

UFO's: A History
1952:
August

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by

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The Central Intelligence Agency had its own special apprehension about UFOs and it concerned a possible Third World War. That the concern was justified was made evident by an incident in late 1950.

While nothing in open military files provides information on the alert in question, other sources do tell us something about it, i.e. the private papers of the Secretary of State at the time, Dean Acheson. It seems that in the early hours of December 16, 1950 strange targets in formation appeared on Air Defense radar in Alaska moving in a southeast direction toward America's heartland. The details are not to be found in BLUE BOOK records but they deserve their own folder because we can assume the targets were very impressive. Impressive enough to prompt the Air Defense Command to indorse the radar returns as a real threat and to make the military flash a condition red alert. That morning Undersecretary of Defense Robert Lovett telephoned President Truman to warn him the nation was under possible air attack and that fighter aircraft had already been sent northward to search for indentified aerial intruders moving south over the Canadian wilderness.

After informing the President, Lovett called Dean Acheson's office in the State Department. In dramatic tones Lovett announced:

"When I finish talking with you, you cannot reach me again. All incoming calls will be stopped. A national emergency is about to be proclaimed. We are informed that there is flying over Alaska at the present moment a formation of Russian planes headed southeast. The President wishes the British ambassador to be informed of this and be told that he and Mr. Attlee should take whatever is proper for Mr. Attlee's safety." 1.

From Acheson's non-military point of view, an aerial assault by the Russians seemed highly improbable, and as it turned out he was right. No bombs fell on American cities and Lovett was later forced to admit to Acheson and President Truman that it had been a false alarm, which was explained this way: "Some unusual atmospheric disturbance had caused those reading the radar screens to mistake a flight of geese for Russian bombers." 2.

Geese they may have been, but we also know from FBI records that the Bureau late in December 1950 was "very confidentially advised" by Army Intelligence that the military had suddenly been put on an "Immediate High Alert" regarding "flying saucers." 3. Again Air Force UFO files have nothing to say about this, at least declassified ones do not.

Even the Russians acknowledged the dangers to peace UFOs presented. Back in 1946 when talk in Sweden blamed the "ghost rockets" on the Communists, the Moscow publication New Times attacked what it called "anti-Soviet slander" and charged: "...that although one Swedish newspaper had concluded that the alleged missiles were nothing but a mirage, the 'panic' spread by the reports was not a mirage but a real fact." 4.

On the other hand, American Intelligence was not so sure the Russians were not behind the "flying saucer panic" and early on the Pentagon had Hoover's FBI check the background of witnesses to determine if they were foreign agents controlled by the Soviet "Directorate for Strategic Deception." Nothing was discovered, although there was fertile soil for Russian mischief in the promotion of "UFO hysteria."

Private efforts.

By the end of July there appeared a number of non-official UFO investigative bodies. There was the Los Angeles based "Civilian Saucer Investigations," Coral Lorenzen's "Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization," and the "Delaware Flying Saucer

Investigation Associates," to say nothing of Elliot Rockmore's newsletter Fly-Saucer Review published in New York. By August other bands of self-appointed UFO authorities were announced. Some were tiny, short-lived, local committees like the "Amarillo(Texas) Flying Saucer Sighting Center" led by John Garbult. Other new arrivals on the UFO scene were more substantial like the one headquartered in Bridgeport, Connecticut under the banner of "The International Flying Saucer Bureau." Its claim to being an international entity was due to the existence of a branch in Bristol, England, under the direction of a Mr. E. L. Plunkett. The I.F.S.B. founded by Albert K. Bender lasted barely a year but is still remembered because of the "three men in black." Project VORTEX was the brainchild of some electronic experts in the military reserve of the Army Signal Corps unit in Wisconsin. Their purpose was the same as other people interested in the mystery, that of data gathering and research. They had no official sanction and pursued their UFO activities during off duty hours. Downunder an ad hoc body was formed in New South Wales, Australia, an event that eventually led to the "Adelaide Aerial Phenomena Research Group." In France, Marc Thirouin and Jimmy Guieu put together the "International Investigations Commission on Flying Saucers" which published a notable review titled Ouranos, although pseudoscientific interests by some of the commission compelled one member, Rene Hardy, to resign and take an independent course with other disaffected dues-paying Frenchmen, a course favoring an intellectual approach to the UFO puzzle.

"Peculiar to Alaska."

Strange targets on Alaskan radar was not a phenomenon restricted to the year 1950. On August 1, 1952 some Air Intelligence Reports arrived at ATIC's BLUE BOOK office from Capt. Timothy Flanagan stationed at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. This reporting officer had added a complaint to the documents he was forwarding, expressing his wonder at whether such strange goings-on might just be "peculiar to Alaska," that perhaps there was something very odd about the northern land that enabled it to play such wild tricks with the military's electronic gear. The officer reported: "During the month of July(1952) on three different occasions, pilots and radar observers of the the 66th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, reported unusual radar returns obtained with APG-33 airborne radar installed in the F-94 type aircraft." 5.

"Cat and mouse with ghosts."

Typical was the experience of F-94 pilot Capt. Henry Anthony on July 21st as he patrolled near the Beluga Lake area:

"...at 2218Z another contact at 16,000 feet, bogie at 12,000 yards. Lock-on accomplished and speed advantage of 50-60 knots achieved. Approached to 1,500 yards where the target was lost through an abrupt upward motion as seen on the pilot's scope.

"A 360 degree orbit executed and another contact made at 6,000 yards. Target pursued. Target held at 10 degrees port and level while range decreased to 500 yards with a closing speed of 50-60 knots.

"At that range the speeds were synchronized at approximately 300 knots and the pilot made a slight turn to center the target on the pilot's scope. The range decreased very slowly to approximately 400 yards, held steady for three to six seconds, and began to move out very rapidly. At 3,200 yards the speeds again were synchronized but the target began to move downward. The aircraft was nosed down in an attempt to follow and as the airspeed increased to approximately 400 knots, the range again decreased to about 1,500 yards. At that time the downward motion increased and the target was lost from the bottom of the scope." 6.

Visibility was very good during these night encounters, however no visual contact

of any UFO was made. There was a possibility some unknown temperature inversion effects were involved although in a July 5th Alaskan incident over Redoubt Bay the F-94s were called in after a GCI site on the ground had picked up targets. The F-94s picked up targets after they arrived in the area. There is a lack of detail in the military record but if both the ground radar and airborne radar showed targets in the same position, it would complicate any explanation.

After reading the reports from Alaska, and with the recent Washington D.C. cases still fresh in his mind, Capt. Ruppelt could well write Capt. Flanagan that sky spooks were not "peculiar to Alaska." Moreover, just that August 1st morning something of similar interest had come in from an ADC radar station near Yaak, Montana. The station had detected a strange unidentified target that should have been visible from the GCI site. Sure enough, when members of the radar crew went outside and looked at that part of the sky, they saw a "dark cigar-shaped object." 7. Ruppelt, in his book on UFOs, wrote: "What these people saw is a mystery to this day." 8.

Project "A."

In contrast to the previously mentioned bands of amateur saucer detectives, was a more serious attempt by the private sector. Ohio Northern University took up the challenge and received nation-wide publicity when the school proclaimed it was setting up what it called: "Project A, The Investigation of a Phenomena." Guiding light to the project was Dr. Warren Hickman, the University's dean, who declared: "It is time somebody did something... We may find an astral body, army research, atomic reactions, flights from outer space, but whatever it is, we must find an accurate answer." 9. Leading a co-ordinated effort by 30 faculty members of four of the university's colleges, Dr. Hickman hoped to achieve four objectives:

"First: To objectively collect data from all possible sources dealing with 'flying saucers' and to analyze this data in various departments of the university.

"Second: To make public the results of research of a private institution unhampered by bureaucratic restrictions.

"Third: To stimulate and promote objective study of all types of illusory phenomena by individual observers, and to issue reports of the project investigations.

"Fourth: To aid in creating more accurate observers for the civilian air defense program." 10.

Some key words in this story are those of Dr. Hickman's that express a belief that nothing was being done, in effect that the Air Force was failing in its duty. Actually the Air Force had produced a number of assessments over the years based on examinations of the available data, however almost all of these assessments were classified. As recently as the Summer of 1952 yet another study had been completed by some Air Force people (Although it was a limited affair.). A local Air Force Intelligence unit at Mac Dill AFB took the initiative and had done a secret evaluation. According to a Don Widener, an Air Force information specialist at the time, he had helped draft a document dealing with UFO reports logged in the Mac Dill AFB area, a document that was forwarded to Strategic Air Command Headquarters. Claims Widener: "It stated that in our opinion the unknown objects were of extraterrestrial origin." 11. The document is not in BLUE BOOK files.

The Central Intelligence Agency makes a move.

From August onward the CIA begins to play an increasingly important role in UFO history. Although as early as 1946 when the ghost rockets excited military Intelligence there had been some interest by the agency, it wasn't until April of 1952 when the CIA's special subordinate body, the Office of Scientific Intelligence, made a

move to do something definite, that can it be said that the organization was in the business of investigating the phenomena, but this investigation was of an odd, informal character. CIA official Fred Durant had intentionally befriended the Air Force BLUE BOOK chief E.J. Ruppelt and Pentagon UFO monitor Major Dewey Fournet without revealing his CIA affiliation since the agency felt that knowledge of its curiosity about the UFO mystery could be construed as an indorsement of sensational speculations. Although Durant's approach was "informal," he had definite objectives to achieve, wanting to satisfy the OSI's need to understand any possible national security implications of the problem of UFOs. Durant sought to establish an opinion on the validity of BLUE BOOK's field work, as well as evaluate potential national security dangers. By the end of July 1952 Durant felt he had learned enough. He recommended that the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence empower himself and two other CIA men, Phillip G. Strong and Ranson Eng, to do an overall study of the UFO problem in earnest and overtly. To accomplish that, however, the effort needed the blessing of another department within the CIA. That department gave lukewarm encouragement. An internal CIA memo, dated August 1, 1952, from Edward Tauss, Acting Chief of the CIA's Weapons & Equipment Division; to the Deputy Assistant Director of the agency's Scientific Intelligence group, stated:

"1. Pursuant to your request for an overall evaluation of 'flying saucers' and associated reports, the following is pertinent:

- a. Of 1000 to 2000 such reports received by ATIC, a large percentage are clearly 'phoney.' An equally large percentage can be satisfactorily explained as known flights of currently operational U.S. equipment (aircraft, weather balloons, etc.) and many others are undoubtedly of natural phenomena (meteorites, clouds, aberration of light caused by thermal inversion or reflections, etc.).
- b. Less than 100 reasonably credible reports remain 'unexplainable' at this time; regarding these reports, there is no pattern of specific sizes, configurations, characteristics, performance, or location. The sources of these reports are generally no more or less credible than the sources of the other categories. It is probable that if complete information were available, they, too, could be evaluated into categories as indicated in 'a' above." 12.

Before proceeding further with the rest of this memo, let us look again at parts "a." and "b." given above. The opening sentence makes it clear that the Office of Scientific Intelligence would concern itself with more than just the implications of UFO reports. It states that an "overall evaluation" was planned which would, one assumes, include the question of determining if something real was causing the sightings. And as the memo is written, the very next two sections, "a." and "b." address this question. Section "a." is a generalization which should have no detractors, but "b.," on the other hand, makes some flat statements about UFO statistics that would have had Keyhoe, Hynek, and even Ruppelt, shaking their heads. In fact, after Durant was given the green light and checked into the UFO problem, he reported back on September 24, 1952, with information that would also put him in the shaking head category.

Perhaps it is not surprising that the CIA was taking such an interest in UFOs. Air Force Major General C.P. Cabell, Director of Intelligence for Headquarters, USAF, had some months previously transferred to the CIA to become the number two man in that organization and had brought along his robust fascination with the aerial mystery. It is the contention of civilian UFO authority W. Todd Zechel that it was General Cabell who pushed for the establishment of the Air Force's project BLUE BOOK and that Ruppelt

and company at Wright Field was part of a plan to create a dual investigation effort with the ATIC group being just a public relations outfit, while the real investigation was being conducted in secret by another team outside the military. 13.

Debunking trouble.

While we are spotlighting the possibility that BLUE BOOK's mission was less than a sincere operation, we can note that General Samford's Washington press conference had some unwanted results, for the debunking by the head of Air Force Intelligence had its effect on military officers around the country who received the impression the Pentagon was no longer really concerned about UFO reports. Transmission of UFO reports were curtailed or indifferently pursued. Ruppelt noted the fall off, so he called attention to the Air Force's continued course of action of giving the problem "adequate" but not "frantic" attention. 14.

That is Ruppelt's view, but a check of official documents indicates some different trouble entirely. Instead of Intelligence officers becoming too lackadaisical about the UFO subject, it seems General Samford feared that he may have given UFO speculation too much respectability, that his raising of the debate to a level of major news conference may have encouraged others in the military to air their opinions without Pentagon guidance.

A memorandum, signed by General Samford, was sent to all Directors of Intelligence of major Air Commands, and to all air attaches overseas. The paper's title was: "Protection Against Public Release of Sensitive Subject Matter." The General referred to two previous policy letters issued that year, No. 205-1 issued on July 17th and No. 205-2 issued on July 22nd. These emphasized restrictions on the release of UFO information and/or opinions made to the news media. General Samford took cognizance of the recent showdown with the Fourth Estate by stating: "On 29 and 30 July personnel of various Air Force intelligence activities participated in public press conferences and radio broadcasts to answer questions relative to unidentified aerial phenomena." 15. He concluded by giving the purpose of his memorandum: "This participation, contrary to stated AFOIN policy, was directed by competent authority, for competent reasons. It does not indicate any change in the policy." 16.

Trying to put BLUE BOOK back in balance was essential since the project, in Ruppelt's words, was about to embark on a program that was an: "...all out drive to find out more about the UFO." 17. The big flap of 1952 had meant a sizeable increase in BLUE BOOK files and it was hoped that the new data would lead to a breakthrough in the understanding of the riddle. Ruppelt saw the need for more detailed information, for special cameras, and for aid from top scientists. A question was to be directed at various experts: "Do the UFO reports we have collected indicate that the earth is being visited by a people from another planet?" 18. It is not clear why Ruppelt would ask such a question, for he knew the rules of the game: "no artifacts, no proof." It could have something to do with the fact that the extraterrestrial theory had the allegiance of a number of people in the government and the military, an unpleasant situation. 19. Some maintain that CIA interest in the UFO mystery increased at this time because the Intelligence organization wanted to derail the space visitor idea. Belief in aliens had seeped in everywhere. Of particular concern was the threaten objectivity of BLUE BOOK. It seems that Major Fournet and Colonels W.A. Adams and Weldon Smith had just conducted a BLUE BOOK "staff study" which analyzed the reported maneuvers of UFOs and concluded that whatever the things were, they seemed to be under intelligence control. 20.

A CIA document, signed by the director Walter B. Smith (Date not given but assumed to have been drawn up early August) states that the UFO problem had been discussed at the highest level. Mr. Smith was consulting with the National Security Council about

the UFO problem, discussing implications regarding intelligence and operations matters as related to the subject. In the document, which is addressed to the CIA's Director of Psychological Strategy, Mr. Smith made it known that he felt that the agency also consider: "...the possible offensive or defensive utilization of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes," 21. and that he was transmitting just such a proposal immediately to the National Security Council, therefore it was requested that at the earliest Strategy Board meeting the idea should be examined. This is a curious since there is nothing given that expresses concern about Russian mischief, which we are later led to believe was the sole anxiety of the CIA. A hint of the future emphasis of the CIA, at least their later declared emphasis, could be found in a news-story out of Washington D.C. and published in the New York Times on August 1st which warned that saucer queries were hampering regular Intelligence work. 22.

Army Intelligence report.

Another example of Pentagon attempts to enlighten its lower echelons which may have been befogged by the hectic events of the previous weeks, was an article in the Army's Weekly Intelligence Report that provided a quick, official, version of the UFO problem for the: "...application to a current topic of discussion in various news media, private conversations, etc." 23. Of additional interest, since it could be considered an official position, is that the author of the article recognized the "ghost rocket" mystery of 1946 as a precursor of the flying saucer puzzle, stating that the strange, missile-like, objects reported were of the same "general breed." 24.

Keyhoe at the Pentagon.

The Washington press conference of late July failed to slow up Donald Keyhoe. All year Keyhoe had pestered Major D.E. Patterson of the Defense Department Public Relations and he wasn't about to stop now. Keyhoe wanted nothing less than permission to examine military UFO reports that were pouring into ATIC. The first week of August he dropped in on a Colonel Boyd at Boyd's Pentagon office to let off some steam. Addressing the Colonel with an angry tone he later apologized for, Keyhoe lambasted what he termed a harmful Air Force policy of belittling UFO reports thus discouraging the reporting of strange aerial objects by civilians, particularly airline pilots, who told him they were so mad about the military making them seem incompetent UFOs could fly formation with them and they could care less. Keyhoe offered to stop his bugging the Pentagon if he were given a good, solid reason to do so, and even suggested that he, a retired Marine officer, be returned to active duty so he could be more easily cleared for a peek at classified documents. Colonel Boyd was supposed to have reacted this way: "We're not holding out a thing. I'm sorry you think so-- you're one person we'd like most to convince." 25.

Keyhoe felt better after having airing his frustration and went on to express his regrets about jumping on the Colonel because he knew UFO policy was not made by Boyd. Discouraged, Keyhoe left for his home across the Potomac in Alexandria, Virginia, where he had hardly got in the front door when his phone rang. It was Colonel Boyd's office asking if Keyhoe would like to meet with Al Chop of the Air Force press desk the next day. Keyhoe answered in the affirmative.

The following day Lt. Col. Searles of ATIC met Keyhoe at the Pentagon and ushered the UFO-writer to Chop's office. Both Keyhoe and Chop talked for some time (The military PR man was particularly fascinated with Keyhoe's extraterrestrial belief.) and then the press chief made an offer that stunned Keyhoe. Chop: "I've been instructed to help you, and you asked for ATIC sighting reports. Exactly what do you want?" 26. Keyhoe, after a second's hesitation to gather his wits, blurted out: "Simultaneous radar and visual sightings --the toughest cases you've got." 27. That didn't faze Chop at all who merely nodded at the request. Knowing that any such case would invariably be "solved" as an inversion, Keyhoe voiced a warning

that he would do his damndest to find weak points in any Air Force solution that was the least suspicious. Chop volunteered more than Keyhoe thought he might have a right to expect. The press chief talked about his work at the Pentagon, how he attended Intelligence conferences, read UFO reports as they arrived, and discussed the situation with men like Major Fournet. Keyhoe couldn't resist asking Chop what he thought was the answer to the UFO mystery. Chop said that his official standing denied him the expression of any personal opinion, but he did repeat the official position in part, that part that never ruled out the possibility of inter-planetary machines visiting the Earth but there was no concrete evidence to support such a possibility. Before Keyhoe left the office, Chop produced a copy of Keyhoe's best seller Flying Saucers Are Real and flipped through the pages. According to Keyhoe, Chop remarked: "You seem sure the saucers are friendly. If they are inter-planetary --and I said if --why all this long observation without any contact?" 28. Watching Chop's face, Keyhoe answered: "I don't know, there could be several answers. Of course, if the Air Force thinks they're hostile, I can see why they've kept quiet." 29. To that Chop replied: "You said that --I didn't." 30.

Project GRUDGE.

The project GRUDGE report of August, 1949, was declassified on this day, August 1, 1952, and apparently its negative conclusions were meant to dampen pro-UFO feelings. The timing may be significant for another reason since it contained this:

"There are indications that the planned release of sufficient unusual aerial objects coupled with the release of related psychological propaganda would cause a form of mild hysteria. Employment of these methods by or against an enemy would yield similar results." 31.

"A little scared."

Capt. Richard E. Case of American Airlines, interviewed at Logan Airport, Boston, on August 1st, told the press: "Most of the nation's pilots are aware of this thing and most are just a little scared. After all, it's no fun to have unidentified objects buzzing around your ears in flight." 32. Capt. Case said he had personally encountered something startling in the sky over Indiana back on July 12 when a greenish object suddenly appeared at 15,000 feet shooting downward in front of his plane. According to Case: "It resembled a tear-drop in shape and pulled out at 6,000 feet where it went away from us at terrific speed. As it leveled off it was the whitest white I have ever seen." 33.

President Truman assailed.

To top things off, Senator William E. Jenner launched a strong attack on Truman (See photocopy.).

When one reads comments by such people as Capt. Case and Senator Jenner, you begin to think that Donald Keyhoe was justified in his persistence.

Meanwhile, Ruppelt struggled with the nearest thing the Air Force had to actual physical evidence, the two strips of movie film, one taken at Tremonton, Utah on July 2, 1952; and another one taken at Great Falls, Montana, back in August of 1950. The BLUE BOOK chief sat through continuous showings of both films. The images in both films were similar, white round-like, dots that showed no detail due to distance, however the Tremonton frames were the most interesting because of the "milling" motion exhibited. Whatever the objects were, they were making awfully sharp turns. Getting an inspiration, Ruppelt summoned some experienced fighter pilots to the projection room and asked them what their opinion was of this aerial "dogfight." The pilots shook their heads in disbelief and were quick to say that no aircraft known could

Jenner Assails Demos On Flying Saucer Bungling

Aerial "Mystery"
Will Now Become
Political Issue **A52**

French Lick, Ind., Aug. 1 (NS)—America's flying saucer mystery has become a political issue in the 1952 campaign, with charges that the Truman administration either has been unprepared to learn the origin of the saucers of that it has deceived the public.

The charges were made last night by Senator William E. Jenner in an address before the Indiana Trailer Coach Association at French Lick.

Jenner said:

"THE AMERICAN people don't know anything positive about the so-called flying saucers except that—once again—the Truman administration appears to have been caught flat-footed. For many months now, there have been reports that seemed to be much more than mere rumors regarding the saucers. But what has the administration, with all of its multi-billion-dollar facilities for military preparedness and research done about them?"

"Not until now, it seems, has Washington taken the saucers seriously. Not until they were reported right over the White House itself has the little man with the world's biggest expense account chosen to bestir himself. Now—at long last—we get reports of frenzied activity by the pentagon to look into the matter. Washington is in such a dither that we have around-the-clock radar and jet interceptor watches set up to learn something about the illusive lights."

"IT IS ENTIRELY possible, of course, that some branch of our military service has been secretly experimenting with the saucers, and that they are devices of our own. But if that is so, then the administration has gone to great lengths to delude the people, to confuse the people, and now to drive many of them toward a state of near-panic."

Jenner then said:

"We have, then, either unpreparedness or deceit, both of which are typical of the Truman administration of bad government."

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circle and dart like the images on the screen.

The Air Force photo lab at ATIC went over both films frame by frame for weeks and in the end announced that in thier opinion the images were not balloons, air-planes, or birds. 34.

"Whatzit Pix."

Besides motion pictures, Ruppelt had a number of still photos to ponder. For example, during General Samford's big press conference a print showing several bright blobs of white light in V-formation was in Ruppelt's briefcase the whole time but the BLUE BOOK chief was never tempted to show them. The picture was taken by a Mr. Shell Alpert at the Coast Guard station at Salem, Massachusetts, back on July 16th and Ruppelt was sure the images were explainable and nothing profound enough to be concerned about, although on August 1st, when Coast Guard Headquarters at Washington officially released the snapshot to the newsmedia, it did so with no comment other than saying that the negative showed no trace of being retouched.* In spite of the picture's poor credentials, it was widely published in the newspapers and helped to hype the mystery more than ever. Oddly enough, more interesting pictures received little publicity. 35.

The Riley pictures and "rings of darkness."

A more intriguing tale concerning some still photography was unfolding at this time in New Jersey. During the last days of July numerous UFO sightings were made in northern New Jersey. On July 31st at the city of Patterson in the offices of the local newspaper Morning Call the staff had been busy all day answering the phones, taking calls from excited townfolk who were all worked up over visions of things in the sky therabouts. In the middle of this frenzy in walked a photographer by the name of John Riley. He informed the news staff he had taken some still pictures with a Kodax while standing outside the home of his friend George Stocks. According to Riley, he was chatting with Stocks when a strange aerial object came into view moving at a liesurely speed on a southeast heading. The thing stopped in the sky for a few moments, hovering at an estimated 200 feet. Said Riley: "It was near enough to shoot at with a rifle." 36.

With the UFO that close and hovering, Riley claimed he had time to study the object which he said had the appearance of a grey disk some 60 to 80 feet in diameter and topped with a large dome(See his drawing.). The object remained motionless and emitted no sound. During the brief time the object hung in the air, it was seen to tilt: "...as though to observe the ground." 37. At the same time: "An antenna --or something like it --darted out of the dome's top for a moment and then was withdrawn" 38. After the tilting, the object took off toward the southeast. The thing was suppose to have been in view some seven minutes during which time Riley took several photos. 39.

That afternoon Riley made the rounds of the newspaper offices in the area hoping to sell his pictures. One newsman, a Mr. Dixon, telephoned ATIC at Wright Field, Ohio, and asked to talk with someone associated with project BLUE BOOK. The following dialogue is taken from a transcript in BLUE BOOK files detailing the resulting conversation when a Major Herman returned Mr. Dixon's call. Not only does it tell us about the Riley case, it also tells us something about how UFO cases were investigated by Ruppelt's people. The transcript reads:

"Major Herman: Mr. Dixon, this is Major Herman from Wright Field.

Mr. Dixon: Major who?

Major Herman: Major Herman, HERMAN.

*See Appendix.

I'm calling regarding this photograph that you say that you have with respect to an aerial phenomena.

Mr. Dixon: Yes, that's about your way of putting it. Briefly the story is this. The commercial photographer came with the story that he was visiting a friend when the two of them saw the saucer overhead. This guy grabbed a friend's fixed focus camera [sic] grabbed half a dozen shots before the saucer moved away. He wanted to sell us the pictures. The pictures are phenomenally clear for anything of that sort. I put in a call to you on the strength of that. One picture is enlarged and shows a very definite saucer shape, black on the bottom. No details visible. Its definite edge passed [sic] and curved on the upper side and the dome topped that in the center of the whole business. A couple of others show only the bottom, a black silhouette, with what is apparently something swirling around it as though it could be an exhaust film. On the negative that was enlarged it measured a half inch across. What it looks like, off-hand, is something very close to the camera because it is fairly sharp considering the type of camera used. On the other hand, the man swears, and he has one witness who will back him up, that it is a legitimate photograph of some object hovering in the sky which they both observed a few minutes and then moved off into the horizon and we have threatened him with jail and all that and he still insists that it was correct. Since I put in the call to you, I have had a chance to examine, measure, and check around the area. Item 1, the papers in the area have no reports of anyone else in the area sighting such an object; Item 2, the negative in two instances show what appears to be something like a fishing pole or something else similar to a pole sticking above the location of the saucer on the negative. It is quite possible that it could be a thread hanging from it and holding something in the air for the picture. If I had seen the negative before I called you I probably wouldn't have called. But, on the other hand, these men swear that what they have is boni fide.

Major Herman: You feel by looking at the negative that there is something else you feel could be somewhat of a build-up.

Mr. Dixon: I feel that it is possible that there is a string hanging from the end of it that looks like a fishing pole supporting something in the air, in front of the camera, instead of being 25 ft. diameter in a long distance, it is a comparatively small object close to the camera.

Major Herman: I see. How does this individual explain that pole?

Mr. Dixon: He said he hadn't even noticed it was there.

Major Herman: Do you know anything about the individual?

Mr. Dixon: I have called the papers up that way and the police and he is not a known news photographer but his own story is that he runs this photo developing service so that he would have no claim to fame.

Major Herman: You have no indication that he is a credible character in the community.

Mr. Dixon: We have no record as to one way or other.

Major Herman: No reputation at all. How do you feel about the picture itself?

Mr. Dixon: Well, I'm inclined to think it's a fake just because the pictures look too good to be true, but on the other hand, at the time I put the call in I hadn't seen the negatives and didn't know about that fishing pole or whatever it might be overhead and I did not feel it was up to me to decide one way or other. He might have gotten the idea, I understand from a picture in Life of a similar object[The 1950 Trent photo?]. Does that sound familiar to you?

Major Herman: The picture that was made a year ago?

Mr. Dixon: That's what I have been told.

Major Herman: Was that one of Prof. Adamski's pictures? [This is a rather mysterious remark. This reference to Adamski would put this telephone conversation in a much different time frame, indicating that these two men were having their telephone conversation late in 1953 instead of August, 1952. There are many more indications in the transcript which indicate an August, 1952 date. This writer has no idea how Major Herman could have known of the Adamski pictures and suggests, although without proof, that when the transcript was typed up a reference to the Trent photo was removed and the Adamski one inserted. Whether it was done for a reason or not is left to the reader to think about. --L. E. Gross].

Mr. Dixon: I don't have any idea of that.

Major Herman: There have been several pictures published which have questionable origin but I am not sure of the one you are referring to.

Mr. Dixon: I don't know. I did not see it myself, somebody else told me about it.

Major Herman: What time did this fellow take this picture? Did he say?

Mr. Dixon: His story is that when he saw this thing overhead and he grabbed his friend's Kodax duo flex, that's the one of

UNCLASSIFIED

ALL SURFACES INCLUDING
BOTTOM OF OBJECT
APPEARED NON-REFLECTING

DOME LOOKED
AS THOUGH IT
WAS 1/3 THE
SIZE OF THE
"SAUCER" PART
OF OBJECT



UNDERSIDE OR BOTTOM
APPEARED FLAT

those that has a fixed focus, cameras.

Major Herman: Right.

Mr. Dixon: And takes 620 films. Of course it's got a cheap lens in it. He fired away at least a half a dozen shots and most of them of the thing were fairly close overhead and one was a good way into the distance. He says that while it was hovering it tilted and rotated as though something was looking over the edge around all sides as it circled. The whole thing sounds almost too good to be true.

Major Herman: When did he take the picture?

Mr. Dixon: At 10:15 in the morning.

Major Herman: That was in the daylight?

Mr. Dixon: Right.

Major Herman: What did he say made it discernable from the daylight. Was it a dark object?

Mr. Dixon: It was described as a grayish color.

Major Herman: Grayish.

Mr. Dixon: A medium gray. But on the other hand, the bottom of it photographed as black and one observer here commented that it might be a woman's sun hat. I don't know what the side photograph looked like.

Major Herman: What was the weather about that time? Was it possible that it was too bright to photograph something in the sky or did it have an overcast sky?

Mr. Dixon: I didn't ask him. He took it on verichrome film and the film and the pictures here were foreground except one print in which the foreground is very dark and apparently medium gray sky then another one here with the foreground is darker than that though, the sky is quite white. It looks like typical sunny sky on verichrome film to me.

Major Herman: I see. Is he agreeable toward releasing the negative?

Mr. Dixon: He is willing to sell them. We are skeptical about this pole sticking out so he went home to get this other witness and bring him down here to back up the story.

Major Herman: When is he due back?

Mr. Dixon: A half hour, maybe.

Major Herman: Tonight yet?

Mr. Dixon: Tonight, yes.

Major Herman: He took it at 10:15 this morning, when did he come to you with it?

Mr. Dixon: He has been going around to other papers, apparently some of them are using it as a gag shot and some of them may have turned him down. He said he had sold them to a couple of papers and now he wants to sell it to us. We didn't bother doing anything with it until we called you up.

Major Herman: Just a moment, I have a friend of mine who would like to ask a few questions.

Capt. Ruppelt: This is Capt. Ruppelt speaking. I have been listening in on another extension. Just from the sound of this thing we've had quite a few pictures like that before and it doesn't sound to me like it is very authentic. Can you hear me?

Mr. Dixon: I have made it out so far.

Capt. Ruppelt: The fact that nobody else saw this thing is always quite a factor and I would just say...[deleted, Riley?] would do it. We have some experience with that type of picture and from the description that you gave I would say that it is doubtful.

Mr. Dixon: You wouldn't consider it important enough for you to bother with further?

Capt. Ruppelt: We don't believe so. Of course not seeing the picture I couldn't say, but I rather doubt it very, very much.

Mr. Dixon: Well, we figured that you would know better than we would.

Capt. Ruppelt: The story is really interesting in that type of person that took it and the way he said he took it falls right into a pattern of other pictures that could be no good. The things you describe and the conditions under which it was taken all fit right into that pattern.

Mr. Dixon: Well, that was my personal opinion, then on the other hand, I decided to let the call go on through since I placed it.

Capt. Ruppelt: Well, we certainly appreciate your calling but this is my opinion and I don't believe that we would be interested. We sure do thank you for calling because that's the kind of things that we want to look into.

Mr. Dixon: All right sir. Thank you very much for your advice.

Capt. Ruppelt: Mr. Dixon, if it is possible that this man would release these negatives we would be very glad to take it and evaluate it and sent it back to you however, if it is found out that it is another one of those cases of...[End of the transcript as found in BLUE BOOK files]. 40.

One must remember that a scientific examination of the negatives was the only thing that really counted, that the true size and distance of the object in question could only be determined by carefully checking the image with special instrumentation. The character of the photographer, any witnesses, and testimony about the time of day, were only secondary and nothing you could be sure to rest your case on. Ruppelt never stressed that in his conversation with Mr. Dixon but he made sure to ask for the negatives in spite of the impression he gave that the incident was a hoax! Also, Mr. Dixon may have never known that the Air Force shortly thereafter sent agents to investigate Riley completely, questioning family, friends, local store clerks, and the photographer's employer. The agents even visited Riley's home looking for a "saucer model," as they did in the Paul Trent case, and checked both the attic and the basement seeking "clandestine wireless radio equipment." The Air Force was taking people like Riley seriously in one respect, as possible enemy agents, since such is proved by military records, but what about the possibility the pictures were "real." One thing about the negatives is that they seemed to have disappeared. And to top that off, there is no record in BLUE BOOK files that the negatives were ever handed over to the Air Force and/or an examination done. Considering the complete investigation of Riley himself, it is very odd nothing was done in the way of checking the negatives. As for Riley's reaction to the followup Air Force investigation, we have no record, at least none that appeared in any magazine or national publication. There may be a possibility subsequent issues of local newspapers had stories about Riley but these await a search by researchers in the New Jersey area. All is not lost, however, for there is a few things we can still ponder.

"Hazy blue ring."

Note that Mr. Dixon was sure no similar UFO sighting appeared in the local press, a point Ruppelt quickly seized upon to discredit Riley, yet consider the following. In the July 31, 1952 issue of the Passaic, New Jersey Herald-News there is this interesting little item although there is no mention of a date or time of day: "Mrs. Patrick Blake of Randolph Street, Passaic saw one with a hazy blue ring around it, suspended in mid-air..." 41. How one would like to returned to the year 1952 and question this Mrs. Blake more completely! The most intriguing of Riley's pictures shows a "smoke ring" around it. How he "faked" the ring is hard to imagine, in fact why, if it was a hoax, would he go to so much trouble? Furthermore, having achieved such excellent results, why didn't he put more stress on the existence of the ring in the picture? One could explore this "smoke ring" business by referring to something similar in the book: Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects concerning a smoke ring in a Santa Ana, California, case. See pages 472-ff. However, another UFO case, circa August, 1952, is just as interesting.

The Catalina "blue halo," a puzzle solved?

In 1979 two engineering specialists at Northrop Aircraft were discussing UFOs. One of them, a Mr. Clyde Vrooman, related an experience that he said had happened to him when he was a 12 year boy scout during a camp out on California's Catalina Island back in August, 1952. At the camp were some 300 youths and 50 adults, all of whom witnessed the phenomenon according to Vrooman. The scouts had been summoned to fall out around the flag pole at 10:30 a.m. for a formal ceremony, and while everyone was

lined up waiting for the event to begin, a strange object came over the hills from the south sailing smoothly through the air about 700 feet above the ground. The sight caused shouts of amazement from the assembled crowd of boys. The thing was like a bright aluminum pan, without protuberances, and with something like windows evenly spaced around its periphery. Of special interest to us is this part of the story which says: "...the sky around the object appeared to be dark blue or purple --much darker than the sky itself. This 'halo of darkness' extended out a relatively short distance and moved along with the object." 42.

The scouts and adult staff sent written descriptions of the incident to Col. Charles W. Bicking, USAF, March AFB, California. Sometime in September 1952 Vrooman received a letter of appreciation from Col. Bicking who informed him the information about the UFO had been forwarded to Air Force Headquarters and that: "While the information from these reports may seem only meager to you, when combined with other reports, it may possibly indicate information which will be of great interest to our Intelligence Office." 43.

Vrooman, who was telling this story to a Dave Kenney decades later, suggested an explanation for the dark halo. He theorized that the halo indicated: "...the presence of a magnetic or gravitational field of sufficient magnitude to cause light refraction. This 'electro-optical' effect may have some bearing on the nebulous appearance and lack of solid radar returns frequently associated with other UFO sightings." 44.

Could Vrooman's idea explain the Washington D.C. UFOs?

Fate of the Mayher film.

Amid all this discussion of photographic evidence, it is perhaps appropriate that yet another film is mentioned in official records for this date: August 1, 1952. Air Force Intelligence officer Major William J. Frazier sent a message on the fore-mentioned date to the Director of Intelligence, USAF, the Pentagon, in care of Major D.A. Ree, AFGIN-1A1, describing the Ralph Mayher movie taken on July 29, 1952. According to the message, after Mayher had turned over his film to officials at Opa Locka Marine Base, Florida; the film and five documents detailing the case were forwarded to Major Ree in Washington: "In accordance with instructions via phone this date..." 45. Major Frazier had copied faithfully the points made by Mayher that cast doubt on the meteor hypothesis, like the 3½ minute duration of the UFO passage, the absence of noise or a trail, the constant intensity of the glow, the lack of aura and the light's sharply defined circular shape. The subsequent fate of this film and official behavior is of interest. Fragments of notes in BLUE BOOK files indicate that an inquiry about the fate of the film produced a reply on April 13, 1954 from the Department of Defense signed by a PIO named R.C. White, which suggested that the film may still be in the custody of Naval Intelligence. What did happen to the film and what did it tell the High Command?

A re-evaluation of the Mayher case was made on September 10, 1956. As usual, emphasis was put on attempting to discredit the photographer. Mayher's statement that "he had a hunch" a UFO would appear, and that he felt that he: "...might be the only person on earth to get a motion picture of this," 46, was noted. By discounting some testimony as exaggeration, coupled with circumstantial evidence such as the belief of some Navy fliers they had seen some meteors and the fact that the Aquarids meteor shower was at its peak at the time, evaluator Capt. George Gregory determined that the data was sufficient to demote the case from mysterious to "possible meteor." The re-evaluation was necessary because of some "matter" concerning a Colonel Johnson. Wrote Capt. Gregory: "This is submitted in the event that the matter which we discussed late Thursday afternoon may come to a head or result in a potential controversy (public relations wise) as far as the Air Force is concerned." 47. The next day, September 11, 1956, a memorandum was exchanged between Col. Gilbert of AFGIN-4E and

a Mr. Archier-AFOIN-4X which cast light on the forementioned "public relation problem," which we learn had its beginnings on August 7, 1956:

"The following incident, and action taken as results there of, is reported as a matter warranting the attention of your office:

- a. At approx. 1550 hours, Friday, 7 August 1956, this office received a telephone call from Mr.(...deleted), affiliated with(...deleted), Cleveland, Ohio. According to Mr.(...deleted), the station was preparing a TV presentation entitled, 'The Close Approach of Mars to Earth.'
- b. Mr.(...deleted) demanded the detailed results and analysis of a 'flying saucer film he took in July 1952, and subsequently turned over to ONI, and USAF Intelligence. This information was, somehow, to be used as part of the TV presentation.
- c. Mr.(...deleted) was informed that we could not release information from our files, and that authority from headquarters, USAF, would be required. He was, therefore, advised to contact the PIO, HQ, USAF.
- d. Indignant and somewhat angry, Mr.(...deleted) pressed the matter by demanding the information, stating that he had a contract deadline to meet. The undersigned reiterated our policy regarding release of information to the public. In closing, Mr.(...deleted) demanded the names of 'PIO chiefs and officials in the Pentagon,' and was advised that referring his queries to the Air Force Information Office would be sufficient.
- e. In compliance with established policy on matters of this nature, Mr. (...deleted) Johnson was immediately contacted since the matter would eventually be referred to him and it was requested that we provide his office with comments and details at a later date.
- f. Our records reveal that some newspaper publicity was given this sighting and that the evaluation given this case was 'unknown.' This appears inappropriate as there is considerable data upon which to formulate a conclusion. A brief summary of a re-evaluation relative to this sighting, as submitted per telephone conversation with AFOIN-X, is attached(Incl. #1). Also attached is the case file(Incl. #20).
- g. As a matter of record, this telephone conversation was being tape recorded by Mr.(...deleted) office." 48.

The trouble did not cease after this communication. A newspaper article on the Mayher case appeared about a year later, November 6, 1957, which gave a rundown on the incident that night in Florida back in 1952 and also mentioned that the Marine photographer still had some prints of a half dozen of the more interesting frames of the controversial UFO movie. The day following this newspaper article an agency from the Central Intelligence Agency's Cleveland, Ohio, Domestic Contact Office sought out Mayher and requested the prints for analysis. Mayher complied and this time his property was returned that December without any undue delay, but when Mayher expressed a desire to know about test results by the CIA, he was denied. A few declassified documents later revealed that the prints were subject to review by "high level" agency personnel(but little else). Mayher eventually would turn to Donald Keyhoe for help, but Keyhoe, even though he dealt directly with the Director of the CIA, could obtain only evasive answers. 49.

One conclusion that can be drawn from all this is that arguments over "who said what about a UFO incident" was often used as a smoke screen to distract attention from what was of real value, and that was any sort of hard evidence. UFO witnesses

may overstate their case, or even understate their case, yet that is not of prime importance since in either event there is nothing you can examine in a laboratory. Ruppelt would be tested on this late in August 1952 in the case of the scoutmaster and some "charred roots."

Indiana is "hot."

The Indiana region received considerable press attention in August, 1952, which was due as much to Air Force Capt. Forest R. Shafer's active relationship with the media as it was to the number of UFO sightings being made. Capt. Shafer, who was the officer in charge of the South Bend GOC Filter Center, not only talked with reporters when approached, he even volunteered information. A case in point was the following stories.

Capt. Shafer discussed with the press two cases that had recently (August 1st) come to his attention although they occurred days before. It seems that an Air Force procurement officer, a Capt. Harold Kloth, stationed at the local South Bend Bendix Aviation plant, had seen something back on July 23rd at 11:35 p.m. While standing in his back yard that night watching a commercial airliner cross the night sky, he also sighted a strange pair of blue-white lights which appeared to be the size of a first magnitude star. Capt. Kloth had some 2,000 hours of flying time and was not easily puzzled by odd sights in the heavens. These moving specks, however, caused him to pause. One light sped southwest, while the other one veered abruptly to the west. This was the same night, noted Capt. Shafer, that mysterious lights were observed over the city of Cario, Illinois. Moreover, Capt. Shafer had another story to relate. He told of the experience of a Robert Davis of Mishawaka, Indiana, who happened to live near the Twin Branch plant of the Indiana-Michigan Electric power company. About ten minutes after midnight (no date given) Davis was letting out the cat for the night when he noticed a strange luminous object low in the sky circling the Twin Branch facility at "jet speed." Davis claimed the object's shape could be clearly seen as a round saucer-like body with a domed top. The strong white light that glowed from the object's rim gave the thing a "ghost-like" appearance. When the object left the area, Davis noticed that it took the same flight path used by aircraft in their approach to the St. Joseph airport for landing. 50.

Bafflement at Bellefontaine.

Excitement picked up in the Ohio region at 10:45 a.m. August 1st when a strange object sailed by. Ground observers called it a mysterious glowing sphere, and when it was picked up by the 664th AC&W radar site near the city of Bellefontaine, the scope operators measured its speed (erroneously as it turned out) as 400 mph. Jets were scrambled to intercept. Visual contact was achieved by the pilots before they lost track of it. At the time the Air Force was baffled by the object, but later an investigation nailed down a balloon explanation. 52. It was just a case of a radar operator making a bad calculation but the incident had unfavorable effects on the UFO investigation. The story of the jet chase leaked to the press when the two pilots involved, Major James B. Smith and Lt. Donald J. Homer, talked to a reporter and admitted they had got a look at the UFO although not a clear one. The following day the story appeared in the New York Times with the reporter's comment that it was: "...the first time pilots checking on flying saucer reports here had made such a positive statement." 53. The Times also reported in the same article that: "The Air Technical Intelligence Center, in charge of 'flying saucer' investigations, immediately banned the two pilots from commenting further on their experiences and ordered a ban on pictures of the two." 54. Sharing the page in the Times with the jet chase over Ohio, was the Salem "UFO" photo released by Coast Guard Headquarters, which meant that

the UFO problem could get out of hand even if the reports were of an explainable nature. Things were happening too fast for Ruppelt and BLUE BOOK.

"Flotillas" over New York.

The New York Times of August 1st also had a snippet that mentioned some people had spotted "flotillas" of shiny objects coursing thru the air over south-central New York state for two hours. 55. Other sources add to the story.

The initial alert was flashed by a civilian COG spotter, Charlotte Blodgett, on duty at the Elmira post. She informed the Syracuse filter center around 10 a.m. that some shiny disk-shaped objects with a "blister or small round spot on the side" 56. were moving overhead. The woman GOC spotter was not the only one to see them. Phone calls by the hundreds were received at the offices of two local newspapers, the Elmira Advertiser and the Elmira Star Gazette. In fact a newsman named Larry Murphy on the staff of the Advertiser looked at the sky and saw a trio of objects he said resembled pancakes.

To the east in New York's Chenango County at the city of Afton, people by the hundreds spilled into the streets to gawk at the hundreds of round bodies that: "...seemed to come into sight near the sun and move away from it." 57. Two hours the show continued with scattered objects sighted after that.

At the city of Sidney, about 20 miles to the northeast, the mass of objects coming from the direction of Afton was so spectacular some 300 employees of the Scintilla Magneto Plant left their jobs and rushed outdoors to witness the passage. One employee, Irving Parsons, told the press some 60-70 "ping-pong balls" in an unorganized group sailed by.

Further on to the northeast at the city of Otego, New York, a crowd stood watch for an hour but sighted six objects during that time.

Elsewhere, silvery apparitions appeared over Albany just before sundown but we have no details.

Military planes sent to search the region from Griffiths AFB reported seeing nothing out of the ordinary, at least that is what Capt. Lawrence Browne, the base PIO, told the press. A little different story came from civilian observers who claimed: "...the disks seemed to gain speed and vanish when a jet got on their trail." 58.

"Resembled nothing I had seen before."

By far, the best case of August 1st was the eyepopper described by a writer for the Scripps-Howard news service by the name of Doyle Kline, who was "not a believer" because the sighting was his own and "resembled nothing he had seen before."

At Albuquerque, New Mexico (again one of the best comes from that state), 9:50 p. m., Kline viewed a flight of strange objects soundlessly and gracefully sail over the city. There were about 10 in all, white-colored dots about 1/3 the size of the full moon, flying in a cluster on a northern course. While in sight the cluster shifted with fantastic violence to a perfect V-formation, followed within seconds by another quick change to a formation of two rows with: "...one row spaced evenly between those in the other row." 59. The sighting was reported to the 34th Air Defense Division.

"Operation Flying Saucer."

The theory that UFO sightings were the result of people "seeing things" underwent a big test August 2nd in a nine county area covering southwest Michigan and northern Indiana, an effort dubbed "Operation Flying Saucer" and sponsored by the Indiana newspaper the South Bend Tribune. This mass attempt enlisted an impressive array of recruits, the prime ones being the military radar sites and the GOC people under

the command of Air Force Capt. Forest R. Shafer, who as we have said earlier, was in charge of the South Bend GOC Filter Center. In addition, the South Bend amateur astronomy club set up a battery of telescopes in the parking lot of Notre Dame football stadium. Other groups included civil defense workers and the police force of the city of Mishawaka. The Tribune estimated that among the general population at least 100,000 people would be standing watch in their backyards ready to contact the paper's newsroom through a communication setup utilizing direct telephone lines and six mobile short wave radio transmitters operated by volunteers from the Michigan Amateur Radio Club. The wireless sets would be stationed at select vantage points.

A key role had been assigned to the Tribune's affiliated commercial radio station WSBT. The plan would work this way. The Tribune would urge a mass turnout of its readership to scan the sky during the designated time period and if someone thought he had sighted a strange object, he was to immediately phone the Tribune's number of 3-6161 and ask for an "Operation Flying Saucer" staff member. After taking the call, the staff member would assess the report, and if it seemed worth while, the information would be quickly broadcast by station WSBT to alert other potential witnesses in the area. Simultaneously, the alarm would be passed on to the Indiana GOC Filter Center for possible military action. Capt. Shafer provided flight plans of civilian and military aircraft for the day of the test, Saturday, to the Tribune staff so they could a better screening of phone calls.

In the air a Tribune reporter by the name of March Kovas was to cruise the region in an airplane in constant radio contact with command posts on the ground, adding a final touch to what was touted a well-knit operation.

The period selected for the mass watch was between 9 and 11 o'clock the evening of August 2nd. Scattered clouds were forecast but by 9:30 that evening the sky cleared. Viewing conditions were now perfect with ceiling and visibility unlimited. 60.

The results.

Some 2,000 people showed up at the Notre Dame Stadium parking lot to wait in line to look through one of the telescopes. It was a good measure of the interest generated by the journalistic stunt. Throughout the region ordinary folks climbed to rooftops, positioned lawn chairs in the yards, and in some cases drove from their homes in town to the countryside where they had a clear view from horizon to horizon. All 55 civilian GOC posts in the Air Defense district were fully manned.

At the Tribune command post, its newsroom, phones rang continuously during the two hour vigil. Hundreds of reports were logged. As expected there were a number of gag calls but most were callers were sincere. Air Force officials monitoring the reports were of the opinion that the vast majority of the reports were very simply to explain and that only some 120 were of possible interest. None were worth a jet scramble evidently and the Tribune printed no reports it had received. People in that part of the U.S., apparently, had little imagination. 61.

"Stand by."

Another disappointment had occurred the night before at Washington D.C. Since UFOs had appeared over the Nation's Capital two weekends in a row, some thought that perhaps the manifestations might happen a third time, so TV station WNBW, which originated the program "We the People," rented a big DC-3 airliner, filled it with 20 newsmen, and then had the plane circle over Washington between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m. On the ground in the radar room of Washington National there were more newsmen and TV cameras. 62. The "We the People" program opened in the radar room as a TV host looked into the camera lens and announced: "You may be the first television audience to see a flying saucer." 63. Moreover, in the chartered DC-3 orbiting above a reporter told the video audience: "If during the next half hour there are any reports on these mysterious blips we're going to head straight for them --stand by!" 64.

What happened was told in newspaper headlines the next day: "SHY SAUCERS WON'T SHOW FOR TV HERE." 65.

"We've really been scrambling."

In case we get the impression the UFOs were on vacation, we should read a dispatch from a source that knew better. Headquarters of the Air Force Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colorado, through an ADC spokesman, confessed that the big flurry of flying saucer reports then in progress was being taken seriously and many were being received through official channels. Exclaimed the spokesman: "We've really been scrambling!" 66. While admitting the intense UFO activity, the ADC PIO nonetheless refused to say anything about the results of fighter interceptions. 67.

More August 2nd news.

UFO activity erupted farther west than Indiana or Washington D.C. On August 2nd Lt. B.A. Swimly, a pilot assigned to the 83rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Hamilton AFB, California, saw strange objects in the sky over Marin county at 5:45 p.m. At his home in the Meadows Park area he noticed eight silver-colored objects pass overhead at 18,000 feet in an irregular diamond formation. Before the objects passed out of sight they changed to a single file formation. He immediately contacted Hamilton Field which scrambled a trio of F-86 fighters, which, however, were too late to catch the UFOs. 68.

Three nights in a row.

Extraordinary aerial activity occurred over Ada, Oklahoma, three nights in a row. Excitement reached its highest pitch at 9:30 p.m. August 2nd when a reporter for the Ada Evening News, a Mr. Charles Rhodes, witnessed a particularly impressive manifestation. About that time a round, amber-colored object sporting a bright white light around its circumference, flew over the town. The thing tilted up on one side according to Rhodes. Within minutes 10 other objects, glowing saucer-shaped blobs, zipped over Ada. Telephone calls flooded the Evening News office. Rhodes reckoned about everyone in town sighted the overflight. 69.

August 2nd in New Mexico.

If there had been something in the air over Albuquerque on the 1st, it may well explain an Associated Press dispatch, datelined Los Alamos, the following day which told of shiny, metallic-looking flying objects moving erratically at high speed above the secret laboratories for a half hour. Jets were sent up to investigate but the pilots sighted nothing unusual, however an observer on the ground said he watched both the UFOs and the jets and claimed that he saw the UFOs make a 360 degree turn to shadow the jets some distance to the rear! 70.

The next day, August 3rd, more activity.

"Intricate change in formation."

An Air Force FLYOBRPT states:

"On 3rd August 1952 at 2220 MST, Mr. Paul L. Anderson, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, observed a formation of strange lights apparently hovering in the sky. The objects were about 45 degrees above the horizon and appeared within the line of sight leading to the Big Dipper handle. The observer was located in the south edge of Truth or Consequences, looking west of north.

"The objects made an intricate change in formation, and then, seemed to ascend at a rapid rate until out of sight.

"The observer, assuming the size of the objects to be equal to a jet fighter, estimated the position of objects to be 6 or 7 miles away." 71.



Formation over Truth or Consequences, New Mexico,
as drawn by the witness Mr. Paul L. Anderson.

According to Mr. Anderson, there were three green-white "things" in a vertical "V"-formation which, as indicated above, executed what was termed an "intricate change in formation" that was explained this way:

"One object, first appearing circular, turned 180 degrees on its axis, so as to appear elliptical, then moved up and over the other two objects to a lower position in the formation. This position was held for a short time and the highest object (The original apex of the inverted 'V.') appeared to turn on its axis 180 degrees, changing from circular to elliptical, then ascended rapidly, fading from view. The remaining two objects turned in a like manner and followed the first ascended object. The observer counted to 29 during the time the first object ascended and the last one moved to follow." 72.

Now the Air Force noted that Mr. Anderson put the objects at a distance of 6-7 miles from his location which would put the mystery lights over the Truth or Consequences Airport. If one was inclined to read into that the wild idea that the lights were weird machines spying on the airport, that would be one interpretation. The military, of course, favored another possibility, noting that the airport had a rotating beacon. Without attempting to explain just how the illusion might have been produced, the Air Force felt comfortable with explaining the UFOs as a trick of light caused by the beacon. If one considers this case as an isolated event, the rotating beacon idea had appeal, yet consider a teletype message concerning an incident at Sparks, Nevada, that was supposed to have taken place at 1:53 p.m. the same afternoon as the New Mexican episode:

"(...deleted) together with wife and son visually observed three objects round and flat in triangular formation each smaller than a 'basket ball', light in color like sun or an electric light but not white or silver, seeming, individually, to flop or turn over like a discus or can top, sailed into the air, moving for estimated thirty seconds from the north-east to the south at a constant estimated elevation of fifty degrees, until they suddenly and simultaneously in a clear sky, leaving no sound, vapor trail or smoke, disappeared from the sight of these three observers." 73.

That there were flat-like objects flipping around in the air at two places in the west seems to be quite a coincidence which suggests there were real objects flying around, but then in the latter case the objects abruptly disappeared as if they were a trick of light. Were these two cases tricks of light?

California flap.

August 3rd things in the sky appeared over various places in northern California. Observers near Fort Bragg observed a flat aerial object they estimated was about four feet in diameter at an altitude of 5500 feet. The time of this sighting was 4:27 p.m.

Earlier at 1:30 p.m. GOC posts at Sacramento reported large, flare-like objects. Twenty minutes afterward a round object casting a white light was seen over the city of Chico.

Air Force jets were scrambled but did not locate the reported UFOs. 74.

Balloons or machines?

Five Air Force officers stationed at Hamilton AFB witnessed strange objects they couldn't identify. This happened the same day as the other UFO reports being made in the region. The military Intelligence officer that prepared the information

report on the case felt it was possible the UFOs could have been balloons, yet it is hard to believe balloons could maneuver like the objects in the witnesses' account which follows:

"Two unidentified objects were first observed visually and with binoculars at 1615 PST, 3 August 1952 for a period of 1 hour and 15 minutes. They were described as silver in color and circular or globular in shape. They were approximately 60-100 feet in diameter traveling at an estimated speed of 400-450 m.p.h. They made no audible sounds. The objects were moving from east to west. One object appeared to be at approximately 12,000 feet and the other at about 18,000 feet. The two objects moved to the west for approximately 15 miles passing overhead of the observers. During the flight course over the observers' heads, the object at about 18,000 feet altitude, reportedly dove to the approximate same altitude as the lower object. When the unidentified objects reached a point about 15 miles west of the observers, they began maneuvers similar to a fighter dog fight. The objects were diving at each other. The two unidentified objects disappeared in the sun momentarily. The observers then sighted either two more or the same two flying objects in the approximate location at which they were lost from view. During the latter period of the observation six additional objects of similar description were observed 15 to 20 miles west of the observers. This made a total of 8 similar objects observed in this area. These additional six flying objects came into view in pairs at altitudes not estimated by the observers. The unidentified objects were reportedly making passes at each other in the manner of a fighter dog fight. The observers stated that the objects took up a diamond formation momentarily covering an estimated 4 mile area. The observers stated that the objects were definitely not jet aircraft. No vapor trails, exhaust, or sound was noted on these objects. The observers said that it was difficult to follow any one object for any length of time." 75.

With the exception of the "4 mile diamond formation," the maneuvers as given in the above account bear a remarkable similarity to the July, 1952, Tremonton, Utah, movie. There is also a marked similarity to the motions described in the Farmington, New Mexico, incident of March, 1950.

August 4th.

There were three UFO sightings of questionable quality on the fourth day of August. At 9 o'clock in the morning at Atlanta, Georgia, came word of an object that: "...was travelling southwest over the [U.S. Army] depot at a high speed and at an altitude of approximately 2,000 or 3,000 feet. It was described as a round, glossy object which was approximately six feet in diameter and two feet deep." 76.

And then there was a brief teletype message from Luke AFB, Arizona, which told of something seen at Sky Harbor Airport, Phoenix. The most interesting part of the message read: "One & one half inch [at arm's length], orange-yellow disk, motionless at first. Began to move slowly, accelerated to 600 or 700 mph leaving a small trail of exhaust." 77. The foregoing was supposed to have taken place around 1:30 a. m.

Perhaps there was a connection to another sighting made by an airman on the flight at Luke AFB 2½ hours later which described a: "Greenish object travelling south east, larger and much faster than F-84 type aircraft. No sound was perceived and the object had no shape other than the greenish trail. The object seemed to be climbing when first sighted, then it leveled off and seemed to hover before resuming its climb whereupon it disappeared." 78.

The best we have saved for last, a report made by an American M/Sgt. on a ship off the coast of Ecuador in South America on August 3rd. This location could be another indication of the "southern shift" of UFO activity edging more and more into the Latin American latitudes as the summer months waned:

"While aboard the U.S. vessel Santa Luise, which was at anchor in the mouth of the Guayas River, Capt. (...deleted) called my attention to three round flat stationary objects overhead. These objects were to the northwest and high at an angle of approximately 75 degrees elevation. They were metallic in color and reflected the sun, which at 3:00 p.m. was a little more to the west than the objects. After about 5 seconds one of the objects dived down to the west and turned back to the northwest. While watching the one I lost sight of the other two. Within another 5 seconds the one I was watching was out of sight. The size is unknown due to the unknown altitude. Each would appear about the size of a pin head held at arm's length. I estimate the distance as ten miles away on the 75 degree angle and the size as fifty feet in diameter. From my angle the objects appeared almost round in shape." 79.

"Man of the Week."

The CBS network had a live interview program back in the 1950s called "Man of the Week." The guest for the first week of August was Air Force Major General Ramey, Director of U.S. Air Force Operations. During the interview General Ramey took the opportunity to restate the military's position on UFOs by mentioning two points: 1.) That the military had no solid evidence of anything material; 2.) The sum total of reports on file showed no pattern that could be construed as menacing. The CBS interviewer tried to pin down General Ramey by referring to some mysterious contrails over Alaska back on April 17th that had triggered a big air defense alert. The General shied from elaborating on the Alaska incident, and instead made a broad comment about UFOs and possibility there may be any threat, particularly if UFOs were thought to be Russian machines:

"There has never been any instance of anything that could be tracked--that is traced, by radar or otherwise, entering, passing over and leaving the country. The radar sightings have been sporadic. There has been no suggestive pattern established." 80.

Since UFO manifestations seem to be restricted in space and time, a characteristic that confounded military experts from the very beginning, Intelligence people kept to the most conservative assumption which General Ramey, in this case, expressed this way: "We are reasonably well convinced they are not material, solid objects." 81. Interestingly, General Ramey was not totally anti-UFO: "I still believe they are some phenomena that is not easily explained." 82.

"Confidential to Secret."

Meanwhile, behind the scenes not everyone in the Air Force seemed all that confident. An official message issued by the authority of Major Warren S. Patterson, Jr., Commanding Officer of the 61st Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 4708th Defense Wing, Selfridge AFB, Michigan; notified BLUE BOOK at Dayton that the UFO-jet chase that occurred back on July 29th over Michigan had been upgraded in its classification from "Confidential" to "Secret." 83. This was the report that, according to E.J. Ruppelt, caused a number of military people to interpret as the key to the UFO mystery, final proof of the extraterrestrial theory.

Europeans see things too.

So prominent had the European UFO flap had now become, it got some attention in the American press on August 4th. Under the headline: "Europeans Seeing Things In Sky, Too," a dispatch by United Press told its readers that skygazers on the other side of the Atlantic were also "seeing things." France, with at least 20 sightings to its credit, was in the lead followed by Italy with several, and there was even a report from Iran in the Middle East. England, it was noted, was recording one sighting every three weeks. Nothing was said in the article about North Africa. 84. Details of these incidents were sparse so one has to check other sources for significant data. A reporter on the staff of the French newspaper La Bourgogne Republique, Charles Garreau, happened to be a member of the French civilian UFO group Ouranos, so the objects he observed at 12:25 p.m., August 4th, were included in the organization's file and thus became available to American UFO researchers. It seems that the city of Dijon the Frenchman Garreau beheld a sparkling object in a clear sky, oscillating slightly and once in a while gaining and losing altitude. At times it appeared to hover without showing any motion. This might be explained as the planet Venus since the mystery light was seen 45 degrees above the western horizon except for the arrival of a second object, which the French reporter reckon to be the size of a pea at arm's length. This "pea-size" dot came out of the east, stopped, and then continued on in a western direction. The first object climbed at great speed and sped away toward the second UFO. A survey of the local press revealed a couple of witnesses at the French town of Brazy-en-Plaine, some 12 miles from Dijon, made a sighting that tallied with that of Garreau. 85. Elsewhere in France, at the city of Arbet near Arras, two policemen viewed a "ball of fire" which passed over Arbrét, came to a halt above the local railroad station, and then rose vertically. 86.

August 5th. The U.S. East Coast.

Twenty-five minutes after midnight August 5th, a trio of brilliant white dots of indefinite shape, at an altitude of an estimated 5,000 feet, passed over Westover AFB, Massachusetts. The second object was half the size of the first, and the third half the size of the second one. The first one resembled an automobile headlight. The appearance of other two was not given. The three were in a triangular formation. No jet activity was recorded over the airbase at the time and witnesses said the objects were moving "faster than jets." 87.

Later that day Dr. James C. Barlett of Baltimore was engaged in daylight observations of the planet Venus when he witnessed the passage of what looked to him to be a pair of copper-colored objects that were moving south over Maryland and then turned east. Dr. Barlett, an astronomer, had time to estimate the size of the objects as 30 degrees of arc. During this period, between 1:12 p.m. and 1:20 p.m. EST, another two such objects came into view. Dr. Barlett said he was able to discern the objects' shape as disk-like and that they had a "bump-like" feature in their middle. 88.

The third Washington D.C. flap.

What might be considered the third Washington D.C. flap took place the evening of August 5th. The previous two concentrations of UFOs occurred during warm clear weather. This time the sky over the Capital was rainswept and pitch-dark.

A visual sighting was made at 9:46 p.m. EDT by an observer on the ground at Manassas, Maryland, who spotted a brilliant "oval" flying south. 89. About 10:50 p.m. a thunderstorm let loose with a heavy rain over the Washington area, and at about the same time Andrews AFB picked up two unidentified blips moving slowly and steadily away from Washington on a course toward Mount Vernon. Minutes later the fluorescent screens at Andrews showed two more UFOs to the east of the field moving for a short distance, stopping, and then moving again. The speed of the targets was a slow 60 mph. The height of the targets was unknown. Planes from both Andrews AFB and

Bolling AFB were sent up to investigate to investigate but the weather forced them to turn back after they had reached 15,000 feet altitude. Around midnight yet another target appeared on radar and jets from New Castle AFB, Delaware, were scrambled. The jets reported seeing no UFOs when they arrived over Washington, however a spokesman for Anderws radar told the press: "...no radar sightings were made while the planes were overhead." 90.

Great Falls on August 5th.

An exception to the activity on the U.S. East Coast was a teletype message from Great Falls, Montana, August 5th. The witness was just a housewife but her account of the UFO's appearance and motion is interesting. According to the woman, she saw a bright object that: "...changed to many different colors and maneuvered at an extremely fast speed, dropping down, then up and swirled around, disappearing very fast, heading straight north." 91. For some reason the Montana region seemed "hot," bucking the southern shift.

On August 5th, according to an Air Force Air Intelligence Information Report filed by the American Air Attache, Lt. Col. Ralph Brown, stationed at Lima, Peru; a UFO incident had taken place in the skies over Peru in South America. A newsstory in the Lima La Presna said that a pilot for Panagra airlines was flying a DC-3 at 3,000 feet on a flight between Lima and the city of Huacho when, at 5:13 a.m., three flying disks traveling in formation maneuvered around the plane. What's more, a somewhat similar incident was supposed to have taken place 300 miles farther south at the city of Chala at the same time! The Panagra pilot told the La Presna he had taken off from Lima airport on his way to Huacho and had been in the air not more than 13 minutes when the a trio of luminous white objects, that occasionally changed to reddish-blue, came out of the northeast. The objects were in a V-formation and were in sight for about 20 seconds before vanishing in the distance to the southeast. The pilot estimated that the unknown objects were about 20 feet across and were traveling about 1500 kilometers per hour. 92.

Haneda, Japan.

The most memorable event of August 5th has to be what happened at Haneda, Japan. Since the beginning of the year UFO sightings over the Korean warzone had made the Pentagon perspire over possible Communist activity. Reports received were good enough to shift the classification of the reports from "confidential" to "secret." Now, during August, something occurred over Tokyo Bay, in the same area as the United Nations' main rear base for the Korean front. The investigating office said of the latest case: "This is the first sighting in the Far East which combined positive visual and radar contact over an extended period of time." 93.

The initial witnesses were a couple of enlisted men that worked at Haneda AFB tower. As the two were strolling in the direction of the tower across the airstrip ramp they both noticed a brilliant point of light in the northeast at about 5,000 feet which at first they believed was an aircraft approaching the field with its landing lights on. One of the two airmen, A 3/C Lloyd West, mentioned in his statement on the incident that the light vanished for awhile and then, within 15 seconds, the strange glow point reappeared. When the two airmen reached their duty station in the tower, they used 7x50 binoculars to inspect the source of light more carefully. The thing appeared to be a bright light surrounded by a dark area four times the diameter with some small lights around a curved outer edge, with the whole immersed in a glow (See drawing by witness.). The two airmen being relieved in the tower, A 2/C Walter Jackson and A 3/C George La Gasse, joined in observing the sky phenomenon. The cruved lower edge of the UFO was descernable, apparently because of the contrast with the backdrop of a darker sky. While under observation the thing twice faded

away but the caused of the dimming could not be determined. When visible, the airmen agreed the UFO made a slight lateral shift.

Without waiting any appreciable period since they were fairly sure of the strangeness of the phenomenon, the airmen alerted Shiroy GCI, the 528th AC&W site about 15 miles inland from the bay and just east of the city of Tokyo. At the radar site controller 1st Lt. Malvin Rawlins answered the call from Haneda tower and learned of the odd light over Tokyo Bay which was at an estimated 1500 feet. Lt. Rawlins immediately alerted ADCC and then began a radar search. Since the UFO was so close, Lt. Rawlins checked for a target on both high beam and low beam, finding some suspicious, but motionless, blips on low beam.

Back at Haneda tower word was received from Tachikawa AFB tower (about 30 miles to the west) alerting them to a strange white light above Tokyo Bay, which was certainly no news to Haneda. Records tell us this was an independent report, the Tachikawa tower personnel being unaware the Haneda people had already discovered the light.

At Shiroy GCI, Lt. Rawlins went off duty and was relieved by a 1st Lt. Henry Albert. After being briefed, the new controller gave his attention to the problem of an unexplained object over the bay. Carefully adjusting the radar set, Lt. Albert picked up a target emerging from the ground clutter south of Shiroy and eight miles northeast of Haneda moving at an uneven speed in a right hand orbit, speed 100-150 knots. Believing he had a definite target, Lt. Albert discussed the situation with ADCC which authorized the scramble of a F-94 jet interceptor.

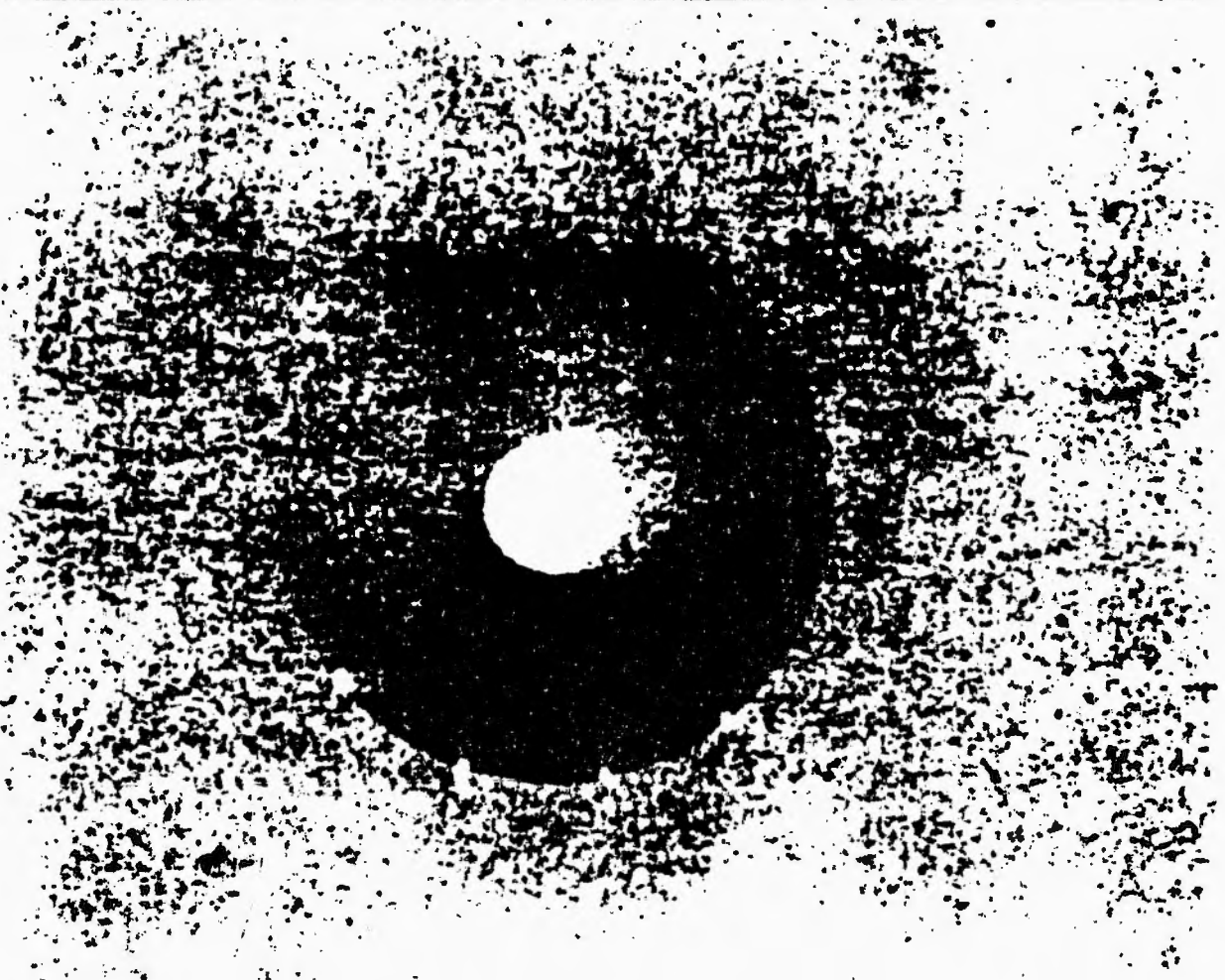
Meanwhile, a C-54 approached Haneda for a landing. The men in the tower radioed the pilot of the approaching aircraft, asking him to make a visual check of the sky in the direction of the UFO. The pilot looked and reported seeing a bright, star-like body, but no detail.

In Haneda tower the two airmen on duty there continued to study the light. They compared it in size to a ceiling balloon light which was regularly viewed because such balloons were released often from a weather station only some 2,000 feet away. The mystery light, which seemed to be moving with a motion that took it close to them and then farther away (orbiting?), shrunk to the size that made it a little bit bigger than the planet Venus when the planet was at its smallest. The planet Venus was, at the time, plainly visible for a comparison, being due east and a little higher than the UFO.

At midnight the nearby weather station launched a weather balloon which enabled the airmen in the tower to compare the light carried by the balloon with the glow being cast off by the UFO. The balloon light was dim and yellow in contrast, whereas the UFO was a brilliant blue-white in color. In fact, any attempt to stare at the UFO for any length of time fatigued the eyes.

At ADCC headquarters, Johnson AFB, 1st Lt. G.S. Day, an ADCC controller, acted on the advice of Lt. Albert of Shiroy GCI and pushed the scramble button at 11:55 p.m. A short time afterward (Some fueling problems caused a slight delay.), a F-94 jet piloted by 1st Lt. Westey Holder with a crewman radar operator named 1st Lt. Aaron Jones, roared down the runway at Johnson and lifted into the air. At 12:04 pilot Holder received a vector toward Tokyo Bay to the south. Nine minutes after midnight the F-94, callsign "Sun Dial 20," approached the waters of Tokyo Bay. Meanwhile, Shiroy GCI, callsign "Hi-Jinx," radioed Holder that a radar target was at his 9 o'clock position. At the helm of his jet, Holder looked in the direction indicated and identified the radar target visually as a conventional aircraft (a C-56). Apparently this quick check indicated that the radar was working normally.

As for the UFO, two orbits were tracked in the same position indicating that whatever the target was, it was staying put and might be successfully intercepted. Once in awhile the UFO would remain completely motionless for several sweeps of the radar antenna (about 45 seconds). Holder's jet was approaching at a speed of 250-300 mph. The moment of truth was just a few seconds away.



DRAWING OF OBJECT AS DESCRIBED BY CONTROL TOWER PERSONNEL, NARITA AFB, JAPAN,
2330/I to 0030/I, 9/6 Aug 52.

1. Center light - constant brilliance across entire area (not due to a point-source of light).
2. Dark Area - Not determined whether due to a dark body, or due to shadow or blinding effect from the brilliant light.
3. Lights on Periphery - light at lower left, small and fairly bright. Other lights dimmer and possibly smaller.
4. Weather - Visibility, excellent. Full moon, with 36° elevation.

Lt. Albert at Shiroy GCI lost the UFO temporary, and when he picked it up again, it was still in a starboard orbit. There was, however, a change in the appearance of the blip which had separated into three parts about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile apart. Did this mean the target was spurious? If so, what was the source of the glow in the sky? Did Lt. Albert really have the UFO on his scope?

Lt. Albert radioed a course change to 320 degrees and told Lt. Holder to search at 5,000 feet. The jet pilot was also informed that the UFO was four miles away at 11 o'clock. Although Lt. Holder saw nothing in the dark sky ahead, his radar operator crewman, Lt. Aaron Jones, suddenly picked up a target on the jet's airborne radar showing something 10 degrees port at 3.3 miles, moving left to right. Lt. Jones yelled to Lt. Holder to break right to keep the target within the jet's narrow radar beam. As the jet swung right, Lt. Jones noticed that the UFO was rapidly accelerating, nonetheless he managed to keep it on his screen for 90 seconds before losing contact. Lt. Holder radioed Lt. Albert in the hope ground radar could give a new intercept vector. Unfortunately, Shiroy GCI had also lost contact because the UFO had entered the ground clutter in the immediate vicinity of the radar site.

The airmen in Haneda tower were listening in on the GCI directed intercept and heard of the lost of contact. They had also lost visual contact when some broken clouds moved in. Observing the UFO with binoculars all this time, airman West had noted that the object disappeared occasionally but always reappeared, yet when the jet closed in, the UFO had not returned within view. Airman West got the impression the UFO knew the jet was approaching.

Without guidance from Shiroy GCI, Lt. Holder decided his best course of action was to return to Tokyo Bay where he put his jet in an orbit at 5,000 feet. There was nothing to be seen. Visibility was 20 to 25 miles in every direction. Only isolated cloud patches at a lower altitude of 4,000 feet marred an otherwise perfect night for seeing. The search over Tokyo Bay continued until 12:33 a.m., at which time the F-94 was released from the scramble mission to return to Johnson AFB. 94.

Implications.

Certain things come to mind after studying the Haneda case. For one thing, a comparison with the manifestations over Washington D.C. back in July is almost irresistible. In the Japanese incident the UFO was detected by both radar and by the human eye, the latter viewing from different directions. If it can be accepted that this UFO, for some reason, was more easily seen at night from certain directions as opposed to other directions, perhaps similar visibility problems encountered by air and ground observers during the Washington excitement may be explainable. Furthermore, the impression received by airman Lloyd West, an impression that the UFO was aware of the approaching jet and sought to escape, correlates with a number of other cases.

BLUE BOOK's radar expert, Capt. Roy James, who was anti-UFO and devoted to anomalous propagation theories as a cure-all, passed on the Haneda case:

Report of radar targets does not allow a plausible explanation, i.e. temperature vs height and moisture vs height, does not allow an anomalous propagation estimate. However, the report states that targets did appear to be permanent echos at various times." 95.

The visibility problem.

We should check this visibility difficulty. Visibility that night over Tokyo Bay was exceptional. For one thing there was a full moon and the air was so clear the F-94 pilot and his radar crewman said they could see Mount Fuji 60 miles to the west perfectly. Moreover, another aircraft passing through the area was easily spotted by the F-94's crew and identified without any trouble. Both the North Star and the planet Venus were brilliant and never obscured by clouds or haze. Thus the flyers

in the F-94 were puzzled over their inability to make visual contact with anything, even a light source, since ground observers at different locations had no such trouble. Capt. Charles Malven, the investigating officer, theorized that there were two possible answers to the lack of airborne observations. One possible answer, he suggested, was that perhaps the UFO cast a light that was directed in just one direction, a narrow beam to the south and west where the ground observers reported seeing the light. If that did not answer the problem, then he suggested that perhaps the UFO had been a dark, wide, body(a saucer?) with a sufficient under surface to shield a light source attached there. This latter suggestion may have merit because when the F-94 approached the UFO, the airborne radar showed the UFO 10 degrees lower than the jet which would screen a light source on the underside. As for not seeing a dark shape against a dark background, who can say how simple that should have been?

Aroused by the bizarre event, as many of the radar crew at Shiroy GCI that could, left the operations room and went outside to peer south in the direction of Tokyo Bay. Lt. Albert thought it odd none of the radar people on watch outside ever saw anything during the incident although according to their radar the UFO approached the site as close as 10 miles. This was another example of the directional character of the UFO's visibility. Shiroy GCI was to the north of the UFO's position, while Hanea and Tachikawa airbases were to the south and west.

An indication that the UFO in question may have been disk-shaped is provided by the following language in the official report on the case which states that the reflective profile changed:

"The blips on the CPS-1[Shiroy's radar]were described as small and relatively weak, but sharply defined. The brightness varied somewhat, and at one time appeared very bright as the object appeared to be in a fairly sharp turn at higher speed than previously noted[A disk tipped up on edge?]." 96.

Before leaving this case, it must be mentioned that Dave Kenney theory(The reader is referred to the Catalina California, case mentioned earlier.) about UFOs and their possible use of an "electro-optical" effect might apply because the drawing of the UFO by witnesses show some peculiar areas of intense light and intense darkness.

Strangest of all.

A forerunner of many to come was the tale told by 51-year-old James Allen of West Lumberton, North Carolina, on August 6th. So incredible it was dismissed outright by serious people, the story and others like it were to be favorites with the press. We can only wonder if Mr. Allen was reading too many science fiction books? According to a press account:

"...a 'flying saucer' containing a small man struck the chimney of his home Wednesday night and then 'landed' in his yard.

"He described the object as 'six feet high, eight feet long and lighted inside[orange color].

"Allen said when he walked within about 10 feet of the 'saucer,' there 'appeared to be a small man about 30 inches high standing beside the object.'

"He added: 'When I asked if he was hurt, it went away with a whiff. It made a loud noise like air whistling and was gone.'

"Allen said a corner of his chimney was knocked away and the grass in his yard was 'beat down where the object landed.'" 97.

Actually, there is not much difference between Allen's story and that of the Socorro, New Mexico, incident of April 24, 1964, so if people like Allen were making up such stories, they were at least consistent. In 1952 Allen's tale seemed too whimsical which people believing it was just the result of a capricious notion by its

originator.

There is a very good possibility the Allen story is a hoax for the simple reason there was publicity at the time about a similar incident which was supposed to have occurred months before at the city of Red Springs, an incident that could have inspired Allen. Unfortunately, current research has not established the exact sequence of events, so there is also the possibility that Allen's story triggered a re-investigation of the old Red Springs case. The latter possibility seems more probable since the Red Springs incident had already received public attention back in 1951 when it supposedly took place. This is a confusing business and can hardly be made any clearer by sketchy newspaper accounts currently available.

The Lumberton newsstory about Allen was compiled by the staff of the local newspaper, The Robesonian, which noted that the James Allen yarn just happened to coincide with the questioning of a Red Springs man about his vision of a flying saucer in December, 1951. Sent to investigate the Red Springs incident was the State Defense Director E.Z. Jones, and the Red Springs police chief (Lumberton and Red Springs are only about 20 miles apart.). The two investigators tape-recorded the witness's testimony. Three members of one family had seen the phenomenon. They were, Sam Coley, 49; his 12-year-old son and his 17-year-old daughter. All three told the same story. According to the Coleys, back in December, 1951, they saw an object shaped like two saucers rim-to-rim and topped by a cabin-like bulge. The object was first seen in a dive which it did not pull out of until it was a mere six feet from the ground. There, six feet above the ground, the object hovered. There were windows in a cabin area through which a soft glow was emitted. Also a purr-like sound could be heard. Part of the object's edge appeared to rotate. The most sensational portion of the testimony was Sam Coley's assertion that he thought he had discerned a "man" in one of the cabin windows. For ten minutes the object remained parked in the air plainly visible some 300 yards from the Coley residence, and then it silently shot away: "...like a bolt of lightning and faster than the naked eye could follow." 98. The Red Springs police chief used his law enforcement technique of interrogation, which was the questioning of each witness separately, in another room where no one could hear, and then comparing the results to see how the different testimony compared. When the questioning was completed, the police chief found that all three accounts agreed on all points. It may have been an incredible story, but the police chief personally felt that something very strange indeed took place that night in 1951. 99.

Bell jar saucers.

If we measured the size of the headlines, the biggest UFO news of August 6th was the widely publicized tests of a Noel Scott, a physicist who gave a demonstration to Lt. General Lewis A. Pick, Chief of Army Engineers, and the General's staff. The tests took place at the Army's Research and Development Laboratory located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Using a vacuum bell jar 18 inches in diameter, Scott claimed to have created a tiny working model of the earth's stratosphere. The low air pressure and the mixing of some static electricity produced very small masses of illuminated air which were supposed to explain UFO sightings, but the military, after consultations with numerous atmospheric authorities, determined that the theory was only applicable to a "...very small percentage of UFO reports, if any." 100. As far as explaining UFOs was concerned, it was back to square one.

The third Washington D.C. flap continued.

At 9:15 a.m. the morning of August 6th a civilian in Washington D.C. said he saw two circular objects in the sky over Andrews AFB flying "faster than jets." The pair of objects were said to have been brightly lit and looked to be the size of a 50 cent

piece at arm's length. The objects displayed an unusual motion. One sailed across the heavens in a straight line while the other one circled around its companion. This seems so peculiar it should be remembered when checking other reports. Other than that, what stands out in this report is that the witness must have been a big shot, since according to the military file on the matter, he made his report directly to the Air Force Director of Intelligence via a personal phone call. Unfortunately, the name of this witness has been blotted out in BLUE BOOK records. 101.

For the second night in a row UFO activity was recorded in the Washington D.C. area. In keeping with the now familiar pattern, significant UFO activity did not manifest itself until the late evening. At 10:20 p.m. a target appeared on the screens of Andrews AFB some 2½ miles from the field at 116 degrees, moving very slow. Three minutes later a trio of targets popped up on the scopes 4½ miles away at 080 degrees. That manifestation was followed shortly thereafter by another target 4½ miles away at 113 degrees. Nine minutes after that, still another target appeared at a bearing of 053 degrees. It is assumed that these targets were short-lived, fading from the screens after a few sweeps since there is no mention of their duration, however there is the possibility data has been suppressed in the wake of the uproar caused by the earlier targets. Here is some of the few words that can be found in the file that is of possible interest: "At the time these targets were observed, a B-25, having number 7562, was returning to Andrews Air Force Base. It was observed that the B-25 approached the target, the target disappeared. The pilot, upon landing, reported that he did not see any unidentified flying objects." 102. That is hardly surprising since the sky that night was overcast, stormy, and black as coal. Newcastle AFB in Delaware sent jets south to Washington according to a short mention in the New York Times but the pilots sighted no UFOs after searching the region at 15,000 feet. The height of the overcast, or of the supposed UFOs, was not given. 103. The Framingham News, of Framingham, Massachusetts, adds a little more, printing that from two to ten targets were picked up, slowly moving at 30-45 mph. 104. Nothing about the jet scramble can be located in BLUE BOOK files which gives credence to a suspicion that data has been omitted from the official record.

The night of August 6/7 in Europe and North Africa.

Some overseas reports the night of August 6/7 show a rough alignment, north to south, although the timing is either unknown or not sequential.

First we shall examine the case that came from Kerkrade, Holland, reported by an American engineer by the name of Will Jansen. He claimed that a disk-shaped flying object with a dome was visible in the sky just after midnight. According to Jansen, the craft swooped, hovered, and ziggaged, all classic UFO antic. Another similar object was noticed at a distance, motionless, until it tilted up on edge and then zoomed straight up, yet another classic UFO movement. 105.

In France, that same night, an "luminous disk" emitting blue phosphorescent rays was seen at the city of Gannat in Auvergne, while at La Vendee (exact time not available), a strange blue-white object flashed over the countryside. 106.

Much further south at Fort Lyautey, in what was then French Morocco, was a U.S. Naval Air Facility. Based at the airstrip was a unit called Air Transport Squadron Twenty-Four. A member of the outfit, Lt. C.B. Green, witnessed a brilliant round light speeding through the heavens at about 11:00 p.m. It was so strange it was reported to U.S. naval Intelligence. 107.

Thirty minutes after midnight at the oasis of Aoulef deep in the Sahara, of all places, another UFO report was made. Aoulef is north of the Tropic of Cancer by 250 miles and roughly south of Oran on the Mediterranean coast. We know of the UFO appearance because a French organization, the Societe Africaine de Transports Tropicaux, had a post at the oasis manned by a M. Jean Doray. Sleep the night of August

6/7 had not come to Doray who lay awake gazing at the dark sky. A heavy mist hung above the horizon and it was out of this curtain of vapor that Doray suddenly saw an elliptical, light grey, object emerge. The thing disappeared back into the mist while it maintained a straight east-west course. 108. If UFOs were intelligent guided craft, one wonders why visit a locale like Aoulef? And of all the oases in that part of the Sahara, why Aoulef? The only hint we have that tells us the place was more than a few palm trees and huts in the middle of sandy desolation is a mention in the UFO report that there was a French Aerodrome at Aoulef. Were UFOs fascinated by airfields?

Before we leave this series of reports, the reader is encouraged to check an atlas and see for himself that Kerkrade, Holland; Gannat, France; Fort Lyautey, Morocco; and the oasis of Aoulef; are in a north-south line. Perhaps not exactly north-south in relation to the North Pole, but the alinement is there although tipped a slight angle.

August 7th.

At 9:08 a.m. the morning of August 7th at San Antonio, Texas, quite a show took place if we can believe the witness:

"...my mother took my son out into the back yard to see an airplane coming from the west. While watching the plane, she noticed a large, round object in the sky moving at a very fast rate of speed. It came from the west, made a U-turn and disappeared, somewhat like a light being turned out. My mother then turned and saw another in the north heading south moving slowly. As it moved along it seemed to gather speed and disappeared in the same manner as the first. Mother came in and told me about them and we both out to see them. A third object appeared from the north at about 9:20 and moved slowly south. While watching this object, we noticed a fourth object appear from the north, passed the third object rapidly, made a large circle bearing east and disappeared as it came in line with the sun. A two-engined aircraft heading south passed under the fourth object.

"The objects appeared to be about 18 inches in diameter, round but flat, and looked like a ball of white fire. All four objects appeared to be similar in size, shape, and color." 109.

Again we have the mysterious words: "like a light being turned out." Is it proof of a mirage, or do we become more daring in our thinking, as Dr. Hynek did when he mulled the idea that UFO flights may be "limited in time and in space?"

The Spitsbergen rumor again.

The daylight hours of August 7th are almost void of UFO sightings therefore we will check items of interest in the press.

In Europe, a region we have just been discussing, the Munich, Germany, monthly publication Flieger tried to keep alive the "crashed Russian flying saucer in Spitsbergen" story. England's Manchester Guardian picked up the latest version and passed it on (If there is a candidate for a possible example of Communist disinformation, one could hardly find a better yarn.).

"Psychological factors."

Inez Robb, a stringer for the International News Service, felt the time was ripe to re-interview the Boise, Idaho, flying businessman Kenneth Arnold, now 37 years old, famed for, as his detractors put it, "starting in all" back in June of 1947. Robb, however, acknowledged that the objects had puzzled scientists and governments over the years since and that Arnold is no longer laughed at.

Over coffee at the Owyhee Hotel in downtown Boise, Arnold told Robb he believed

the UFOs were harmless and were some type of living, thinking, animal that lives in the stratosphere. Arnold boasted that he had spent some \$12,000 of his own money travelling and interviewing about 5,000 people. All this work had convinced him the saucers can change their density, as well as cross the barriers of space and time. In his view, the behavior of the saucers indicated that they are curious, yet evasive, much like fish in the ocean. 110.

While much of Arnold's musings are certainly open to question, on one point he was on target apparently. Over the years he had had a number of contacts with Air Force authorities and he had come to believe that: "...military authorities are no longer worried about the flying saucer as a physical menace as much as a psychological factor in the national mind." 111.

Another over D.C.

It wasn't until 6:19 p.m. that UFO activity again picked up with a sighting of something over the northwest section of the Nation's Capital. A woman said she saw a round object moving in circles until it disappeared into a cloud. 112.

"Bordering on the incredible."

The scene now shifts back to North Africa where at Fort Lyautey an American Naval aircraft took off at 7:51 p.m. August 7th for a routine night training flight. At the helm was a Lt. D.M. Dobos. His co-pilot was a Lt. Foster. There was another officer aboard, a Lt. Orr, who just happened to be in the pilot's cabin at the right time.

While cruising at 4,500 feet shortly after take off and on a heading of 110 degrees on their way to Sidi Slimane airbase, both Dobos and Foster saw a brilliant white streak of light zoom by their aircraft on their starboard side. The speeding light seemed to be at their altitude and so Dobos instantly reacted by banking his plane to the right to keep the thing, what it was, in view. Turning to a heading of 270 degrees, Dobos saw the light directly ahead and at a higher altitude. Gunning his engines and raising the nose of his plane, he attempted to close the distance. The object then suddenly increased its speed greatly, climbing at a shallow angle at first and then at a very steep one. In no time at all the mystery body had shrunk to a faint dot above some cirrus clouds. Further pursuit by Dobos seemed hopeless at this point.

Meanwhile, Lt. Foster busy contacting Fort Lyautey by radio, telling them of their amazing encounter and asking them to make a visual check to the south. The Lyautey controllers made eye contact with the UFO and proceeded to track it while Foster kept them advised of the object's appearance, apparent size, brightness, speed, and altitude as seen from his aircraft. While it did not appear he had a ghost of a chance now to catch up with the UFO, Dobos nonetheless kept his plane in a climb toward the UFO, and when the "thing" made another turn, he turned with it. At this point the UFO had come closer and thus increased in size, so Dobos got to see more than a source of white light. Dobos said he: "...noticed a very bright disc center --brighter than white phosphorus --with two definite blinking red light." 113. The UFO then changed its mind and would not give Dobos an any better look. It began to climb again, and this time it did not stop gaining altitude until it was out of sight. Lt. Dobos was convinced that the white light was far too dazzling to be an aircraft light of normal brightness. Having majored in chemistry in college and having seen intense white light under laboratory conditions, Dobos was still impressed with the whiteness of the UFO's rays, not believing such whiteness was possible. Likewise, the red lights also seen were very intense. After the encounter was over, an attempt was made to estimate the speed of the UFO and it was computed that the thing exceeded 4,000 mph. The Intelligence officer included this comment in his report on the case:

"The officers who sighted this 'flying saucer object' are experienced in aerial observation. While bordering on the incredible, this report is submitted as the first direct observation made locally of what is generally termed to be 'flying saucers.' Similar reports have been noted in the recent past in local French newspapers. While the possibilities of the object being another aircraft or a 'shooting star' have been ruled out, no firm conclusion has been reached as to the identification or significance of the object sighted." 114.

A close scrutiny of Lt. Foster's official statement on the encounter reveals some details not included in Dobos' account which at first glance seems identical. Lt. Foster said the UFO circled their plane at its closest approach when the two red lights were seen. 115. This would require tremendous power making it even more unlikely the UFO was conventional aircraft.

August 8th.

Reports of strange shapes in the sky were again very few on August 8th but as before there was still some UFO news in the papers.

A Catholic theologian speculates.

What if men like Donald Keyhoe were right and the UFOs were ships from the stars piloted by nonhuman beings? What would be the religious implications? Ordinarily such speculation might be ignored but the events of the summer of 1952 made such questions of potential importance. The Very Reverend Francis J. Connell, Dean of the School of Sacred Theology at the Catholic University in Washington D.C., wrote his opinion on the possibility of alien-piloted UFOs for the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service. In his article Father Connell allowed for the possibility that rational creatures might exist on Mars or elsewhere in the universe and suggested that like Adam and Eve they may have enjoyed supernatural and prenatal gifts before God tested them. Adam and Eve failed their test, but what if some alien race passed any test God gave them? In that case, Father Connell surmises, such beings might retain their superior powers. Wrote Father Connell: "With their prenatal gifts, it would be reasonable to suppose they would be far ahead of us technically..." 116. Moreover: "With their superior intellect they might well have mastered interplanetary travel. If these supposed rational beings should possess the immortality of body once enjoyed by Adam and Eve, it would be foolish for our super-jet pilots to attempt to shoot them. They would be unkillable." 117.

"Like a bat."

At midnight two security inspectors on patrol in the sensitive Los Alamos, New Mexico, area (Post 330) were dumbfounded by a vision in the heavens. They said they saw something "like a bat." One would like to know more about this "bat" looked like but the official record is too terse. Perhaps there was a typist error and the word should have been "hat" which would be more in keeping with the common "flying saucer" type shape. Anyway, the two men estimated the "bat's" distance from them as about 2½ miles and a mile high. The "thing" gave off a glow that lit up the clouds with hues of blue, red, green, and yellow. When first seen the UFO was moving in a circular path, and then after a while it changed to a swinging motion before flying away over the mountains on a straight course.

Another version to be found in BLUE BOOK records by another security inspector (It is not clear if he was one of the two mentioned above.) states that the "thing" was viewed through Navy field glasses as the UFO was discerned as: "...a bright luminous object with round, uneven edges." 118.

"Brilliant mass of light."

Incidents that shook places like Los Alamos were reported through military channels and never appeared in the press. There was no stories about weird "bats" over the atomic labs as much as the press would have liked to headlined such tales. Instead, the news at this time in the papers concerned events in New York.

There was confusion at Niagara Falls, New York, one-half hour after midnight on August 9th. At that time a dazzling mass of colored light lit up the sky over the city of Youngstown, New York, where the Niagara Falls Municipal Airport was located. Many civilians were witnesses, as well as military personnel at the local Shawnee radar station, a Lake Erie Coast Guard Base, and the 136th Fighter Interceptor Squadron based at Niagara Falls field. The CO of the radar station, Major Richard Barr, would only say that an official report about the incident was being forwarded to higher headquarters. He would say nothing about possible radar contact with the phenomenon. According to witnesses, the glowing thing hovered above the Welland canal for some time. The waterway connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. 119. While a detailed description was lacking as to the UFO's appearance, one account said the mass of light "flashed on and off in various combinations." 120. An official teletype message sent to higher headquarters by Major Barr mentions: "It gave a green and white color off the left side, but at no time totalling obscuring the orange-red color." 121.

Lake Charles.

Of the daylight hours August 9th, only a report from Lake Charles, Louisiana, marred an otherwise quiet day. An object said to be a disk some 12 inches across zip-ped soundlessly over Lake Charles AFB at 10:50 a.m. The testimony of the observer stated that the object came out of the north, halted over the airbase for a couple of seconds, and then made a turn and flew away to the west. The altitude was estimated to be 5,000 feet. The witness was an airman of the 806th Air Base Group. 122.

New Mexico again.

Some 18 hours after a "bat" had spooked a security patrol at Los Alamos, something else appeared above Albuquerque 50 miles to the south. At 6:15 p.m. an Air Force enlisted man suspected something was wrong when he came upon several persons standing in the middle of the street staring up at a motionless, round, gray, disk-shape, just hanging in the air some distance above. No attempt was made to estimate altitude but the airman guessed that the UFO was bigger than a F-86 jet fighter. Almost six minutes went by before the UFO made a move, and then it shot away in a northerly direction. Besides the enlisted man, two other witnesses filed reports which were identical in content. 123.

August 10th.

Lending support to the possibility that Lake Charles UFO sighting made on the previous day was valid, was another sighting in the same area 2:10 in the morning of August 10th near Keesler AFB, Mississippi. A pair of grayish-orange, oval-shaped objects, with the apparent size of a penny at arm's length, soared over the countryside near the airbase. In view about two seconds, the objects disappeared in a northeast direction but not before being seen executing impressive veering turns to the right and to the left. 124.

The usual pattern of primarily nocturnal UFO activity held true for August 10th. Starting at 9:34 p.m. when seven yellow-orange objects were reported in the Hampton, Virginia, area. An Air Force Captain and a woman companion were in an auto motor-ing on Route 134 when they made the first sighting of two "images" which the officer dismissed at first with the thought that he had been fooled by a reflection of auto's headlights beams off a TV antenna. When it struck him the "images" may be solid bodies, he believed them to be 600 feet above the ground and moving at 400 mph.

Shortly thereafter, while at a stop at an intersection, the Captain caught sight of four more objects at 3-4,000 feet, and still later another at 7,000 feet, all moving in the general direction of Franklin, Virginia. The movement was peculiar in this aspect:

"All objects flew with a steady motion. Source[The Captain]observed that the two original objects pulled up in a chandell, reversed heading on top of chandell and headed SW from Ft. Monroe, Va., to Franklin, Va. No deceleration was noticed in climbing." 125.

Returning along highway 134 later at 10:00 p.m., the Captain saw a single object of an appearance similar to the others come into view at an extremely low, tree-top level, heading southwest toward Franklin. The Captain insisted that none of the lights were attached to aircraft. A B-26 was sent from Langley AFB to investigate but its crew did not locate any of the reported objects. 126.

More East Coast yellow-orange "things."

For the next case of consequence on August 10th, we have to go forward to 11:30 p.m. The location is five miles northeast of Fort Dix, New Jersey, on highway S-39. Two Army men, Peter Basile and Samuel Russo, were travelling in an auto south bound on the forementioned highway when they noticed a strange light in the sky headed in the same direction. The light appeared to be a bright, yellow-orange, like some eerie "baseball." In view for some 20 seconds in a clear sky lit up by the moon, the object abruptly moved vertically, dropped down half the distance it had climbed, and then travelled west out of sight. 127.

August 11th.

In Washington D.C. people still watched the skies with suspicion(See photocopied memorandum.). Since things seemed quiet on the domestic front, the Chicago Daily News featured a survey by its foreign correspondents.

The News' French representative in Paris, Paul Ghali, quoted that country's best astronomer, Ernest Esclangeon, as giving little credence to the UFO subject. Ghali, however, recognized that a significant number of UFO reports had been made in France of late, mostly in the central and western parts of the country which he considered odd since such a distribution went against the notion UFOs were real, an idea he entertained as he favored the Russian hypothesis. If UFOs were communist machines, he figured, they would be seen crossing Alsac and other parts of eastern France. On the other hand, he wondered, if UFOs reports were due to psychological factors, why were so few coming from areas like Paris where millions live and so many from the back country that was so underpopulated the French underground operated there without much hinderance during World War II? 128. There was another possibility but Ghali did not address it. Other Frence UFO researchers years later also noticed this odd distribution, a distribution that held true over the decade. To these researchers the odd distribution was evidence of alien visitations! That may not be considered sufficient proof of such a startling theory but the phenomenon merits a close look. Checking a map, one can see that central and western France lies directly north of the Algerian Mediterranean coast which seemed to be "hot" UFO sighting areas, with places like the city of Oran. In fact directly north of Oran, in Spain August 11th, the Spanish news agency CIFA reported that a resident of the city of Cuenca saw something he couldn't explain which appeared round in shape and was spewing smoke. The object crossed the sky in seconds. 129.

Getting back to the Chicago Daily News' survey, the paper's reporter in Ottawa, Canada, a Frank Flaherty, sent word that the Royal Canadian Air Force was investigating the phenomenon but would admit to examing only 30 cases which was not enough to form an opinion. As for some sort of official statament however limited, Flaherty

managed to corner the right fellow, Dr. O.M. Solandt, Chairman of the Canadian Defence Research Board, who did say: "We are as much mystified as anyone else but we are keeping our minds open." 130. Dr. Solandt gave no hint he was engaged in serious secret meetings regarding the phenomenon.

The News' man in Bonn, West Germany, a David Nichol, had little to offer other than to relate that the Germans were familiar with "atmospheric phenomenon" so they were "less likely to make a UFO report." If something exceptional was noted, it was attributed to a Soviet gadget or a weapon of the other major occupying powers. Before signing off, correspondent Nichol made an observation on the apparent lack of UFO reports from behind the Iron Curtain: "It is the first time in 150 years for which Russia hasn't claimed the invention." 131. As chance would have it, UFOs were active that very day over Berlin if we can put our faith in military records. In the American sector, at Berlin's Tempelhof Airport, at 9:15 p.m., a bright, oval shaped object was noticed in the southern sky moving toward the east. A spinning of the object was detected. Later, at 11:00 p.m., another report was made. It seems three objects:

"...which could not be identified as any presently known aircraft or missile type[were seen]. Description given by the three airmen was essentially that the objects were cloud-like in texture, elliptical in shape, and emitted a light which made them stand out in an otherwise dark sky." 132.

Airman 3/C James Ray, stationed at Tempelhof, made the most detailed observation of one particular UFO that happened to approach nearer than the rest:

"It seemed to be some kind of spinning mass. The edges seemed rough and trailed along the side to give it a spinning effect. It seemed to be flat. It was standing in one spot spinning for five seconds and then disappeared to the left and down with great speed." 133.

At 11:15 p.m. an Airman 3/C Francis Wenzel outside the Fire House at the airport saw groups of white, moon-like, objects moving west and then changing direction and moving east (See illustration.).

"Branch's Chief's Meeting."

Meanwhile, worry about UFOs intensified within American Intelligence. A fragment of a declassified document titled: "Minutes of Branch's Chief Meeting of 11 August 1952," apparently had a bearing on the CIA's efforts to bring itself up to date on the state of the UFO mystery:

"The meeting was at 2235 in Mr. Steele's office with a quorum consisting of Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Ahern, Mr. [Not legible], Dr. Fairchild, Dr. Fondiller, Mr. Gordon, Dr. Harkin and Mr. Rajala.

"Mr. Sullivan opened the meeting by saying that a project is to be started in the P&E Division on 'Flying Saucers.' It has been suggested by Dr. Odarenko that this project be set up to maintain a file on such matters to permit the Division and office to take a stand and formulate an opinion as might be required.

"ATIC has the job of finding out about 'flying saucers' and keeping records. [Not legible]...is responsible for getting information for the CIA. All members of the P&E Division are to look into this project and see what they can contribute to this problem. Each Branch appointed a representative; Mr. Elby for Physics, and Mr. Barnard for Electronics and Communication.

"Mr. Ray Gordon is Project Officer for the P&E Division. Mr. [Sullivan? Not legible.]...is to find out who is handling the project in [Not legible] ...and Mr. [Not legible.]...is to get a past history of what has been found

out in the field of meteorology, radar and the other sciences. He should secure reports from ATIC and bring us up-to-date in what has been done.

"Mr. Steele wanted to know if P&E should be in the position to answer requests coming to us. Since ATIC had a standard form for reference purposes, requests would be answered through contact with them. Air [Force? Not legible] ...has local agents to look into any questions coming to them. ATIC has records, it was believed, to cover the whole world.

"It was [Not legible.] ..that Mr. S. Possony, who may be a special officer... [End of available documentation.]" 134.

The mystery continues.

That evening at 9:40 p.m. CST a couple were sitting in their backyard in Fort Worth, Texas, when they saw a pair of glowing white dots approach out of the eastern sky. As the two dots passed overhead, a glaring white band of light circling both UFOs was seen. The UFOs displayed a peculiar erratic wobbling motion. There was no sound and no exhaust from the UFOs as they passed out of sight to the west after being in view for some 30 seconds. 135.

August 12th.

Our attention now returns to the East Coast of United States, to New Jersey, where an Air Force F-94B jet fighter was in an orbit over a radio beacon. Coming out of a turn, the jet pilot checked his altitude, which was 20,000 feet, and noted the time as 0543Z. Now flying on a straight course, both the pilot and his radar crewman sighted a glowing object 45 degrees to their left and at a lower altitude with the waters of the Delaware Bay as a dark backdrop. Curious, the jet pilot adjusted his course and headed directly at the object which was stationary. In an apparent reaction reaction, the object lost some of its brilliance and diminished in size, evidently caused by its moving away. This retreat didn't last, for the pilot determined that the object had halted above Cape May where it again held a stationary position. Without success the pilot tried to raise the local GCI station on the radio on "F" channel to request a radar scan the Cape May area. Low on fuel the jet pilot could not pursue the UFO any further so he broke off the chase and headed for home. The UFO followed the jet, increasing in apparent size as it drew near, overtaking the jet. Eventually, however, the UFO lost interest and flew away to the south. 136.

"Not meteors."

United Press reported from Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 12th that:

"Two sky watchers reported independently today that they saw bright 'orange-red' objects --not meteors --streaking through the sky near here last night.

"The Civil Aeronautics Authority at the Raleigh-Durham airport quoted James Adams of Fuquay, about 15 miles south of here, as saying he saw the objects last night for the second successive night.

"A professor of North Carolina State College, who asked that his name not be used, meanwhile told United Press he saw 'seven or eight' objects at about the same time last night.

"Both observers gave similar descriptions of the locations, speeds, and general appearance of the objects and both said they were sure the objects were not meteors.

"L.O. Harmon, CAA official, said Adams 'was sure that they did not follow the traditional arc 'meteorites appear to take.' He said he also was convinced from Adams' description that the objects were traveling 'much too fast' to have been any type of airplane." 137.

"Square" saucer?

Here is a short dispatch from Holdenville, Oklahoma: "They're seeing square flying saucers now. C.A. Holland, assistant Hughes County attorney, reported today he saw an unidentified square object moving at tremendous speed through the sky over his home near Wetumku." 138.

Wink, Texas.

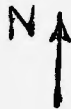
The time was 10:48 p.m. The witnesses in this case were piloting an SNB aircraft near Wink, Texas. The plane's airspeed was 130 knots and its altitude 10,000 feet. At the same time, both the pilot and co-pilot caught sight of two strange objects crossing ahead of their aircraft. The objects were pie-shaped, silver-colored, and in a climb in the direction of the Mexican border. They left behind a phosphorescent vapor trail. 139.

"Big show at the Drive-in."

Talk of a panic-stricken America took on real meaning to Deputy Sheriff Leroy Hatfield, Kern County, California, Sheriff's Department. At 10:30 p.m. PST, August 12, 1952, while on duty, the Sheriff received a phone call from an excited man at the Terrace Drive-In Theater out on Highway 99 just outside the city of Bakersfield. The caller was agitated about a strange object lit up like a Christmas tree that had passed in full view of the theater-goers, moving by just above the screen where no one could possibly fail to notice. After the man hung up, more calls immediately came in from the drive-in and even from residents in the vicinity. Everyone was describing the same bizarre aerial phenomenon. This number of calls was something no lawman could ignore no matter what his feelings were about UFOs. The Sheriff jumped into his patrolcar and roared off toward the drive-in no doubt having the same thought about the situation as the Air Force officer who later investigated the incident who wrote: "...the object must have been exceedingly noticeable to divert the attention of the patrons of the Drive-In theater from the movie screen." 140.

As Sheriff Hatfield drove up to the drive-in, he encountered a swarm of people who had gathered at the entrance to meet him. When he got out of his patrolcar the crowd pressed around for they all seemed to have a story to tell. Getting out his notebook, the Sheriff furiously scribbled names, addresses, and short statements, managing to obtain information from 23 witnesses before his arm gave out. He estimated he could have added 80 more people to his list if he had had the desire and strength to do so.

The man who first called Hatfield approached the Sheriff and identified himself. The man happened to be a Navy Reserve Lieutenant by the name of Jenkins who gave a particularly detailed account of the supposed UFO. Jenkins said he was sitting in his 1950 Cadillac just to the left-center of the screen some ways back, and during the movie he suddenly spotted "two lights" in the sky to the southeast. The lights were on a northeast heading and seemed to be about 2,000 feet high. The lights moved slowly, and at one point stopped for a moment, or as Jenkins suggested, suddenly executed a 90-degree turn without slowing down, and then proceeded on a northeast course (See diagram.). According to Jenkins, the UFO then rose sharply in a climbing turn at extreme speed, passing quickly out of sight. The reason for Jenkins believing the UFO made a 90-degree turn was the position of red lights apparently attached to the body of the UFO: "...which previously appeared to have been separated by 30 to 50 feet, appeared to fade into one light and then reappeared as two lights as the sharp climbing turn was accomplished." 141. Jenkins also said that the leading light was more prominent: "...similar to looking in a brightly lighted window on a dark night." 142. On the other hand, the rear light was a hazy blue-orange color. No sound was heard at any time and Jenkins insisted he knew aircraft and this thing was certainly



LOCATION OF
JENKINS' CAR.



PARKING
AREA

ES

MOVIE SCREEN

EITHER STOPPED
OR STARTED AWAY,
LIGHTS & BEAMS ONE.

CLIMBING AND
GOING AS FAST AS
JET IN CHANDELL.

(PATH OF
OBJECT)

STOPPED
10-15 SECS
→ SLOW 60-80 MPH

U.S. HIGHWAY - 99 -

17

no aircraft.

The brief statements obtained by Sheriff Hatfield varied no doubt due to the angle, distance, and abilities of the observer: "...triangular-shaped object, brownish in color, larger than an airliner, surrounded by dim lights...;" "crescent-shaped dimly lit;" "...looked like a zeppelin that was lit up faintly with lights around the sides;" "...appeared to be a lot of little glows arranged in a circle, at about a hundred feet of altitude;" "...one big object with six or seven lights inside...;" "...I saw several opaque objects, dimly lit...;" "...appeared oblong and had a group of six lights surrounding it...;" "...six fairly bright lights;" and: "...long, slender, hazy, possibly orange color." 143.

Whatever it was, it was a real show-stopper. Due to the darkness which confused the witnesses, we may never know what it was that buzzed the Terrace Drive-In that night. It is interesting to note that no one identified the object as a possible aircraft, or mentioned any aircraft-like features in their descriptions.

Object over Oran.

According to the Oran Republican, a luminous phenomenon paid a visit to North Africa:

"In Ain Sefra, on the night of 12 August 1952, railroad agent observed a ball of fire suddenly appearing against a background of clouds [If it was below the clouds it must not have been a meteor.], racing across the sky from east to west and leaving behind a luminous pink trail. Apparently increasing in volume, the object stopped suddenly, became bright red, and seemed to explode, but the observer did not hear any noise." 144.

August 13th.

For some reason August 13th was a big UFO day with reports coming in from nearly every area that had been active in the previous weeks: Virginia, the Middle East, France, California, Texas, Ohio, Arizona, and Washington D.C. The reports follow.

Visions in Virginia.

A civilian in Suffolk sighted three, round, orange-colored objects in V-formation at 5:55 a.m. The objects were high, silent, and moving fast toward the northwest. 145.

Haifa.

It was reported in the Jerusalem Post that a person living in Haifa had witnessed the passage of green-colored elliptical-shaped objects that had wide, rapidly revolving, belts around their middle sections. 146.

France.

A French source revealed: "...Fourchambault, a very brightly shining disk 'with a large hemispherical turret or cupola on top' was seen circling above the town. Twelve persons in Fourchambault and Givrey, including a Mrs. Jaillette, who watched the motions of the object with binoculars, reported this sighting." 147.

Once more we are faced with a void during the daylight hours (Although not knowing the times of the forementioned French and Haifa cases), but after sundown August 13th things begin to pick up.

Florida.

From Mc Dill AFB, Florida, at 7:11 p.m., there came a report from two civilians

who claimed to have witnessed the overflight of several objects. The period of surveillance was 20 minutes:

"One object changed course abruptly to the west moving in excess of 600 mph. This same object then appeared to hover for about five minutes then moved at an excessive rate back to the east, then resumed its course to the north and disappeared. The two other objects did not alter course but disappeared in a northerly direction." 148.

"Balls of fire."

Someone in Oakland, California, called Hamilton AFB across the bay to notify them he saw "two balls of fire" making a ten mile circle and then leave in the direction of Hamilton. The time was 9:10 p.m. It might be thought that the man had bad eyesight and mistook a plane for something mysterious, yet when the report was made to Capt. Broden, Hamilton AFB Airdrome Officer, he ordered the scramble of a F-94 jet to search the bay between Oakland and the airbase. 149.

Mysterious orange light.

A newsstory datelined Dallas, Texas, informed the nation:

"A veteran airline pilot told today how he chased a mysterious orange light through the sky near Dallas in an attempt to learn what it was he had sighted skimming through the air.

"The pilot, Capt. Max M. Jacoby, merely called the object a 'light' he said he was afraid he would be laughed at.

"Jacoby, Chief Pilot for Pioneer Airlines, said he saw the light while on a routine test flight Wednesday night. He said he delayed telling of the incident because he feared he would be ridiculed.

"Jacoby said he made an effort to intercept the light but it eluded him and finally disappeared.

"He said he first spotted it 15 to 25 miles from Love air field at an altitude of about 3,000 feet.

"The pilot said the object turned and dived but the appearance of its body 'did not change when it turned...I couldn't tell whether it was just a light coming from some object.'" 150.

V-formation over Tucson.

At 11:10 p.m. local time something happened at Tucson, Arizona:

"A Reserve Air Force pilot today reported seeing a formation of large light sweep over Tucson at great speed over about 11:10 p.m. MST last night while he, his wife and two boys were at a drive-in motion picture theater.

"They have no relation to anything I have ever seen before," Stanly W. Thompson, a captain in the active Air Force Reserve said.

"The individual lights were of in order of magnitude approximately one-quarter to one-third the size of the full moon," he continued. "They were in view approximately three to four seconds. There were three elements of three flights each in a perfect V-formation.

"Thompson said the lights could not have been caused by temperature inversions, an Air Force explanation for flying saucers.

"The perfect formation, movement, and rapid rate of speed such as I observed last night couldn't be reduced to such a feeble explanation," Thompson declared." 151.

Sulphur Grove, Ohio.

Residents of Sulphur Grove, Ohio, called the nearby Air Force radar station at 11:05 p.m., August 13th, to alert the military to the presence of a white-yellow light, "bigger than a star," maneuvering over the city. The Sergeant of the Guard contacted the Duty Officer but, unfortunately, the radar equipment was down for preventive maintenance and could not be used to verify the UFO. 152.

"Inept, disgraceful, and downright ludicrous."

In one case the Pentagon was faced with near rebellion. A news teletype dispatch out of California was a real shocker:

"SANTA MONICA, CALIF. --NAVY CMDR. DAVE LOTT, FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES SERVICE IN HOLLYWOOD, LASHED OUT AT THE ARMED SERVICES AND THE FBI TODAY FOR 'GROSS INJUSTICES.' ONE MINUTE AFTER HE RETURNED TO INACTIVE DUTY LAST MIDNIGHT, LOTT SENT TELEGRAMS LISTING HIS COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE SERVICES AND THE FBI TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN, AIR FORCE GEN. HOYT VANDENBERG, DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT LOVETT, FBI CHIEF J. EDGAR HOOVER AND SENS. WILLIAM F. KNOWLAND(R-CALIF.), RICHARD NIXON (R-CALIF.) AND ROBERT TAFT. (R-O).

"HE PLAYED A 'GAG RULE' WHICH, HE SAID, PROHIBITS MEMBERS OF THE SERVICES FROM ENGAGING IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS OR CRITICIZING THE ARMED FORCES."

"THE AIR FORCE'S HANDING OF THE FLYING SAUCER INVESTIGATION, LOTT SAID, WAS 'ONE OF THE MOST INEPT, DISGRACEFUL AND DOWNRIGHT LUDICROUS DISPLAYS OF INEFFICIENCY EVER DISPLAYED IN A GOVERNMENTAL OPERATION.'" 153.

Headquarters, USAF, Washington D.C. wasted no time in contacting its Maywood, California, Air Force OSI office via a confidential wire with a request:

"Subject is Navy Commander Dave Lott, former Deputy Commanding Officer, Armed Forces Radio, Radio Services Hollywood. Request you advise by return TWX if any contact with Dave Lott by personnel your District, particularly in regard to unconventional aircraft. If so furnish details with special emphasis on anything which might have transpired to create antagonistic attitude on the part of Dave Lott. No, repeat, no investigation presently desired." 154.

Nothing more about the "Lott case" can be found in Air Force BLUE BOOK files and no mention of Lott's complaint has yet been discovered in any newspaper.

More ???? over Washington D.C.

Hints that civilian controllers were being discouraged from talking up unexplained radar targets detected over the Nation's Capital seemed confirmed when in October, 1954 a government official presented newsman Frank Edwards a copy of a Civil Aeronautics Administration booklet entitled: For Limited Distribution --A Preliminary Study of Unidentified Targets Observed on Air Traffic Control Radars. 155. Examining the text, Edwards discovered that the document discussed the unexplained radar targets of the summer of 1952, listing a total of 34 UFO episodes for June, July, and August of that year. The night of August 13th, he learned, was particularly prolific when some 68 radar targets of an unknown nature appeared on CAA screens, appearing ten miles around Washington National, beginning at eight in the evening and lasting to eleven-thirty. Speed varied considerably and speculation about their cause was extensive. Some radar specialists suggested that the targets were due to a "delay-pulse effect" which depended, however, on the speed of the air in the area. Unfortunately, the speeds measured exceeded air velocity by a factor of two. Edward's summation of the situation went this way: "...the [CAA] evaluation is forced to do considerable speculation ...which means that the CAA's guess is no better than yours as to what was on the radar." 156.

Unlike the previous incidents in July, 1952, no word of the August 13th swarm was given to the newsmedia.

The "Colorado UFO Study" under the direction of Dr. Edward U. Condon conducted in the late 1960s gives us a little more detail about the forementioned CAA document, for example, the complete title contains this information: "CAA Technical Development Report No. 180," and that it was done in 1953 by a R.C. Borden and a T.K. Vickers. While admitting the radar targets moved at twice the known wind speed, the authors of the CAA study nonetheless theorized that the targets: "...were ground returns seen by 'partial' reflections from moving atmospheric layers of 'relatively small' horizontal extent. These UFOs, the authors suggest, might have been then, reflections from patches of, in their words, 'super-refractive stratum'." 157. The weak link in the argument, the sighting of unexplained objects in the area visually, was passed off as: "...most probably meteors or stars." 158. Note that they qualify their comment by using the words: "most probably."

August 14th.

"Look!"

Some civilian employees and an Airman were at the end of runway 9-27, Kelly AFB, Texas, at 3:45 p.m. August 14th. Here is an account of what was supposed to have happened at that moment:

"Seven of us were waiting in the parts shack at the Compass Ros for another aircraft to swing its compass when one of the employees pointed outside and said: 'Look!' Immediately everyone was on his feet to behold a sight.

"A round object had appeared about one-half mile due north of us at about an estimated 20,000 feet and was traveling at a rather fast rate of speed due west. The craft was very easily spotted as it moved through the sky. Gradually it started a left climbing turn and continued this until it had completed a 180 degree turn and was heading back due east at about 30,000 feet. We watched it go behind a small cloud and disappear. While we were discussing the thing, it reappeared and again it was travelling about as before, due west and again at about 30,000 feet. It was at this time that we reported the object to the Kelly Control Tower, giving it approximate location and altitude. For several minutes, the object would appear for a short while then disappear into space gradually growing smaller and dimmer with distance. Each appearance would be in the same general vicinity but at a different spot. The last time we saw it, the thing appeared almost directly overhead and was travelling faster than ever toward the north where it finally faded away. So far as we could tell, it must have travelled a about 1500 mph and executed maneuvers with the reatest of ease; however, it did not hover or perform any sharp maneuvers such as radical direction changes or quick zig-zags." 159.

French Morocco.

Earlier across the Atlantic at 9:15 p.m. in French Morocco, two residents of the city of Constantine reported a "luminous saucer" moving in the direction of Guelma. Two hours previous to this many people on and near the docks at Philippeville were dazzled by a "red disk" speeding north to west, spewing a green vapor trail. 160.

Secrecy and the CIA.

As mentioned previously, the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Scientific

Intelligence was to review the UFO matter in the wake of the Washington D.C. UFO radar incidents. The development of this effort as of August 14th took the form of a memo authored by OSI official Phillip Strong which reveals two facts of great fascination to the UFO historian. One is the CIA's interest in UFO dating back to 1946, and the other is the admission that both the Air Force and the CIA had a good reason to take care in how UFO information was handled. At a briefing held some weeks later the memo was presented to the proposed OSI study group. The memo first addressed the reason of the study and then covered what material was reviewed to provide background information. The memo stated that the proposed study was:

"... to make an evaluation of the Air Force study, its methodology and coverage, the relation of its conclusions to various theories which have been propounded and try to reach some conclusions as to the intelligence implications of the problem --if any. In view of the wide interest within the Agency, this briefing has been arranged so that we could report on the survey. It must be mentioned that outside knowledge of Agency interest in Flying Saucers carries the risk of making the problem even more serious in the public mind than it already is, which we and the Air Force agree must be avoided.

"In order to supply both breadth and depth to the survey we have reviewed our own intelligence, going back to the Swedish sightings of 1946; reviewed a large number of individual official reports, recent press and magazine coverage and the main popular books. Indexes of the Soviet press were scanned. We interviewed a representative of the Special Air Force Special Study Group. Following this, we spent a day at Wright Field in a thorough discussion with the officers conducting the ATIC study, and finally we took the problem to a select group of our own consultants, all leaders in their scientific fields." 161.

The memo then gave a cursory review of the history of the UFO problem followed by a brief mention of the major theories being entertained as possible solutions to the aerial puzzle:

"First, that it is a U.S. secret weapon development. This has been denied officially at the highest level of government and to make doubly certain we quired Dr. Whitman, Chairman of the Research and Development Board. On a Top Secret basis, he, too denies it. However, in the light of the Manhattan District [The World War II project to build the atom bomb.] early super security, two factors might be mentioned which tend to confirm the denials --first, the official action of alerting all Air Force commands to intercept, and second, the unbelievable risk aspect of such flights in established airlines.

"The second theory is that these are a Russian development. Though we know that the Russians have done work on elliptical and delta wing principles, we have absolutely no intelligence of such a technological advance as would be indicated here in either design or energy source. Further, there seems to be no logical reason for the security risk would be involved and there has been no indication of a reconnaissance pattern. However, it should be mentioned that there is a totally unsupported thesis that this may be a Russian high altitude development of the World War II Jap balloon effort using preset flares and the resulting US press reports to check flight tracks. The third theory is the man from Mars --space ships --interplanetary travellers. Even though we might admit that intelligence life may exist elsewhere and that space travel is possible, there is no shred of evidence to support this theory at present....The fourth major theory is that now held by

the Air Force, that the sightings, given adequate data, can be explained either on the basis of misinterpretation of known objects, or of as yet little understood natural phenomena." 162.

Kelly AFB.

Another UFO report came from Kelly AFB, Texas, at 11:10 a.m. August 14th. The object, oval-shaped, soared over the airbase in a straight line. Appearing as a dull, glowing white, moon, the object seemed to be 1/3 the size of a B-36 bomber. The observers of this overflight were two Master Sergeants and two Staff Sergeants who were aircraft mechanics assigned to the 75th Air Defense Wing. The men were reclining on some grass during their lunch hour when the creamy-colored UFO zipped over at an estimated 600 mph. Minutes later a B-36 passed over and the bomber seemed to be at the same altitude offering a chance to guess the UFO's diameter. 163.

Lake Charles, La.

At 10:30 p.m. a yellow "ball of light" undulated, up and down, from side to side, over the Mathieson Chemical Corporation, Lake Charles, La. It was also seen to shoot ahead abruptly and then come to a halt in the same manner. Witnesses estimated that the "ball" passed over at 5,000 feet, growing fainter and fainter as it moved away. 164.

"Gold UFO."

A somewhat similar abrupt maneuver was noticed by a Mrs. Arthur Winn of Great Bend, Pa., while looking through her bedroom window at 11:30 p.m. local time August 14th. She spotted a dazzling glod blob that she said would:"...hang in space for a while and then descend rapidly." 165.

August 15th.

"The pilot saw nothing."

The information is vague, but there were indications of a minor flurry of UFO activity in California during the early hours of August 15th. Were it not for more intriguing reports from the same region during the previous weeks, this latest batch might not be subject to suspicion.

Sightings were made by GOC posts with the first recorded at 4:20 a.m. by spotters stationed at the city of Davis. They claimed that a rainbow-colored, round, object was hovering in the air. That observation in itself was not too mysterious but soon after eight more objects of a strange appearance were noticed. By 4:29 a.m. the number of supposed UFOs in the area reached for 10 minutes. The bulk of the sightings were made by the Davis GOC post with others by the city of Woodland post, although in the latter case none are listed in military files. Finally, at 5:30 a.m. two more UFOs were seen, one moving west while the other moved east.

The Air Force scrambled a F-94 jet interceptor, call sign "Stanley Green." to search the area at altitudes of 10,000 and 20,000 feet. The military asserts the pilot of the jet saw nothing unusual although the GOC spotters claim that the UFOs and the jet were both visible in the sky at the same time, in fact they seemed to be at the same altitude.

At 5:00 a.m. at the California city of Napa the GOC post observer sighted what she called a "cigar-shaped silver thing" traveling at tremendous speed at 10,000 feet toward the southwest. This report was made by GOC spotter Diane Robinson. 166.

Again we have have no daytime sightings to relate, but there was UFO news made on August 15th during the day.

The FBI and the Air Force.

The mistaken impression that General Samford had "written off" the UFO problem still lingered in some quarters. When a local Air Force Office of Special Investigations Major in Philadelphia happened to say on August 15th that his organization was "no longer interested in UFO reports," the Director's office of the FBI asked for a clarification and stated that if true, it would approach Air Force headquarters in Washington D.C. for a final word. 167. Within 48 hours the FBI was advised: "... that any information concerning the sighting of flying discs be telephonically furnished immediately...day or night...[and that] the Air Force is greatly concerned about the captioned matter, and would appreciate the Bureau's cooperation in immediately advising of details received concerning such complaints." 168. As we have seen, the Air Force was indeed very interested in UFOs, as was the CIA.

What was the true purpose of CIA interest?

An insider's comment on the CIA's interest comes from Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an Air Force scientific advisor for project BLUE BOOK. As of August 15th Dr. Hynek knew either little or nothing of the agency's activities. When Dr. Hynek became better informed much later in the year, he like others, assumed that the CIA's interest in UFOs stemmed from the big flap that summer and would seek to answer the question: "What are UFOs?" As we shall see, the CIA did not address this question as a primary concern. Dr. Hynek did not see why the CIA would be investigating the UFO problem because the Air Force was doing the best that could be done with the evidence it had and that was an intensive study of UFO report statistics, the only thing that came close to being "solid" evidence. The Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, had been authorized early in 1952: "...to study secretly all reports through the end of 1952 to determine primarily whether the 'unknowns' differed in basic characteristics from the 'knowns.'" 169. Late in 1952 when Battelle learned of CIA activities, it immediately assumed that the agency was trying to duplicate the institute's efforts since there seemed to be no other reason for such interest. 170. We would be getting ahead of ourselves if we discuss this angle any further but the results of the misunderstanding were intriguing. In the meantime, we will return to what was occurring on August 15th.

In a briefing paper dated August 15th the CIA recognized the same difficulties the Air Force had so long struggled with. Since the wording is better than the usual military version of the problem it bears repeating:

"In the next few minutes, I intend to touch briefly upon the official [Air Force] explanations of the great majority of sightings of unidentified flying objects (or UFOs) and mention possible phenomena which may account for some of the open cases. Before we elaborate upon the current explanations I would like you to keep in mind certain facts which are generally common to all reports. First, is the earnestness of those making reports. These people are certain that they have seen something. Secondly, objects sighted almost always are reported to be against the sky thereby providing no point of reference. Thirdly, without a reference point, a valid estimation of size, speed, distance, and of relative motion is virtually impossible. Finally, no debris or material evidence has been recovered following an unexplained sighting.

"In each case of reported sightings exists the personal element. This is the combined effect of psychological and physiological factors which individually or together may have outstanding importance in the accuracy of a person's report. These factors generally cannot be determined adequately. The psychological factors are: Mental conditioning by newspaper stories of earlier reported sightings; Individual emotional response with respect to the unknown; Desire for publicity resulting in 'embroidering' of facts or complete fabrication; Emotion of chase of interceptor pilots." 171.

The paper went on to discuss various "trigger-mechanisms" for reports of strange things in the sky, some mundane, while others were highly unusual. In conclusion, the CIA briefing official admitted there was some seemingly mysterious characteristics in some UFO reports and it was stated: "Here we run out of even 'blue yonder' explanations that might be tenable, and we still are left with numbers of incredible reports from credible observers." 172.

Now let us return to UFO reports being made on August 15th. As stated previously, there seems to be no daytime sightings and it wasn't until after nine in the evening until something occurred.

"Look!"

Two men were in a small boat plug casting for black bass on Diamond Lake outside the city of White Cloud, Michigan. At 9:15 p.m. something weird streaked overhead. One of the fishermen, a 26-year-old pilot who was familiar with jets and had attended aircraft recognition classes, knew instantly he was looking at a UFO. He yelled to his companion: "Look!" The air was damp, moist, cool, and calm. The "thing" came out of the northwest and disappeared to the south in the direction of some scattered clouds. It was in view five seconds and passed over at a mere 800 feet high and only 1,000 feet away. The speed was guessed as 700 mph. The young pilot made these estimates and believed that the object was the same size of the fuselage of a large aircraft and was impressed with the fluorescent blue-green glow given off. It is claimed that 20 others on the lake at the time plus residents in the area also saw the UFO (See drawing by witness.). 173.

90 degree turn.

The next case has two elements to recommend it. First of all, the main witness was an Air Force Lt. Colonel. Secondly, the UFO was seen making a 90 degree turn. The report reads:

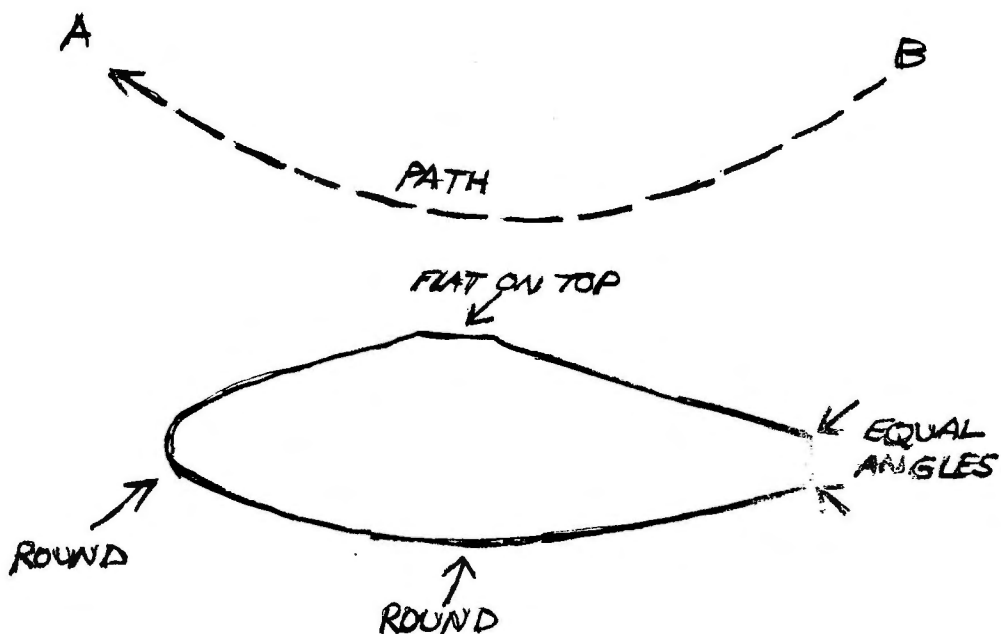
"Lt. Col. (...deleted) his wife and two children were at the Family Drive-In Theater, 2 miles north of Urbana, Illinois on the evening of 15 August 52. At 2145 hrs. CDT Col. (...deleted) noticed an especially bright object in the west of him at approximately 270 degrees compass heading. When first observed the object was about 70 to 75 degrees above the horizon. The object moved in a perpendicular line to a point approximately 40 degrees above the horizon. It then made an abrupt right angle turn to the north and moved in a horizontal plane to approximately 340 degrees before abruptly disappearing. The object was similar in color to the reddish-green of a welding torch flame and appeared to be several times larger in diameter than the average star. The object was round without any apparent tail. It remained in sight four or five seconds. No sound was heard." 174.

A couple of brief reports in Air Force BLUE BOOK files complete the UFO record for August 15th.

Aside from the UFO reports made early in the morning in the Davis, California, area, another UFO sighting was made at 9:50 p.m. from a GOC post at Mendocino to the northwest. GOC spotter Dorothy Vaghan sighted something speeding east to west which she said was a: "One small, round, white light traveling in a straight line at a high rate of speed. No sound. Disappeared instantly." 175.

Farther north at Geiger Field, Washington, two groups of UFOs were seen which were described as a: "Jumbled formation of ten lights moving northeast to southwest in ten seconds. Second flight of ten following same course appeared as the first flight disappeared to the southwest." 176.

August 16th.



WHITE CLOUD, MICHIGAN
AUGUST 15, 1952

COPY OF DRAWING IN
BLUE BOOK FILES

The second UFO report in little over three hours came out of Illinois three minutes after midnight on August 16th:

"At 0003 hours, 16 August 52, Maj.(...deleted) along with Capt.(...deleted) non-rated, not on flying status, (...deleted) of the Department of Weather, (...deleted) Technical Training Wing, Chanute AFB, Illinois and their wives observed four UFOs flying directly over Major(...deleted) quarters on the south edge of Chanute AFB, Ill. The objects were flying in a 'V'-formation moving from east to west. During the 5 to 10 seconds they remained in view they covered an arc of approx. 10 degrees of the horizon. They disappeared behind the house. Attempts to regain view of the objects were futile. The objects were a phosphorescence like bluish-grey color. They were oblong in shape with the major diameter being at right angles to the line of flight [disk-shaped?]. The larger diameter of the objects appeared to be approx. the same as the wing span of a B-25 would appear at 5,000 alt. The minor diameter was approx. one-half as large as the major diameter. The apparent speed, position in the formation, and color remained constant during the period of sighting. There was no apparent oscillation, fluttering, exhaust trail or sound. The weather was clear in the vicinity and it was specifically noted by Major(...deleted) that the objects blocked out the view of the stars as they passed overhead. The Major took special note of the revolving split-type beacon of Chanute AFB. The movement of the objects and of the beacon had no corresponding relationship. All four persons saw substantially the same thing and were definitely in accord as to number, size, color, course, and absence of sound." 177.

The principle witness in this case, the unnamed Major, was a senior pilot with some 3,000 hours of flying time. He also had combat experience, and at the time of the sighting was an Educational Advisor for a training group at Chanute Field.

August 17th.

California again.

One would tend to think that the GOC spotters in northern California at this point in time were perhaps over excited and were confusing stars for UFOs, nonetheless the reports kept coming in. From Fairfield, California, which is not far from the city of Davis, a strange object was spotted at 1:20 a.m. August 17th northeast of Travis AFB traveling east. Like many of these California reports, the account given in official files is not very detailed. We only know that the object was: "...traveling slow[and had a] ...red color, changing like a diamond red-green-blue. No sound. [It was]...going sideways then turning and going forwards[sic]." 178.

"South of the border."

The New York Times in a short article titled:"AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER," stated:

"'Flying saucers' were being sighted by hundreds of persons in Venezuela last week. Some of the saucers even got their pictures in the papers. Today the Venezuelan Air Force said they were jets planes engaged in training maneuvers." 179.

This is especially puzzling since the British UP adds that the Venezuelan Air Force sent jets to intercept, which tells us that a.)The Venezuelan Air Force doesn't know what it was doing, or b.) Some of the "saucers" must have been unknowns.

Furthermore, were Venezuelan planes over its neighbor, Colombia, alarming the citizens of the capital, Bogota. According to a Reuters' dispatch of August 17th:

"Hundreds of persons agreed today that early last night they had seen a

'flying saucer' disappearing behind the hills two miles north of Bogota. Descriptions were all similar--an oval-shaped object of great brilliance emitting tail smoke and flying at tremendous speed at about 6,000 feet." 180.

Indications that UFO activity kept shifting ever southward are hard to come by once we leave the southern border of the U.S. Surveys of the Latin American press are nearly non-existent, as are issues of Spanish language newspapers in American libraries to make them available to American researchers. We have to rely on an occasional Reuters dispatch or hope an American news service found some room to carry a small item it just happened to come across. One of the few attempts to list Latin American reports is Argentina's UFO expert, Roberto Enrique Banch, whose slim volume, Fenomenos Aereos Inusuales, has a partial culling of Spanish language newspapers in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay.

According to what data Banch gathered, there was little UFO activity during 1952 that far south. The Banch's data is basically a bare-bones catalogue so there is no way to elaborate, but it seems there was two sightings in August in Argentina: At Veronica, the 17th; and at Laguna, Paiva (no exact date). Both cities are in the northern part of the country. 181. Uruguay had at least four sightings, all during the month of August: the city of Melo, 8:00 p.m. August 11th; Melo again at 4:15 p.m. August 10th; Conchillas, August 11th; and finally at 7:35 p.m. at Maldonado August 13th. 182. Finally, the country of Chile had a single report made at the capital, Santiago, 7:20 p.m. on the 5th of August. 183.

Although the above hardly constitutes a flap (but as we noted our information is far from complete), somehow and somehow a sense of urgency was communicated to at one branch of the Argentine military. An Argentine Naval officer, Capt. Luis S. Moreno, informed American sources that the Argentine Navy maintained a constant concern about the UFO problem beginning in 1952. 184. For now, we have to leave it at that, due to the enormous gaps in our knowledge about the UFO story "south of the border."

Texas again.

Was it a balloon? Air Force Capt. James Perry tells his story to Air Force Intelligence:

"On 17 Aug. while on a routine training flight from Hensley Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas to Webb AFB, Big Spring, Texas, I saw an unusual object approx. 1½ miles 45 degrees off my heading to the right. The time of sighting was 1649 hours CST. I was flying an Air Force T-6-D at an altitude of 8,000 feet above MSL with an indicated air speed of 150 knots on a true heading of 245 degrees. The weather was clear with visibility unlimited. The wind was 160 degrees 12 knots....

"The object was at an altitude of approx. 15,000 feet above MSL on a heading of 275 degrees and travelling at a terrific rate of speed...well over 500 mph. The object was just below cloud base when first sighted and was climbing. It continued to climb through scuddy clouds and disappeared from sight in about three seconds still climbing at approx. 2,000 feet per minute to the west.

"When I first saw the object it attracted my attention about two o'clock. Its movement was in a straight line with no smoke trail or streamer in its wake.

"The object was oblong in shape and of a size slightly smaller than the Air Force's B-25. It covered approx. 30 miles in seconds." 185.

California again.

Remember the reference to a "cigar-shaped" object object at Napa, California, back on August 15th? Well, here is a similar description of something reported about 9:30 p.m. PDT August 17th from the city of San Rafael, California. The thing was said to have been over San Pablo Bay heading south at 6-8,000 feet at jet speed. The thing was a: "...tubular shaped object, about 50 feet long according to the observer. In view some 14 seconds, the witness's statement declared that it gave off a very intense blue light which 'sparked like falling embers'." 186. A meteor?

August 18th.

A radar-visual?

One of the hardest kinds of cases to explain in mundane terms is a radar-visual incident. On August 18th there seems to have been one at Duncanville, Texas. Air Force records say this about the eyewitnesses' account: "Visual sightings were made at 0245 on 18 August 52 of a slow moving object and reported to Carswell AFB. Red and Green lights changing to white were noted. Object moved up and down, hovered and then moved off at a rapid rate of speed." 187.

The radar contact is mentioned this way:

"At 0247 Z two unidentified aerial objects picked up by the 147 AC&W Squadron, Duncanville, Texas. Objects changed directions several times and had an estimated speed of 300 mph. This electronic sighting coincides with the visual sighting as far as area of sighting is concerned. No local air traffic at the time. Solution unknown." 188.

A student of the UFO problem would recognize the color changes, as well as the maneuvers, as classic UFO characteristics. We might add that the report also fits the southern shift theory by being in the southern part of the U.S., and it also took place in the dead of the night which seems typical of many of the better UFO cases.

BLUE BOOK bypassed.

Most interesting is a UFO report from Travis AFB, California, forwarded to higher authorities on the 18th. The case itself is not important since it apparently was explained as a flare without difficulty, but the fate of the report's paperwork is curious. The paperwork was sent to the Secretary of Defense's office in Washington, Six Army Headquarters in San Francisco, and Air Defense Headquarters in Colorado. Furthermore, in a special note set off by itself, the Army stated: "Note: This message has been relayed to the CIA." 189.

On August 20th Capt. Ruppelt at ATIC made an inquiry about the Travis report. Major Fournet issued a memorandum evidently having a bearing on the Ruppelt inquiry which scolded those responsible for relaying the UFO report through channels when it should have been sent to BLUE BOOK at Wright Field. 190. One wonders how many UFO reports have been lost track of, being filed away in non-BLUE BOOK record cabinets.

August 19th.

More California sightings.

We don't know the man's name since it was deleted from the official file but some of his background is given. He was a 47-year-old private pilot who had spent World War II making training and aircraft identification films at Walt Disney Studios thus he felt he was qualified in a unique way as an expert aircraft observer. He reported for duty at the GOC post at midnight atop the American Legion Hall in downtown Los Gatos, California. At 12:50 a.m. some dim white aerial bodies were noticed passing overhead. There were 20-25 objects "quite round" in shape moving in a semi-circular formation. The witness believed the objects were 3-5,000 feet high and speeding

along at about 300 mph. A drawing was made to illustrate how the back edge of the round objects had a "diffused" appearance. 191. Los Gatos is about 70 miles southwest of Davis, California, where UFOs were reported the previous days.

No time of the sighting is given but something was supposed to have been seen further south in California on August 19th: "...two Visalians reported to the Times-Delta that they had seen a strange disk-like aerial object hovering and flitting along over the foothills to the east." 192.

"The stranger."

There was no significant UFO activity during the daylight hours of August 19th but as usual the darkness brought with it some interesting aerial phenomenon.

About 120 miles south of Los Gatos, California, a mysterious event took place. A UFO was seen in the Boron, California, area and the 750 AC&W radar site, codename "Algiers," was attempting to direct jet interceptors, call sign "Swanee Red" flight, to identify "the stranger." The chief radar controller at "Algiers" was a Capt. Ralph Borgerson who wrote this account about an encounter with "the stranger." He penned:

"Swanee Red Leader then called Algiers stating that he was steady on 290 degrees and that he had a stranger at one o'clock. Algiers asked if he could tell what type of aircraft it was? Swanee Red Leader gave a negative reply, but Swanee Red 2 said it could possibly be a Big Photo because it appeared as a large type aircraft. Algiers then instructed Swanee Red to investigate the stranger, also that Algiers had no contact on the stranger as it was in our clutter area, in the vicinity of San Geronio Mts.

"Lt. Otis, Swanee Red Leader, then reported that upon turning into the stranger, it appeared to have no tail assembly and showed great acceleration in moving away from them in an easterly direction and disappearing into space.

"Algiers did not make radar pick-up on the unusual sighting at any time.

"Lt. Otis called the controller at Algiers after landing and described the object as oval at the base and tapered to a heavy center section, he also re-affirmed that it not have a tail section." 193.

Nocturnal lights over Texas.

For ten minutes some strange lights were observed in the evening sky near Hensley Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas. The time was 8:00 p.m. Three witnesses were named in the official report on the case: E.R. Storey, A.R. Autrey, and C.H. Lewis. The critical portion of the report reads:

"[There were]...two very bright, star-like lights. They gave off a white-blue light like a mercury arc light. Both remained stationary for about five minutes. At this time the lower object moved vertically downward to about three degrees above the horizon then moved up to approx. the same position. Both objects then began moving northwestward, first slowly, then seemed to accelerate uniformly to very fast speed until they were completely out of sight in a few seconds. The objects had no tail or exhaust according to witnesses." 194.

Furthermore:

"First sighted by C.H. Lewis from the grounds of the Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas who drove to Hensley Tower where he observed the lights with binoculars. Objects due north of Hensley Tower...[with their] altitude,... at 10 and 5 degrees above horizon.

"Flight Service reported no air traffic between Dallas and Fort Worth at the time." 195.

The CIA gives some warnings.

In a briefing paper dated August 19, 1952, the CIA's OSI branch made known the results of its search of the Soviet Block press which found: "...not one report or comment...[so]this could only result from an official policy decision and of course raises the question of why and whether or not these sightings could be used from a psychological warfare point of view either offensively or defensively. The Air Force is aware of this and had investigated a number of civilian groups." 196. Here is how the Air Force agents assessed the civilian UFO organization: "[It]...has substantial funds, strongly influences the editorial policy of a number of newspapers and has leaders whose connections may be questionable." 197. (The latter may well have been exaggerated since it was the Mc Carthy era.) The briefing paper goes on to reveal that the Air Force was more than casually interested in civilian endeavors:

"The Air Force is watching this organization because of its power to touch off mass hysteria and panic. Perhaps we, from an intelligence point of view, should watch for any indication of Russian efforts to capitalize upon this present American credulity.

"Of even greater moment is the second danger. Our air warning system will undoubtedly always depend upon a combination of radar scanning and visual observation. We give Russia the capability of delivering an air attack against us...At the moment of attack, how will we, on an instant basis, distinguish hardware from phantom...until far greater knowledge is achieved of the causes back of the sightings...we will run increasing risk of false alerts and even greater danger of tabbing the real as false. This is primarily an operational research problem but as long as it exists it will have intelligence implications because of its bearing on air vulnerability.

"Our purpose in this survey had been to examine what is being done and make some assessment of its validity. The Air Force study is valid. On a case by case basis, the great bulk of the sightings have been and will continue to be explained --but the limited case approach will never solve this second real problem --positive identification...we proposed to discuss the research problem with the Research and Development Board and pass on to the Air Force an offer from M.I.T. to assist in a study of some of the fundamentals. We suggest that the psychological possibilities both for and against us should be investigated." 198.

Thus we now know for sure the Air Force had a very good reason to debunk UFO reports ever since the hectic summer of 1947, as well as having a good reason for CIA interest in UFOs. Donald Keyhoe had been right, in part, from the beginning; the Pentagon was indeed worried about mass hysteria and panic, but it need not involve aliens from space. If the UFO problem was not played down, Moscow could be alerted to the possible use of false UFO sightings to cause confusion during a surprise nuclear attack, yet we can be sure that if Keyhoe had known of the CIA comments, he would immediately wonder if a concern over Russian manipulations of the American public's credulity was just a clever mask for a much deeper concern over possible alien visitations. The art of misdirection is a trick often used by magicians and one recognized by the intelligence establishment as a very effective strategy. Possible misdirection is something to look for as we study official actions and documents.

Encouraging the absurd.

Another angle the CIA could exploit would be to encourage the absurd in an effort to discredit the whole subject. Obvious outlandish yarns had a better debunking effect than scholarly arguments. After a few reports by kooks, newspaper editors tended to move UFO stories to the inside pages and give them a humorous slant.

Public education as to the understanding of natural phenomena would cut down the number of UFO reports and defuse undue excitement, the desired effect of the CIA's proposed program, but it would have no effect on people who would report sensational stories. Such people were either having real, extraordinary, experiences, or had some sort of mental problem. Debunking such stories was not as simple as one might think. Questioning a witness' mental state could lead to undesired legal difficulties, and too much debate about the case would draw too much attention to it. It was much better to play it cool. Two cases we will deal with next will illustrate the fore-mentioned problems.

The Scully story resurfaces.

Back at the Pentagon Donald Keyhoe was still spending a lot of time attempting to interpret Air Force reactions to the UFO mystery. In mid-August Keyhoe had a chance to explore an unusual situation when the notorious 1950 Frank Scully story surfaced again, this time being preached by a Joseph Rohrer, president of the Pike's Peak Broadcasting Company, during a talk to the local chamber of commerce. Although most of the publicity was contained to the Pike's Peak area, BLUE BOOK at Wright Field received a bundle of mail demanding that the Air Force come clean and admit that "that one of the mysterious flying saucers had crashed and that at least one of the alien crew had survived, the creature currently being cared for at a secret location."

Keyhoe, in one of his regular conversations with Al Chop, suggested that the military tell Rohrer to put up or shut up, but Chop, after hearing Keyhoe out, replied that an attack on Rohrer would only give the story more publicity than it deserved. Keyhoe countered Chop's stand with the reasoning that if the Air Force remained mum, the public might take official silence as a sign that Rohrer was really on to something. Chop mulled over Keyhoe's idea and he even checked with his superiors, but finally it was decided the military would simply do what it had originally planned to do, and simply deny any knowledge of such wild claims if people took the trouble to write heated letters insisting on the "truth" as they perceived it.

Not long after this a strange UFO newsstory made a big splash in the press and to Keyhoe this latest sensation seemed improbable enough for the Air Force also to ignore, yet to his great surprise he learned that none other than Ruppelt himself was in a big hurry to catch a plane so he could investigate the incident personally! 199.

With the continued flood of UFO reports, the newspapers were eagerly scanned by an American public that wondered what dire or marvelous thing would happen next? With the CIA so concerned about the public's mental state, an event on the same day as their briefing paper's presentation seemed eerie since it certainly had the potential to "touch off mass hysteria and panic."

"Shot by a flying saucer."

It was about 10:00 p.m. August 19th EST when Deputy Sheriff Mott N. Partin of West Palm Beach received a phone call from an excited boy scout who was calling from a residence fronting a local highway just a few miles from Lantana, Florida, which is at the edge of the Everglades. Convinced the youth was not pulling his leg, Partin drove over to see the scout. When Deputy Sheriff Partin* arrived at the farmhouse,

* There was another lawman with Partin, a local constable from the West Palm Beach area who was "not too reliable" according to a source consulted by the military. For that reason, and because the constable played a minor role in the incident, he will remain nameless in this account of the case.

he found not one but three boy scouts. The three boys insisted that the officer drive them down the road to where the car they had been riding in was parked just off the shoulder. Arriving at the abandoned vehicle (at approximately 10:30 p.m.) Partin suddenly noticed a figure emerge from a palmetto thicket some feet from the road. The figure turned out to be the boys' scoutmaster, D.S. (Sonny) DesVergers, who was waving a machete. White-faced and shaking, DesVergers exclaimed over and over: "I'm coming, here I am." 200. As the scoutmaster scrambled up the road embankment, he tried to tell Partin something but the words came so fast he was incoherent. Not knowing the man or the circumstances, and of course wary of waving machete, Partin backed away. 201. Partin later said to the press that as DesVergers came out of the palmettos the scoutmaster: "...looked like a wild man." 202. Partin blurted out: "Do you drink?" DesVergers answered, perhaps surprised by the question: "Not much." 203. With effort the scoutmaster managed to communicate what had happened although Partin could only come to one immediate, definite, conclusion, that in all the years he had been a police officer he had: "...never seen a person as frighten as DesVergers." 204.

The scoutmaster urged Partin to follow him back into the woods. With DesVergers showing the way, Partin walked through the palmettos in the darkness to a small clearing where he and the scoutmaster stopped and looked around. They found DesVergers' large, railroad flashlight face down in the grass still lit. Nearby Partin noticed a spot where the grass had been crushed apparently due to someone lying down. After marking the disturbance in the grass with some twigs so he could find the spot later, Partin returned to the road accompanied by the shaken DesVergers. Partin took the scoutmaster and the scouts to the sheriff's office where he questioned them at length. Since DesVergers indicated he may have suffered some physical harm, he was given a superficial examination immediately. Partin found that the hair on DesVergers' arms were singed and the skin on one arm redded. The scoutmaster later claimed the hair in his nostrils were singed also, but at the time Partin checked him DesVergers forgot to mention anything about it, nor did Partin happen to notice which he probably wouldn't have unless he looking for it. The alledged cause of the burns, as claimed by DesVergers, was fantastic. Partin did not know if he should the man's word for it, but the burns were real enough enough so he phoned the local Air Force unit and asked to talk with thier Intelligence officer. After discussing the incident with both the sheriff and the scoutmaster, the Intelligence officer was impressed enough to write out a high priory message and sent it via military teletype to BLUE BOOK at Wright Field, Ohio. 205. It seems that DesVergers was insisting he had been "shot at" by a flying saucer!

August 20th.

The morning of the 20th some 14 miles north of the site of the DesVergers incident, an employee of the West Palm Beach International Airport, and his wife, a Mr. and Mrs. S.W. Carroll, saw something puzzling in the sky which they said resembled: "...a rain-drop flying sideways with the heavy end down and the pointed end up a little. 206.

Its hard to see if this sighting had anything to do with the scoutmaster's story because nothing had been released to the public as yet. The sheriff's office didn't get around to any further action on the case until the late afternoon of the 20th, and as for DesVergers he said he had not said a word to anyone thus far with the exception of the lawmen and the Air Force officer. One might ask why, if DesVergers was trying to pull off a publicity stunt, he did not rush to the nearest newspaper and tell his story? We will come back to this case later but first we will cover some other events.

Other UFO news on August 20th was hard to come by. In France a couple of dazzling spheres were said to have raced over the city of Toulon in the southern part of the country. The spheres did so at an incredible speed. Were they UFOs or meteors? 207.

August 20th at the CIA.

Domestically the major event of the day was the briefing of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency by that organization's Office of Scientific Intelligence, a briefing dealing with the apparent need for a special investigation of the UFO mystery that was independent of the Air Force's BLUE BOOK. Reviewing the Air Force data and after attempting to write directives and organize studies, it became evident UFO material was of such a nature that it was primarily a research and development department problem indicating that the chairman of the R&D branch be approached. A discussion was then held with Dr. Whitman, the R&D chairman, who subsequently agreed to investigate the possibility of studying the UFO material utilizing Air Force agencies (This proved to be something of a mistake since he encountered "undue concern" by some unnamed members of the Air Staff that stymied progress, and it wasn't until late November, 1952, that the CIA took strong steps to eliminate the impasse.). 208. Officially, however, the effort to improve UFO Intelligence by the CIA was launched on August 20, 1952. 209.

"They're classified."

At a meeting of the world's experts on radar, the upper air, and outer space; in Sidney, Australia, on August 20th, a gathering formally called the International Radio Scientific Union Assembly, a reporter polled the scientists in attendance on the UFO question. Dr. D.W.R. McKinley, chairman of the Canadian National Research Laboratory, answered: "I can't talk about flying saucers because they're classified information. Ask someone who doesn't work for a government -- like Dr. Burrows (Dr. C.R. Burrows, director of the School of Engineering at Cornell.) over there. 210.

August 20th at 8:50 p.m. EST.

Elsewhere, at 8:50 p.m. EST an Air Force officer in Florida was forwarding his reports to BLUE BOOK concerning the DesVergers case. The messages were processed and received at ATIC in Ohio that evening. Since the BLUE BOOK staff had left for the day, the messages would not be read until the following morning.

As stated previously, there was very little UFO activity that day but 25 minutes after the DesVergers messages arrived at BLUE BOOK a significant sighting took place.

Jones' Beach, New York.

Five Air Force airmen were enjoying the cool air at Jones' Beach, New York, that evening when they all spotted something in the sky. The Air Force report on the incident reads:

"At about 2115 hours Schultz and Young went for a walk leaving airmen Binning, Bermender and Shovelton on the beach. They were looking up at the sky and talking when they noticed three planes flying in formation. When they were right overhead, Airman Binning noticed moving objects in the southwest. He looked up and saw five objects moving from the southwest to northeast. They were in a straight line parallel to each other. They were very high in the air and moving very fast. They could tell that the objects were moving fast because the planes were low and moving pretty fast but the objects were high and came up from behind and overtook them. The size was about the size of a dime held at arm's length. Another way they could tell they weren't planes was that when the objects got overhead they started moving back and forth sideways as well as moving forward. They were oval in shape and looked like a blurred light. After they got past us they veered to the right and up and faded away. From the time they first noticed them until they went out of sight was approximately fifteen to twenty seconds." 211.

Still more over California.

Two GOC observers at a post at Sonoma, California, the same general area of the previous UFO reports, viewed five, solid-looking, flat, round, slightly concave, silver-colored, objects traveling at 4,000 feet heading northwest. Two of the objects were first seen traveling together at 9:32 p.m., followed by solitary objects moving in the same direction at 9:50 p.m., 9:56 p.m., and finally at 10:00 p.m. It was estimated by the GOC observers that the objects were moving at the speed of 400 mph and were as large as a small airplane. One peculiar thing was noted. All the objects disappeared from sight by entering a bank of clouds, but just before doing so, the objects: "...seemed to fly in tight circles for a few seconds." 212.

Texas, 9:00 p.m. local time.

This account, written by a woman with no apparent technical background, has interest nonetheless because it details some movements that could correlate with other reports:

"On Wednesday, 20 August 1952, at approximately 9:00 p.m., I took my dogs in the backyard of my home, (...deleted), San Antonio, Texas, for their exercise. I was carrying one of the dogs in my arms and I stooped to place her on the ground. As I raised up, I was attracted by a peculiar object in the north sky. This object seemed to be suspended in space.

"The object was circular in shape, illuminated with bright yellow lights. These lights seemed to glitter or pulsate but not going entirely off at anytime. The lights appeared to revolve around inside the object[See drawing.]. The center appeared blank or least was a dark spot. The object appeared quite large, about the same size as a bicycle wheel[At 50 feet.]. The object was swaying to and fro, in a pendulum-like fashion, covering an area of what appeared to be approximately ten or fifteen feet, possibly more.

"I observed this object for approximately five minutes or more, then suddenly it shot out in somewhat of an upward slanting course at a very high rate of speed. I could not tell if the lights were still revolving at this time. I did not hear any sound nor did I see any trail or exhaust." 213.

August 21st.

The morning of August 21st, 8:40 a.m. to be exact, the Officer of the Day at ATIC Wright Field telephoned Capt. Ruppelt to tell him he had stopped by at the base message center and had been given a long tear sheet from the telex machine and the OD urged the BLUE BOOK chief to come over right away to see "something important." To Ruppelt that seemed rather odd and he didn't want to bother. Why not just read the message to him over the phone, Ruppelt suggested. When the OD refused, showing a curious respect for the message usually warranted only by secret dispatches, Ruppelt left in a hurry for the message center.

When Ruppelt reached the message center and scanned the telex, he learned that there had been a sighting of a flying saucer by three boyscouts and their scoutmaster who had incurred some burns when he approached "too close." The scoutmaster was described as a "solid citizen." One can imagine how that sounded to Ruppelt. The BLUE BOOK chief immediately called the Intelligence officer in Florida that sent the message to confirm the details, especially the information about the burns. When he heard that the Deputy Sheriff vouched for DesVergers singed condition, Ruppelt made plans to act fast to head off wild rumors. He conferred with his superior, Col. Dunn, briefing him about what he had learned so far and suggested a departure for Florida that very day. The Colonel agreed and did something that was rare in BLUE BOOK operations by authorizing the use of an Air Force B-25 to expedite Ruppelt's

arrival in Florida. No commercial airliners this time.

Having arranged transportation, Ruppelt quickly made other preparations, requesting Lt. Bob Olsson of his BLUE BOOK staff to get ready to leave for Florida and to equip himself with a Geiger counter and a camera. Ruppelt then called his wife to tell her to pack his traveling bags and to have them delivered to the Flight Line at Wright Field right away. In just two hours Ruppelt and Olsson were in the air winging their way south in a B-25 piloted by Air Force Captains Bill Hoey and David Douglas.

Meanwhile, in Florida, an Air Force medical officer was giving DesVergers a complete physical, finding the man in good health and confirming the singed condition of the hair on the scoutmaster's arms. The redness seen by Partin was not still visible which was not unexpected since many hours had elapsed since the alleged incident. The medical officer did, however, establish that there was no blisters. This same officer expressed his personal doubts about DesVergers' story to Air Force investigators (Which Ruppelt later termed a personality clash between the officer and the scoutmaster.). 214.

Ruppelt had to act fast now since the first mention of the incident appeared on the INS newswire, although it was a sketchy account. Someone had leaked the story.

Other UFO news that day.

What appeared to some people in Elkhart, Indianam as a strange spinning white circle, was an object "that was accounted for" according to the South Bend Filter Center. 215. Otherwise the only thing in the file for August 21st worth reading is a copy of a letter written by a Dr. William Crew, Assistant Director for Scientific Personnel at the University of California's Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Dr. Crew wrote the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Military Applications in Washington D.C. informing them of the lab's bi-weekly colloquium on current technical and scientific developments and the desire of the scientific staff to have the Air Force give them a talk on the subject of "flying saucers" (Which would be a reasonable request due to the great number of reports made in the Los Alamos area over the years.). Dr. Crew penned:

"I wish to make it perfectly clear the laboratory claims no official cognizance in this field of activity; but it is my belief that our staff members would be extremely interested in a discussion of the serious and scientific aspects of the problem of unidentified aerial objects. 216.

Air Force Intelligence replied directly to Dr. Crew, saying that it would be glad to give a briefing to the scientific staff because:

"It is believed that such a briefing will be of great value to ATIC in that a group of qualified scientists such as those at Los Alamos always have excellent ideas on various technical and scientific aspects of the problem of unidentified aerial objects." 217.

In reference to UFO sightings over Los Alamos by scientists who, due to the nature of their training the art of objectivity is a fetish, Ruppelt wrote: "If you took any one of these incidents by itself, it might not mean much. But in view of the number and calibre of the informants, you couldn't help taking their claims seriously." 218.

"Our pilots aren't shooting!"

When radar at Congaree AFB near Columbia, South Carolina, tracked what seemed to be an unknown machine traveling at 4,000 mph on August 20th, Donald Keyhoe was permitted a look at the military file on the incident the next day even though BLUE BOOK had marked the case "unexplained." Al Chop, manning the Pentagon's UFO press desk, cleared the document evidently because of a new "openness" on the UFO problem but he

did ask the writer to do the Air Force a favor. Waving a fist full of letters, Chop said: "We want you to emphasize the fact that our pilots aren't shooting at these things. We've been catching hell from all over the country. They even wire the President, 'In the name of God, don't shoot at the saucers.' So anything you can do --." 219.

"Destroy all copies!"

In spite of what Al Chop told Keyhoe, the Air Force had shot at a UFO, in fact Ruppelt's book about his career as head of BLUE BOOK admits the fact in the very first sentence of the text. It happened during the summer of 1952 at an unnamed Air Force Fighter Base, and on a date that Ruppelt would not identify, for reasons to be explained later in this account. Ruppelt frequented the Fighter Base and knew the Commanding Officer, a full colonel who had a command pilot rating. On a number of occasions the fighter pilots at the airbase had sighted and chased UFOs so the sky mystery was nothing new to the CO who had trust in his men and backed them all the way when they related stories of strange sky objects they couldn't explain. Furthermore, the airbase radar had picked up UFOs, targets the CO had seen for himself, so it was not surprising that the Colonel was a "believer." Due to his official routine, however, Ruppelt dealt more with the base Intelligence officer a Captain who did not share the Colonel's belief in UFOs but who nonetheless took the problem seriously. The Captain enjoyed the admiration of Ruppelt for his intelligence interpretations of puzzling UFO reports, a talent that could have been put to good use at ATIC. The respect showed by Ruppelt for the work of the Captain paid off in an unexpected way one day when the forementioned Captain phoned to say he had "something very interesting" to show the BLUE BOOK chief, which naturally aroused Ruppelt's curiosity so he snapped back with a request for a clarification. The Captain refused to say more over the phone, or even code the information and forward it via a secure wire, the usual practice for secret data. This "extreme caution" staggered Ruppelt who made a point of going to the airbase at the first opportunity.

Enroute to the airbase Ruppelt learned that the sensitive material was a UFO report but no more. A shocked Ruppelt thought to himself: "Report! If he had a UFO report why hadn't he sent it in to Project Blue Book as he usually did?" 220.

When Ruppelt arrived at the airbase he was escorted to the base Intelligence office and only after he and the Captain were alone was a steel safe opened and a thick document taken out for his perusal. Ruppelt began to read the report with "great curiosity" which is probably an understatement.

The incident in question.

As previously mentioned, the exact date and the location was omitted by Ruppelt but he does inform us that the incident in question began at 10:00 a.m. one morning when the Fighter Base's radar picked up a UFO approaching at 700 mph, the target slowing abruptly to about 100 mph as it neared the field. Two F-86 jet interceptors were scrambled to investigate. As was the case all too often back then, there was no HRI radar available to measure altitudes of unknown targets. The usual practice was to have one jet interceptor search high while its wingmate searched low. The pilot searching low during this interception, at 5,000 feet, suddenly spotted a flash of reflected light below and ahead of him. The flash was from something which the pilot first thought was a balloon but as he dived on it achieving a speed of over 700 mph, gaining on the object was a slow process. No balloon could move that fast. Closing the distance to about 1,000 yards, the F-86 pilot made a visual inspection of the UFO and discovered that it was round and flat: "...like a doughnut without a hole." 221. By this time the fighter pilot was at nearly treetop level in pursuit of the mysterious object not knowing what to do next. He could not ask for advice since he could not raise either his wingmate or the GCI control on the radio. The pilot

continued to close with the gap narrowing to 500 hundred yards. The UFO then began to accelerate to such a speed the pilot of the F-86 felt that the UFO would get away. Ruppelt wrote:

"When the object traveled out about 1,000 yards, the pilot suddenly made up his mind --he did the only thing that he could do to stop the UFO. It was like a David about to do battle with a Goliath, but he had to take a chance. Quickly charging his guns, he started shooting..." 222.

Any effect of the gunfire was not mentioned, although we are led to believe the 50 cal. bullets did not do any great harm or missed completely since the object then zoomed upward out of sight in just a few seconds. The F-86 pilot located his wingmate, joined up, and returned to base. After landing the pilot reported to his Squadron Commander in operations. The firing of the jet's machine guns caused a real uproar. The paperwork alone amounted to a minor crisis. The Group Commander, the base CO, and the base Intelligence officer met with the pilot. There must have been some juicy details denied us by Ruppelt's generalized re-telling, for he alludes to a "personality clash" for "some obscure reason." This friction was between the F-86 pilot and his immediate superior, the Squadron Commander, the latter attacking the former's sanity, and if that didn't stick, he wanted everyone to know he felt the pilot had been: "...just shooting his guns for the hell of it and using the wild story as a cover-up." 223. The pilot's buddies, the Intelligence officer, other personnel in the squadron, as well as the Flight Surgeon, were called upon to give testimony about any possible symptoms of mental impairment by the "defendant" in the impromptu "trial." No one could offer any evidence, but the Squadron Commander didn't give up and he managed to think of some "minor incidents" to give some substance to his charges. The "accused's" wingmate was then interrogated and the lack of radio contact became a critical issue. The wingmate said he had heard nothing over the assigned tactical radio channel and that was seized upon by the Squadron Commander as proof the "trigger-happy" pilot was telling something less than the truth. The "accused" defended himself by claiming he couldn't remember if he had been tuned to the right radio channel (Indeed, he might be forgiven considering the circumstances if his story was true.). Having found a "hole" in the pilot's story, the investigation was terminated but there remained the problem of what to do with the documentation of the case. Forwarding it to BLUE BOOK would put it in many hands and doubtlessly cause a sensation, on the other hand, it was argued, the possible importance of the information might prove vital to BLUE BOOK. The eventual decision casts suspicion on BLUE BOOK's value as a UFO report clearing house and investigative body since Ruppelt's organization was sent nothing, they were not even notified, and all copies of the report on the case ordered destroyed. This did not, however, prevent a certain Air Force Captain from withholding one copy from immediate destruction. This same Captain was now standing before Ruppelt intrigued by what the BLUE BOOK chief might think about the incident and was quick to ask his visitor from ATIC when the final page was read. Ruppelt told the Captain he could not take a position about what the UFO might have been since, as usual, there was no tangible evidence. Also, a personality conflict had confused the hinge factors of the case; nonetheless, Ruppelt did admit the report was the most fascinating of any he ever read. The Captain was not so reluctant to have strong feelings about the case since he knew the people involved and he was inclined to back the pilot. As we can see, he had also made a judgement of his own by bringing the case to Ruppelt's attention, thus flirting with disobeying an order. 224.

Civilian "saucer societies."

There exists another another CIA briefing paper giving the Air Force's stand on UFOs, dated August 22nd, which is almost identical to the document already discussed, dated August 19th, but with a few slight differences that may be interesting.

In regards to "civilian saucer societies," as the paper terms them, where the document dated the 19th mentions that the civilian leadership of the group in question has connections that: "...may be questionable...." 225. But it the August 22nd version it reads: "...have been exposed as being of doubtful loyalty..." 226. The latter certainly seems a shade more positive. Similarly, the question of funding in the August 19th document states that the group in question: "...has substantial funds ..." 227. In the August 20th document, however, is more direct and claims that the financing was: "...by an unknown source." 228. The latter seems to suggest that there may be no limit to the money available, alluding to a foreign power. Moreover, whereas the August 19th version mentioned that the Air Force was "watching" at least one group, the August 22nd document tells us that: "...several societies in the United States have been investigated." 229.

APRO and the painting contractors.

This "danger" posed by private UFO groups could hardly have had any strength or cogency as applied to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization headed by Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen, a Wisconsin couple that were later employed in government jobs at Alamogordo, New Mexico, that required high-level security clearances. The Lorenzen's operated on a shoe string and never during their decades of UFO work were ever even accused of pro-Soviet views, nonetheless, there were indications they and their group were being "watched." Mrs. Lorenzen recalled that once during the summer of 1952 about six months after they began operations, two men stopped at their place of residence to solicit some painting work. The Lorenzens were renting their house, but when they told that to the two "painters," they kept talking about other things and showed no interest in the name of the landlord. That sparked the Lorenzen's concern so they checked around the neighborhood later and found out the "painters" had visited no one else in the area. The visit became even stranger when the later discovered that APRO's secretary and treasurer both were recently visited by "paint contractors." The story was the same. The "contractors" were more interested in conversation than bidding on a job and did not call on anyone else in the area. 230.

The Soviet position.

We could insert here a comment about some evidence as to the Soviet position on UFOs, or at least Moscow's propaganda line. The position was consistent and concise: Flying saucer sightings were generated by the Pentagon to fan war hysteria so the military could wring bigger appropriations from Congress. The CIA's Foreign Documenta Division had even located two items in its files by August 22nd which stated essentially that message, items lifted from the Soviet Satellite press. 231.

The DesVergers investigation begins.

By the morning of August 22nd Ruppelt had arrived in Florida and had visited the Wing Intelligence Office of the 1707th Air Base Wing, a unit based at West Palm Municipal Airport and the one handling the DesVergers investigation. The chief investigator was a Capt. Carney, who showed Ruppelt the documents covering the preliminary inquiry which had statements from DesVergers, the three boyscouts, Sheriff Partin, and the air base medical officer whose comments recommended that further investigation pursue the "psychological aspects" involved. This advice was the first hint there would be trouble ahead.

Noon, August 22nd.

After going over the documents covering the preliminary inquiry, Ruppelt felt the next step was to visit the site of the supposed incident, so at noon, August 22nd,

he set out with a team of helpers. Besides Ruppelt, the investigative team consisted of Lt. Olsson, Captains Hoey, Davis, and Carney, the air base medical officer, an airman staff-car driver, and two Palm Beach County sheriff officers (One of which had to be Partin.).

Arriving at the site, the team was led by the lawmen to the spot where DesVergers' flashlight was found. From there they fanned out 50 yards in every direction looking for anything unusual. Nothing appeared out of the ordinary, there was no damage to the trees or foliage, and when Lt. Olsson swept the area with his Geiger Counter he detected only normal background radiation. Significantly, no debris that might support the flare was discovered. All told, they did not profit much from the trip. 232.

DesVergers is interrogated.

The scoutmaster was called and was asked to come out to the air base for extensive questioning. The time was 6:00 p.m. August 22nd. DesVergers agreed so an Air Force staff-car brought him to the field soon after. DesVergers made a good first impression, claiming to be a long time Florida resident, a graduate of a private military prep school, and having earned some college credits before enrolling in the Marine Corps. According to DesVergers, he had taken part in some fascinating and dangerous missions during World War II. After the war he said he worked in a turpentine plant, and then spent some time as an auto mechanic before leasing a gas station, a venture that went sour due to some bad luck. At the moment he was clerking in a hardware store. When a local church organized a boy scout troop, he had volunteered to be the scoutmaster. After relating his personal history, DesVergers told the story of his "encounter" in detail (The comments in the quotes are the military's):

"I was going about 40 mph fooling around with the kids when I caught a flash of light out of the corner of my eye. I looked around and saw a series of fuzzy lights like the cabin windows of an airliner. They were headed down at about a 45 degree angle into the woods then the kids saw it. I stopped and talked it over with the kids then went on. I stopped again because I thought that if it were an aircraft that had crashed I had better try to help. I turned around and went back. There was a radio program that had just come on, it was 9:45. I told the kids to estimate when the program was 2/3 over (10 minutes) and if I hadn't come out by that time to go for help as I would probably need it. I picked my way through the palmettos to find the easy path. I looked at my watch and noticed four minutes (time now 2149). Then I noticed an open spot ahead of me and stopped, thinking it might be a lake. It turned out to be a clearing. I saw no lights on the way in.... I carefully stepped forward with the light pointing toward the ground. I had a second two cell flashlight in my backpocket.

"When I first stepped into the clearing I noticed a peculiar smell. I went two or three paces when I had the feeling somebody or something was watching me. I kept on going and began to feel heat, like walking close to an oven. It was hot and humid like and it seemed to be coming from above. I hadn't thought of looking up, when I did I couldn't see the sky. (Comment: On being questioned on this part he meant that he couldn't see stars.) I knew I had run into something rough. I stood frozen in my tracks, I wanted to throw something or hit it with my machete. I felt for my flashlight in my backpocket and thought of throwing it, but was too scared. (Comments: This establishes that he didn't lose his flashlight going into the clearing.) The bottom of the object was dull black with no seams, joints or rivet lines. It had dirty streaks running straight across as if oil or dust had blown back (Comment: When asked if they were circular or concentric rings he said 'No.'). I tried to run but froze, I was so scared. The object was about

6 inches to 8 inches above the pine trees. I then got control of myself and backed away. I could feel the heat lessen as I backed out from under the edge of the ship. I looked up and saw the edge of the ship silhouetted against the sky. It was round, with a dome shape top and with holes and fins running around the edge. The bottom edge seemed to glow with a sort of a phosphorescent glow, like phosphorus in the sea at night[See sketch --L.E. Gross]. They seemed to be scared of me as I was of them(Comment: He repeated this frequently during the interview. When asked how he knew or what he meant, he said the object appeared to move back as he approached.).

"I had my light on the object and couldn't get my eyes off it, but as soon as I backed off I could see the dome. Then I heard metal against metal, like a hatch opening and thought someone was going to watch me(Comment:?? -This could be an error in note taking.). I said a million prayers. I saw something momentarily but couldn't see what it was. Next I saw a red flare which appeared slowly to move toward me. It came out of the side, I couldn't move or yell I was so scared. I could see the ship in the glow of the red light(Comment:He kept referring to the object as a 'ship' all the time.). I put my hands over my face(Comment:Fists closed, hand over each eye, palms toward face and elbows in stomach.). I could see a red mist around us, then I passed out.

"When I woke up I was standing next to a tree, I think. I seem to remember stumbling through palmettos. I couldn't see and my eyes burned. I slowly began to come back. I saw lights through the trees and started running toward them, I didn't even know whether or not my feet were hitting the ground. I thought I might be dead. Next I met deputies and we went back to get my light. The two cell flashlight is still missing." 233.

Certain points are clarified:

"Upon being reinterrogated about the odor that he smelled, he stated that it was an 'acute, sharp smell.' He had never smelled anything like it before. He works with... [Not legible] acid and knows how that smells. It had a sickening nauseating smell. He thinks that the odor is what made him pass out. He had a woosy feeling while he was passing out, similar to being under anesthetic.

"Upon being reinterrogated he went back over the following points:

- a. 'It was hotter than standing next to an oven, more like walking into an oven.' The heat was concentrated down. The further he went under the 'ship' the hotter it got. He stated he perspired and felt cool when he came out from under the object.
- b. 'A red mist engulfed him. He was not conscious of any change in temperature when the red mist hit him. Even if it burned he still could not have felt any burn he was so scared. His eyes were glued on the object. He put his hands up before it hit him.
- c. 'When he came to he was in the palmettos before he finally realized where he was.
- d. 'He felt no downwash of any kind. He did hear a babbling sound. It was possibly the boyscouts in the car, however, he was not sure of this.
- e. 'He heard a hissing sound after he entered the clearing and noticed the object. He heard the hissing all the time he was conscious.

f. 'He was asked the smell his hat to see if the odor might still be clinging to the fabric, however, it was not.

"A discrete attempt was made to try to get Mr. DesVergers involved in a discussion of 'flying saucers.' He stated that he had seen a movie, 'When the Worlds Collide,' but that was all [They're no saucers in the film. The plot does not even deal with alien visitors. --L.E. Gross]. He did not read flying saucer' stories in the newspapers although he had noticed the headlines of a couple of them.

"Mr. DesVergers stated that several people had contacted him regarding his story. They were: a.) A scientist came to see him. The scientist was from Schenectady, New York. He did not know his name and brushed him off. b.) A person from the University of Alabama wanted him to make a recording. He told the person that he was not interested. c.) Two people from the University of Florida contacted him. They said it was evident that he knew more than he was saying, but that he would not talk to them. d.) A reporter from Time magazine, who he wouldn't talk to, contacted him on the 21st. e.) Some Miami radio station offered him cash for his story. f.) A newspaper woman that he had known all through high school days called him but he wouldn't talk (Comment: The above accounts are strictly DesVergers' story. They were not checked by ATIC.). He appeared to like to tell how important he was.

"DesVergers stated that he had two comments to make. They were: a. What made it suspensd? We (probably meaning the United States) can't defy gravity. He doubted that it was manufactured 'here' (Comment: He probably means the United States.). b. He thought that since we are reaching out into space, someone may be and are possibly ahead of us. He said he believed that the object was probably from outer space.

"Mr. DesVergers then asked what he should do about people coming to talk to him. He stated that he would be very glad to cooperate with the Air Force and not talk to anyone if he was not supposed to. He was advised by Capt. Ruppelt that it was the policy of this project not to ask any civilian to withhold any information, and the fact that we were trying to 'shut him up' was not true. He then stated that he would go home and call the newspapers and give them the story to 'get them off his neck.' He was advised that he was free to do so. He seemed to be rather proud of the fact that he has brushed off so many newspaper people and others who are interested. He seemed to take great pride in throwing around such facts as people are offering money, professors had called, Time magazine had called, radio stations had called, etc." 234.

The latter remarks in the official Air Force evaluation show how DesVergers was letting his outgoing personality show, and the caution with which the Ruppelt team treated the testimony since they were very wary of a hoax, perhaps predisposed to such a judgement. Ruppelt was an experienced professional in such matters and if DesVergers was a joker, the BLUE BOOK chief was confident he would find out fast. Unknown to DesVergers, Ruppelt had instructed Lt. Olsson, the Sergeant, Captains Hoey and Davis, and the local Intelligence officer, Capt. Carney, to sit in on the interrogation and to mentally select a single small detail from the scoutmaster's account, commit it to memory, and later ask DesVergers a question that would have the selected detail incorporated in any answer. This was an old interrogation trick that had proved itself over the years, the theory being that in trying to recall a fabricated story such small detail would be changed or left out. The scoutmaster was extensively questioned. Incredibly, with flying colors, DesVergers passed the test! There could be no doubt now that Ruppelt had to press ahead with the investigation. 235.

August 22nd UFO activity.

Back at BLUE BOOK headquarters at Wright Field, the message center received only two reports on August 22nd of any consequence, and only one of them has the exact time of day listed. The first one to be reviewed is missing the time of day and has few details but the maneuvers mentioned are fascinating since they are classic UFO antics, motions quite unlike anything observed in nature or practiced by aircraft. It has been often reported in good UFO reports with the most famous case that comes to mind the Farmington, New Mexico, incident of March 1950. This latest case went:

"Several inhabitants of Puerto Real[Spain], 6 kilometers from San Franando, recently saw two elongated oval objects in the sky approaching each other from opposite directions. When it seemed that they were about to collide, each object made a right turn, picked up speed, and then disappeared. The objects flew at a great height...[were]lead grey in color, and appeared to be piloted." 236.

The other August 22nd message had the words:"Green Fireball?" scribbled on it, evidently by an knowledgeable expert at ATIC who was impressed by the pilot-witnesses' remarks that the glowing phenomenon had an unfamiliar appearance even though meteors were very familiar to pilots. The teletype message read:

"...ENROUTE TRAVIS AFB FM HICKAM AFB. ALTITUDE 6500 FT. TRUE AIR SPEED 170 KNOTS. TRUE HEADING 063 DEGREES. 2 CREW MEMBERS OBSERVED UNIDENTIFIED GREEN LIGHT AT COORDINATES 2318 NORTH 15345 WERE AT 221415Z.OBJECT TRAVELING AT SAME ALTITUDE AND DIRECTION AS C54. OBSERVERS STATE OBJECT LOOKED LIKE LARGE GREEN FLARE AND ESTIMATED IT TO BE 5 TO 10 MILES TO THE RIGHT OF ACFT. OBJECT SEEMED TO BE MAKING DOWNWARD ARC WHEN LAST SEEN AND TRAVELING AT A VERY FAST RATE OF SPEED. OBJECT OBSERVED FOR APPROX. 10 SECONDS. OBSERVERS STATE THEY HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT PREVIOUSLY." 237.

Evening, August 22nd.

The evening of August 22nd the Sheriff's office called Ruppelt at the West Palm Beach air base to let him know a background check by civilian authorities had turned up some unflattering things about DesVergers' personal history. Ruppelt decided to pursue the matter and began to have some uneasy feelings about his prime witness in spite of favorable interrogation tests.

August 23rd.

Early Saturday morning, August 23rd, Capt. Carney roused Ruppelt from his sleep with the news that DesVergers had gone to the newspapers with his story. There was nothing Ruppelt could do about that, but some of the quotes attributed to DesVergers didn't please the BLUE BOOK chief. Under headlines that shouted:"FIREBALL SHOT FROM SAUCER SINGERS MAN," and "EX-MARINE DESCRIBES 'SAUCER ATTACK,'" were statements by DesVergers that a group of "high brass" from Washington(Ruppelt's team) were aware of the nature of what he had witnessed but they were withholding information to prevent a "national panic." Moreover, the scoutmaster was now represented by a press agent. This news turned Ruppelt purple. The BLUE BOOK chief ordered Major Fournet to do an exhaustive probe of DesVergers' military, and, possible, police records. 238.

The DesVergers story was carried nationally just the way the scoutmaster related it to Ruppelt except for this enigmatic addition:"...its better for me not to go any further for the public good because it might cause panic." 239.

There is something else that Ruppelt seems to have failed to notice and it is very strange. In an Associated Press dispatch there is this attributed to Sheriff Partin:

"He also said he found evidence of scorched grass where the scoutmaster said he encountered the object." 240. In spite of that statement, nowhere in the official record, nor is there in Ruppelt's book, any reference to visible evidence of scorched grass, in fact it is stated just the opposite in no uncertain terms. 241. This might be dismissed as an error by a zealous reporter but a later source leaves little doubt Partin was correctly quoted. Partin was interviewed by Marta Robinet of the American Weekly some months later and in the resulting article on the DesVergers case is this: "Was the grass in the woods really scorched?", I asked. 'Lady, I only know what I saw,' Partin said. 'It was burned in patchy areas.'" 242. (This strange discrepancy will be explained in more detail in the events of September, 1952.)

The Air Force, through an unnamed spokesman, told the press on August 23rd that in regards to the DesVergers case: "We cannot tell yet just what it was there. We spoke to the man, but we had nothing up to now upon which to base a conclusion. We are going to continue to check up and to get all the facts together." 243.

The DesVergers sensation and Donald Keyhoe.

When the DesVergers sensation hit the newswires, UFO advocate Donald Keyhoe expected the Air Force to show little interest even though the scoutmaster had suffered burns, afterall, at Amarillo, Texas, some time back, a youngster had also been burned during a UFO encounter and the military had merely brushed it off as a tall story to explain some unpleasant results of some childish mischief. It came as a surprise, then, when Keyhoe learned that the Florida incident rated a full-blown investigation led by Ruppelt personally. Curious, Keyhoe approached Pentagon UFO spokesman Al Chop, asking about the "low-down" on the DesVergers sensation. According to Keyhoe, Chop replied: "No final conclusion yet. Personally, I wouldn't waste time on it." 244.

August 23rd UFO activity.

It there had been a dramatic increase of UFO reporting at this point it would not be surprising considering the publication of the DesVergers story, yet there were not that many reports and the most continued to come from military sources and not an excited public.

The earliest report one can find is one that occurred at 4:10 a.m. in the vicinity of Atwater Station, Ohio, when some military men in an auto moving along highway 224 sighted what one of the men termed: "...the queerest, damn navigation light I've ever seen..." 245. The glowing object's behavior put it in the UFO category but it is the reaction of one of the witnesses that makes the report worth remembering. The principle witness was 1st Lt. James W. Evans, an Air Force Intelligence officer and a fully qualified F-94 jet interceptor radar crewman assigned to the 148th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, based at Dover, Delaware, which was a hotbed of UFO air defence scrambles. Lt. Evans had the auto stopped at the nearest gas station where he phoned the closest Air Force base and GCI site. The military men with him were Navy personnel so Lt. Evans told them to commit to memory any details of the sighting and later make a report to their respective Intelligence officers of their units as soon as they reached their duty stations. Furthermore, Lt. Evans: "...cautioned the two sailors to silence on what they had seen and informed them its potential classification ...[was]secret." 246. This contrasts with Ruppelt's assurances to DesVergers when the BLUE BOOK chief said the military had no intentions of trying to silence people concerning UFO information, but if one reads Ruppelt's remarks carefully he will see that Ruppelt made a distinction. He said the military would not attempt to silence civilians.

A round thing with the appearance of a "golf ball" executed a maneuver above the city of Navarre, Minnesota, 10:40 a.m. August 23rd. The reader is referred to a sketch made by the witness showing the path of the object. 247.

There was nothing more logged until 10:00 p.m. that night, almost 12 hours later. At that hour at Middletown, Pennsylvania, a curious spinning object flew in a circle overhead. Not having too much in the way of detail, one is tempted to explain it as a weather balloon although the wind currents must have been strange. The sketch by the witness shows the object's travels. The object was first seen at point "A" and then moved to point "B." 248.

August 24th.

A high-ranking Air Force officer, Colonel Gerald W. Johnson, had an experience on August 24th that commands interest. The Colonel was at the helm of a F-84C jet flying from Travis AFB, California, enroute to Turner AFB, Georgia, when he entered the airspace over New Mexico. The time was 10:15 a.m. local, making it a rare, good, daytime UFO case, but it must be said that the New Mexico region seems to resist conforming to any pattern of UFO activity involving continental trends.

Some two miles off the left wing of the Colonel's plane he saw a pair of ball-like, silver-colored objects, he estimated were six feet in diameter. When first sighted the two objects were moving in line abreast perhaps 500 yards apart. The Colonel noted his airspeed as 290 mph, and his altitude as 35,000 feet. At the time he was passing over the city of Herannas. The objects were headed in the same direction as he -- east, and were at an 11:00 o'clock position. At that angle, evidently, the Colonel was not viewing the UFOs' true shape. Either that, or the objects in question were capable of changing their profiles because within minutes after being spotted one of the objects made a right turn and moved away, and when doing so, appeared as a long, gray, shape rather than a "ball." Its companion moved out of sight by picking up speed.

One might believe that the UFOs were weather balloons propelled by powerful wind currents, yet seven minutes later, Colonel Johnson was still flying at 290 mph on his flight to Georgia when the same, or similar, objects were again encountered! The object was ball-like and was flying parallel with his plane for five minutes. When he judged that the object was not changing in size, the Colonel figured the object was moving his own speed. He then sighted a second object approach the first one. Both object's flew in formation for about three minutes, and then the first object shot straight up followed by the second object after a delay of perhaps one second. It was remarked by Colonel Johnson:

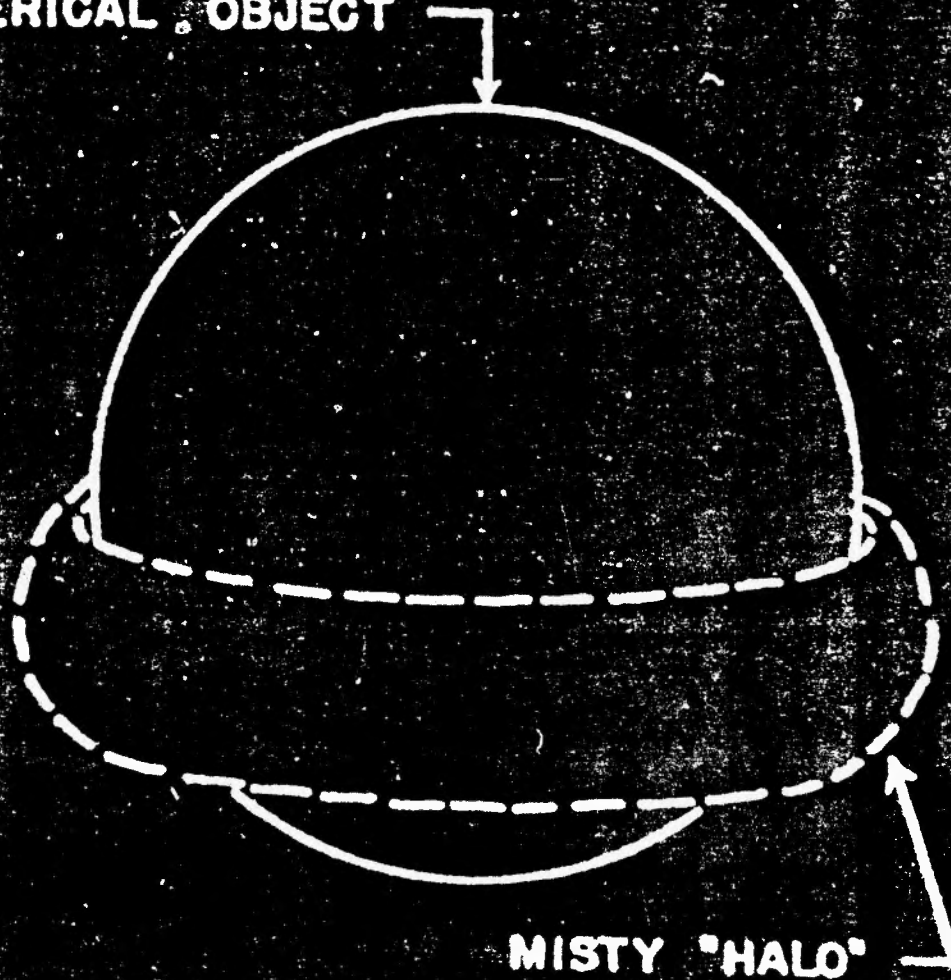
"The observed characteristics of these unidentified objects were such that would lead to no conclusion, however, their speed was so much greater than 290 mph Indicated Air Speed of the observer and the fact that they could so quickly disappear on two occasions led me to believe that their flight capabilities were greater than that of any aircraft known to be flying today." 249.

Someone with the initials "EY" scribbled on the report that the objects were in view too long to be balloons and that balloons would not maneuver in the manner described. 250.

"Misty halo."

At 5:40 p.m. August 24th the following was supposed to have happened at Tucson, Arizona. First seen hovering, and then seen shifting position in a wavering, dancing, motion, a strange object flew toward the west. Its appearance was described this way: "The lower one-third of the object appeared to be surrounded by a misty substance less brilliant than the object itself and the lower extremity of the sphere

SPHERICAL OBJECT



MISTY "HALO"

Object with "blue-white halo" seen over Tucson.

protruded below this 'halo.'" 251. The witness drew a picture which is reproduced on the next page.

"Blue-white halo."

Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but buried in a civilian UFO newsletter published in 1975 was an interesting story told by a professional pilot. He said that while flying over the south-central part of Colorado 10:15 p.m. one evening late in August 1952, he suddenly found himself on a collision course with a brilliant aerial body. Instead of hitting his plane, the object slowed and took up a pacing position about 100 feet off his right wing. At that distance and position he got a good look at the object: "It was oval-shaped, with a yellowish-green border. A thin, blue-white halo appeared to surround it. The huge, solid-looking UFO was estimated to be 75 feet in diameter and some 25 feet high." 252. The UFO held the pacing position for two minutes and then veered right and climbed out of sight at a 30 degree angle. The aircraft he was flying, DC-3, suffered from unexplained EM effects when the UFO was along side. The radio would not work, the plane's compass spun, and the other meter indicators swayed violently.

Two from Georgia.

It was completely dark by 8:30 p.m. at Robins AFB Georgia on August 24, 1952, when a 35 year-old teletype supervisor employed by the air base communication branch was walking to his car when he sighted a strange sky object speeding in a northeast direction. Immediately convinced the object was not something familiar, the man quickly obtained a 10-power binoculars and observed the suspicious shape for some five minutes. It was: "...spherical in shape, the vertical side hazy in outline, and the round end dark in color and distinct in outline. No light was seen on the vertical side, but a bright yellowish light was emitted from the lower end." 253.

An hour and a half later a UFO report came in from Atlanta where a woman noticed an elliptical-shaped object hovering low in the sky to the northwest of the city. It had a "fire-like" color and cast off white, spark-like, lights. 254.

"Inspecting Barksdale?"

Since three different persons at three different locations in the area, reported the same phenomenon, there is little doubt something odd appeared over Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, 10:00 p.m. local time on August 24th. When a strange, star-like, light zoomed around above the airfield for 45 minutes, one of the witnesses made an interesting suggestion. To him the UFO seemed to be: "...inspecting Barksdale Field from different angles." 255. The light's movements were listed in the military account. The UFO was first seen:

"...moving at a high rate of speed from west to east. Suddenly it stopped dead still and remained in one position for about two minutes, then it took off again going due north. It stopped again and just seem to hang in the air for about five minutes and began moving again, slowly this time, retracing its course and going south. It appeared that at times it was going back and forth over the same course, first north and south, then east and west. Then it would go in a circle or semi-circle as if it were making a turn, then it would stand or hang still for about five to ten minutes. Sometimes the speed was terrific and then again it just barely moved or stood still." 256.

August 25th.

Meanwhile, the DesVergers story exploded in still more headlines: "HARRIED SAUCER VIEWER RESTS UP AFTER," "SAUCER PROBE IS CONFIRMED BY AIR FORCE," "HAS BURNS TO PROVE HIS STORY," "FLYING SAUCER VICTIM WON'T REVEAL DETAILS," "SAUCER VICTIM STICKS

BY HIS GUNS," and "PUBLICITY AGENT WILL 'PROTECT' MAN AFTER 'SAUCER' INCIDENT."

In the face of this newspaper hype the Air Force kept saying: "no comment," and Deputy Sheriff Partin would only shake his head and exclaim: "I just don't know." 257. DesVergers would say nothing directly to the press and had his press agent answer any and all inquiries.

Those mysterious grass samples again.

Capt. Carney was following developments closely. He heard rumors that an attempt would be made to make DesVergers' story more appealing to potential buyers by claiming a farmer in the area had sent some grass samples to a laboratory in St. Louis to be analyzed and that this same farmer had received threatening phone calls from someone who didn't want the samples checked. A sinister black limo was said to have been seen cruising the roads near the farmer's home. Capt. Carney was wary of these wild rumors and suggested that it was all part of a publicity stunt. Ruppelt agreed with Capt. Carney and suspected the publicity agent was behind the rumors.

At ATIC the investigation of the DesVergers case continued. The scoutmaster's machete had arrived at ATIC's materials lab and Ruppelt wanted to know if the knife was magnetized, radioactive, or had been heated. Nothing unusual was found. 258.

Next there was DesVergers' cap. There was no doubt the headgear had been subjected to heat but did the scorches substantiate DesVergers' version of events? This was the result of lab tests:

"...Lt. R.W. Olsson contacted Major R. Harlan in the Clothing Research Division of the Medical Unit of Aero Med Lab. Purpose of the visit was to show Major Harlan the hat that had been worn by Mr. DesVergers and to determine some facts about the burned spots. Major Harlan examined the hat and determined that the three spots that were believed to be burns were burns, and that the part of the hat that appeared to be scorched was actually scorched. He stated that it would be possible for the hat to be scorched, but not burn the skin of the wearer since cotton burns at between 300 and 500 degrees F, at which time it starts to disintegrate and carbonize. From the scorching on the hat, it appeared that the heat was present for only a short time. Major Harlan believed that due to that short period of time, the skin could escape without suffering burns." 259.

Puzzling Pittsburg phantom.

Amid all the fuss over DesVergers came word of an alledged experience of a Mr. William Squires of Kansas. As the first details came in, it seemed that the Squires was simply taking his cue from the West Palm Beach case and was quickly dismissed out of hand, but it turned out that the Kansas case was much more complicated than it appeared to be at first glance.

Squires was supposed to have seen a low-hovering, platter-like craft that had a series of small propellers mounted on brackets encircling the object's middle. The "propellers" could well have been a tip off that the report was a hoax. Propellers just are not reported on UFOs. The possibility Squires was trying for headlines was the claim that he saw the "figure of a man" in a "window" on the craft. We will quote the Air Force report on the incident:

"At approximately 0550 hours, CST, on 25 August 1952. Squires left his home driving a 1952 Jeep Station Wagon and started driving south on a rough gravel road, known as Yale road. When he reached a point approximately one-fourth mile from US Highway 160, which runs east and west, he noted the unknown object off to the right side of the road at a horizontal angle of about 40 degrees and at a distance of about two hundred fifty

yards. He immediately started slowing down his car and continued to view the object through the right side of windshield. When he came to a point where object was visible through the right door glass and about 90 degrees to right of his vehicle, opened the door and stepped out on the road. At all times, he attempted to keep object in view. After he had stepped to side of road nearest the object, it began a rapid vertical ascent. Squyers estimated he viewed object for about one-half minute. At this time, Squyers estimated he was about one hundred yards from object. When object reached a height 'about as high as an airplane flies' object then increased acceleration at a tremendous rate and rapidly disappeared from view, straight up through broken clouds. Clouds did not obscure view of disappearing object at any time. Squyers described the object as platter-shaped; by this he said it looked like two platters or bowls had been put together by reversing one platter and placing it over the first one. He estimated it was about seventy-five feet long and forty feet wide and about fifteen feet through the mid-section, measuring vertically in center of object. Object was about ten feet above ground when first seen by Squyers and remained in this position until it started its rapid ascent after he stepped to the side of the road. The object was hovering about ten feet off the ground. Squyers then went on with a more detailed explanation of the object: It was of a dull aluminum color; smooth surface; one window in front section, with head and shoulders visible of one man sitting motionless facing forward edge of object, clear glass, light in forward section, medium blue continuous light. In the mid-section of object were several windows extending from top to near edge of object; mid-section of ship had a blue light which gradually changed to different shades. There was a large amount of activity and movement in the mid-section which could not be identified as being human as it did not have a regular pattern or movement such as mechanical objects would make; in the blue light. There were no windows, doors, portholes, vents, seams, etc., visible to observer in rear section of object or under the object (viewed at time of ascent). Another identifiable feature was that along the outer edge of object, there were a series of propellers about six inches to seven inches in diameter, spaced closely together, these propellers were mounted on a bracket so they revolved in a horizontal plane along the edge of the object. These propellers were revolving at a high rate.

"After stopping his car, Squyers turned off the ignition and when stepping out of his car, he heard a deep throbbing sound coming from object. When the object started its ascent it emitted a sound like a large covey of quail starting to fly at one time. There was no visible exhaust or color detected by viewer. There was only one object seen. Squyers described the weather as being warm, and the sky dotted with clouds. He does not recall wind at the time of sighting. Squyers said the sun was just rising as he was going to work that morning and it was light enough to see all objects in the area. Viewer cannot recall any airplanes, trains, or other vehicles in the area at the time of sighting. He stated that to his knowledge, he was the only person to view the object. Squyers stated he wanted to go to the area over which the object had hovered; however, he did not as the terrain was rough (ditch, fence, tall woods, etc.) and he has an artificial leg which prevents normal movement. Squyers said the grass was moving under the object when it was hovering." 260.

When Squyers arrived at work shortly thereafter, he told two others about his experience that morning. One of those he told was an Air Force lieutenant on inactive

reserve and the other person was a businessman who worked next door to Squyers. There is nothing in the official record that indicates the two men were close friends of Squyers. At 10:20 a.m. the morning of August 25th Squyers and the two men, whose names were deleted from the official file, were talked into returning to the site of the supposed saucer sighting. What these men recalled about the trip is contained in the following statements:

"...(deleted) stated that he walked directly to the area which Mr. Squyers described as being below the location at which the object was sighted, and noted that the weeds and grass in the area seemed to be 'pushed down' and twisted. Interviewed also (deleted) stated that he noted many small dead weeds that seemed to have been blown around in the area, and the broken weeds were found lying on top of some of the other growing weeds. (...deleted) stated that to him, this would indicate that there had been a strong wind blowing in the area. In looking at the broken weeds,...(deleted) detected that the weeds seemed to have a newly broken appearance which was substantiated by the fact that the inside of the broken weeds were still soft and had not dried out like a weed that had been broken for some period of time. ... (deleted) stated that he walked to various parts of the area and it seemed to him that there were less weeds pushed down in other parts of the field. ... (deleted) stated, however, that by walking from one end of the field to the other, and crossing through the area directly below the sighted object, a person would be unable to detect anything unusual about the area below the sighting unless one paid particular attention to this fact. ... (deleted) said that in his opinion, Mr. Squyers was a very reliable man whom he had known for a period of over four years..." 261.

Was Squyers imitating DesVergers? To complicate things something puzzling was reported not long after Squyers told his story at a place called Kutztown, a town in Pennsylvania, which makes one wonder if a Mr. Herbert Long was imitating Squyers? Here is the story as reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer:

"READING, Aug. 26 --Herbert Long, 29, a Kutztown Insurance salesman, reported seeing a flying saucer last night, 30 feet in front of his automobile off the Allentown pike near Maxatawny.

"Long, an Army Medical Corps veteran of the Second World War, said he was 'too darned scared to approach any closer.'

"In reporting his experiences to friends here today, Long said the large saucer-like object first appeared in front of his car about a mile off the Allentown pike on a macadam road near Maxatawny.

"It remained motionless above the earth for five minutes, he said, then 'taking off slowly it swished skyward with a tremendous burst of speed.'

"The Berks county man described the object as being 25 feet in diameter, resembling a 'large serving tray with a cover.'

"The saucer-like object also contained windows and portholes in the crown of the saucer, he said. Long said he observed 'some signs of activity or movement' within the object.

"Before the object took off, the salesman said, there appeared to be an 'antenna-like' object extending from the top of the dome or crown of the saucer.

"He said there was no evidence of a landing gear or wheels." 262.

The forementioned article had this interesting addition that may, or may not, support Mr. Long:

"Two Kutztown girls, Carol Hauch, 15, and Mary Kerr, 17, employed at a swimming pool there, said today they saw a flying saucer yesterday about 10:00 p. m. in the same vicinity as that seen by Long. They said they told no one about it at the time because they were afraid no one would believe them.

"The object remained in sight between five and ten minutes, the girls said. They described it as a flattened sphere, aluminum in-color, which made no noise as it hovered several hundred feet above the ground, but it gave a loud 'Whoosh!' when it took off and disappeared." 263.

The inevitable happens.

Lacking anything more in the way of evidence, the Long and Squyers accounts are destined to remain curiosities in our museum of odds and ends. It would take more ambitious yarns than those to make a lasting impression, and were not referring here to the DesVergers case of which we have more to say later.

George Adamski and George Hunt Williamson.

In Arizona at this time there existed a small band of UFO enthusiasts exceedingly anxious to learn more about the UFO mystery, for they had convinced themselves that the unknown aerial objects being reported were ships from the stars and the group hoped that a landing by one of the strange machines could be arranged so they could make contact with the pilots. Up to 1952 their efforts had met with failure. One of the members of the group was a Mr. George Hunt Williamson, an anthropologist whose speciality was the culture of the American Indian. According to Williamson, he had just been one of the many readers of Donald Keyhoe's best seller The Flying Saucers Are Real, fascinated and mystified, but having not a clue to what it all meant until something dawned on him. Because of us training, he was struck by the similarity of the "flying saucers" and the fiery wheels mentioned in Indian legends. These legends mentioned that when the "wheels" landed, out stepped a fair-haired young man, or God-like being. This was an interesting coincidence but Williamson did not make much of it during this period. Meanwhile, the group worked on the idea that UFOs had superior electronic communications therefore attempts were made to contact the aliens by radio. When that brought no results, the group dropped radio in favor of "direct telepathic" means, thus leading them into a metaphysical realm. 264. Needless to say, no contact was achieved by "mental radio" either.

In August, 1952, two members of the Arizona group, Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Bailey, traveled to Palomar Gardens, California, to meet with UFO lecturer and metaphysical teacher George Adamski. Since Adamski had often given talks in Arizona, it's no surprise the Baileys knew the Californian. Meeting with Adamski, the Baileys told him about their UFO group and how they had spent many hours in the desert with another couple, the George Hunt Williamsons, in the hope they could witness a UFO landing. Not long after the Baileys made another trip to California and brought along the Williamsons to meet Adamski. Apparently these people found in Adamski someone sympathetic to their cause, because it was decided that the next trek into the desert seeking contact with a UFO would be a joint expedition. 265. The foundation was laid for one of the most outlandish episodes in UFO history. In a couple of months they would "try their luck."

Keyhoe and UFO communication.

Speaking of making contact with UFOs, Donald Keyhoe asked Al Chop, the Air Force UFO press spokesman, about attempts to communicate with UFOs in a serious way rather than by blinking aircraft landing lights as some pilots had done. Keyhoe had already broached the question to Colonel Bowers and Capt. Ruppelt at the end of July and had been informed that nothing official had been tried. At the end of August, exasperated like everyone else over the lack of progress in determining the nature of UFOs, Keyhoe

again aired the communication possibility, approaching Chop with the suggestion that the military set up a special program of coded signals that would involve airline pilots. Chop, of course, could only shake his head at the idea since such a public scheme would imply official admission that UFOs were piloted machines. That only irked Keyhoe, who, out of frustration, gave vent to his long held belief that UFOs were from outer space and to his impatience with the Air Force's refusal to recognize the obvious fact of alien visitors. Chop countered with a reply every student of the UFO mystery should memorize: "Even if the evidence did indicate it, the Air Force would never admit it until they had absolute proof and knew all the answers." 266.

"I felt as though I was brushing the supernatural."

An hour after the supposed incident in Kansas, the Squyers case, a less publicized episode occurred on a lonely road in Rockdale township, Pennsylvania. This story was different from the usual run of UFO reports, conveying a mood rather than definite information. This might be considered a comment on the mental state of the public.

The experience was Managing Editor Frank Holowach's of the Titusville, Pennsylvania, Titusville Herald. Like Mr. Squyers, Holowach was motoring alone very early in the morning (4 a.m.) when he had a UFO experience. Holowach was traveling Route 408 before dawn August 25th when he noticed a bright, strange light just above the horizon. Before he could give it much attention, the light winked out. Shortly thereafter the light reappeared directly ahead. The newspaperman stopped his car, got out, and peered at the curious luminous dot which flickered as it wandered around in the sky above a ridge across the valley. Holowach swore he was being a matter-of-fact, objective observer true to his journalistic calling when inexplicably auto began to vibrate. There was no wind and no other reason for the shaking. Holowach stared at the mystery light which increased in brightness and appeared to send beams of light directly at him. As his skin began to crawl, Holowach forced himself to remember that the human imagination was a powerful thing, so he peeked out the corner of his eye at his car's radio antenna. The antenna was definitely moving back and forth. Glancing back at the light, Holowach got the creepy feeling that the light was pulling him like a big magnet. He felt like his hair would stand on end: "Somehow I felt as if I was going to disintegrate, disappear. Doesn't that light want anyone to watch it?" 267. Getting back into his auto and driving off at high speed, Holowach escaped from his disturbing encounter: "I haven't had such a crawly feeling since the night a big dog sneaked up on me when I was eight years old and was walking past a neighbor's home." 268.

August 26th.

The DesVergers case continued.

Capt. Ruppelt phoned Capt. Carney at West Palm Beach field and mentioned a list of certain questions he wanted answered concerning the DesVergers case. The results of the questions were to be forwarded to BLUE BOOK "as soon as possible." The questions were:

"a. Is Palm Beach County Airport used for night operations? Does the log show any landings on the night of 19 Aug 52 between 2100 and 2300? What were the exact times of the landings?

"b. What was the detailed weather at Palm Beach on the 19th between 1800 and 2400? Pay special attention to thunderstorms in the area and cloud cover. Were there any scud clouds or ground fog? Get temperature and humidity.

"c. A Capt. Zahn, Air Drome Officer on the 22 Aug., mentioned airmen on the

line seeing flares. Get complete story.

"d. Did or has the tower at West Palm Beach seen any flares in the area of the sighting? Get details.

"e. Did the boyscouts tell the police their story before they met ... (deleted?)? What did they say?

"f. Did the boyscouts tell their story to the people in the house? What did they say?

"g. At what locations in Florida are there Navy blimps stationed?

"h. Did the deputies smell any odor when they went in to find DesVerger's flashlight?

"i. Was there any indications that DesVerger's hat could have been burned before he went into the woods?" 269.

Police check Squyers' story.

Bill Squyers' saucer sighting received a good press locally in Kansas when he was interviewed by reporter Bob McKnight of the Nesosho Daily Democrat on August 26th. When Pittsburg police checked the site of the supposed saucer sighting they could not find any indication of any grass being disturbed but it was noted that an early morning rain might have erased traces. Besides, as Squyers pointed out, the police never bothered to get out of their patrolcar but instead merely scanned the visually from the road. 270.

UFO activity on the 26th.

The only puzzling UFO news of the 26th occurred very early at 1:18 a.m. Witnessed by three airmen of the 149th AC&W squadron, Ellington AFB, Houston, Texas. Not only are the movements described of a "classic" UFO type, the report itself fits our north-to-south shift theory quite well, taking place late at night and at a location in the lower half of the U.S. All three accounts of the UFO are similar. Here airman Richard Rains gives us his impression:

"I was with PFC Sues outside the orderly room of the 149th AC&W Squadron when this thing passed nearly overhead. It was round, appearing slightly larger than Jupiter, and was much brighter, although a lot more yellow. It moved at first as a meteor, very fast from south to northerly direction. There was no apparent means of propulsion, no sound was heard and no features or characteristics of modern aircraft were visible. It traveled at a terrific speed, until almost over us, then slowed almost to a stop. It then stented [sic] a pattern of accelerating at a terrific rate, slowing almost to a halt and then shooting off at angles almost perpendicular to its original south to north course. Although it was shooting at angles, it tended to keep its same northerly direction. It continued this course for some time, and as it appeared to be moving directly away from us, I still noticed its zig zag course and marveled at the tremendous distance it would be travelling with each zig zag, if it were as high as it appeared. It then ascended and began a blinking on and off at about 2 second intervals. We counted aloud to check the intervals. Instead of going passed the horizon like a meteor or shooting star, it continued [sic] to ascend, finally fading from sight." 271.

August 27th.

Down Mexico way at 2:15 a.m. August 27th a neon blue-green elongated body passed

over Veracruz. People in the streets told the newspaper El Dictamen the "plato volador" took eight seconds to cross the sky from the northeast to the southeast. The press clipping was forwarded to the U.S. Air Force by the American Consulate at Veracruz in compliance with a Foreign Service order (Embassy Series II Circular No. 453, dated March 15, 1950), that requested the transmittal of items concerning the subject of "flying saucers." 272.

That same morning a bright sphere moved in circles over the city of Madero, Mexico; the seacoast; and some local petroleum installations. After a while it shot away in a straight line toward the north. 273.

Doubts about DesVergers grow.

A number of days after DesVergers' "encounter," his boyscout troop had one of its regular meetings which was attended by many of youngsters' parents. Quite Unexpectedly, DesVergers suddenly announced that he was willing to answer any questions anyone might have about his recent experience. This was unexpected because apparently there had been no special interest shown by those present. After a short awkward silence, someone did venture a question which DesVergers then refused to answer because, as he put it, of a "secrecy agreement" with the military, adding that a full disclosure of what he knew would "create a panic," however he did mention a few things about some other incidents that he felt would intrigue his listeners. The gentleman representing the troop's sponsor thought DesVergers' behavior rather odd and the incident reminded him that DesVergers had earlier told a tall story about how his son was so physically and mentally precocious, which was obviously not true, a boasting that exceeded normal fatherly pride. This latest episode seemed to confirm his earlier opinion that DesVergers was a strange fellow. 274.

Meanwhile, back in Washington.

In Washington Donald Keyhoe noted that the Bill Squyers "space ship" story was being met with more ridicule than the DesVergers incident. This may have puzzled Keyhoe a bit but he was not up on the investigations and did not know how the two cases differed. The jury was still out on DesVergers, whereas in Squyers case there was little more that could be done (At least the ATIC felt that way and sent no one to Kansas), so in effect the file on it was a closed one. Nosing around the Pentagon Keyhoe found old UFO hand Lt. Col. Searles who expressed amusement at Keyhoe's interest in the Squyers incident. Al Chop, as press spokesman, was more diplomatic, saying that the Squyers was listed as unexplained but no investigation was planned. 275.

The UFO situation on August 27th.

An exception to the general trend of reports being made in the southern U.S. at this time was a sighting at Mc Donald, Manitoba, in Canada:

"Two meteorological officers saw a disc 'well below' 5,000 feet over Mc Donald Airport. The UFO circled the field twice and, when struck by the airport's rotating beacon, 'glinted like shiny aluminum' and disappeared toward the north east within a second." 276.

No time of day is available for the above case although it is assumed the incident was a night time event. The next case is more in keeping with our night time, southern shift, theory.

Training over Alabama.

When Air Force Captain Fisher took a student pilot aloft in a two-seat F-51 to teach aerial combat the night of August 27th, he learned a thing or two himself. The Captain

was an instructor for the 3613th Pilot Training Wing stationed at Craig AFB, Alabama. At about 8:13 p.m. that evening his training plane was at 7,000 feet over Meridan, Mississippi, flying at a speed of 200 mph and on a course of 120 degrees. The flight was proceeding as scheduled when a pale green light became visible above and to the right at 10,000 feet on a western heading moving at great speed. The light was in sight for about ten seconds before it vanished. 277. This was later believed to have been a precursor to the appearance of a second mystery light seen at 8:43 p.m. by a number of members of the Pilot Training Wing flying above Birmingham, Alabama. Flickering irregularly, this light was a pale blue color and zoomed around in the sky with "tremendous speed," a velocity observers estimated was four or five times the speed of F-51 aircraft. Originally in a large counter-clockwise orbit around the city of Birmingham, the light now went into a spiral climb. Because of the light's superior speed, the F-51 pilots flying in the area, who had the light under observation, could not turn with the UFO or make an intercept. It certainly would have been good combat training if the F-51s had capabilities matching the light's 278.

Arizona, Texas, and California.

Later that evening, two blue-colored, brilliantly-lit blobs were visible over Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona, at 9:15 p.m. MST. The blobs moved in an erratic fashion. Military observers made an official report about the appearance (Civilians in downtown Tucson also saw the phenomenon.) of the strange sky objects. One object kept to a general southeasterly course but the other object (there were two) behaved in a more interesting manner:

"Twice during the observation object #2 increased its speed and seemed to emit a 'tail or trailed an unknown substance,' less dense in appearance than the object, with a complete absence of the blue coloring noted in the object. This tail or trail disappeared as the speed diminished." 279.

Moreover:

"Object #2 seemed to hover for about six or seven minutes, then travel at a slow rate of speed in a southeasterly direction for about three to four minutes, then picked up speed and shot of sight with the speed of a meteor in a due east direction." 280.

Two more.

There isn't much to recommend the next two cases other than that they happen to "fit the pattern" which is that they occurred at night at places in the lower half of the U.S. as well as having an orange coloration which seems to be a common UFO hue and a color not used by aircraft.

The first case concerns a civilian observation of two orange objects moving at "jet speed" over Dallas, Texas, at 10:15 p.m. August 27th. The two objects were going south to north, one behind the other. 281.

The second case occurred at midnight over 10 hours earlier when some persons in Sacramento, California, had just left a movie theater and were walking to their car when they sighted high up in the night sky a trio of orange-colored objects flying south to north in "V"-formation. 282.

August 28th.

"I saw it! I swear I saw it!"

The Wellington, Ohio, Star began receiving phone calls from citizens about midnight and for 20 minutes thereafter, describing a strange "something" hovering over a certain section of the town. None of the calls seemed to connected with each other so the staff of the Star were not inclined to blame the excitement on a hoax. Finally

events took a dramatic turn when a Mr. Gabriel Durocher telephoned at 12:20 a.m. In a shaking voice Durocher asked that a Star reporter come immediately to an open field where he would be waiting. In light of the other phone calls, the Star sent a man to the location indicated and this is what then happened:

"Durocher was found a few blocks from the field. His eyes were as large as saucers, his hands shook and he kept repeating: 'I saw it. I swear I saw it.'"

"He was asked exactly what he had seen.

"'It was a big round thing,' he replied. 'In my opinion it was about 30 feet in diameter and it had a dome on it that was about 20 feet.'"

"'I've read all this stuff in the papers about saucers and I always said it was bunk. But not now. I saw it with my own eyes.'"

"'I was walking home along Wellington (to the west) when I saw this thing out in the field,' Durocher continued.

"'I didn't really believe it when I first saw it. but when I looked again it was there all right.'"

"'I ran up this path across the field. It was as plain as day. It was sort of blue all over...[two words not readable]like phosphorus.'"

"'When I got close --only about 30 feet away --I started yelling at it.'"

"'Then I saw these sparks come out one part of the side. They were blue and yellow and red. The saucer started spinning and there was a sort of a blue mist formed under it and it went straight up and away.'"

"'It was the most amazing thing I ever saw in my life. It was right out there in this field. There should be some sort of marks.'"

"'A serach of the field disclosed little in the darkness. Durocher pointed out the spot on which the 'saucer' had landed and indicated a few crushed bushes.

"'It was right around here,' he stated. 'I know it was. I saw it.'"

"'There could be little doubt his excitement and shaking were genuine and his story appeared to be.

"'He had not had a drop to drink, he said, and had not been seeing things." 283.

If Durocher had been right next to the saucer and one of the red sparks had hit him causing burns, we would have another DerVergers incident. Were Durocher and DerVergers telling the truth? There is no indication in Air Force files that BLUE BOOK sent anyone to investigate the Durocher report. This may have been another major oversight by the Ruppelt group.

Another Barksdale case.

Two and a half hours later there was a sighting of a "comet" over Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, by an Air Policeman manning a guard post. A/2C Jack Jones on the Flight Line guarding planes parked there observed the following:

"This comet or object moved at a terrific rate of speed in a direction from north to south. The 'star-like' light suddenly stopped in flight and hovered in a stationary position for a few seconds and then disappeared as though an electric light had been switched off." 284.

There is a strong temptation to dismiss the report as a meteor but another sighting the following night at about the same time makes the incident very odd.

Atlanta.

Another report early that morning (time not available) lends more credence to the idea something strange was taking place in the skies over Dixie:

"Six Atlanta policemen reported seeing a 'red, white and blue' flying saucer over the city early today.

"Patrolman M.J. Spears related: 'It was a bright color for a few minutes, and then it would turn red, white, green and blue. Ever so often it would move up and down. You couldn't tell exactly what shape it was, but it turned a flip a couple of times.'

"Spears said he and his partner, Patrolman A.L. Elsberry, talked to four other officers who saw the saucers."

Word from Europe.

There exists a brief reference to a couple of European cases dated August 28th but they cannot be documented adequately and need to be followed up. They are referred to here in the hope that details can be obtained eventually by an objective researcher. Our source mentions that a UFO at a high altitude over Denham, England, at 3:00 p.m. was seen in the: "...act of releasing three satellite discs which fly[sic] off in different directions. Same or similar object seen over Sweden, a few hours later, also releasing satellite which flew off at terrific speed." 286.

The DesVergers case, a question of flares.

Of greater import that afternoon of the 28th, however, was the continued investigation of the sensational DesVergers story by BLUE BOOK. The military was routinely conducting business of checking out every angle even though there were feelings by the Ruppelt people the scoutmaster was pulling their leg. Ruppelt's right hand man, Lt. R.H. Olsson, spent the afternoon seeking advice on the scorches that were found on DesVergers' cap. He reported:

"I went to the Flare and Signal Branch in Building 156 and talked to Lt. Berger and several others concerning the possibility of DesVergers' hat and arms being burned by a flare.

"From the pictures of the scorched hat they gave the opinion that a flare could have done the job. Small molten particles drop off from flares as they pass through the air and could have caused the 3 pinhole burns in the cap. The scorch on the brim was harder to explain, but Lt. Berger said that one passing just over his head might have given the iron-scorch effect.

"There are 2 types of flares generally used, all shot from a Very Pistol, 1-parachute type 2-non-parachute type. The hand flare without the pistol is also used. Red, white and blue are the colors, with red used the most. The flares burn at an intense heat 1,000 F and upwards and can burn the skin badly. It seems likely that if a flare was used in the incident at West Palm, a fire would have started in the dry grass. No evidence of a fire was present down there as far as we could see.*

"I told Berger and the other flare experts the whole DesVergers story and they were interested, particularly in the slow-moving red ball of fire shot at him. They said a parachute flare floating down could cause this illusion. Arching from the nearby high tension wires was mentioned as a possibility also. (A flare usually burns all the way to the ground.)

*Note that the lieutenant was one of those who searched the site with Ruppelt and here he is on record as stating that there was no burned areas at the location.

The site of the DesVergers' encounter was approximately 12 miles southwest of the West Palm Beach business district on South Military trail and about 1/4 mile to the south of Lantana road.

"A significant fact lies in the fact that the parachute flare cannister smelled of rotten eggs immediately after it was shot off and this smell lingered in the cannister for 2 hours afterward. There was too much wind to establish if the smell was in the area of the firing." 287.

Alabama again.

Before the sun set on the 28th there was a series of odd lights seen in the sky over Brookly AFB, Alabama, around 9:30 p.m. The lights were flickering red, blue, and green which might indicate a connection with similarly colored lights seen over the city of Atlanta earlier that day. It would be hard to pin down the lights as true UFOs, although there was no aircraft in the air at the time. Many observers, both military and civilian, were fascinated by the glowing points even though nothing was seen clearly and no startling movements noted. 288.

Barksdale again.

In the same region, at Barksdale AFB, a repeat sighting at about the same time as one the day before, took place in the early morning sky which excited Air Policeman Jack Jones at his guard post on the Flight Line. He had sighted something similar the night before. Was there a connection? This latest manifestation surpassed the previous one in strangeness:

"...an object or light moving southwest to southeast position at an extremely high speed. When southeast of the Barksdale landing strip, the light suddenly stopped without first dimishing its speed. After a few seconds of 'bobbing,' the light became stationary and gradually turned to a red glow, then green, again red, and finally white. It appeared to be approximately the size of a silver dollar. The edges were cleanly defined without fuzziness. Weather clear, vision unlimited." 289.

August 29th.

On an official level, in Washington D.C. the Air Force's Strategic Air Command felt it necessary to issue a cautionary letter to Hoover's FBI informing the Bureau that UFO information must be "furnished promptly" to the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations local units and to attempt field investigations. There were no more details but it indicates a continuing problem between the two agencies. 290.

The Washington D.C. targets --an answer?

At ATIC the military experts were tackling the difficult task of providing a conclusion to the now famous Washington D.C. radar cases of July, 1952. Major John Libbert, Chief, Electronic Branch, Technical Analysis Division, gave his official opinion on the case in a document forwarded to Ruppelt on August 29th. The critical part is the opening section. It is clearly stated in paragraph number two that the anomalous propagation explanation was dependent on the "general tone or tone" of known data (One might say that if the Air Force was allowed to choose, they were going to choose "negative assumptions," and not make any "positive ones.").

It is significant that Major Libbert titled his paper a "discussion" instead of a "explanation" of the case. Here is what he wrote:

"A study of the various reports regarding the subject radar sightings do not allow a positive and final explanation to be made. This is a characteristic of practically all radar reports of unidentified and/or unconventional targets. As usual, the factual and scientific data necessary for analysis is not available. However, the information available, together with weather data, does allow a plausible explanation as to the possible cause of the unidentified

targets.

"The general trend or tone of the available reports of the subject targets indicate a possible anomalous(bending)propagation(temperature inversion and/or moisture lapse) effect on the radiated electromagnetic waves of the radar sets, thereby allowing detection of ground targets which are not normally seen. Excerpts from available reports which indicate the possibility of detection of ground targets due to mild conditions of anomalous propagation effects are as follows:

- "a. 'Sporadic.'
- b. 'Intermittent.'
- c. 'Capable of dropping out of the pattern at will.'
- d. 'Creeping appearance.'
- e. 'Just disappeared from scope.'
- f. 'Solid.'
- g. 'Unidentified targets have been picked up from time to time over the past few months, but never before were there so many as were experienced on the nights of 19/20 and 26/27 July 52.'
- h. 'The lengths of time that targets appeared and the time of day, 0005 to 0530 EST (20 July 52) and 2050 to 0000 EST (26 July 52), both indicate a favorable characteristic of anomalous propagation.'
- i. 'Reported "formation" of targets could be due to the fact that prominent ground targets, such as power poles, buildings, etc., are usually grouped in some regular pattern and would maintain this grouping on the radar indicator.'" 291.

Major Libbert then listed the data he used:

"Weather data is available during time of subject radar sighting for the 26th only. This data, taken at 2200 EST, is as follows:

<u>"Altitude</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	<u>Moisture</u>
(Thousands of ft.)	Degrees Centigrade.	Lapse Rate.
0	25.2	(Fairly constant
800 ft.	26.3	up to 3,000 ft.)
1	25.9	
2	23.1	
3	20.4	(Increased rate
3,200	19.5	between 4,500 and
4	20.4	4,000 ft.)
5	19.1	(Rapid increase
6	17.0	between 4,500 and
7	15.1	7,500 ft.)
8	13.2	(Above 7,500 ft
9	11.1	moisture constant
10	9.5	was <u>too</u> small to be
11	7.9	measured.)
12	6.4	
13	4.3	
14	2.0	
15	0.0	
16	-2.2	
17	-4.6	
18	-6.2	

19	-7.2
20	-11.2
21	-13.5
22	-15.5
23	-17.0
24	-18.3
25	-19.8
26	-25.6
27	-27.8
28	-30.0
29	-32.1
30	-33.9

"The above data indicates slight temperature inversions at 800 feet and at 4,000 feet altitude. Moisture conditions at these altitudes also appear to be somewhat favorable to anomalous propagation...

"There are several factors, given above, which are favorable for concluding that the subject radar targets were actually ground targets which are not normally detected. It is considered that an abnormal propagation condition caused a mild bending of the radar waves so that detection of ground targets were not giving 'solid' returns for every antenna sweep and thereby would cause a misinterpretation that stationary ground targets were in motion." 292.

We must have learned much more about radar since 1952; yet apparently no expert has done much to re-examine the Washington D.C. targets with the exception of the University of Colorado study under the direction of Dr. E.U. Condon, a study that tried to argument the information available in December of 1966 but the attempt: "...brought little or no new information to light." 293.

Digging around we find that UFO researcher Dr. James E. McDonald contested Major Libbert's assertion that weather data for July 19th was not available. Dr. McDonald claims that data he found for the 19th was not conducive to anomalous propagation. The professor also took issue with the Air Force's glossing over of the visual reports made on the nights in question. 294.

Villacublay and Lake Charles.

Both the next cases took place at the same time of the evening but in different parts of the world. The first is actually a double sighting. At 7:20 p.m. two women were driving near Lake Charles, Louisiana, when they sighted something odd:

"It was elliptically shaped and bore two very bright white lights. The object hovered for about 3 seconds, then shot off due east over Lake Charles Air Force Base at a tremendous speed, calculated to be approximately 1,000 miles an hour. Mrs. ... (deleted) was driving, and after the object had disappeared, Mrs. ... (deleted) looked back about 5 seconds later and observed a bright streak of red light moving in the same direction, along the same path, and at the same speed as the object first sighted. Mrs. Hale did not observe this last one. Size of the object was undetermined due to darkness. No aerodynamic features, trail or exhaust, or system of propulsion were apparent. No sound was heard. Altitude estimated to be approximately 2,000 feet. Mrs. ... (deleted) is the Credit Manager of Newstandt's Shoe Store, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Mrs. ... (deleted) is a housewife. There was no wind and the sky was very clear." 295.

That there was indeed something in the air over Louisiana is indicated by yet another sighting at a town nearby:

"At approximately 1930 hours, 29 August 1952, Mrs. ... (deleted) was working in her back yard at Moss Bluff, Louisiana, when she heard her dog bark. She looked up and saw an object of the selfsame description as that given above, except that it was not traveling at an excessive speed. Rather, it drifted slowly towards the earth, as if it were an airplane landing. An intensely bright white light cast a powerful beam towards the earth, such as an automobile headlight might do. The object drifted towards her home, and seemed to land in a patch of pine trees directly in the rear of the Hamchey house. Mr. Hamchey ventured out to investigate, but could find nothing. There was no sound, trail or exhaust, nor system of propulsion apparent." 296.

Villacoublay.

The following information was taken from a log kept at a French meteorological station at the French city of Villacoublay. A series of UFO sightings began August 29th at 7:30 p.m. as two of the French military weather observers were watching the daylight dim into the darkness of night, the fading rays of sun below the horizon giving way to blackness and the emergence of the more brilliant stars. One of the weather men told investigators: "Our attention was suddenly attracted by the emergence, sector east, of a bright light of a markedly blue color. This light was traveling on an irregular course and proceeding by jerks." 297. Amazed the two men called to the four other weather observers on the platform to come and see the phenomenon, which, as luck would have it, was proceeding slowly enough to summon the others and to bring station's theodolite to bear. The time was 7:50 p.m. As the light crept toward the northwest, the witnesses were able study it through their optical instrument: "...it looked like a luminous bar, white-hot, edged with black and accompanied by two bluish trails perpendicular to the bar itself. These trails may have been due to distortion by the lenses of the theodolite." 298. When the light reached a point almost directly overhead, it halted its progress and held still, allowing an even better look:

"Having reached this point, the light seemed to increase in altitude, its image contractacting in the eye-piece of the theodolite. On defocussing the lens, we obtained a blurred image: a violet disc surrounded by circles of much brighter green. After 8 p.m. we also noted the presence of a bright green spot, contrasting vividly with the bright blue of the light." 299.

Unaware of the UFO show, another military weather observer walked up to the group of witnesses, and before anyone mentioned the strange light high up, this newcomer suddenly noticed something himself, a bright red glowing body that was dropping down out of the dark sky. Now everyone turned their attention away from the first UFO so they could study the second one which had braked to a stop, enabling them to examine it with the theodolite also: "In the eye-piece of the theodolite this light appeared to be a perfect circle, whitish yellow in color, and accompanied by irregular trails which seemed to spurt out from the disc. Cadet D-- said that they seemed to 'twist like a whiplash.'" 300. After hanging motionless in the eastern sky for a while, the light sped away at 9:45 p.m. As it receded its image left a "diffused aureole" which the weathermen attributed to high thin cirrus clouds.

At 9:47 p.m. another object/light(?) was observed at an elevation of 6 degrees where it rested as if glued to the background of stars.

About an hour later, at 10:45 p.m., an unexplained light appeared which was stationary when first noticed but later was seen to shift slowly. The men viewing this

particular phenomenon became convinced it was not an airliner. Checking it with the theodolite, the light, although blinking, did not have the appearance of an aircraft: "...it looked like a spot of bright red, which changed to yellow and then to green." 301.

While switching their attention from one light to another, contact was lost with all the UFOs with the exception of the very first object observed, which was parked at the zenith all this time and continued to be visible right up to midnight when the men ended their vigil. 302.

A closer look?

A gentleman in the U.S. also got a peek at some multi-colored phenomena that night, but since he was flying an airplane he got a closer look. A civilian Air Patrol pilot with 1500 hours flying time filed a UFO report with the Air Force concerning a sighting in the night sky over the countryside near Colorado Springs. The report was not completely documented so we only have the text of the military teletype message which reads:

"THREE ROUND OBJECTS, 50 FT IN DIAMETER BY 10 FT HIGH, FLYING IN TRAIL FORMATION. OBJECTS ALUMINUM IN COLOR WITH REDDISH YELLOW EXHAUST. NO SOUND HEARD. SPEED EST 1500 MPH. OBJECTS PASSED IN FRONT OF MOON ON A SOUTH EASTERLY COURSE, THEN WENT STRAIGHT UP AND DISAPPEARED. 29/2335Z FOR 4-5 SECONDS. VISUAL. COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. OBJECTS WERE SIGHTED SOUTH AT 5000 FT TRAVELING SE." 303.

The UFO situation at the end of August.

Record amounts of UFO reports were still coming in to Air Force Intelligence during the month of August with 175 tallied by BLUE BOOK, although that number was quite a bit lower than the total for the month of July of some 500. The usual, or "normal," number received by Ruppelt at ATIC, Wight Field, was about 25 a month, thus while the UFO wave of 1952 was in a decline, it still had some strength left. 304.

August 30th.

The American Embassy in Mexico City forwarded information to the U.S. Air Force concerning the latest UFO activity in Mexico:

"The 31 August clipping from the newspaper El Mundo, attached to Mr. Crockett's letter (Inclosure N.2) may be briefly summarized as follows: Numerous persons residing in the river area of Tampico as well as businessmen, stevedores, etc. reported they observed a flying disc about 1500 hours on August 30 to the north over the center of the city. They stated the disc appeared to be from 6 to 8 meters in diameter although because of the tremendous distance from the earth it may have been much larger, silver in color, and concave oval rather than round in shape. No sparks were seen flying from it as it revolved. The disc remained for about five minutes and then disappeared at a dazzling speed towards the north, flying so rapid that it had vanished by the time one of the observers had reached the roof of his house." 305.

The DesVergers case and "one more trip south."

The DesVergers case, which had such a sensational beginning, began to lose its credibility toward the end of August with the revelation of the scoutmaster's background and the antics of the man's press agent. Ruppelt was quite prepared to reject the authenticity of the Florida incident on circumstantial evidence. He felt he only had to make one more trip to West Palm Beach to check out some details which he expected to confirm his suspicions, however some surprises lay ahead.

The United States Air Force Air Intelligence Digest, August, 1952.

Two selected excerpts from an article on UFOs by E.J. Ruppelt.

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

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

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

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

"The above theory, however, runs into one big stumbling block. If these objects are weapons or advanced types of aircraft, they are of necessity, man-made. How is it then possible that, in the four years that the USAF has been studying UAOs, not one has crashed? Man-made devices are not infallible."

A second excerpt of interest states:

"It is possible that some of the unidentified objects may be space ships from another planet. The idea of space travel is no longer the fantastic subject it was in the years before World War II. In the USAF's study of unidentified objects, space ships have been given serious consideration.

"Although we do not know what a space ship from another planet will look like, we do know approximately what a space ship built on Earth will look like.

"Willy Ley, the rocket expert, says the ship will look like a large rocket -- like a V-2, but taller. Its height will be 10 to 12 times its largest diameter. It will have short wings, placed far back. The wings will be either sharply swept back, or will have a delta configuration. Such a ship will have an atomic power plant. Thrust for take-off will be provided by a chemical booster, to avoid making the take-off area radioactive, and the atomic power will be used shortly afterward.

"However, a transport from another planet might have the shape of a sphere, or a disc. For travel through the Earth's atmosphere, the sphere would not be nearly as efficient as a thin disc. The sphere could have tremendous strength but its aerodynamic characteristics would not match those of the disc. In the vacuum of outer space, however, the shape of a space ship would not affect its flight at all.

"If the unidentified objects are space ships from outside the Earth's orbit,

the strange behavior of some of them (hovering, flying in jerky burst of speed, changing direction at high speed, spinning and accelerating suddenly to high speeds) can be explained only by 1) a source of power unknown to Earthlings; 2) materials possessing greater strength and greater ability to resist heat than any now known on Earth; 3) physically superior beings or robots capable of withstanding enormous G forces--or; 4) new, radical means of overcoming or screening gravity."

Special Report on Conferences with Astronomers on Unidentified Aerial Objects to Air Technical Intelligence Center Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. By J. Allen Hynek. August 6, 1952.

Two selected excerpts.

First excerpt:

"This special report was prepared to describe the results of a series of conferences with astronomers during and following a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Victoria, B.C., in June, 1952. It recounts personal opinions of a large number of professionally trained astronomical observers regarding unidentified aerial objects. In addition, it reports sightings by five professional astronomers that were not explainable by them. Representing the opinions of highly trained scientists, these comments should prove particularly helpful in assessing the present status of our knowledge of unknown objects in the skies.

"Purpose of Interviews.

"The desirability has been established of inquiring of professionally trained astronomers of considerable scientific background as to whether they had ever made sightings of unidentified aerial objects. At the same time, it is felt that it would be profitable to obtain the informal opinions and advice of high-ranking astronomers on the entire subject of unidentified aerial objects, of the manner in which the investigation of these objects was being conducted by the Air Force, and of their own inner feelings about the possibility that such objects were real and might constitute either a threat to national security or new natural phenomena worthy of scientific investigation.

"Accordingly it was planned that a tour would be made of several of the nation's observatories, not in the guise of an official investigator, but rather as an astronomer traveling about to discuss scientific problems. It was felt that this mild deception was necessary, that an artificial barrier to communication might not be set up which would invalidate the assumption that truly representative opinions were being obtained. Therefore, to maintain good faith the names of the astronomers interviewed are withheld from this report.

"In all, 45 astronomers were interviewed, nearly always individually except in a few cases where this was impossible. Eight observatories were visited and the National Meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Victoria, British Columbia, was attended on June 25 to June 28. "

Second excerpt:

"It is interesting to remark upon the attitude of the astronomers interviewed. The great majority were neither hostile nor overly interested; they gave one the general feeling that all flying saucer reports could be explained as misrepresentations of well-known objects and that there was nothing intrinsic in the situation to cause concern. I took the time to talk rather seriously with a few of them, and to acquaint them with the fact that some of the sightings were truly puzzling and not at all easily explainable. Their interest was almost immediately aroused, indicating that their general lethargy is due to lack of information on the subject. And certainly another contributing factor to their desire not to talk about

these things is their overwhelming fear of publicity. One headline in the nation's papers to the effect that 'Astronomer Sees Flying Saucer' would be enough to brand the astronomer as questionable among his colleagues. Since I was able to talk with the men in confidence, I was able to gather very much more of their inner thoughts on the subject than a reporter or an interrogator would have been able to do. Actually hostility is rare; concern with their own immediate scientific problems is too great. There seems to be no convenient method by which to attack this problem, and most astronomers do not wish to become involved, not only because of the danger of publicity but because the data seem tenuous and unreliable.

"Therefore, it is my considered recommendation that the following procedure be adopted by the Air Force.

"First, the problem of unidentified aerial objects should be given the status of a scientific problem. In any scientific problem, the data are gathered with meticulous care and are weighed and considered, without rush, by entirely competent men. Therefore, it is proposed that some reputable group of scientists be asked to examine recent sightings which have already gone through one or two screenings. If this group becomes convinced that the data are worthy of being treated as a scientific problem, that is, that the sightings are valid and that unexplained phenomena really do exist, then they should be asked to vouch that these data are 'worthy of being admitted into court.' Armed with this scientific opinion, various scientific societies should be approached. The American Physical Society, the American Astronomical Society, and the Optical Society of America are suggested, in particular. These Societies should be asked, in view of the validity of the data, to appoint one or more members to constitute a panel to advise ATIC and perhaps to direct the necessary researches into the phenomena. This would serve not only to work toward an ultimate solution of the problem, but in the meantime would lend dignity to the project.

"In short, either the phenomena which have been observed are worthy of scientific attention or they are not. If they are, then the entire problem should be treated scientifically and without fanfare. It is presumed that the scientific panel would work with the full knowledge and cooperation of the general contractor, but would not be bound by secrecy, which would tend to hamper their work. It is possible that this panel might be a panel in the RDB, similar to those in geodesy, infrared, or upper atmospheric research.

"In the meantime, it is recommended that the Air Force approach the Joint Chiefs of Staff for endorsement of a considered statement of philosophy and policy for presentation to the public press. There is much confusion in the public mind as to what is being done about the situation, and a great deal of needless criticism is being directed toward the Air Forces for 'trying to cover up' or 'dismissing the whole thing.' The considered statement to the public press that the problem is being considered as a scientific one and is being referred to competent scientists in various fields should do a very great deal in satisfying the public clamour.

"It may be, of course, that this proposal will not get beyond the first step. The scientist, or scientists, who examine the carefully screened evidence may decide there still is not enough evidence to admit the problem into the court of scientific appeal. Personally, I hardly think that this will be the case, since the number of truly puzzling incidents is now impressive.

"The second stage may be a long one. The first effort should be to determine with great accuracy what the phenomena to be explained really are and to establish their reality beyond all question.

"Third stage would be the eventual publication of the findings of the scientific panel. This might take the form of a progress report. If, for instance, the scientific chase is led into a detailed examination of atmospheric optics, one can envision, perhaps, many years of work. This, however, is the price one pays for a truly scientific investigation.

"One final item is that the flying-saucer sightings have not died down, as was confidently predicted some years ago when the first deluge of sightings was regarded as mass hysteria. Unless the problem is attacked scientifically, we can look forward to periodic recurrences of flying-saucer reports. It appears, indeed, that the flying saucer along with the automobile is here to stay, and if we can't shoo it away, we must try to understand it."

Was the Salem UFO picture genuine?

A young Coastguardsman by the name of Shell Alpert took a picture of four bright lights in the sky near a power house adjacent to the Coast Guard station at Salem, Massachusetts. The lights were photographed through a window at the station at 9:35 a.m. on July 16, 1952.

The Air Force learned about the picture after the Coast Guard commanding officer released a print to a local newspaper, the Salem News. The picture quickly appeared on national newswires.

Another print was flown to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington D.C. Ruppelt had obtained a print before the General Samford press Conference but told the press on July 30th that he really wanted the negative which was still in the custody of the Coast Guard, although he said it was his impression that the Salem picture was a fake since the "...alleged saucers appeared to have been painted in...[because] their somewhat irregular, wavy edges indicate as much." 1.

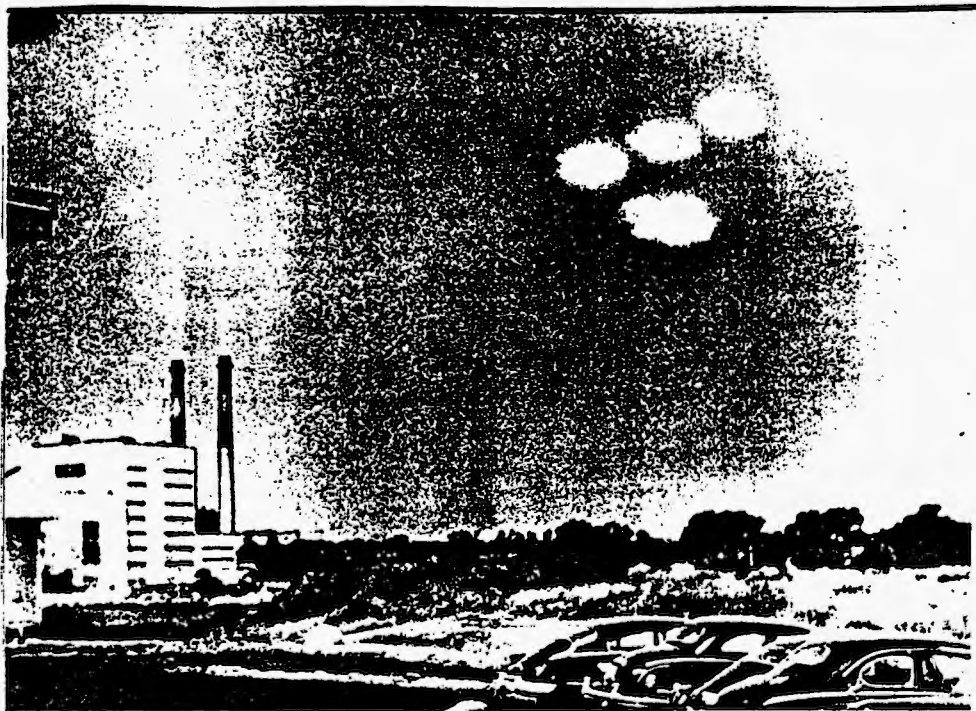
The negative was obtained from the Coast Guard with considerable speed and was analyzed by ATIC labs on August 1, 1952 (The Coast Guard insisted that the negative be returned and the Air Force complied after completing its tests). The initial official evaluation labeled the picture a hoax, a deliberate double exposure.

The first official explanation, however, was subsequently disavowed after another investigation in October 1963. According to the Air Force report, it was determined that the photograph represented light reflections from a source inside the Coast Guard station, the interior source "probably" ceiling lights. 2. Nothing was said, however, about the size and location of any ceiling lights in the room where the photo was taken. No ceiling lights may have existed, and even if they did, why would they be turned on during the day?

Alpert was in the Coast Guard's photo lab getting ready to clean a camera when he happened to glance out the window. There in the sky he saw four brilliant blobs of light. For some 5-6 seconds he watched the strange points of luminosity and then he ran out of room and down the hall to sickbay where he found another guardsman. Alpert returned to the photo lab with his additional witness. There in the window were the lights, dimmed somewhat, but still visible. Suddenly the lights brighten again and Alpert grabbed a camera. Laying on a table, a 4/5 Busch Pressman, and quickly snapped a picture. There is no information on the manner of the lights disappearance.

The case takes on added interest when we consult the writings of Raymond Fowler who related a personal experience. A number of years after 1952 Fowler gave a talk about UFOs at the Salem Coast Guard station and he learned from Coast Guard officials that the Air Force was extremely unhappy when it discovered that the station commander released the UFO picture to the press without their approval. As for the light reflection theory, Fowler found that idea absurd for the simple reason men working outdoors on the station's amphibian aircraft dock, as well as the civilians in the power house yard, saw the lights in the sky! Fowler spoke with the supervisor of the civilian work team and was told the lights were so bright they called attention to themselves by casting rays that reflected off the surface of some storage tanks in the area. 3.

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4 Aug. 1952

Air Force officials, according to Ramey, know of nothing in modern aviation that would fit the descriptions given of saucers or behave as they are reported to have done. He said they have shown no pattern or track that would indicate they are guided missiles.

Sprohls likened the searches for such upper-air objects to "a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat." He recommended: "Just sort of forget about it."

Three jet planes were sent out to investigate but found nothing.



'BLIPS' ON THE RADAR SCREEN
... and lights in the sky



AT WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL AIRPORT: STRANGE GOINGS ON

