disc-like objects while he was flying in his private plane in Washington.

Thereafter, the nation became increasingly flying saucer conscious, creating a state of mind that made it possible for four teen-age Twin Falls boys to cause a mild sensation when they built a model flying disc and tossed into a local yard July 10. This was subsequently revealed as a hoax, following investigation by the army and FBI.

Thereafter the saucer reports tapered off into a few scattered incidents until the question was revived by this week's occurrences.

Speculation has ranged from mention that the discs could be army or navy guided missile experiments, or that they could be similar experiments by some foreign country, to "something out of this world."

Whatever, they are, a lot of people have seen "something."

"Urie seemed completely sincere about the incident. He said his wife and daughter were in the house at the time and had not seen the machine. He questioned his brother, who also lives in the canyon, but his brother had been eating at the time and had seen nothing. Urie and his two boys maintained that they had never before seen one of the discs. Urie, when interviewed, appeared to be a sober, middle-aged man.

"John Brosnan, the 'Times News' reporter who originally furnished Special Agents with information about the incident, likewise stated that Urie appeared completely sincere about the machine." (xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Army Intelligence Files 1947-1952. 65-480. Director FBI. SAC Butte. "Flying Discs." 20 August 1947. FOI request by Barry Greenwood. Photocopy in author's files.

14 August. Six miles west of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. (about daybreak)

"Frankly admits that it scared him." (See clipping right)

15-20? August. Rapid City AFB, South Dakota. (soon after dark)

Tight diamond-shaped formation.

An Air Force Routing and Record sheet states:

"Contacted Major...(deleted) Staff Intelligence Officer of the 28th Bomb Hq. Stationed at Rapid City AFB who is in charge of interrogation of all air crews of that Wing. Crew reports showed nothing of interest, however, Major...(deleted) stated that one evening between the 15-20 August 1947 soon after dark he was sitting in the parking lot near the line area when he sighted approximately 12 objects flying a tight diamond shaped formation stacked down from the lead. They were approaching from the Northwest in a shallow descent, leveled off at approximately 5,000 feet made a gentle, large radius turn of about 110 degrees to the right about four miles from the observer and started climbing to the Southwest. The angle of attack was estimated to be between 30 degrees - 40 degrees and they appeared to accelerate rapidly in the climb. They appeared to be traveling between 300-400 miles per hour during the observed

"Flying Saucers" At Estevan

The following story concerning the flying discs appeared in a recent issue of the Estevan Mercury.

To one Estevan resident all the talk and written humor surrounding the so-called "flying saucers" is just talk because he is thoroughly convinced that there is such a thing as some sort. He came in close sight of one and frankly admits that it scared him.

Returning to Estevan by car from a trip out Torquay direction he was travelling with his lights on. Just at daybreak he had reached a point about six miles west of Estevan and was watching a storm cloud in the northeast. As he watched something swept out of the cloud and passed overhead in a southeasterly direction. It glided down near the ground and then rose again and disappeared at a rapid rate of speed. It did not appear to be very high in the air.

In describing the object, the observer who is a thoroughly reliable person, said "at first it looked like an aircraft wing that was on fire at both ends but when it passed overhead I could see that it was circular in shape. It looked to be about the size of a tractor wheel and about a foot thick. It was revolving and appeared to have flames or fire at the outside edges."

Commenting on it, the observer said "I have laughed at the stories of these things, but not any more. I was scared. The object was real. I kept looking around for someone else to witness it but there was nobody else in sight at the time. I got out of my car and pinched myself several times to make sure I wasn't dreaming. I thought at first it might be an optical illusion but I'm sure it wasn't. When it disappeared I got back into the car and headed for Estevan fast."

The observer added that because of the many stories he had read about such things, he tried to be careful in his observation. He said that it took "about 20 seconds for it to appear, pass overhead and disappear." He listened carefully for some sound but heard nothing. "It just came and went," he said.

Carnduff,
Saskatchewan,
Canada.
Carnduff Gazette
14 August 47

period. The objects were elliptical appearing in the plan view and appeared to be about the size of a B-29 in span. No estimate was made as to the aspect ratio but they didn't seem to appear unnaturally thick or thin compared to the overall configuration. There were no aircraft being run-up on the line at the time but no noise could be heard nor any exhaust trail or flame observed. No other light could be observed except that the whole object seemed to have a yellow white luminous glow." (xx.)

(xx.) Routing and Record Sheet. Subject: Interrogation. To: MCIAXO. From: MCIAXO. 5 July 1948. 333.5 Investigations 1948. January thru August. Photocopy in author's files.

19 August. Near Soochow, China.

"Thousands of curious people."

According the *North China Daily News*:

"A 'flying disc' was reported to have landed in the paddy fields at Weiting, a small town on the Nanking-Shanghai line midway between Soochow and Wuish, attracting thousands of spectators from Soochow. The exact location is Taiyenchun, Wenchao village, to the west of Soochow.

"The 'flying saucer,' measuring 15 inches in diameter, was said to have been provided with a parachute, and many yards of wire.

"The fallen disc, which was taken to the village office by chief of the village Wang Shao-yun, is being exhibited in a glass case at the Weiting Cooperative Society which had been flocked to by visitors daily.

"A special train had been operated by the Cooperative Society to take curious spectators from Soochow to see the strange object. The trip from Soochow to Weiting takes only about half an hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Shanghai, China. *North China Daily News*. 19 August 47.

19 August. Near Mountain Home, Idaho. (night)

United Airlines pilots report discs. (See clipping on page 23)

19 August. Bering Strait. Ferret flights every month. (See Top Secret message on page 24)

20 August. Ontario, Oregon. (Just before dusk)

A brief news clip states:

"Mrs. Nora House of 305 N.E. 3rd Street saw flying saucers over her home just before dusk last night. Mrs. C.U. Stover, a neighbor, reported today.

"Mrs. House said that she saw one saucer at first which she described as 'just beautiful,' and then later several more flying in formation. They followed a V course [formation?] at first and later traveled in a straight line." (xx.)

Boise (D)

Statesman

Aug 29, 1947

Page Eight

Third Airliner Crew Reports Flying Discs

**Two Objects Sighted
Near Mountain Home;
Speed Said 960 mph**

A third instance of commercial air line crews encountering disc-like objects in flight near Boise was reported to The Statesman Tuesday.

Both the captain and co-pilot of United Air Lines flight 147, a Salt Lake City to Spokane trip, told UAL personnel here that they saw two silver-colored round objects pass beneath their transport as the plane was near Mountain home and directly opposite the Mountain Home army air base.

The captain of the flight, UAL personnel here said, related his story only on the condition that neither his name nor that of his co-pilot be made public.

Flying at 8000.
The air liner beginning a let down in the vicinity of Mountain Home for the approach to Boise, was flying at an altitude of 8000 feet, the captain said.

The pilot said that he saw the two objects pass beneath the plane. He estimated they were 2000 feet below him. He said they were traveling almost due south.

Maneuvering his transport in an effort to keep the objects in sight, the captain said he obtained a view which indicated to him the discs were "approximately five feet in diameter."

"That is the way they appeared to me at their distance from us," he said.

Co-Pilot Clocks Flight

The co-pilot clocked the flight of the objects for 15 seconds, the captain told United Air Lines people here, and estimated that in the quarter-minute they had gone four miles.

If the calculation is correct, that would have made the speed of the objects 960 miles per hour.

The captain said the objects appeared to him to be the shape of "skid targets." The observation was made at approximately noon.

The flight characteristics of the objects were described by the captain as "effortless."

The Statesman's informant said the captain was "visibly impressed" by what he had seen.

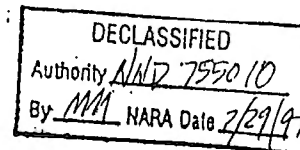
Previous Views Reported

Previous observances of disc-like objects near air liners were made by Capt. Charles F. Giblan on trip 105 near Mountain Home just before sunset on July 29, and by Capt. E. J. Smith, also on trip 105, near Emmett just after dark on July 4.

The most recent observance, according to United Air Lines personnel, was made approximately two weeks after Giblan reported seeing an object.

The third report, estimating the distance of the discs from the plane at 2000 feet, is the first one in which air line pilots claimed a definite estimate of distance and of speed.

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PER PARAS 511 and 602 (4), AR 380-5

Hq AAF AC/AS-3 AFACG-E/P
Hugh Winter Maj AC 73206

19 August 1947.

Alaskan Air Command Fort Richardson Alaska

INFO:

COMGENALASKA Fort Richardson Alaska

Nr: WARR 84661

From AFACG signed Spaatz A 16856.

Sufficient priority should be given to primary mission
PERNET flights by 46 Reconnaissance Squadron to insure
minimum of 1 flight south of Bering Strait and 1 flight
north each month. No geographical restriction except air-
craft must remain at least 15 miles from non-United States
territory. Your theatre will effect normal coordination with
FEAF on any flights into that area. Consistent cover story
should be arranged in case of forced landing on foreign soil
and every precaution taken to maintain security of operations.
Intelligence requirements as forwarded for operations PASSIONATE
and FLOODLIGHT still in effect.

End

AF 237

A 16856 is CM IN 2919, 16 Aug 47

ORIGINATOR: Gen Spaatz

CM OUT 84661

(Aug 47)

DTG 201926Z

18

TOP SECRET

Gen. McDONALD

GENERAL PARTRIDGE

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FOR

COPY NO.

MC 7737

(xx.) Ontario, Oregon. *Argus*. 21 August 47.

Cortes, British Columbia, Canada. (about 8:30 a.m.)

Twenty flying saucers?

Here is the saucer item in the newspaper:

"Mr. D. Slater and Mr. L. Haines, boom men for the Munro Logging Co., reported seeing approximately twenty flying saucers on the morning of August 20th at about 8:30 a.m. They heard a roaring sound like a big gust of wind and looked up to see what was the cause. The objects were moving from east to west and travelling at a great speed twisting and turning above and below each other as they passed over Coulter Bay." (xx.)

(xx.) Courtenay, British Columbia. *Argus*. 4 September 47.

21 August. Boise, Idaho. (12:30 p.m.)

More pilots encounter discs. (See clipping right)

21 August. Near Tonopah, Nevada. (about 11:00 a.m.)

"Flat object coming over the hills."

A Tonopah newspaper informed its readers:

"Most people believe the 'flying saucer' scare had petered out, but it appears this is not so. Last Thursday morning about 11, Gene and Elsie Morris, cook and wife, Jack Stucker and Helen McClain, employees of the Great Lakes Carbon company operating at Basalt, on the Tonopah-Bishop highway, saw a flat object coming over the hills back of Millers, some miles away. As it cleared the summit it dropped to a lower level, but as it neared Mt. Montgomery, it gained altitude and disappeared.

"It did not seem to be going very fast, the observers stated and moved with a fluttering motion. Probably much larger, it appeared from the ground to be about six feet in diameter, and was traveling in a southerly direction, but before it reached Montgomery, it changed its course and headed west." (xx.)

(xx.) Tonopah, Nevada. *Times-Bonanza*. 22 August 47.

Boise Id.
Statesman
Aug 22, 1947

Boise Pilots Report Discs

'Distinct Dome' Said Sighted on Objects Over City at Noon

Two Boise pilots, one a flying instructor, the other an airplane salesman, reported Thursday they saw two disc-like objects pass at high speed over Boise valley.

One of the objects, the men reported, made a sharp turn over the foothills of the city, and disappeared in an east southeast direction.

Glenn Elchelberger, the instructor, and Ray Williams, salesman, both employed at Bradley field, said they saw the objects at 12:30 p.m.

Watch Nearest Object

They said they concentrated on watching the nearest of the two objects, and did not see what became of the other disc.

Elchelberger said the object was flat on the bottom, had a dome-like top, and appeared to be spinning as it flew. He said that as it went over the foothills, it bounced and weaved, then straightened out, made a sharp turn to the right, and disappeared.

Williams and Elchelberger said when first sighted, the object appeared to be flying on a north northeast heading. The men were on the ground when they made their observation, and said they could not estimate the height or size of the objects.

Had "Distinct Dome"

Elchelberger said the object upon which they centered their attention was silver in color, although not a bright silver. It had a "distinct dome," he said.

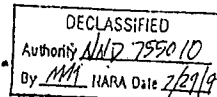
Both men said there was no visible means of locomotion for the object, and no sound accompanied its passing. Williams said, "It was going like a son of a gun."

Elchelberger said the object vanished in the direction of Anderson Ranch dam.

21 August. Search for documents.

Top Secret message requesting information in regards to WWII German documents regarding research and development of guided missiles combined with atomic research in 1943 and 1944 under the Nazi code name AKTION HUETTEU. Request authorized by General Spaatz thru Wright Field, Ohio. (See below)

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PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CODE 10-1
FOR PARAS 511 and 601 (4), AR 380-5.

Collection Branch
Air Intelligence Requirements
Division, AG/AS-2
1001 Taylor Bld, 73605

21 August 1947

COMJENAMC Wright Fld Dayton Ohio

Re: WAR 84761.

For T-2 from AFAGM signed Spatz.

Cable as follows received from RUONI quoted for your information:

"Project AKTION is subject. No searchers report of Project AKTION dated 23 July 1947 Para 13 interpretation is now being conducted for information on present location of documents and instruments sent from Tscheler via Luftwaffe Berlin to 3d Polesia and thence to Italy. Research and development of guided missiles apparent combined with Atomic Research in 1943 and 44 under code name AKTION HUETTEU under Professors Huetten, Huetten and Huetten with help of Ingénieur Krueger and Doron (? Bros). Huetten now probably at Alexandrovsk near Baku, Kruegers address unknown. Lt Col Schulz, Lt Col Boergemann and Kauchinger, Boergemann and Kauchinger were not mentioned by our informant Gefreiter Paul Schulz who transported four boxes to Italy and buried them near Verona. Request more information on Lt Col Schulz and Boergemann and on Kauchinger and their present whereabouts.

Reference Paragraph 14 this headquarters concurs providing all documents listed by Von Braun in Paragraph 26 of report on Braun, Dornberger etc of 28th July see subject abstract progress report, 21st August 1947 exist in the United States.

Reference Paragraphs 9 and 15 no evidence produced by Von Braun that two further boxes exist at Oberjoch. See our

CM OUT 84761. (Aug 47)

TOP SECRET

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

MC 77485

22 August. "Flying Saucer Phenomena."

Need for some description of disc phenomena filled by Air Intelligence. Estimate based on reported observations of reliable observers. (See below)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NWD 760188
By 42 NARA Date 6/22

AF HQ-33 (20 MAY 44)

RESTRICTED
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

TALLY NO.	
FILE NO.	

SUBJECT: Flying Saucer Phenomena

TO: Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research & Development

DATE 22 August 1947

FROM: AC/AS-2, Air Intelligence Requirements Division
Collection Branch

COMMENT No. 1
Lt Col Garrett/nc/4544

1. From a detailed study of certain reported observations on the flying saucers, selected for their veracity and reliability, it is apparent that several aspects of their appearance have a common pattern.

2. Before pursuing its investigation of these objects any further, this Office requests assurance that no research project of the Army Air Forces, at present being in-flight, has the following characteristics and that it may therefore be assumed the recent flying saucer "mystery" is not of United States origin:

- a. Surface is metallic - indicating a metallic skin, at least.
- b. When a trail is observed, it is a lightly colored blue-brown haze, similar to a rocket engine's exhaust. Contrary to a rocket of the solid type, one observation indicates that the fuel may be throttled, which would indicate a liquid rocket engine.
- c. As to shape, all observations state that the object is circular, or at least elliptical, flat on the bottom and slightly domed on the top.
- d. Size estimates place it somewhere near the size of a C-54 or Constellation as they would appear while flying at 10,000'.
- e. Some reports describe two tabs located at the rear and symmetrical about the axis of flight motion.
- f. Flights have been reported containing from three to nine objects, flying good formation on each other, with speeds always above 300 knots.
- g. The discs oscillate laterally while flying along, which could be snaking.

Robert Taylor 32
ROBERT TAYLOR 3RD
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief, Collection Branch
Air Intelligence Requirements Division
AC/AS-2

RESTRICTED

Latter part of August, 1947. Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Round white object traveling at "unprecedented speed." (See below)

UNCLASSIFIED

HOLLAMAN AIR FORCE BASE
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
OPERATIONS & PROJECTS
ELECTRONIC & ATMOSPHERIC DIVISION

HGM/ctd

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

1. Reference is made to Par 2, basic communication. Apparently a misunderstanding exists in that I did not personally see unidentified objects moving at an excessive rate of speed on a radar scope. Rather, Mr. [EXP 66] of Watson Laboratories, very probably saw unidentified objects. However, Mr. Rosmovski informed me that the objects seen were not moving at an excessive speed, but rather were motionless at an altitude somewhere in the vicinity of 200 miles. When these were seen on the Radar scope of the CPS-4 (Modified) the angle of elevation of the Radar antenna was approximately 70 degrees from horizontal.

2. During the latter part of August, 1947, this organization was carrying on several test runs with a modified SCR-270 at this base. I had released a corner reflector and two balloons and was watching them in their flight as they drifted to the southeast from this base. While watching the balloons through a pair of ten power binoculars, a white object, appearing to be round, came into my field of vision. I followed the object as far as possible but lost it within seconds after picking it up. The object was traveling at an unprecedented rate of speed and appeared to be several thousand feet over the top of the Sacramento mountain range, traveling in horizontal flight south to north.

3. There have been other times when manning the M-2 Optical tracker, that I have seen round or flat-round objects that were unexplainable.

4. In view of Par 1, this indorsement, it is suggested that Mr. [EXP 66] of the Radar Laboratory, AMC Watson Laboratories, Red Bank, New Jersey be contacted.

1st Lt. USAF
Communications Officer

ORIG FILE COMES TO:	INITIALS
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UNCLASSIFIED

100-1122

Autumn 1947. Between Winnipeg and Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. (evening)

Two Canadian railroad observations.

Article in the *CP Rail News* states:

"...one clear autumn evening, a young trainman working a freight between Winnipeg and Brandon made a stop for coal and water at Portage la Prairie.

"As he went about his train inspection, walking westward alongside the boxcars on the north side of the track, he spotted a giant, cigar-shaped object in the sky. It seemed bathed in bluish-green light and was proceeding—not at any great speed—from north to south..

"The description differs somewhat from most sightings since in that the craft seemed to be directing a beam of light—of great intensity—earthward from what appeared to be a searchlight.

"(The trainman specified that it was a clear evening. As any engineman or motorist knows, in clear conditions one does not actually see a beam of light unless there is dust or misty conditions. I wonder [Nicholas Morant the writer of this article] if what he saw was a laser beam—unheard of to most people in 1947).

"After permitting him a good look, the mysterious machine turned off first the lights in the circular windows around its circumference and then the searchlight. In the words of the trainman: 'Then it simply became impossible to see—it vanished, like a fadeout in the movies!'

"Other members of the train crew were occupied with their tasks and did not witness the incident.

"The young trainman rose through the ranks to become Superintendent Al Fryers at Moose Jaw. He has since retired but is still active in public service in that area.

"Recalling the incident, Al says: 'It could have been 300 feet long at a mile or 150 feet at three-quarters of a mile. There was simply nothing to provide a third dimension: no buildings, no trees—no clue at all to coming up with an estimate of its size.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Morant, Nicholas. "Close encounters (...but not close enough)." *CP Rail News*. Vol. 8, No.2. February 6, 1978. p.3.

A second report near Antelope, Saskatchewan, Canada. (no time)

"Engineman Andy Staysko (now retired) of Lethbridge, Alta., and his fireman were running late on Train 8 near Antelope, Sask. in 1947.

"'All of a sudden there it was,' relates Andy. 'I called out to the fireman, he saw it too and was as bug-eyed as myself.'

"What they saw has since become the standard UFO sighted all over the world, an elongated cigar shaped craft, surrounded with a bluish light and bearing circular or oval windows.

"The track swung into the lee of some hillocks and the mysterious vehicle was

lost to sight. When they cleared the curve there was nothing to see. Andy put the UFO's length at 300 feet, and added that the fireman agreed with that figure. But, as in the Al Fryers case, there was no real way of making a measurement." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

22-23? August. Livingston, Montana. (just before sundown)

"The men from Mars, or whoever."

A Helena newspaper printed:

"Livingston, Aug. 23—They're at it again!

"Who?

"The men from Mars, or whoever is flying about these parts in aerial contraptions that resemble nothing in this world so much as saucers.

"Two railway men, of grave nature, incapable of pulling legs, solemnly aver they sighted the saucers over Livingston within the past few days. J.A. Martin, watchman at the Northern Pacific shops, saw the fliers; so did Kenneth Smith, also an employee of the railway system.

"Both say the machine were traveling south, just before sundown, at 40 to 60 m.p.h. The fliers glided smoothly, without a sound, the men declare, and were plainly visible. Just before that, three small boys saw the saucers, they report. This time, the things were flying north." (xx.)

(xx.) Helena, Montana. *Independent-Record*. 24 August 47.

26 August. Northwest of Mexico, Missouri. (Sunset)

"I won't say they were 'flying discs' but they were disc-shaped and flying."

Aviators chase discs:

"They were flying near Mexico.

"Nobody says they were 'flying discs,' but the two trained pilots who chased them says they were discs flying.

"The time was about sunset, Tuesday.

"The place, just northwest of Mexico.

"The people were Ralph Johnson and John Reilly who were flying at about 9,000 feet in a BT-13 at the time.

"Ralph Johnson is a trained observer. He was a Navy pilot during the war. He saw extensive combat experience. Among other adventures was the time he sank an enemy sub off Miami—by himself, bombing with depth charges. Incidentally, he was still in training when this incident occurred.

"Then there was the time he and a handful of other torpedo bombers attacked seven Jap transports in the China sea. The transports were boiling with Jap infantry primed to land and kill Americans. And they were boiling with ack-ack, too. Ralph

and his buddies attacked.

"Final score: seven tubs sunk and that many more Jap troops who wouldn't be killing American boys in battle.

"The point is, Ralph is a trained aerial observer.

"He knows first hand the difference between hysteria—which has caused some people to think they have seen flying discs—and accurate, realistic, proven observation.

"John Reilly is no beginner at trained observation either.

"John was in Army and, what's more, has done a lot of flying. It was his BT-13 he and Ralph were riding in when it all happened.

"Johnson tells it this way:

" 'It was at sunset.

" 'We were flying at about 9,000 feet when Reilly, who was in the front cockpit, started shouting to me. I couldn't hear him and wondered what the heck he was talking about.

" 'Then I saw them. There were three disc-shaped objects flying in a northwesterly direction. They were at our altitude. While they reflected the red of the sun, I think they were actually gray in color.

" 'I couldn't tell much about their size. We turned toward them and tried to catch them.

" 'We were doing about 140 miles per hour...but they ran off and left us.

" 'They weren't flying in any kind of formation. They were sort of strung out but going too fast for us.

" 'I won't say they were 'flying discs' but they were dis-shaped and flying. We both saw them. They were not close enough to accurately estimate their size.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Mexico, Missouri. *Mexico Weekly Ledger*. 28 August 47.

28 August. Dr. Lincoln LaPaz comments.

"Some of them are right."

Special to the *El Paso Times*:

" 'If hundreds of people throughout the United States say they've seen "flying discs" zooming mysterious through the sky, chances are some of them are right,' Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico, said Wednesday.

"Dr. LaPaz believes that although 99 per cent of the 'disc' reports were probably hoaxes, the other one per cent were the result of unpublicized experiments, and he said authorities will unveil the secret in due time.

" 'The common man is not so easily fooled,' Dr. LaPaz said. 'The first person who saw the Japanese balloons in the U.S. was a rancher's wife and her reports were laughed at until official report's proved her right.'" (xx.)

(xx.) El Paso, Texas. *The El Paso Times*. 28 August 47.

2 September. Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. (daytime?)

"Scared pigeons."

Here are two slightly different accounts:

"Flying saucers, wheeling back into the news, stampeded a flight of pigeons here and sent them racing back to their coops in fright.

"Thomas Naylor, well known west coast pigeon fancier, reported the phenomenon Tuesday.

"Mr. Naylor swears he saw one of the whirling discs scatter his Birmingham rollers, which were flying at great height." (xx.)

(xx.) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. *Vancouver Sun*. 3 September 47.

The second version:

"Thomas Naylor, local pigeon breeder of Prideaux street, claims he saw a 'flying saucer' while putting some of his birds through their paces.

"The birds were cavorting around in the sky when suddenly Mr. Naylor saw what he said looked like an aluminum disc divide his pigeons, causing them to make a hasty dive for their coops.

"The birds were so upset, he said, that he was unable to go near them for an hour." (xx.)

(xx.) Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. *Nanaimo Daily Free Press*. 3 September 47.

3 September. "Space ships."

Whether it was officially inspired or not, a news story out of Washington D.C. on September 3rd discussed "supersonic missiles," "glide bombs," "space ships," and "satellites." It was pointed out the U.S. didn't have a desired "celestial battlewagon" as yet, and wouldn't have one in the foreseeable future. If the news story reflected reality, and we have no evidence to make us think otherwise, American experts must have been astonished at any serious suggestion the Russians had developed such a craft:

"FIVE TYPES OF SPACE SHIPS FOR WAR USE NOW POSSIBLE

"WASHINGTON (AP)—Space ships capable of pouncing upon any would-be aggressor are theoretically possible, but the United States has a long research road to travel before it can rely upon such celestial battlewagons, two scientists asserted today.

"Doctors Lawrence R. Hafstad, director, and Daniel T. Sigley, a staff member for the Johns Hopkins University applied physics laboratory, said that producing even simpler types of supersonic missiles demands conquering vast problems of propulsion, launching and guidance in an entirely new field of aerodynamics.

"The laboratory is conducting guided missile research.

"Hafstad said the only guided missiles now in 'operational' existence are the American developed gravity-powered 'glide-bombs' and the German devised V-2 rocket projectile. But 'good progress is being made' in research towards other weapons.

"Sigley told a reporter that these five devices are 'theoretically possible' if scientists perfect the proper mechanisms of propulsion, launching and guidance.

"1. 'Satellite' vehicles, or space ships, launched at speeds capable of getting them beyond the earth's gravitation pull, where they would circle our planet, ready to effect destruction or do reconnaissance by remote control.

"2. Missiles that would plot their own course to an earthly objective by means of built-in telescopes and other equipment, 'tracking' on the stars, the moon and the planets.

"3. Projectiles which could be made to follow celestial 'highways' made by the invisible lines of magnetic force which surround the earth.

"4. Guided missiles that would 'ride' a radar beam to a target or follow a course computed automatically within the missile after it had passed the converging point of two radio waves at some point in the sky.

"5. Projectiles 'homing on a target by means of heat waves given off by a target factory or ship.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. *Daily Free Press*. 3 September 47.

The work by American scientists continued, although public knowledge of any project was sparse. For example, in 1949 Secretary of Defense James Forrestal mentioned the existence of some "earth satellite studies" but nothing more. In fact, when Russian spy David Greenglass collected America's atomic secrets in 1947, he also gathered what he could of information about a "sky platform." (xx.)

(xx.) Washington D.C. 1 February 58. (AP)

11 September. "Exploit all available sources."

As we have seen, the idea that Russia had an "advanced guided missile capability" seemed very unlikely, nonetheless the U.S. Navy alerted its military attaches in Europe to obtain any information available. (See pages 34-36).

11 September. Charting and plotting.

One way to determine the origin of the saucers was to examine reported flight paths of any objects sighted. Evidently this was the assignment given T-2 representative A.C. Loedding, and a Dr. Charles Carroll. Wright Field supplied photostats of reported flying discs sightings to Dr. Carroll and Loedding on September 11th.

19 September. Arise Fortean.

The flying saucer mystery was made to order for the followers of the late Charles Fort. The one Fortean to rise to the occasion was Norman Garrett Markham.

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Com
NAVY DEPT.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
Washington 25, D. C.
Op-32-F41/rk
(SC)AS-2
SECRET
Serial 004934P32

11 September 1947

From: Chief of Naval Intelligence.
To: Distribution List.

Subject: Guided Missile Intelligence.

Enclosure: (A) Specific Intelligence Items of Interest to Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Guided Missiles).

1. The Chief of Naval Intelligence is exploiting all available sources to obtain information on foreign developments in the field of guided missiles, and is supplying pertinent data to all cognizant naval activities.

2. In order to facilitate the collection of guided missile information, Op-57 has listed in Enclosure (A) those intelligence items of specific interest in order of priority. Whereas these are specific items, there are many others of general nature which will likely be of interest to Op-57.

3. Addressees are directed to make every effort to obtain as much intelligence as possible on this subject covering both developments in the country to which they are accredited and any information pertaining to developments in the U.S.S.R. or satellite countries.

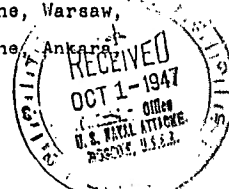
/s/ R. M. MacKinnon,
By Direction.

Distribution List:

Naval Member, ACC Sofia, Bulgaria
Naval Member, ACC Bucharest, Rumania
Naval Attache, Helsinki, Finland
Naval Attache, Rome, Italy
Naval Attache, The Hague, Netherlands
Attache for Naval Questions,
Switzerland (Res. Paris).
Naval Attache, Copenhagen, Denmark
Naval Attache, Athens, Greece
Naval Attache, Stockholm, Sweden
Naval Attache, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Naval Attache, Brussels, Belgium
(Res. The Hague).

Attache for Naval Questions,
Czechoslovakia (Res. Belgrade)
Naval Attache, Paris, France
Naval Attache, Oslo, Norway
Naval Attache, Moscow, Russia,
Naval Attache, London, England.
Naval Attache, Warsaw, Poland.
Naval Attache, Ankara, Turkey.

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Rev 11/21/11

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SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE ITEMS OF INTEREST
TO
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS(GUIDED MISSILES)

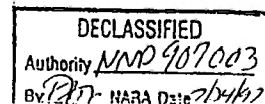
1. Relative proportion of total military Research and Development effort devoted to the exploitation of Guided Missiles.
2. Relative proportion of Guided Missile Research and Development devoted to the application of known techniques as opposed to fundamentally new approaches.
3. To what extent are German scientists being exploited in the Guided Missile endeavor?
4. Are the German scientists being effectively used in engineering fields to improve engineering techniques aimed at mass production, or are they being used to further scientific endeavor?
5. If the latter (4 above), what means are being employed to improve engineering techniques?
6. Where and how extensive are the Guided Missile Centers of Activity, Proving Grounds, etc.?
7. Are they developing Guided Missiles with a view to launching from submersibles, from surface craft?
8. What progress is being made in the development of long range Guided Missiles?
9. Do they have a realistic upper atmosphere research program? If so, to what altitudes does their research extend? What are the objectives of the program?
10. Have they developed effective means of RADAR camouflage?
11. Are long range missiles under development of the Ballistic or winged type?
12. What effort is being made in the development of means to detect and counter (including anti-missile missiles) guided missiles? What is the extent of their anti-submarine effort? Anti-aircraft effort?
13. What guidance techniques do they plan to employ on long range missiles? Intermediate and short range missiles? Are these techniques susceptible to detection and countermeasures?

ENCLOSURE (A)

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14. What type of payloads do they plan to use for bombardment type missile? What is estimated effective lethal radius?
15. Are any payloads of non-explosive type, such as chemical warfare, biological agents, propaganda leaflets and the like, under development for use with guided missiles?
16. What particular types of engines are under development for the propulsion of long range missiles? Are these types capable of mass production?
17. What fuels are under development for use in missile propulsion systems? Are they available in quantity for large scale use in missiles? What progress is likely in the application of nuclear energy for the propulsion of missiles or aircraft?
18. Is special effort being expended in the development of special metals for use in engine construction or liners to withstand high temperatures?
19. What progress is being made in the development of high power electromagnetic generating sources? What types of sources are under development? At what frequencies?
20. Have they developed any special materials for airframe construction? (of special interest are production methods, quickly fabricated parts, heat resistant materials, and any materials used to combat surface friction).
21. What guided missiles "launching device" are under development?
22. How are missiles launched? i.e. - are missiles launched by their own propulsion system? Is there a program for developing "booster rockets"?

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ENCLOSURE (A)

-2-

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NND 987003</u>
By <u>DR</u> NARA Date <u>2/6/92</u>

Markham's essay of September 19, 1947, was something of a precursor to later UFO books:

"Since the time of the Bolshevik revolution at the end of World War I the countries not involved in the revolution have had a tendency to look upon the Russia with suspicion. Let any strange occurrence be reported which defies explanation and immediately Russia is blamed—especially if this occurrence seems menacing.

"In 1921 (see *New York Times* index March-July 1921 under 'Accidents, Shipping') a number of ships of all nationalities vanished off the north Atlantic. One of these ships, the *Albyan*, was a Russian vessel. These disappearances, which took place during one short space of a few weeks, never have been explained. At the time the unproven assertion was made that Soviet ships were stealing them.

"In the winter 1933-34 (*New York Times* December-February 1933-34) strange aircraft were seen in northern Scandinavia. These craft flew at night and were equipped with lights. Observers were unable to identify them. They vanished or reports on them stopped near the inferior conjunction of Venus.

"At the time of inferior conjunction, Venus is at its closest to earth for a period of 584 days.

"Russia was blamed for the 'ghost airplanes' of Scandinavia. She denied having dispatched them.

"It would have done Russia no good to deny the 'ghost rockets' of 1946. From some time in July 1946, until August and after, there were reports from Sweden and Norway and Denmark on spool-shaped and spindle-shaped things, vomiting fire, which streaked through the sky. In spite of the fact it was sheer foolishness for a country to be carrying on experiments in rocketry under conditions where, because of military censorship in the target countries, the result could not be known. Russia was blamed for sending the rockets. See papers for July and August, 1946. These rockets were heard of no more after November 17, that year.

"There are some, reading this, who will say that if this is the case then Russia was probably availing herself of the date of the inferior conjunction of Venus in order that the appearances would be attributed to Venus. But this would not be intelligent; there are very few people on the entire earth who would look for such a periodicity and association.

"Recently we have had a host of reports on 'flying saucers.' What these things are, is unknown. Many have seen them—or at least claim to have done so. It seems foolish to disregard the observation of Captain Smith and his co-pilot (United Airlines) and of the flier Arnold of Boise who first brought them to public notice. There are more reports than these which seem acceptable. While hysteria unquestionably added many false reports to the record nonetheless many of the reports on the discs are doubtless upon something actually observed. Whatever these things were, they flew faster than any aircraft so far invented. They seem to have been driven by some unknown, possibly unguessable [sic] means of propulsion. Most reports on them indicate that they made no sound in flight. After reports had been out on them for a while, there were witnesses who came forward to tell of earlier appearances of them.

"The army was investigating reports that at Manitou, Colorado, last May, some employes of the Pikes Peak and Manitou railroad had seen at noon some object above Pikes Peak. By description it was like the 'flying saucers.' A Japanese businessman, Tomoyo Okado of Tokyo, said that during B-29 raids on Tokyo on May 23 and 25, 1945, he and others had seen something like 'flying pancakes' which had cruised at 'taxicab speed' in the sky which the bombers had vacated.

"In Denver a Belgium warbride, Mrs. Emmett Cagley, who had recently come to the United States, said that in February 1947, the discs had made their appearance in Belgium. She said the same furore had greeted them there as attended upon them in the United States—and the same doubts and attributions to hysteria and practical joking.

"(See for the Japanese account Associated Press dispatch datelined Tokyo July 12, for Mrs. Cagley's account: *Rocky Mountain News* July 7, 1947)

"As though following a system of some sort, we find that the Tokyo appearance of the discs fell near to the inferior conjunction of Venus of April 15, 1945: that in the Belgian case the appearance of the discs followed inferior conjunction of Venus of Nov. 17, 1946.

"It is not known what the surface of Venus may be like. The planet is covered with clouds. That Venus is some 24,000,000 miles from earth at its closest means nothing for the purposes of space travel. According to Hohmann, Richardson, Ley and others who have concerned themselves about future space travel, the cheapest and longest trip from here to Venus would consume 146 days, with the possibility that if hyperbolic orbits were used by the craft the distance could be negotiated in as little as 12 days.

"We have only in the past forty years dreamed mathematically of reaction-driven spacecraft to the other planets. There have been accounts printed from time to time as if some other entities, living somewhere else, had beaten us to space flight.

"In the '60s of the last century there were black rains at Slains, Scotland, some of which were accompanied by enormous appearances of furnace slag washed in on the Scottish seacoast. These slag floes were so copious that in the language of James Rust, who wrote of them: 'All the blast furnaces in the world could not have [part of clipping missing] ...is these black rains accorded with the periods of close approaches of Venus. This may predicate metallurgical work on the sea bottom.

"For the purpose of opening a speculation it might be thought that an older culture somewhere else has long depleted its own planetary natural resources and is obliged to go elsewhere to find mineral raw material, metals and the like. It would be thought the reason why we have never caught them at work on the sea bottom. When one thinks of it, space craft, which would have to be hermetically sealed in order to voyage through space, could just as easily function as submersibles if rigged to do so—the use of ballast tanks would make such a usage possible to them.

"In our haste to blame these things on Russia we are only overlooking a series of phenomena which may be of the most interesting character and of the highest conceivable importance to us in times to come.

"Suppose that we succeed in some day making space craft. That is, if our stupid haste to kill each other with atomic bombs and disease germs does not forever forestall such a possibility. And suppose the phenomena of 'ghost airplanes,' 'ghost rockets,' and 'flying saucers' are the writing on the wall which tells a tale of extremely well-

advanced, highly intelligent outsiders.'

"If such appearances accord so well with close approaches of Venus, it is possible that planet has a great civilization upon it." (xx.)

(xx.) Pueblo, Colorado. *Pueblo Times*. 19 September 47.

Late September. "Russian saucer bases in Mexico?"

It was mentioned earlier that the best air approach to the U.S. would be from a site in Mexico, although hardly probable. A General Brentnall was contacted by a Mrs. Madeline Owyne Merchant in September. She claimed the Russians were operating a flying disc base in central Mexico! Since Mrs. Merchant was a civilian, General Brentnall was not inclined to take her woman too seriously, but he did notified Headquarters, Air Material Command, about the "novel theory." Wright Field was interested enough to follow up the assertion. (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Commanding Officer. Operating Location No.16 of 731st AAFBU (101st AACS Sq) Kirtland Field. Albuquerque, New Mexico. ATTN: Col. Howard G. Bunker. From: H.M. McCoy. Colonel, Air Corps. Deputy Commanding General Intelligence. (T-2). Air Force Intelligence Files. Decimal File 1946-47. 566-583. Photocopy in author's files.

24 September. The Horten tailless aircraft.

An intelligence report filed before Kenneth Arnold's June 24th saucer sighting was reevaluated. It was another one of those small fragments of data that made the Air Force think twice before casting aside the Russian hypothesis. (See pages 40-41)

3 October. The Air Force tries to mend fences with the FBI. (See pages 42-43)

4 October. "Sky display."

News clipping:

"Large round balls of light, much resembling the moon, moving across the sky over the Gulf of Georgia and disappearing in the direction of Vancouver aroused curiosity of Nanaimoites who were about at midnight last night. 'Flying discs' reported one interested spectator to a member of the *Free Press* staff by telephone. The phenomena, however, was probably a freak of aurora borealis or the Northern lights.

"The huge discs, beautiful in the night sky, appeared at intervals of about 10 minutes and sped across the sky to disappear again. Some thought it might be a display of search lights from some ship but none was in evidence in or about Nanaimo. The balls of fire rose into the sky over Newcastle Island and moved eastward. (xx.)

(xx.) Nanaimo, British Columbia. Canada. *Nanaimo Daily Free Press*. 4 October 47.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: *AWD 760199*
 By: *66* NARA Date: *6/22*

SECRET
 C O P Y

TSNAD-2B/ACL:ec

24 September 1947

TSNAD-2B

SUBJECT: "Flying Disc"

TO: Commanding General
 Army Air Forces
 Washington 25, D. C.

ATTN: AO/AS-2
 Major General George McDonald

1. In compliance with General McDonald's telephone conversation, this date, to Colonel H. M. McCoy, T-2, Hq. AMC, attached herewith is a copy of a drawing entitled, "Loedding Flying Disc", designated LD-2. Because of patent rights involved, it is requested that a record be kept of all persons reviewing this drawing by witnessing with signatures and dates directly on the drawing.

2. This drawing should be returned to this office when it has served its purpose so that it can be turned over to the Patent Office Hq. AMC for official records.

3. Inclosed herewith is also a report prepared by the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Technical Note, AERO 1703, which describes the Horten tailless aircraft. The following references are invited which is considered significant in relating the Horten brothers perspective thinking and accomplishments toward the alleged "Flying Saucer" case:

- a. Page 5, Paragraph 4 and 6.
- b. Page 6, Paragraph 1 and 7.
- c. Page 26, Paragraph 3 and 10.
- d. Page 27, Paragraph 12.
- e. Page 28, Paragraphs 1 through 5.
- f. Page 54, Photograph of Horten "Parabola".

SECRET
 C O P Y

U-39942

Incl. #1

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NWD 760198
 By 67 NARA Date 6/22

SECRET
 COPY

Basic ltr, dtd 24 Sep 47, to CG, Hq AAF, Wash, subj: "Flying Disc"

- g. Page 69, The Horten VIII.
- h. Pages 71 and 72, Photographs of the Horten IX Versions.
- i. Page 74, Drawing of the "Parabola".

This document should also be returned when it has served its intended purpose.

4. A recent report from the U. S. Military attache, Moscow, USSR, dated 9 June 1947, indicates that 1800 aircraft, directly or indirectly based on the Horten VIII design (six engine pusher, having a wing spread of 131 feet and a gross weight of approximately thirty-three thousand pounds) are being built for bomber squadron use. The Russian version, however, is jet propelled, reference report whose identification No. is V-32291-8. *X 4521 Airplanes - Russia*

5. The T-2 report "German Flying Wings Designed by Horten Brothers", No. F-SU-1110-Md, also inclosed herewith, may be retained by your office if desired. *X 095*

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

H. M. McCOY
 Colonel, Air Corps
 Deputy Commanding General
 Intelligence (T-2)

3 Incls:

- 1. Drawing
- 2. RAE Tech Note, AERO 1703
- 3. T-2 Rpt, No. F-SU-1110-ND

*Inclauses mailed
 with original letter
 19 Dec 47
 Skindwin*

SECRET
 COPY

U-39942

By JGLewis NARA, Date 8/13/86AFBIR-CO/LtCol.Garrett/rm/4544
3 Oct 47

3 Oct 47

AFBIR-CO-5

Honorable John Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of September 27th concerning the investigations relative to the flying disc incidents, and allow me to take this opportunity to clarify what appears to be a misunderstanding with regard to United States Air Force instructions in the matter.

It was never intended that those instructions should be interpreted as simply placing upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation the burden of running down all manner of "crank" and other trivial incidents, while reserving to the Air Force the task of interviewing the so-called responsible observers.

On the contrary, it was felt that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have an immediate interest in determining, and would be best qualified to find out, whether or not there existed a pattern of deliberate attempts to provoke excitement within the United States for possible subversive or other sinister purposes.

It was the original intent of this Office that, whereas the Air Forces within the Air Defense Command would interview various observers and secure detailed statements in regard to certain aeronautical aspects of reported sightings in the air, your Bureau would investigate incidents of purported flying discs being found on the ground and check the circumstances for any evidence of subversion.

Of course, as it soon developed, each agency took the next logical step — Air Force units began to investigate "ground" incidents and Federal Bureau of Investigation offices were interviewing observers of "air" incidents. Because of the informal liaison known to exist in the field between Intelligence Officers of the Air Force and Special Agents of your Bureau, and because of the established liaison between both Headquarters here in Washington, including the exchange of reports received by both agencies, it was considered that such an overlap in certain areas was desirable.

Although instructions were sent to the field which requested Air Force Intelligence Officers to limit their interviews in connection with air sightings to what could be called "responsible" observers, this was solely for the purpose of securing detailed statements which would afford

1095. HOOVER, HON. JOHN EDGAR
046.9 Dept. of Justice - FBI

COPY - A2 ENCL

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 863511

By J. G. Lewis NARA, Date 8/13/86.

as true a picture as possible, from an aeronautical standpoint, for our research personnel engaged in working on the problem. Perhaps an unfortunate interpretation of the word "responsible" by a subordinate echelon of the Air Force may have conveyed the impression that "crank" incidents would be the exclusive concern of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Obviously this Office had no such intent, by inference or otherwise.

Until it is conclusively demonstrated that there are no subversive possibilities connected with the flying discs, I hope that your Bureau's interest in the matter will continue.

Sincerely yours,



7 October. Hudiksvall, Sweden. (noon)

"Ghost rocket" over Sweden?

Press report:

"The newspaper *Aftonbladet* declared mysterious cigar-shaped missiles were seen flying high over the city of Hudiksvall, in northern Sweden, at noon today.

"The objects emitted a sound similar to a motor noise and streaks of fire from the tail, *Aftonbladet* said. They came from the north, it reported, and disappeared at a slow speed to the southwest." (xx.) (There was an official reaction to this press report. See November 26, 1947)

(xx.) Stockholm, Sweden. October 7, 1947. (AP)

12 October. Samalayuca Mountains, Mexico. (about 9:30 a.m.)

Missile?/meteor? impacts the earth in the Samalayuca Mountains, Mexico. (See War Department message on page 45)

13 October. Oakland, California. (morning)

"Like Saturn."

An AP dispatch said: "A thing 'that looked like Saturn with a ring around it' moved at terrific speed westward across bay area skies early Monday morning. Ben Dobus, 48-year-old Oakland photographer, avows. He had no camera at the time, but said Cab Driver A.J. Goldman also observed the object." (xx.)

(xx.) Oakland, California. October 15, 1947. (AP)

20 October. Dayton, Ohio. (about 1:20 p.m.)

"Look Grandpa the funny flying fishes in the sky!"

It would seem this report was authentic since even a child thought the objects were odd. The witness was interviewed by Mr. A.C. Loedding of the Analysis Division, Intelligence Department, Headquarters, Air Material Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. After the sighting was broadcast over Dayton radio station WING and published in both Dayton newspapers, the *Herald* and the *News*, project engineer Loedding contacted the observer. Here is the result:

"At approximately 1320 Eastern Standard Time Monday, 20 October 1947, I was strolling in my orchard in a Easterly direction with my grandson, [deleted ...]. Suddenly the little fellow exclaimed, 'Look Grandpa the funny flying fishes in the sky.' Looking up I observed two strange-looking aircraft. They were flying very fast in a very straight course from West to East, but slightly to the North. The sun was to my right and the sky was cloudless which seemed to make the

COPY

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLEAR MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE

From: CG Fourth Army Ft Sam Houston, Texas from Hodes sgd
Coulter Deputy Army Comdr

TO: Dept of Army attn Directors P and O and Intelligence
Wash DC

DTG: 130137Z 13 October 1947

The following message received from Gen Homer commanding Ft Bliss Texas via telephone 2400Z hours is quoted: "This is a report of a minor and unusual incident not of national interest. It is alleged that as of 1530Z an aerial object landed in Mexico near the towns of Cassetta-Reforma - Guadeloupe all opposite Fabens Texas. Object approximately one meter long traveling east to west, blue or silver in color with flames in the rear. No smoke, object alleged to have detonated with explosion beyond horizon in Mexico. I, Gen Homer have made recon of area and have interviewed available witnesses. American consul has transmitted the foregoing to American Embassy in Mexico. There are no military activities at Biggs Field, White Sands Proving Grounds, or Ft Bliss that could have caused this incident on this date. Army Ground Forces will be notified by me. The press and radio locally and New York Times representative from Los Angeles now checking the incident. No action required by higher headquarters. Available information at this time is not adequate to estimate cause of the incident. End." Additional information when and if available will be forwarded.

NOTE: See CM IN 2336 (13 Oct). ID End

ACTION: ID

INFO: AF, AGF (Ln Gp), PO, SOB, PID, RD
MC IN 55082 (13 Oct 47) DTG 130137Z

jdc

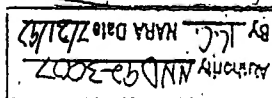
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



objects reflect the sunlight rather brilliantly. As a result, the shape was not clearly evident but they distinctly did not have wings and they looked like cigars, that is; they were much longer than they were wide. They were flying together. One object was to the rear and about one city block apart and to the right of the leading plane. They did not dip nor veer from a straight flight in any manner. They seemed to be very high but I could not judge the altitude exactly except that they were at least one mile high and could have been five miles high. There was no noise nor sound of any kind. The trail or exhaust was very unusual and seemed like a slight trace of steam that seemed attached to the airplane and which disappeared immediately. It did not persist in the air like vapor trails nor like exhaust from ordinary airplanes and jet aircraft of which I am very familiar having lived in the same house for the past twenty-two years and viewing airplanes almost daily that fly over my property. I am in very good health, active, and my eyes are also considered good even though I am fifty-eight years old.

"I know that what I saw was real. They were not meteors, birds, nor ordinary aircraft. I was so surprised and certain that the objects were strange that I felt duty-bound to make some sort of official report. Therefore, I immediately called the *Herald* newspaper and told them what I had seen. I was not seeking publicity, and only thought that was the best and quickest way of making an official report." (xx.)

(xx.) Statement by [Name deleted] Montgomery County, Van Buren Township, Dayton, Ohio. Project Sign 1948 Investigative Reports. 333.5 Investigations 1948 January thru August. National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC). Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Photocopy in author's files.

25 October. Innisfail, Alberta, Canada. (about 8:00 a.m.)

Small flying disc.

Press report:

"Mrs. Glenn Hemm of the Oklahoma district about 12 miles west of Innisfail called at *The Province* office on Tuesday and reported having seen a flying saucer.

"On Saturday morning, October 25 about 8 o'clock Mrs. Hemm was in the yard when she saw flying through the air in a south-easterly direction what appeared to be a silver disc about two feet in diameter and 6 or 8 inches thick. It was about 100 feet high and moving along quite leisurely.

"She went back to the house and called Mrs. McAnally of Crossfield who was visiting and they both watched the curious disc until it disappeared in the distance." (xx.)

(xx.) Innisfail, Alberta, Canada. *Innisfail Province*. 30 October 47.

27 October. "When You See Those Flying Saucers."

A song written by Charles Grean and Cy Coben and copyrighted on October 27, 1947, contained lyrics writer Eric Nesheim suggested were a "prototype of contactee doctrine. (xx.)

(xx.) Nesheim, Eric. *Saucer Attack*. A Kitchen Sink Press Book for the General Publishing Group, Inc.: Los Angeles, California, 1997. p.48.

Here is how the song goes:

“refrain:

“You better pray to the Lord when you see
those flying saucers.
It may be the coming of the judgement day

It's a sign there's no doubt of the trouble that's about
So I say my friends you'd better start to pray
They're a terrifying sight as they fly on day or night
It's a warning that we'd better mend our ways

refrain

Many people think the saucers might be someone's
foolish dreams
Or maybe they were sent down here from Mars
If you'll just stop and think you'd realize just what it means
They're more than atom bombs or falling stars

And though the war may be through there's unrest
and trouble brewing
And those flying saucers may be just a sign
That if peace doesn't come it will be the end of some
So repent today you're running out of time

When you see a saucer fly like a comet through the sky
You should realize the price you'll have to pay

refrain.” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

30 October. The hunt for the flying saucer. The German/Russian theory gets priority. (See pages 48-53)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ~~SECRET~~AFOIR-CO/Lt Col Garrett/mob/4544
28 Oct 47

Intelligence Requirements on Flying-Saucer Type Aircraft

CSGID

Hq, USAF - AFOIR

30 OCT 1947

Attn: Plans and
Collection Branch

Lt Col Garrett/mob/4544

1. It is requested that a Collection Memorandum, similar to the attached draft, be issued to the addressees indicated thereon. This is in accordance with conversation between Lt. Colonel Smith and Lt. Colonel Garrett.

2. It will be appreciated if, at the time this Memorandum is reproduced, ten (10) additional copies could be run off and sent to the Directorate of Intelligence, Air Intelligence Requirements Division, Collection Branch, for file purposes.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

2 Incls.

1. Intelligence
Requirements2. Draft of Collec-
tion Memorandum

GEO. F. SCHULGEN

Brigadier General, U.S.A.

Chief, Air Intelligence Requirements Div.

Office of Ass't. Chief of Air Staff-2

O AAF

30 OCT 1947

AAG - MAIL BRANCH

PRM 11681

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, Sec. 1.5

AND 76 0168

ON 06-14 MAR 80 1992

OFFICE SYMBOL	1. AFOIR-CO	2.	3.	4.	5.
Col Taylor 3rd					
Lt Col Garrett		Geo. F. Schulgen			
		Brig. Gen. USA			

~~SECRET~~DRAFT OF COLLECTION MEMORANDUMOBJECT

1. This Memo sets forth the current intelligence requirements in the field of Flying Saucer type aircraft.

GENERAL

1. An alleged "Flying Saucer" type aircraft or object in flight, approximating the shape of a disc, has been reported by many observers from widely scattered places, such as the United States, Alaska, Canada, Hungary, the Island of Guam, and Japan. This object has been reported by many competent observers, including USAF rated officers. Sightings have been made from the ground as well as from the air.

2. Commonly reported features that are very significant and which may aid in the investigation are as follows:

- a. Relatively flat bottom with extreme light-reflecting ability.
- b. Absence of sound except for an occasional roar when operating under super performance conditions.
- c. Extreme maneuverability and apparent ability to almost hover.
- d. A plan form approximating that of an oval or disc with a dome shape on the top surface.
- e. The absence of an exhaust trail except in a few instances when it was reported to have a bluish color, like a Diesel exhaust, which persisted for approximately one hour. Other reports indicated a brownish smoke trail that could be the results of a special catalyst or chemical agent for extra power.
- f. The ability to quickly disappear by high speed or by complete disintegration.
- g. The ability to suddenly appear without warning as if from an extremely high altitude.
- h. The size most reported approximated that of a C-54 or Constellation type aircraft.
- i. The ability to group together very quickly in a tight formation when more than one aircraft are together.
- j. Evasive action ability indicates possibility of being manually operated, or possibly by electronic or remote control devices.
- k. Under certain power conditions, the craft seems to have the ability to cut a clear path through clouds -- width of path estimated to be approximately one-half mile. Only one incident indicated this phenomenon.

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3. The first sightings in the U.S. were reported around the middle of May. The last reported sighting took place in Toronto, Canada, 14 September. The greatest activity in the U.S. was during the last week of June and the first week of July.

4. This strange object, or phenomenon, may be considered, in view of certain observations, as long-range aircraft capable of a high rate of climb, high cruising speed (possibly sub-sonic at all times) and highly maneuverable and capable of being flown in very tight formation. For the purpose of analysis and evaluation of the so-called "flying saucer" phenomenon, the object sighted is being assumed to be a manned aircraft, of Russian origin, and based on the perspective thinking and actual accomplishments of the Germans.

5. There is also a possibility that the Horten brothers' perspective thinking may have inspired this type of aircraft - particularly the "Parabola", which has a crescent plan form. Records show that only a glider version was built of this type aircraft. It is reported to have been built in Heiligenberg, Germany, but was destroyed by fire before having ever been flown. The Horten brothers' latest trend of perspective thinking was definitely toward aircraft configurations of low aspect ratio. The younger brother, Riemar, stated that the "Parabola" configuration would have the least induced drag - which is a very significant statement. The theory supporting this statement should be obtained if possible.

6. The German High Command indicated a definite interest in the Horten type of flying wing and were about to embark on a rigorous campaign to develop such aircraft toward the end of the war. A Horten design, known as the IX, which was designated as the Go-8-229 and Go-P-60 (night fighter) was to be manufactured by the Gotha Plant. It is reported that a contract for fifty such aircraft was planned, but only three or four were built. This plant is now in the hands of the Russians. A recent report indicates that the Russians are now planning to build a fleet of 1,800 Horten VIII (six engine pusher) type flying wing aircraft. The wing span is 131 feet. The sweepback angle is 30 degrees. The Russian version is reported to be jet propelled.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Requirements appear at Inclosure No. 1.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Control No. A-1917

DISTRIBUTION

1. To MA's England, France, Sweden, Finland, USSR, Turkey, Greece, Iran, China, Norway, Philippines, and to Commander-in-Chief, Far East, and Commanding General, United States Air Forces in Europe, through Commanding General, EUCOM.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~INCLOSURE NO. 11. Research and Development

- X091-1 Rople* *X201-1000*
- a. What German scientists had a better-than-average knowledge of the Horten brothers' work and perspective thinking; where are these scientists now located, and what is their present activity? Should be contacted and interrogated.
 - b. What Russian factories are building the Horten VIII design?
 - c. Why are the Russians building 1,800 of the Horten VIII design?
 - d. What is their contemplated tactical purpose?
 - e. What is the present activity of the Horten brothers, Walter and Riemar?
 - f. What is known of the whereabouts of the entire Horten family, particularly the sister? All should be contacted and interrogated regarding any contemplated plans or perspective thinking of the Horten brothers, and any interest shown by the Russians to develop their aircraft.
 - g. Are any efforts being made to develop the Horten "Parabola" or modify this configuration to approximate an oval or disc?
 - h. What is the Horten perspective thinking on internal controls or controls that are effective mainly by streams of air or gas originating from within the aircraft to supplant conventional external surface controls?

2. Control

For any aircraft whose shape approximates that of an oval, disc, or saucer, information regarding the following items is requested:

- a. Boundary layer control method by suction, blowing, or a combination of both.
- b. Special controls for effective maneuverability at very slow speeds or extremely high altitudes.
- c. Openings either in the leading edge top and bottom surfaces that are employed chiefly to accomplish boundary layer control or for the purpose of reducing the induced drag. Any openings in the leading edge should be reported and described as to shape, size, etc. This investigation is significant to justify a disc shape configuration for long-range application.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.3

NAD 76 0168

By *RAZ* NARS, Jve 197~~SECRET~~

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- d. Approximate airfoil shape in the center and near the tips.
- e. Front view and rear view shape.

3. Items of Construction

- a. Type of material, whether metal, ferrous, non-ferrous, or non-metallic.
- b. Composite or sandwich construction utilizing various combinations of metals, plastics, and perhaps balsa wood.
- c. Unusual fabrication methods to achieve extreme light weight and structural stability particularly in connection with great capacity for fuel storage.

4. Items of Arrangement

- a. Special provisions such as retractable domes to provide unusual observation for the pilot or crew members.
- b. Crew number and accommodation facilities.
- c. Pressurized cabin equipment.
- d. High altitude or high speed escapement methods.
- e. Methods of pressurization or supercharging from auxiliary units or from the prime power plant.
- f. Provisions for towing - especially with short fixed bar, and for re-fueling in flight.
- g. Provisions for assisted take off application.
- h. Bomb bay provisions, such as dimensions, approximate location, and unusual features regarding the opening and closing of the doors.

5. Landing Gear

- a. Indicate type of landing gear - whether conventional, tricycle, multiple wheel, etc.
- b. Retractable, and jettison features for hand gear.
- c. Provisions for takeoff from ice, snow, or water.
- d. Skid arrangements for either takeoff or landing.

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6. Power Plant

a. Information is needed regarding the propulsion system used in the aircraft. Possible types of engines that could be employed include:

- (1) Reciprocating (piston type) engine or gas turbine. Either or both of these could be used to drive propellers of conventional or special design, rotating vanes, ducted fans, or compressors.
- (2) Jet propulsion engines including turbo jets, rockets, ramjets, pulse jets, or a combination of all four.
- (3) Nuclear propulsion (atomic energy). Atomic energy engines would probably be unlike any familiar type of engine, although atomic energy might be employed in combination with any of the above types.

Aircraft would be characterized by lack of fuel systems and fuel storage place.

b. The power plant would likely be an integral part of the aircraft and could possibly not be distinguished as an item separate from the aircraft. If jet propulsion is used, large air handling capacity, characterized by a large air inlet and large exhaust nozzle, should be evident. The size of entrance and exit areas would be of interest. It is possible that the propulsive jet is governed or influenced for control of the aircraft. The presence of vanes or control surfaces in the exhaust or methods of changing the direction of the jet should be observed.

c. Information desired on the propulsion systems pertains to the following items:

- (1) Type of power plant or power plants.
- (2) General description.
- (3) Rating (thrust, horsepower, or air flow).
- (4) Type of fuel.
- (5) Catalytic agents for super-performance or normal cruising power.

~~SECRET~~

The Schulgen cover letter, draft of collection memorandum, and inclosure no.1, which have been reproduced on the previous pages, are genuine documents. Fakes exist that include words that favor extraterrestrial spaceships. The truth is the engineers at Wright Field, led by A.C. Loedding, were clearly thinking in terms of a terrestrial aircraft. (xx.)

- (xx.) Todd, Robert G. "Bill Moore and the Roswell Incident: The True Believers Deceived." *The Spot Report*. No.7. March 7, 1997. Privately published by Robert Todd, 2528 Belmont Avenue, Ardmore, PA. 19003-2617. pp.1-6.

ETH lives.

While the engineers at Wright field were in pursuit of the apparent rational Russian explanation for the disc reports, civilians were more interested in the more exotic idea of alien visitors. The Sci-Fi people led the way.

Ray Palmer, in an *Amazing Stories* editorial, remarked: "We've just had proof that the whole darn Martian Space Navy could tour the earth, and ten days later nobody would believe they were here because everybody would be seeing everything from Martians to pink elephants in the sky." (xx.)

- (xx.) "The Observatory." *Amazing Stories*. November 1947. Vol. 21, No.1. p.6.

Other writers, who specialized in compiling anomalous events and claims, like Harold T. Wilkins, would soon discover the flying saucer mystery. A lack of success by the Air Force to come up with a satisfactory solution to the disc puzzle would encourage extreme speculations. Wild ideas about the saucers' motives, nature, and capabilities would appear in books and magazines. (A 1948 monograph by Wilkins was titled: *Mysterious Disappearances of Men and Women in the U.S.A., Britain and Europe*. Haldeman-Julius Publications Girard, Kansas. 32pp. No flying saucer connection was made with the data—as yet.) (See page 55)

Fall, 1947.

First "UFO publication." *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*.

An early science fiction "fan" publication, *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*, was so packed with saucer news it could easily qualify as the world's first "UFO publication." (See page 56-69) Cover missing. Note the comments about Roswell.)

"Flying Somethings." Campbell's editorial.

Another remarkable early literary event was John W. Campbell's editorial in the October 1947 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*. Little noticed at the time, UFOlogists rediscovered it in the late 1950s when the editorial was reprinted in Lee R. Munsick's *UFO Newsletter* #11 (May 25, 1958). More recently, Campbell's editorial has enjoyed renewed notoriety since many feel that the passage of time has proved him correct in a number of ways. (See pages 70-71)

EDITED BY
E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

B-759

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE U.S.A., BRITAIN AND EUROPE

VANISHING BOY OF SOUTH BEND, THE "GREAT
ALLIGATOR" AND PARIS EXPOSITION RIDDLES,
AND THE FATE OF JOHANN ORTH

By HAROLD T. WILKINS

VOLUME I, NO. 1

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WEIRD UNSOLVED MYSTERIES is published by Alta Publications, quarterly, as a non-profit, science fiction 'fan' publication. Quotations herein are from newspaper and other sources, given elsewhere in this magazine. Name of a person, group, or agency does not constitute any sort of endorsement or official statement by that person, group, or agency. Beyond giving the original source, we can, of course, assume no responsibility for the authenticity of the quoted statements. Since, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the material quoted is common and public information, no official permission has been obtained for its use. No offense to anyone is intended or implied. We shall print corrections in the next issue following if you will send us information concerning these errors. A part of our hope in publishing this magazine is that it will serve as a review of the flying saucer affair for 'fan' and other interested persons. The price, if any, will be set tentatively at \$1.00 per year, 25¢ per issue.

JOHN CHRISMAN, Editor, General Delivery, Camden, New Jersey.

Fall, 1947 Issue

Vol. I, No. 1.

WEIRD UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

By way of an introduction

We herewith introduce the first issue of *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*, which, incidentally, has been in the planning stage for a long, long time. It falls far short of our hopes and ambitions---but even so it represents a dream fulfilled---and a considerable amount of hard work.

The editor has done some travelling in his time, has been in some very strange places, has met some even stranger people. He has talked extensively with all manner of persons, especially with returned service men who have had strange, unusual, and even fantastic tales to tell about experiences and occurrences in the far, lost, corners of this planet.

All of which should make for much thought-provoking and interesting reading in future issues for fantasy and science fiction fans; as well as other devotees of the unusual. It is our intention to publish accounts of ~~bizarre and even weird happenings~~, but always with some sort of factual basis, actual eye-witness accounts and descriptions of things which ostensibly happened, or which very real persons claimed happened, in line with our intended policy of keeping our readers informed intimately as well as up to the minute on *TRUE FANTASTIC EXPERIENCES*.

POLICY AND SCOPE OF THIS PUBLICATION

True occurrences, newspaper, and other accounts of alleged phenomena, will be presented as such. If any fiction be presented along the line of our subject matter, it will be such as to make for further interest and to round out the publication. It will be presented as fiction, and so marked. Articles of scientific or speculative nature will be presented, but as articles rather than stories. Sources and references will be given. Thus *FACT* and *FANTASY* will be kept distinct, and no attempt will be made to intermingle the two, although they may appear side by side in the same issue.

If an item is marked as having appeared in such and such a publication, then the reader may be sure that it appeared therein. Naturally, we cannot vouch for its authenticity beyond giving the source.

Whenever possible, however, it shall be our policy to call on and/or correspond with the people involved in an attempt to ascertain and verify facts, and to gain additional true information for our readers.

CONCEPT---And How It Came To Be Published

As stated earlier, the concept of such a publication as this one had existed in our mind for some time, and was even then long in the stages of planning and preparation.

A very long time before the erstwhile "Flying Saucers" made their flashing debut above the peaceful Cascade countryside of Washington, and eventually on the front pages of the nation's newspapers.

Yes, we had thought about issuing such a magazine as this, but not necessarily about "flying discs or saucers". Because we had not yet ever heard of them, save in the collected clippings of Charles Fort---who did not refer to them as "saucers".

It took us ultra-moderns in this age of cynicism, the year 1947 A.D., to tack that descriptive appellation on what has quite evidently been a phenomenon of quite long standing.

"OPERATION FLYING SAUCER"---Big Plans for Future Issues

Naturally, the advent of the "Flying Saucer" mania, occurring as it did, precisely at the time that we were seriously considering a publication of this general nature and concept, got itself right in the line of fire---and the Editorial Hair---and so---"FLYING SAUCERS" it was!

The second issue may feature the conclusion of "Operation Saucer", as it may

contain material pertinent to other "Weird Unsolved Mysteries". In any case you won't want to miss the big Winter issue. It will be definitely worthwhile---a real MUST for any lover of fantasy, science-fiction, or the weird.

As we go along, we are positive that we shall be able to improve the format, the reading matter, and the general appearance. We will also gain publishing experience which will be reflected in the general quality of the magazine. So, if you are of a critical nature, and are planning to comment unfavorably on this issue, wait until you have seen the second and third numbers. We ask that you reserve judgement until then.

We hope to have litho covers for later issues, perhaps in color, as well as reproductions of photographs, interior illustrations. There is the possibility of fiction by some real S.F. luminaries---and perhaps we may be able to print the magazine before too long. We hope that you will be with us.

"OPERATION PHILCON"---It Is Later Than You Think

We hope to see many of you at the "Philcon", the Fifth World Science-Fiction Convention, to be held at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia over Labor Day weekend. (August 30, 31, and September 1st). So, until then---watch out for those darn discs!

And if by any chance, you haven't made any plans to attend yet---remember---IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK---!

The Editor

THE EDITOR'S HAIR

An editorial department wherein the editor lets his hair down, (yes,--the editor actually has hair, his own, too), or tears into things that get into his hair.

TO SCIENCE-FICTION FANDOM:

Possibly some explanation is in order for that august body most commonly known as science-fiction fandom, insofar as the rather unorthodox nature of this magazine is concerned, both as regards the material to be found herein and the presentation of the same.

We can only plead that this is not intended to be just another ordinary fanzine.

Its chief value to organized fandom will lie largely in the fact that it is intended to be a complete record, published in one journal, of all the widely scattered data and reports which pertain to the so-called "Flying Saucer" affair, intended for future reference by fans, authors, and persons who collect such information. It is intended to serve them as a reference record of the miscellaneous data, facts, and fancies concerning the whole flying saucer episode.

Be this as it may, as far as "organized" fandom is concerned, there do exist a great number of outlying science-fiction fans, fantasy and weird readers---and just plain interested outsiders, many of whom write to the magazines but belong to no fan club, many who have read the mags for years but have written few (if any) letters to editors. These "reader" fans number in the thousands.

Since this publication is intended for a somewhat larger group than the ordinary amateur s.f. journal, and will be sent to a large number of the above mentioned persons, this will account for the necessity of presenting something of interest for a variety of groups---in place of the narrower degree of specialization that has been reached in the standard modern fanzine.

Then too, there is the hurried attempt to meet a deadline in order to have this First Issue out in time to present at the World Convention. This resulted in a hodge-podge of material, without time for a decent attempt at presentation, or a better format. These things will be forthcoming if all of you will bear with us. As will, too, those fan photos and litho covers.

It is hoped that eventually we can contact a number of the "outsider" fans, and

readers, getting them interested in the field, perhaps to the extent of joining one of the various local clubs that constitute organized fandom---through the medium of this publication, and a stf. newspaper called *SCIENCE FANTASY REPORTER* (or *Fantasy World*).

If you wish to subscribe to this publication, simply send one dollar, no more, for a full year's subscription. (Address on *Contents* page.) All comments and letters from you, both private correspondence as well as mail for the Reader's Section, will be especially welcome. All mail requiring an answer *will* be answered. The next issue will not be *all* about "saucers" of course, but will contain material of a more general nature (see *NEXT ISSUE* page). We can use any items you may care to send us, since we are definitely in need of material. (See *PRIZE CONTEST*.)

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COMING SOON: *SCIENCE FANTASY REPORTER*---the magazine of FANSIGNIFICANCE, the magazine of NEWS, VIEWS, and REVIEWS---featuring "THE FANTASY TRAVELLER" and "FANTASY SEEKER," or, "fantasy is where you find it," a department. Also fanographies "inside fandom."

ADVERTISING RATES: \$3.00 for one full page (your ad). \$1.50 per half-page. 75¢ per quarter page. Classified ads, not over five lines, 30¢; 2 insertions 50¢. Have your ad appear one full year for \$1.00. Litho or Photo Ads, Back Cover Ads; write for special reasonable rates. *WE GET RESULTS!*

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THE "FLYING SAUCER" MYSTERY
HOW IT ALL BEGAN
THE STORY AS TOLD BY KENNETH ARNOLD

On June 25th, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a commercial flier of Boise, Idaho, reported seeing nine disc-shaped objects over the Cascades, Washington. He estimated that they were travelling at the prodigious speed of 1200 miles per hour. More about Arnold's statement later.

This was the first report. Shortly thereafter reports of the "flying discs" began pouring into newspaper offices and police stations all over the western states. For a while the reports were confined to this general locality---but it was not very long until mysterious flying objects had been seen in the Mid-West, the East, and the North-East. Southern states followed. Eventually reports were received from all but three or four of the states. Perhaps there will be later reports from these, as well as from foreign countries.

This article will consist of a running commentary, interspersed with quotes from the various newspaper and radio reports which we have examined and comments thereupon.

RADIO STATION KYW...Philadelphia, Pa. "The Esso Reporter." 11 P.M. Sunday, July 6, 1947. Commentary to the effect that Gene Graves, flier, of Sioux Falls, S. Dakota, who was already in the air, saw a silvery object "shooting across the sky." He radioed back that he was chasing it, but without success. It soon was lost to sight.

Eye-witness accounts from the EVENING BULLETIN, Philadelphia, Pa. Saturday, July 5th.

PORTLAND, ORE. July 5(AP). The flying saucer mystery reached fever pitch today. "I saw them myself" statements came from a veteran United Airlines crew, scores of Portland residents, and sixty picnickers at Twin Falls Park in Idaho.

The UAL pilot, co-pilot, and stewardess, who had scoffed consistently at "flying saucer" tales, said that they saw such objects last night while flying a passenger plane from Boise to Portland. Their statements followed a day during which the saucers were reported in many parts of the nation.

Many Portlanders, police included as well as three newspaper men and experienced fliers, declared that they saw silvery discs undulating over their city.

NEW ORLEANS---Object spotted by girl. Miss Lillian Lawless said that she saw an object, shining like silver or chromium, flying at great height and terrific speed, moving in a northeasterly direction over Lake Pontchartrain.

PORT HURON, MICH.---Describing what they saw as flat, translucent plates 12 to 15 inches in diameter, several residents of this city reported seeing the "saucers".

On a flight from Emmet, Idaho, Captain E.J. Smith, of Seattle, a veteran of fourteen years with United Air Lines, said that he observed round flat objects "like a pancake standing on end" for about twelve minutes while flying towards a point south-east of Ontario, Ore. he radioed the Ontario airport, but officials stated that they saw nothing.

TWIN FALLS PARK, IDAHO.---Sixty persons picnicking---said they saw the discs yesterday afternoon. First seen by a party of seven, then, ten minutes later, spotted by a crowd of twenty or thirty, who saw another batch of nine or ten of the things. Word passed around, and soon the gathering saw yet another group of objects circling and climbing.

SEATTLE, WASH.---Frank Ryman, Coast Guard yeoman, said that he took a picture of what some residents north of Seattle thought was a flying disc. The photograph showed a pinpoint size spot of light against the dark evening sky. (The picture appeared on page 3 of the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, for July 6th, 1947.)

HUNDREDS SIGHT "FLYING SAUCERS" AS MYSTERY GROWS.

ONE AIR DISC REPORTED STUNTING.

REPORTS FROM MANY SECTIONS OF U.S. TELL OF BAFFLING PHENOMENA.

The above headline appeared on the front page of the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Sunday, July 6th, 1947 (AP). Hundreds of persons throughout the West told yesterday of seeing mysterious sky discs---and Canada's east coast---Prince Edward Island---sent reports of the strange objects first reported in Washington by Kenneth Arnold.

PORTLAND POLICE WATCH DISCS...Early Friday afternoon Portland police were swamped with calls and issued an all-car alert. Within minutes two patrol cars radioed reports to the effect that they were watching the discs.

DISC CIRCLES OVER HAUSER LAKE, IDAHO---At 7 P.M. George Astor of Spokane, Wash. said a group of two hundred persons observed one disc circle for twenty minutes over Hauser Lake before zooming away.

LOS ANGELES---Pilot "scared silly". L.A. pilot and his companion report that they were "scared silly" when they saw what they thought was one of the flying saucers moving swiftly northeast at 7000 feet, some two thousand feet above their plane.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND---Reports came in from this Canadian point. One disc was seen moving south, and another southeast.

Nearly all the observers agreed that the objects---whatever they might be---were round, flat and shiny. How big they were remained uncertain. Dan J. Whelan, the L.A. pilot, estimated the one he saw as from 40 to 50 feet in diameter, but residents of Huron, Michigan, thought that they were much smaller than this.

Captain E.J. Smith, pilot of a UAL plane, and spotter of several saucers, said: "It's hard to judge size unless you know how far away a thing is." But he agreed that "none of us had believed in these saucers reports before."

THE REPORTS SPREAD---SAUCERS, SAUCERS EVERYWHERE.

The INQUIRER says that it was on June 24th, rather than the 25th, that Kenneth

Arnold first reported sighting a formation of nine of the things.

Army and Navy officials said---with scepticism---that as far as they knew, there were no such craft as those described by Arnold---flat circular objects as big as DC-4 passenger planes, and moving in a peculiar weaving path.

TWO DAYS LATER---(June 26th): A carpenter working on top of his home in Kansas City, Missouri, reported that he saw a train of nine flying saucers---presumably the same formation sighted by Arnold.

OKLAHOMA CITY---A businessman recalled that he had seen a craft similar to those described by Arnold two or three weeks earlier. (This was Byron Savage of Oklahoma City.)

PHILADELPHIA---By the next Friday evening the flying saucer was reported here in Philadelphia by Dr. M.K. Leisy, junior interne at the Pennsylvania Hospital for Mental Disease, 44th & Market Streets. Dr. Leisy said that the object which he saw was travelling at moderate speed, and that it was disc-shaped and luminous, with a halo.

LOUISVILLE, KY.---(Another report said that the "saucers" were watched by a United States meteorologist at Louisville on June 24th.)

The Philadelphia DAILY NEWS, Tuesday, July 8th, 1947, devotes nearly a full page to the matter and has a photo of Orson Welles, with the following headline & story:

DISC IN HAND WORTH \$300; IN SKY THEY'RE DIME A DOZEN...There were no takers for rewards of \$1000 each offered in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Spokane for a genuine flying saucer.

STATEMENTS FROM ARMY and other official sources...Official Washington was sure today that it knew what the flying saucers were not---but it hadn't the faintest idea of what they were.

ARMY AIR FORCE spokesmen said that they had the matter under investigation. Preliminary study had revealed that the flying saucers were not:

1. Secret bacteriological weapons designed by some foreign power.
2. New-type Army Rockets.
3. Space ships.

Officially the AAF said that it "is keeping an open mind," because the discs have been reported by so many normally responsible persons. "The statements of witnesses are being correlated in an effort to identify the reported objects."

Rear Admiral Paul F. Lee, director of the Naval Research Laboratory, said tersely: We concur in the Army announcement."

REWARDS---The three \$1000 rewards were posted by E.J. Culigan, President of a Northbrook, Illinois, company; the Spokane Round Table (a group of gagsters); and the Los Angeles World Inventors Exposition. (Which placed a five day limit on its offer.)

LOS ANGELES HOAX(?)---Vernon Baird, L.A. pilot for the Fairchild Photogrammetric Engineers Co., told a vivid story of how he tangled with a "flying yo-yo" while piloting his P-38 for the company, while mapping the area between Helena and Yellowstone Park.

However, L.J. Archer, Fairchild superintendent, of L.A., said after the story was published that he talked with Baird by telephone, and that the pilot admitted making the whole story up while "blowing the breeze around the hangar."

CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD---A spokesman said that the agency was reluctant to start an investigation, but might be compelled to if the discs began to fly in regular commercial airplanes or crashed into other aircraft.

MORE ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES "FLYING YO-YO" HOAX

From the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Tuesday, July 8th. BOZEMAN, MONTANA. (AP). The crew of a commercial plane told today how they destroyed a "flying saucer." Vernon Baird, pilot, and George Cuttin, photographer, both of Los Angeles, were flying a P-38 over western Montana's rugged Tobacco Root Mountains yesterday, taking pictures for the Federal Reclamation Bureau.

Baird said they were flying at 360 miles per hour, at 32,400 feet, when the "yo-yo" appeared about one hundred yards behind them. It was pearl gray, a clam-shaped airplane with a plexi-glas dome on top, according to Baird. "It was about fifteen feet in diameter and about four feet thick."

"It overhauled our P-38, so we took evasive action. The 'yo-yo' got caught in my propwash and the thing came apart like a clam-shell. The two pieces spiraled down somewhere in the Madison Range."

Baird said that he looked around when the pursuing craft disintegrated and saw several others "darting around like a batch of molecules doing the rhumba." Baird couldn't say whether or not there was a man inside the "yo-yo's" dome. "I was too busy flying my plane." (This story was presently denied by Baird's boss, the superintendent, who claims that the pilot was just "blowing the breeze." Nevertheless, the story made front-page headlines in newspapers across the nation...ED.)

This is a good science-fiction story if we ever heard one! We wonder if, by any chance, Mr. Baird could be a fan? Did he ever hear of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society? Should we write and tell him about it, perhaps?

It seems that these Angelenos will do almost anything (the fans I mean). What will come next? (I should say what would!) Where's Ackerman?

LOUISVILLE, KY.---From the EVENING BULLETIN, Phila., Tuesday, July 8th. Start of the second section of the paper. A rather large picture of a night landscape, showing two long luminous streaks shooting across the dark sky. (AP WIREPHOTO.) "Two of the three objects reported by many persons throughout Kentucky last night streak in an easterly direction across the sky north of Louisville. The Louisville Weather Bureau attempted no explanation...said most callers termed them flying "saucers."

Stiff necks and goggle eyes were the order of the day as the nation's "flying saucer" jag reeled on today; sky-watching became a new avocation. Sixteen picnickers on the historic battle field of Gettysburg...reported seeing a half-dozen saucers spinning over their heads.

There were still a variety of explanations: they were secret radio-controlled flying missiles sent aloft by U.S. military scientists...etc. No one knew for sure. Could they be spotted by radar?

THE WHITE HOUSE took cognizance of the flying saucer mystery with an announcement that no investigation was under way.

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Tuesday, July 8th, has a large picture (ACME TELEPHOTO Service), on its front page showing Father Joseph Brasky, of St. Joseph's Church, Crafton, Wisconsin, holding what he thought to be one of the flying saucers that have been baffling the nation.

IT LOOKS LIKE A SAWBLADE. (Like a circular saw blade, ED.) He said he heard a swishing and whirring noise and then a thud and a mild explosion, then found the disc. Gadgets and wires are attached to it.

(Several of the "gadget objects" were found by reliable persons, which were simply devices rigged up by pranksters and jokers, trying to imitate the "real thing." We have no further reports yet on this side of the affair, but are trying to check those we do have. Next issue will carry some interesting information on BOTH sides of the affair.

A WOMAN SAID...
THE WOMEN SPEAK

SPOKANE, WASH.---A woman insisted that the objects she saw were "about the size of a five room house."

CLEARWATER, FLA.---A woman said that the discs she observed "resembled pie-pans."

RUTLAND, VT.---A woman reported that she and her husband witnessed a brilliant object in the night sky which she assumed to be a flying saucer, although it was stationary at the time.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.---A housewife said she saw "a group of white flying saucers whirling around and going at a tremendous speed."

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Wednesday, July 9th, carries a huge black headline on the front page: ARMY SEIZES 'FLYING SAUCER;' and pictures on page three (ACME TELEPHOTO) showing the Pontiac, Michigan, version of the discs in mid-air. The "discs" were photographed by Albert Weaver at Pontiac. He and two comrades said that the objects were travelling at 100 miles per hour, 150 feet from the ground.

IOWA MAN CLAIMS REWARD---Oelwein, Iowa, July 8th, (AP). A claim for the reward for a flying disc (discovery of) was made today by Lloyd Bennett, who said one crashed into his front yard last night.

Bennett said he found the piece of metal, 6½ inches in diameter, and about 1/8th of an inch thick, in the yard this morning. One side of it had been torn away. He said that no planes were overhead at the time the object swished through the trees and landed on his lawn.

He had the highly polished disc analyzed by George Kuhns, a metallurgist, who said that it took heat of 6300 degrees to melt a chip of it. Kuhns also said that the disc appeared to be a type of die-cast metal.

SHREVEPORT, LA.---Aluminum disc found. (INS). Intelligence officers at Barksdale Field said today that they are holding for the FBI what may actually be a "flying disc" or just another hoax.

The disc, made of aluminum and about sixteen inches in diameter, is equipped with two radio condensers and a fluorescent light "starter" mechanism, connected with a coiled copper wire.

It was found by F.G. Harston, an automobile salesman, who said he first heard and then saw the disc, settling down in a nearby street. He said that it gave off an orange color as it landed. Police declared that it was "obviously the work of a prankster" who hurled it over a signboard and watched it land at Harston's feet.

NORFOLK, VA.---From the Philadelphia DAILY NEWS, Wednesday, July 9th. (INT.) A picture in the middle section of the paper, showing a round black object above a tree-top, captioned "Here we go again." The photograph was taken by William Turrentine, 14. He says that the object is one of three which passed overhead at a very high rate of speed.

ARMY AND NAVY AUTHORITIES...THE ARMY INVESTIGATES...STATEMENTS BY PROMINENT AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES.

INQUIRER, Wednesday, July 9th

ARMY AND NAVY AUTHORITIES...Washington, July 8th, (UP). Announcement of the finding of a flying saucer three weeks ago came from the Roswell, New Mexico Army Air Base near which the object was discovered.

SECURITY LID LIES ON...AAF Headquarters here later confirmed the find and revealed that a "security lid" had been clamped on all but the sketchiest details of the discovery.

AAF spokesmen would say only that the "saucer" was a flimsily constructed kite-like object measuring about twenty-five feet in diameter and covered with a material resembling tin-foil. A telephone call from Brigadier General Roger B. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force, at Fort Worth, Texas, said that the purported saucer was badly battered when discovered by a rancher at Corona, 75 miles northwest of Roswell.

Ramey scoffed at the possibility that the object could have been piloted or that it could have attained the supersonic speed accredited to the "flying saucers" sighted in recent weeks. He reported that the object was too lightly constructed to have carried anyone and that there was no evidence that it had a power plant of any sort. It bore no identifying marks, and Ramey emphasized that no one had seen it in flight.

AAF sources ruled out the possibility that it might have been an Army weather kite. Helium balloons have been used for the past seven or eight years. The spokesmen said that it had been sent to Fort Worth for trans-shipment to Dayton.

AAF commanders in New Mexico refused to permit it to be photographed on the grounds that it was "high level stuff", although Ramey indicated that he was not attaching too great importance to the find pending a thorough investigation.

Spokesmen said the rancher who found the disc, W.W. Brizell, had no telephone so he kept it stored away until he could contact the Sheriff's office at Roswell. The Sheriff got in touch with the 509th Bombardment Squadron at Roswell, which forwarded the object to General Ramey at 8th Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth..... The AAF said the object "apparently had a twenty-five foot diameter if reconstructed."

ROSWELL ARMY AIR BASE STORY (A later release from the DAILY NEWS, Philadelphia, July 9th.) (UP). The excitement ran through this cycle:

1. Lieutenant Warren Haugh, public relations officer at the Roswell base, released a statement in the name of Colonel William Blanchard, base commander. It said that an object described as a "flying disc" was found at the nearby Foster ranch 3 weeks ago by W.W. Brizell and had been sent to higher officials for an examination.

2. Brigadier General Roger B. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force, said at Fort Worth that he believed the object was the remnant of a weather balloon, and radar reflector. He allowed photographers to take a picture of it. It was announced that the object would be sent to Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, for examination by experts.

3. Later, Warrant Officer Irving Newton, Stetsonville, Wisconsin, weather officer at Fort Worth, examined the object and said definitely that it was nothing but a badly smashed target used to determine the direction and velocity of high altitude winds.

4. Lieutenant Haugh reportedly told newsmen that he had been "shut up by two blistering phone calls from Washington."

5. Efforts to contact Colonel Blanchard brought the information that he "is now on leave."

6. Major Jesse A. Marcel, intelligence officer of the 509th Bombardment Group, reportedly told Brizell, the finder of the object, that "it has nothing to do with the Army or Navy as far as I can tell."

7. DIFFERENT... Brizell told reporters that he had found weather balloon equipment before, but had seen nothing that resembled his latest find. (Italics mine-ED.)

Those who saw the object said that it had a flowered paper tape around it and the initials D.P. on the tape. Newton said 4 of the wind sounding devices were released daily by every Army weather station in the nation; the incident aroused the possibility that others of the mysterious discs have been weather balloons, affecting the sun at high altitudes of 60,000 or 70,000 feet. They may be left any place. H alti-

tude usually causes them to explode. Instruments they carry are set to break loose at medium altitudes and float down near the observation station.

General Ramey made a special radio broadcast over a Fort Worth station to deny that the object found in New Mexico was a "flying disc". He said it was the "remnants of a tin-foil covered box-kite and weather balloon."

U.S. meteorologists at Chicago said about eight large balloons five feet in diameter and hundreds of smaller ones from eighteen inches to two feet in diameter were released in the nation every day.

However, the weather men couldn't agree on whether people were seeing the balloons. The Chicago forecasters said the balloons rose too rapidly (*italics mine-ED.*) J.C. Huddle, Kansas City weather man said he considered them a "likely source" of some of the reports. "On a clear day I've seen some of our white balloons several miles high," Huddle said. "They can be seen for a long distance and at about six hundred feet they give the illusion of moving very fast."

U.S. NAVAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT PEARL HARBOR investigated claims by one hundred navy men that they saw a mysterious object "silvery colored, like aluminum, with no wings or tail" sail over Honolulu at a rapid clip late yesterday. The description fits a weather balloon, but five of the men, familiar with such devices, ~~were~~ *stare* that it was not a balloon. (*italics mine-ED.*) "It moved extremely fast for a short period, seemed to slow down, then disappeared high in the air," said Yeoman 1/C Douglas Kacherle of Bedford, Mass. His story was corroborated by Seaman 1/C Donald Ferguson of Indianapolis; Yeoman 3/C Morris Kzamme, Lacrosse, Wisconsin; Seaman 1/C Albert Delancey, Salem, W. Va.; and Yeoman 2/C Ted Pardue, McIlain, Texas. (Wed., July 26th).

ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. BLANDY, Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, said like everyone else he was curious about the reported flying saucers "but I do not believe that they exist."

THE NAVY AND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION said they had no connection with the mystery.

UNITED NATIONS (Lake Success, N.Y.) Scientists associated with the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission said they were baffled.

ARMY AIR FORCES, WASHINGTON A spokesman said that no attempt had been made to spot the discs because there was not enough equipment to blanket the nation...

CIVIL AERONAUTICS COMMISSION, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue, said that it was reluctant to start an investigation, but might be forced to do so if the alleged discs flew in regular traffic lanes or crashed into other craft.

(EDITOR'S NOTE---THESE QUOTATIONS are all taken from articles appearing in newspapers, the source and dates given elsewhere in this magazine. The name of an agency or organization or of any person does not constitute any sort of endorsement of our publication by the parties mentioned or quoted. Nor is it in any way an official statement by these parties or agencies, other than the fact that it appeared in the newspaper mentioned.

This is an amateur science-fiction "fan" journal and not professional. No one's permission was obtained to use any of the material. Inasmuch as all of it is, so far as we know, common and public information quoted from newspapers, intended to serve as a reference or review of the "Flying Saucer" affair designed to serve as a reference source for "fans" and other interested persons.

It is a non-profit publication, the price serving merely to cover the cost of preparation, publication, and mailing. It is produced in the interest of the hobby of amateur fantasy publication by responsible fans. No offense to anyone is intended or implied. If any errors are found herein we shall be glad to print correction in the following issue, if the interested parties will send us the material.)

STATEMENTS FROM FAMOUS PEOPLE REGARDING THE SAUCER MYSTERY

RUSSIAN VICE-CONSUL EUGENE TUNANTEZ in Los Angeles scoffed at suggestions that the saucers might be from Russia. "Russia has plenty of territory of its own for any scientific experimentation," he said.

ORVILLE WRIGHT, who invented the airplane, said that the flying saucer craze was a government campaign to get us into another war.

The 75 year old scientist said: "It is more propaganda for war to stir up the people and make them believe that a foreign power has designs on this nation." (From the Philadelphia DAILY NEWS, Wednesday, July 9th, UP.)

A.B. CROSS, Chattanooga, Tenn., 34 year old watchmaker said he had invented the flying saucer and submitted it to the War Department in 1934, but his idea was rejected as not practical "at the present time."

Later, he said, he became convinced that the department elaborated on his plan. His model was powered by a rubber band, Cross said, but he believed *atomic power was now being used.* (Italics mine-ED.)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY took note of the reports but said it had had no luck so far in photographing one of the discs.

CHARLES T. HAMLET, Superintendent, Kingsport, Tenn., TENNESSEE TIMES composing room, said that he had seen the discs two years ago.

He kept quiet. "They were of a bright aluminum color, and were going at terrific speed," he said, explaining that he said nothing about them because of the Oak Ridge atomic bomb plant, then a war secret.

LESTER BARLOW, internationally known explosives inventor of Stamford, Conn., advanced the theory that the objects were radio-controlled flying missiles.

PROFESSOR A.M. LOW, British physicist, suggested the elusive saucers might be *artificial satellites... a sort of miniature planet... created by unknown scientists which could serve numerous purposes, such as reflecting television and radar beams.* (Italics mine-ED.)

SIR GEORGE PAGET THOMPSON, British Nobel Prize winner in physics, conceded that the saucers could be either a secret weapon or an optical illusion. (These foregoing quotations from the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 8th, AP.)

RAYMOND A. PALMER, Editor of AMAZING STORIES... (Mr. Palmer seems to have ideas similar to, or along the same line as those of Mr. A.B. Cross, above, who said that he had previously invented and built a model of the craft in which he believed atomic power was now being used... and Mr. Lester Barlow, who spoke of radio-controlled missiles. Regarding Mr. Palmer's statements, we quote the following, which appeared in a Chicago publication, with a photograph of the editor of AMAZING.)

In Evanston, Illinois, at least two men had definite opinions about flying discs and good reasons for their opinions.

Both agreed that "something" was actually being seen by at least a few of the observers who on June 25th began reporting the appearance of animated pancakes in the skies, while the vast majority were no doubt suffering from hallucinations.

Raymond A. Palmer, 2514 Grant Street, editor of the fiction division of Ziff-Davis Publishing Co., Chicago, has made a hobby of the gathering of material relating to "strange objects in the sky" for many years. In all he boasts a file of some 15,000 communications concerning such occurrences, many of them involving "flying discs."

... BELIEVES DISCS ARE PLANES

With this backlog of information, and speaking from experience as an editor of such publications as AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, MAMMOTH ADVENTURE and

MAAMOR MYSTERY, Mr. Palmer flatly stated that he believes the original stories involved a new type aircraft, not yet disclosed to the public. He backs his convictions with facts.

"A man in Livingston, Montana," Mr. Palmer revealed, "can supply documentary evidence of having participated, in San Francisco, 1927, in experiments surrounding a 'circle wing' plane, which was then shown capable of speeds up to 1000 miles per hour. Since it was a private project and did not interest the government, it was never perfected."

"During the past several days, I have been receiving between 200 and 300 letters a day, only a few of which have been authentic. Several contain drawings which closely approximate what I know of the 1927 plane."

MAY BE 'TOP SECRET.'

"It stands to reason if the government was to have a craft capable of what these seem to be able to do, it would not be announced for some time. The reports which received publicity were far from the first...."

As a matter of fact, early this year I received reports of objects of similar description, accurately described by persons who had nothing to gain and unknown to each other, in the Clearwater region of Oregon and Washington. You would be surprised at some of the things that may well be happening in this country, and at some of the things that are or soon may be flying around the sky."

Mr. Palmer went on to point out that similar reports have persisted during past years and have been increasing in number. The earliest to come to his attention was February 14th, 1910, in the same area.

MAX KARANT, editor of **FLYING MAGAZINE**, 1000 Grove Street, agrees....Believes that the entire thing can be explained on logical grounds. He, too, believes that at least some of the objects have been planes.

A world air traveller and flying authority, both as observer and as pilot, Mr. Karant pointed out that our jet planes which have been revealed to the public are capable of speeds at least approaching those ascribed to the discs, are silver in color, and, viewed at a little distance, appear round. In addition it is entirely possible that new jets of higher speeds have been developed.

"Neither the P-80 nor the P-24 are painted," Mr. Karant said. "Paint will peel off at the speed they travel when the plane strikes even a light fall of rain. They are capable of straight-away speeds in excess of 600 miles per hour, and in a dive do far more."

"In the West, where the more authentic reports seem to have originated, the clear atmosphere makes it possible to see for great distances. A jet viewed at even a little distance and travelling at great speed while glinting in the sunlight can very easily be confusing. They have confused me. Moreover, there are far more of them in existence in this country than is popularly realized or has been publicized."

WALTER WINCHELL INSISTS "FLYING SAUCERS" ARE NAVY PLANES.

NEW YORK, July 10, (INS). (From the front page, **PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** of that date) Walter Winchell wrote today that despite vigorous denials by Army and Navy officials the "flying saucers" are actually flying wings being developed by the U.S. Navy.

Winchell said that they can land at very low speed...making them good for carriers, and that there "is said to be an entire squadron at Muroc Field, California."

In Washington, the Navy denied again...the Navy does have an odd-looking plane, dubbed the "Flying Flapjack," but it has only one of these, and at the moment it is on the ground in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Winchell wrote: "The above is not rumor...it is a fact according to insiders who were promised the source would be protected."

"About eight months ago the newspapers ran a story to the effect that a retired-U.S. Admiral had said that the Navy was developing a completely new type of rocket weapon far more useful than the atomic bomb and that it involved an entirely new principle.

"I clearly remember it in all the papers but never anything further about it. I can't even remember the name of the Admiral, but I believe he was addressing a meeting."

FASTER THAN SOUND

"...Many people assume that the Army and Navy Departments are one and that all their aerial and scientific projects are joint. This is not so. The Navy, I am sure, has its own laboratories for aerial experimentation. It is also alleged that in 1943 an American firm in Chicago pioneering in jet propulsion planes sent an experimental test ship through the so-called supersonic wall. In other words, in this test flight in 1943, the jet-plane with a pilot aboard travelled faster than sound. Thus it supposedly went through the supersonic wall where it was travelling in space ahead of itself."

PILOT GOT YOUNGER

"While I have not confirmed information on the above, I understand these facts are in existence and that the plane was not heard of again for more than three weeks when it was found crashed somewhere in lower Montana. The pilot was dead. He was 38, but the teeth and body were those of a man of 25. He got younger, not older.

"I do know that the U.S. Army Air Force is reported to have on order a designed plane that will travel almost twice as fast as sound." (WIRCHELL)

KENNETH ARNOLD STILL BELIEVES IN DISCS.

"Pendleton, Ore., July 10. (INS). The first person to report flying "discs" still stood staunchly by his story today. He is Kenneth Arnold, flying businessman of Boise, Idaho, who still refuses to say what he thinks the objects are. He declared: "I won't make any wild guesses. I'm only telling what I saw."

After completing a five hour flight over Oregon and Washington seeking more of the strange aircraft---the latest of several such flights---he denied flatly that they could have been weather balloons. He expressed belief that the only other authentic reports of the discs have come from Captain E.J. Smith, pilot of a United airplane, and his co-pilot, Ralph Stevens, who reported seeing the things on a flight from Boise to Portland. The fliers said they called their stewardess, Marty Morrow, of Seattle, who saw the same objects.

HOLLYWOOD HEARD FROM... July 10. (AP). A saucer-shaped device resembling a chicken brooder top with a few gadgets added was found in a geranium bed at the home of Russell Long, construction engineer, last night. The first official reaction was that of 5th Battalion Chief Wallace E. Newcombe, who looked at it sceptically and said: "It doesn't look to me like it could fly."

Long called the Van Nuys fire department and excitedly pointed to the metal thing, 30 inches in diameter, which he said had been belching smoke from two exhaust pipes and emitting a blue-white glare.

The office of Richard B. Hood, Federal investigation chief here, said an FBI man had taken a look at the device and that it would be turned over to military authorities.

ORSON WELLES... Hollywood, July 8. (U.). From the Philadelphia DAILY NEWS Orson Welles said today he'd bet 10 to 1 that the "flying saucers" would fly in profanity just like his "Invasion from Mars" broadcast did that forced the nation in 1938. "I

want everybody to know that I didn't have anything to do with this saucer affair, though," he added. "I scared the shirts off Americans once. That was enough." The actor-producer-director-writer recalled that during his famed radio dramatization many Americans reported seeing space ships landing. Others claimed they saw armies of Martians. "People are imaginative and gullible," said Welles. "Nine years ago they believed they saw Martians and now they believe they see strange objects in the sky and think they're flying saucers."

"But just in case they do turn out to be from Mars," he grinned, "I've been predicting this sort of thing for a long time."

FOREIGN NEWSPAPER REPORTS

LONDON TIMES. "In weather as hot as this, imagination tends to become fevered."

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH. "...an indirect result of recent large exports of Scotch whiskey."

LONDON DAILY HERALD. "Must be a Russian athlete practising discus-throwing.. for the Olympic games; and he doesn't know his own strength."

NEWS-CHRONICLE (London). This paper front-paged a cartoon depicting a hen-pecked husband reading newspaper reports of the discs while his wife tossed saucers at him.

OSLO, NORWAY. July 3th. (AP). Passengers on the Kornsjø-Halden express topped the flying saucer stories today. They reported they passed what looked like a tropical South Sea island, complete with palm trees, a blue lagoon, and little white houses on a white sandy beach.

STOCKHOLM AFTON BLADET (Sweden), reported that two Danes who said they had seen flying saucers over Copenhagen were laughed into silence by friends who remembered the "ghost-rockets" over Sweden which turned out to be meteors.

PRIZE CONTEST

With this issue ALTA PUBLICATIONS wish to inaugurate a Prize Contest. Next issue we will have a Cover Contest with Cash Prizes. In this issue we are having a Literary Contest. That is, the best story sent in to us, as selected by the readers will receive a CASH AWARD of \$10.00. The second, an award of \$5.00. The third will bring a year's subscription to WEIRD UNSOLVED MYSTERIES.

So send us in that old dusty (or new one, dare we hope?) manuscript you undoubtedly can find lying around somewhere in the attic or cellar, brush it off, and drop it in the mail. Perhaps you will be the one to walk away with one of the prizes. It only takes a small amount of time and postage to find out. If your story is approximately 1000 words long, first prize would bring 1¢ a word; if 2000, ½¢ per the same and these prizes equal professional rates!

Stories submitted become the property of ALTA PUBLICATIONS. The stories will be voted on by the readers, and the Prizes awarded after the next issue following. The readers will thus have time to submit their votes. We suggest you retain carbons of the stories that you submit, and enclose return postage for your manuscripts. In the next issue we will have either a Cover or interior illustration contest. A story to be written around the cover idea. And don't forget to send letters to the Reader's Section, the ACOUSTICOM, in time for inclusion in the next issue. See you all at the PHILCON!



ASTOUNDING **SCIENCE FICTION**

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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COVER BY BONESTELL

Illustrations by Cartier, Orban, Rogers and Timmins

Editor
JOHN W. CAMPBELL, JR.

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NEXT ISSUE ON SALE OCTOBER 21, 1947

AST-1N

FLYING



SOMETHINGS

As we have remarked before, Science Fiction is no news magazine; these comments anent flying saucers or what-not are a few months late, but concern things of even longer range interest to science-fictioners.

Whatever they were, if real, and as described by those who believed they saw them, a few conclusions are fairly clear. They weren't products of a foreign terrestrial power. Anybody having a plane that good would darned well keep it to himself—until he meant to use it! The same applies to a United States Government device; they'd have been test-flown off some small Pacific island, where none but a few selected personnel, plus a few thousand fish, would have been around to report. That would mean a fair chance that they were being piloted by visitors from outside.

Latest astronomical theory indicates Venus is a waterless dust bowl—its clouds a mantle of dust storms. (See R. S. Richardson's

article "New Paths To New Planets" in the September 1947 *Air Trails*.) Mars has so thin an atmosphere that only slow-moving, lower animal forms could operate. Jupiter has too deep an atmosphere, and the other planets are either too violently cold, or too violently hot. Visitors from outside would be from *way* outside—interstellar.

Skip, for the moment, the problem of how they made the trip; consider how we would plan a reconnaissance of an alien, inhabited planet if we made the trip.

If we landed on an alien planet that displayed marked signs of technically civilized life, there would be considerable point in landing unnoticed. We'd want to make a first landing in some backwoods, uninhabited forest area, where there would be plenty of natural cover for our ship, and then conduct reconnaissance by atmospheric type planes of small size, but the fastest jobs available.

For this reason, we'd want to

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION
A. S. P. C.

land in an uninhabited patch reasonably near centers of civilization. We'd take considerable care that our scouts weren't trailed back to the ship, and that they weren't spotted on the way out. Knowing all about radar—and probably six or a dozen other detection schemes based on other spectrum possibilities—we'd see to it that the ships weren't easily tracked. Make 'em out of plastic, which more nearly matches the properties of air than any other type of solid matter. Some metal would be essential, naturally, but it would be minimized. Preliminary long-range scouting would have assured us that the planet to be investigated did not yet have space travel; an easy way to enter and leave the areas to be investigated without back trail the investigators could follow then would be to approach from almost straight up—say two hundred miles above—and take a similar hop going home. After all, if we're doing the exploring, we do have space travel; such a hop would be peanuts to us.

For several months, our investigation would be conducted by non-contact observation; until we know much more about the people, we'll do well to stay clear of them. After some weeks though, a stealthy raid might kidnap a few inhabitants for general questioning and investigation. In this, we'd be very smart not to damage the kidnaped parties; the resentment of a technically civilized race can be distinctly unwelcome, even to a more powerfully technical people. Investigation of local animals can give all the neces-

FLYING SOMETHINGS

sary basic biological science for preliminary understanding of the local race.

After several months of watching, listening, and picking up radio broadcasts, plus investigation of kidnapees, there would be a lot of material to digest. Captured books, particularly children's books, would give adequate keys to the languages. At that point, we would be smart to clear out for at least a year of concentrated study of the material at hand. The captives could be fairly safely released unharmed; in any race, anywhere, the weird tale of three or four individuals about an improbable and melodramatic capture by alien intelligences—particularly if the race hasn't yet developed space travel themselves—is going to be laughed at. The first visit could then be made without serious indication of its happening at all.

In the May 1945 issue of *As-tounding Science Fiction* we carried Murray Leinster's yarn "First Contact" that explained the necessity of considerable caution and study of any alien race before making formal, all-out contact. Similar considerations will apply to the race first investigating an alien planet; they'd be very wise to learn all they could before making their interest apparent.

It might be a year, or five years before any further steps were taken.

At various times in our stories, we've discussed a galactic empire.

(Continued on page 103)

to be done is agreed by most of the various patent associations. What they cannot agree on is the form of the definition.

This article is written not as a discouragement to inventors but more in the hope that through it a

better understanding of what is wrong will be circulated. Basically and fundamentally the Patent System is sound. What is needed is body of men who gave the Patent a new injection of life by the very System its inception.

THE END.

FLYING SOMETHINGS

(Continued from page 5)

Because we are not unnaturally, anthropocentric in our concepts, the background idea has almost invariably been that it was an empire started from and by Earth. Inasmuch as there are some million million stars in this galaxy, and present knowledge indicates that a very high percentage of stars may have planets, the chance of Earth being the first to launch such an Empire must be one in several thousand million, just on the basis of pure chance. If such an Empire were launched, and one thousand scouting explorers sent out, each scout searching one solar system a month—very busy and superficial scouts they'd be—only twelve thousand systems a year could be searched. After a million years of this scouting, not even one percent of the galaxy would be covered. Of course, the human race is less than a million years old; the Solar System makes a swing around the center of gravity in one or two million years, and the whole galaxy gets pretty well scrambled in that

length of time, so a remapping would be required.

For many years, astrophysicists were a bit uncertain of one item of data; as far as could be measured, our galaxy appeared to be almost one hundred times larger than any other we could see—to contain nearly one hundred times as many suns. It seemed improbable—but there it was.

The point has been cleared up recently. Because our galaxy is so much nearer, we can see it better. Galaxies are concentrated toward the center, becoming more and more diffuse as you move out from the center. At a certain distance out from the center of other galaxies, our photographs can no longer pick up the less densely clustered suns; actually the galaxies extend much farther out. Actually, our sun is so far from the center of our galaxy that from some other galaxy, our cameras wouldn't pick it up at all—it would be part of the lost fringe. We're in the galactic backwoods. A galactic empire wouldn't bother much with so sparsely starred a region as this.

THE EDITOR.

WHAT'S WRONG IN THE PATENT SYSTEM?

103

November. Fictional story. Flying saucers save the world from atom war. (See page 73)
(xx.)

(xx.) Blade, Alexander and James Settles. "Son of the Sun." *Fantastic Adventures*. Vol.9.
No.7. November 1947. Illustration shown on back cover.

2 November. Seinajoki, Finland. (no time)

Lights dimmed.

Item from the files of Ilkka Serra of Finland:

"A man saw a reddish yellow ball of light fly from west to north at a distance of about 100 meters. The object caused lights to dim in some houses. Now a second witness, also male, saw the object. They saw a row of windows on the object. At first they saw lights in the windows but later the lights were turned off. The observation lasted for over five minutes." (xx.)

(xx.) Subject: "Information from Finland for project 1947." For: Jan Aldrich. From: Ilkka Serra, Box 26, 19701 Sysma, Finland. 1 April 96. Four page document. Photocopy in author's files. It is not known if this report was from a 1947 source or a later one. A 1947 date would enhance its value.)

4 November. Roundup, Montana. (night?)

"Paralyzed by spotlight?" "Pulling our leg?"

Since the witness in this case is unnamed and the fact that polar bears are not to be found in the State of Montana, one has to be open to the possibility this story is a hoax:

"Now it's flying frying pans.

"Montanan' tells about it in a letter to the editor of *The Roundup Record-Tribune*. The communicant says he or she had been out to hunt polar bears in the vicinity of the Prescott mine where several had been reported seen.

"I noticed something unusual coming in my direction,' the letter goes on. 'As it came closer, I noticed it was a flying frying pan. The pilot must of noticed me, because he focused his red spotlight on me, which threw [me?] to the ground, and paralyzed me, while he circled overhead a couple of times.'

"The lady columnist of *The Record-Tribune*, in a note on this astonishing communication, frankly exhibits incredulity.

"We think somebody's pulling our leg,' she writes!" (xx.)

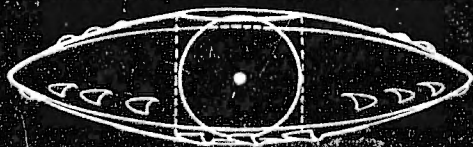
(xx.) Helena, Montana. *Independent-Record State News*. 4 November 47.

4 November. Persian Gulf. (night?)

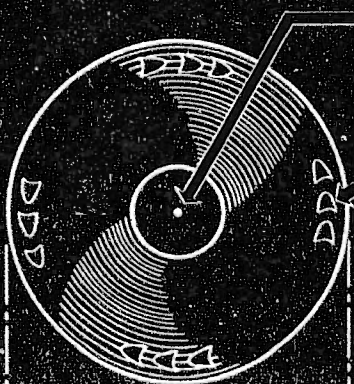
The tanker *Chipola*.

SON OF THE SUN

Will the ancient gods of Egypt and other lost civilizations come back to Earth in time to avert an atom war? The "Eye of Horus" still watching us? See page 12 for story.



Central chamber suspended within central sphere. Lens-shaped body transparent to visible degrees of spectrum, but presenting surface reflections from certain angles as a glass lens does



Centrally placed space-flow drive. Sealed in sphere. Probably the size of a grapefruit

Jet slits can be fired in sequence to produce spin. Can be flown in atmosphere without spinning. Course can be instantly changed in any of ten directions

Diameter varies—from 50 ft. to 250 ft.

Ships can only be photographed clearly with infra-red film

This case generated official interest:

"Those flying discs which had us in such a dither a few months ago seem to be messing around in the skies over Arabia now.

"Richard Carruthers, manager of Bioproducts, Inc., Warrenton, has just received a letter from his son, Richard Jr., who is serving a two year hitch in the navy aboard the tanker *Chipola*, telling of sighting mysterious lights in the sky over the Persian gulf.

"young Carruthers wrote that eight round spots of light, flying in a group, passed within a half mile of the ship, made a climbing turn in echelon formation, and passed out of sight.

"Four aboard the ship saw the lights and couldn't decide if they were white or blue. Their appearance was entered in the ship's log.

"The *Chipola* was running between Bahrein, Arabia, and Japan, carrying oil.

"Since he wrote the letter, Carruthers' ship has come to Norfolk, Va., and will go thence to Japan and back to the Pacific coast where he expects to be discharged." (xx.)

(xx.) Astoria, Oregon. *Evening Budget*. 4 November 47.

13 November. "No Air Warning." (See clipping to the right)

18 November. Eight questions for the Air Defense Command

Aviation editor Dave Johnson sent a telegram to General Stratemeyer which read:

"N344 DL PD-BOISE IDA 18 402F

1947 NOV 18 PM 8 02

LT GEN GEORGE E STRATEMEYER

—AIR DEFENSE COMMAND MITCHELL FIELD NYK—

WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT ON NOV 12 THE USS TICONDEROGA OFF CALIFORNIA COAST OBSERVED AND TRACKED BY RADAR TWO FLYING OBJECTS DESCRIBED AS DISCS. TELEPHONE CHECK WITH HAMILTON FIELD TO ASCERTAIN IF A-2 HAD MADE ANY OBSERVATIONS OF OBJECTS LATELY RESULTED IN OUR BEING DIRECTED TO AIR DEFENSE COMMAND. TOM LANPHIER MANAGING EDITOR OUR PAPER SUGGESTED I CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY. WE INTEND TO HANDLE THIS MATTER OBJECTIVELY WITHOUT SENSATIONALISM AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ANSWER BY WIRE COLLECT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. ONE: HAS AIR DEFENSE COMMAND REACHED ANY CONCLUSION AS TO SOURCE OF DISCS, TWO: ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT SUCH OBJECTS WERE FLYING ABOVE

No Air Warning System In U.S.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—(AP)

—Dr. Vannevar Bush, scientist, disclosed today that the United States has no system operating to warn it of sudden air attack.

He told a news conference that a study of the whole subject of "early warning" radar nets is being considered by committee of his research and development board, a unit of the national military establishment. The committees are exploring the relationship of civilian airline navigation aids within the country to the existence, either in peacetime or wartime, of a radar warning network.

THE UNITED STATES. THREE: HAVE YOU INVESTIGATED ANY DISC REPORTS DURING LAST TWO MONTHS. FOUR: HAS ARMY RADAR EVER TRACKED SUCH OBJECTS. FIVE: HAMILTON FIELD SAYS ARMY STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DISC REPORTS AND THEREFORE WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT FORM YOUR INVESTIGATION HAS TAKEN. SIX: IS IT POSSIBLE DISCS ARE FOREIGN EXPERIMENTATION. SEVEN: DO YOU PLACE ANY CREDENCE IN REPORTS OBJECTS WERE DEVELOPED BY GERMAN ENGINEERS IN SPAIN. EIGHT: DO YOU WANT PEOPLE OBSERVING OBJECTS TO STILL REPORT THEM TO ARMY. OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN THIS STORY IS SOLELY IN PROVIDING A LOGICAL ANSWER TO THE PHENOMENA. WE DO NOT INTEND TO RIDICULE IT OR TREAT IT LIGHTLY.

—DAVE JOHNSON AVIATION EDITOR STATESMAN NEWSPAPER.”

(xx.)

(xx.) National Archives and Record Services (NARS) from the Director of Intelligence decimal files 000.9 “Flying Discs” file. Not part of the BLUE BOOK files but are part of the same record group #341. Obtained by Robert Todd. Photocopy in author’s files.

26 November. The focus was still on Russia and it was suspected that “ghost rocket” activity in Europe may have some connection with flying disc reports. An Air Force document dated November 26, 1947, mentions a curious disagreement between a Swedish officer and the American General Kessler. Why they were so far apart on the subject is very odd. (See page 76)

11 December. An answer to Johnson’s eight questions.

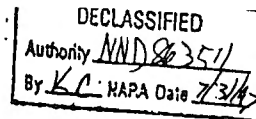
A reply was prepared for Johnson but it was brief, with one-word answers. Most puzzling was the admission the “discs *might be* foreign experimentation” yet the Air Force was *convinced none* were flying above the United States! Since “might be” indicates something could exist, why was the military convinced none of the U.S. sightings (thousands) were real objects? (See page 77) (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

When it came time to submit the eight answers to Johnson, it was General Carl Spaatz, chief of the U.S. Air Force, that did the talking for public consumption. General Spaatz got around the “might be/none” problem by the careful use of words. To the question “Is it possible that discs are foreign experimentation,” General Spaatz replied:

“Nothing concrete has been established to answer this question in the affirmative, but in the absence of a logical explanation it would be unfair to discard the possibility.” (xx.)

REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~*808.918 Flying Missiles*

000.76 General

091.713 Sweden

095. Balchen, Bernt

210.681 Sweden

26 Nov 1947

FROM: AFOIR-CO

TO: CG, AMC, Wright Fld., Dayton, Ohio Attn: TSNLI-2

Ltr

SUBJECT: Mysterious Missiles Reported in Sweden

1. Reference is made to your letter of 17 October 1947, subject as above.

2. Information available at this Headquarters regarding the subject is as follows:

a. Captain R. V. A. Thorien, Royal Swedish Navy, in a conference at this Headquarters on 7 October 1947 stated that the Swedish "ghost rockets" were fired from Peenemunde. In further discussion he stated that: These rockets had been sighted making a 180° turn; that 33 of the sightings were believed to be ~~actual~~ factual; the missiles are flying again, and new launchings have been reported headed south from the northern Petsamo Area.

b. Mr. Bernt Balchen, Norwegian Airline director and former Colonel, USAF, was interviewed by personnel of this headquarters, on 14 October 1947. Mr. Balchen gave information concerning two radar locations in the Petsamo area and a rocket firing incident observed in the same area.

c. General Kessler, recently returned from Stockholm, where he was US Military Attache, did not agree with Captain Thorien's information. In fact, he categorically stated that only two sightings could possibly have been factual and he does not think sufficient evidence exists to authenticate these two.

FILED UNDER: 471.94 Rockets

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 8635By KC NAPA Date 7

Flying Discs

Director of Public Relations
Attn: Col. Nuckols

11 Dec 1947

Director of Intelligence, Air Intelligence Requirements Division, Collection Branch Lt Col Garrett/vv/4544

1. Attached is copy of a telegram sent by the Aviation Editor of the Statesman Newspapers to the Commanding General, Air Defense Command. Air Defense Command referred this telegram to this Office and advised Mr. Johnson that he could expect an answer from Hq USAF.

2. This message is forwarded as a matter pertaining to your office, but in connection with whatever action you wish to take, the following answers to Mr. Johnson's questions are considered pertinent and unclassified:

- a. Has USAF reached any decision as to source of discs? No.
- b. Are you convinced that such objects were flying above the United States? No.
- c. Have you investigated any disc reports during last two months? Yes.
- d. Has Army radar ever tracked such objects? No.
- e. We would like to know what form your investigation has taken.

Interviews with a cross-section of responsible persons who have reported sighting the so-called discs.

- f. Is it possible discs are foreign experimentation? Yes.
- g. Do you place any credence in reports objects were developed by German engineers in Spain? Believe it highly improbable.
- h. Do you want people observing objects to still report them to Army? Yes.

1 Incl:
As stated.

ROBERT TAYLOR 3RD
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Collection Branch
Air Intelligence Requirements Division
Directorate of Intelligence

FILE COPY - DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

095. 5th ...

(xx.) Kellogg, Idaho. *Kellogg Evening News* 24 December 47. Boise, Idaho (AP)

12 December. Wright Field is asked the eight questions.

Dave Johnson also contacted the Air Material Command at Wright Field, Ohio, a move that side stepped Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon and which produced different and more interesting results (The Air Force eventually learned its lesson and issued stern orders that only the PIO department in Washington was the authorized source of information and that all inquiries be submitted to that office).

Johnson and his paper became aware the military might know much more than it was prepared to admit. In fact, the one Air Force investigator they managed to talk to on a private basis confessed he believed "something out of the ordinary" had invaded American airspace. (See clipping below)

Mystery Of 'Flying Discs' Unsolved

Six months after the first "flying disc" report the elusive "aircraft" are as much a mystery as ever—to civilians, at least.

There was some indication that the army air forces, which made an exhaustive study of the various reports, knew more of the objects than it would divulge.

Dave Johnson, Boise, Ida., Statesman aviation editor, recently wrote:

The air material command at Wright field, where the air force develops its top-secret weapons, said Sunday, approximately six months after reports of flying discs first swept the nation, that it still doesn't know the answer to the saucers.

A spokesman for the military experimental center near Dayton, Ohio, told *The Statesman* by telephone that the air material command "knows of nothing to which flying discs could be attributed."

Military Still Interested

However, the spokesman said, military authorities are still interested in the discs, and Wright field will make prompt investigation of any "tangible evidence" concerning them.

The spokesman said that the air force is not conducting experiments with any objects that would resemble flying discs.

In response to a question suggesting that he might be at-

tempted to keep from the public any information about a "secret weapon resembling flying discs or being flying discs," the spokesman said:

"I believe the air force is entirely honest about this. I don't believe the air force is playing innocent about it."

FBI Bows Out of Picture

It has been learned, meanwhile, that the federal bureau of investigation, which conducted extensive investigation into the flying discs and collected statements from persons who said they had seen the objects, has turned back to the military all further work along that line.

There has been no official explanation from the FBI as to why this was done.

In response to a request from *The Statesman* for access to files containing the results of the Fourth Air Force's investigation of flying discs, Brig. Gen. Ned Schramm of Hamilton field, Calif., commanding officer of the Fourth wrote:

"I am bound by a directive from higher headquarters not to release the information obtained through our interest in the flying discs."

Feels Files Uninformative

Although he said he was not permitted to release the information, Schramm added in the same communication, that "I feel our files would not con-

tain anything that is not already generally known to the public."

A list of eight questions concerning the flying disc, and including the inquiry whether the air force had reached any conclusion concerning the source of the discs (providing discs existed) was submitted by *The Statesman* to headquarters of the air defense command at Mitchell field, New York.

The air defense command replied that "due to lack of complete details your query has been referred to the air force's headquarters in Washington for reply."

That was on Nov. 20. There has been no reply forthcoming. **Believed Story Had Basis**

Previously, *The Statesman* had been informed by an intelligence officer of one of the air force divisions under instructions "to run down the discs," that he personally was "convinced" something out of the ordinary had been flying over the U.S. continent, but that he could not speak thus for official quotation.

*Pendleton Or
East Oregonian
Dec 12, 1947*

NUMBER OF REPORTS

U.F.O. Reports NATIONALLY (Solid line with solid circles)

U.F.O. Reports CALIFORNIA (Dashed line with open circles)

NOTE: There was a curious dip in the number of U.F.O. reports every third day Nationally.

Date	U.F.O. Reports NATIONALLY	U.F.O. Reports CALIFORNIA
24	19	0
25	12	0
26	7	0
27	17	0
28	12	3
29	11	2
30	14	0
1	24	4
2	15	10
3	28	12
4	78	16
5	62	29
6	137	46
7	140	35
8	70	45
9	25	15
10	15	8
11	4	2
12	7	2
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14	0	0
15	2	0
16	0	0

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Z

Last minute addition:

Phoenix Az
Veteran
Aug 29, 1947

RED SAUCERS:

Soviets Curious

These flying disks were fun while they lasted, but by this time everybody has practically forgotten them.

Well, almost everybody.

Latest report having to do with the world chinaware is that Soviet agents in the United States have been ordered to solve the mystery of the disks. Presupposing the report to be true, it means, at least, that the saucers were not of Russian origin as many at first believed.

Soviet espionage agents here are said to have been advised that the Kremlin believes the flying saucers might have some connection with army experiments on methods of knocking out enemy radar during bombing raids.