

THE UFO MYSTERY:
1947, JULY-DECEMBER

A minor catalogue of UFO reports and notations on various unofficial inquiries by individuals and privately funded organizations, as well as commentary on military investigations and governmental policies. Presented in chronological order.

by

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FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

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Other works by the author:

Booklets:

The UFO Wave of 1896

The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets

Charles Fort, The Fortean Society, & UFOs

Six articles in The Encyclopedia of UFOs, Edited by Ronald D. Story, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1980:

- Airship Wave of 1896
- Charles Fort
- Fortean Society
- "Flying Saucer"
- Ghost Rockets of 1946
- War of the Worlds Broadcast

A research paper for a 1976 conference on UFOs organized by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center for UFO Studies:

"UFO WAVE OF 1947: CALIFORNIA, JUNE 25 - JULY 16, 1947"

Front Cover: A "hole" in the cloud over Newfoundland.

INTRODUCTION

During the last months of World War II Germany bombarded the Allies with V-1 flying bombs and V-2 high trajectory rockets. While these weapons were developed too late to play a significant role in the outcome of the conflict, it was apparent such weapons would prove to be a vital part of the future arsenal of the major powers particularly with the advent of the nuclear age.

The emergence of the Russian menace soon after the defeat of Hitler meant that any rocket research conducted by the Soviets was of intense interest to the United States. Drawing on the British experience in dealing with the Nazi V-weapon threat, the American government established a special Intelligence committee empowered to extract data from a wide variety of sources.

The need to accurately assess Russian rocket hardware and technical competency was demonstrated by strange "ghost rocket" reports from the Baltic region during the Summer and Fall of 1946.

Two secret documents, now declassified, illustrate the concern of the American High Command with suspected "guided missile" activity in the skies of Europe.

One is a four page document prepared by an American "Central Intelligence Group" which detailed radio reports of the unexplained "flying projectiles" seen flying over nations like Sweden. Copies of the secret document were distributed to the U.S. Departments of State, War, and the Navy, on April 9, 1947.

The other document is a single sheet Intelligence Summary stamped with the date: June 10, 1947. This Summary referred to the sighting of mysterious "silver balls" speeding through the heavens over Hungary.

The "ghost rocket" story* and recently declassified official file records prompt some spectacular conjecture:

1. The investigation of high performance aerial objects of unknown origin by the U.S. government was evidently in progress well before the Summer of 1947.
2. The investigation of such objects was a highly scientific and highly classified effort separate from any U.S. Air Force Intelligence activity and continues to be so right up to the present day.
3. There exists some tantalizing information that strongly suggests that there is some "hardware" that proves the real nature of UFOs.
4. A program of debunking UFOs by the High Command in Washington was started in July, 1947, right after the "Roswell Incident."

*The reader is referred to the author's booklet: The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets.

THE UFO MYSTERY: 1947, JULY-DECEMBER

Independence Day, 1947:

The National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louis E. Starr, presiding over the annual convention, gavelled his audience to order. After idle chatter died down and all eyes became fixed on the podium, Starr solemnly announced to the 1947 Columbus, Ohio, encampment that he had expected an important telegram from Washington to arrive at 3 p.m. EST. Having contacted persons of influence in the Pentagon, he had waited for an explanation of the mysterious flying objects being sighted in the sky all over the country. He noted that it was now well after 3 p.m. and nothing, not a single word, had been received to alleviate the concern of the veterans about the apparent potential threat to the security of the United States. Vexed at the failure, Starr roared: "Too little is being told to the people of this country." 1.

Just what was registering on the retinas of the witnesses across the nation? Well it is a matter of record that descriptions given by observers shared similar traits with the things generally being termed: "round, flat, and shiny."

After a man named Kenneth Arnold reported strange flying craft over the State of Washington on June 24, 1947, the nation's press responded by turning out reams of copy commenting on bizarre circular "missiles," or "flying saucers" as the aerial phenomenon became popularly known. According to news accounts the "saucers" would zoom across the sky extremely fast, and on occasion perform violent acrobatics. Often the objects travelled in formation and maneuvered in such a way to suggest intelligent control. Where the objects came from, and where they were going, was enshrouded in mystery. Newspaper editors from coast-to-coast loved the pixyish phenomenon on these slow summer news days since the saucers were being spotted everywhere it seems making the excitement both a local and national news story, yet evidence of the tangible quality of the objects was so elusive the often used appellation "Sky Ghosts" seemed almost apt.

The newspapers headlined almost daily the military's embarrassing inability to explain the riddle, quoting Kenneth Arnold's original report repeatedly about the strange objects skipping down the hog's back of the Cascade range, about how the saucers flashed in the sun when they tilted back and forth in flight. The objects, Arnold remarked, were "flat like a pie-pan," and were moving in a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail of a kite," looking something like geese yet far bigger than birds, Arnold, with a wrinkled brow, talked with one reporter and said: "...their motion was wrong for jet jobs. I guess I don't know what they were unless they were guided missiles." 2.

Most Americans didn't know what to make of the business being both amused and bemused except for a few men with military experience. Here and there across the country those with a hitch overseas during the war were set to thinking. No better example can be given than that of a young ex-Air Corps officer who was taking

a vacation from his studies at Iowa State College where he was working toward a degree in aeronautical engineering. No better because, of the millions of those in the U.S., this particular individual would be one of those whom the "Sky Ghosts" would haunt in a personal way. This gentleman, Edward J. Ruppelt, was spending the last week of June, 1947, loafing about in Yellowstone Park when he happened upon the world's first frisbee competition.

One afternoon Ruppelt noticed some kids sailing paper plates over the Lodge while screaming: "saucer, saucer!" Perplexed, he asked around and learned of a news account about some sort of unexplained saucer-like missiles or aircraft seen over Washington State, but even his college courses in aeronautics failed to incite any further interest although for a moment he recalled that some strange lights had stalked his B-29 while on bombing missions over Japan during the war. The "saucer story" which Ruppelt brushed off so lightly, would eventually intrude on his life massively. Because of the "saucers" Radio Moscow would accuse Ruppelt of trying to start WW III, while fellow Americans would lambast him as being either smooth-brained or a villain concealing the "greatest event in scientific history," of being the Pentagon's Charlie McCarthy. In the line of duty he would solemnly inspect a meadow muffin to ascertain if it had any exotic qualities, while at a more serious moment he would be required to brief the White House on the safety of the Nation's Capital. Ruppelt would confer with some of the best scholars in the country, and on the other hand, in the line of duty, would have to hear out some of the weirdest screwballs outside a mental ward. All this would come about some five years after that lazy summer at Yellowstone. 3.

As the days passed the enthusiasm mounted. Kenneth Arnold complained: "I haven't had a moment's peace since I first told the story." 4. The Boise flyer's friends continued to suggest that he had probably seen a secret new aircraft or missile with some of them favoring an American origin but there were also those who feared Russian devices coming from the direction of the Arctic, a theory that began to weigh heavily on military minds at the Pentagon as the weeks progressed.

Meanwhile, official reluctance to make public statements merely curtailed a panicky scramble for a measure of certitude about what would become the supreme mystery in military annals.

A confrontation:

After thorough interrogations by various government scientists (including a psychologist), the Air Corps pilot remained adamant. One can well imagine the one-star General stomping into the interrogation room and giving the pilot a cold, hard stare. Brigadier General George F. Schulgen, Chief of the Requirements Division of Air Corps Intelligence, was both frustrated and intrigued. People were seeing strange visions in the heavens and now it seems delusions were even sweeping through military ranks. The General believed that a frank face-to-face talk with a trained military observer, who had apparently succumbed to the hysteria for some reason, would help define the problem. At the very least, before he put his imprimatur on any document about the subject, he wanted to hear testimony with his own ears. 5.

For days wild stories about aerial phenomena had been receiving extensive coverage in the press and on the radio, but whether such improbable tales were due only to pranks of nature or just fevered imaginations, was difficult to diagnose with just the unsubstantiated testimony of the public to catalogue and analyze. Plain old Joe Doakes may report "seeing something fantastic" and have his sobriety and wits called into question, but when authorities were contacted by highly regarded military personnel about perplexing airborne "things," the reports could not be simply cast aside.

Exactly what transpired during the cross-examination of the Air Corps pilot by General Schulgen is not available in open official files, but we do know the aviator was not intimidated by his high ranking inquisitor, for he clung to his conviction he had seen something flying in the air unlike any aircraft known, something that must have utilized a completely novel aerodynamic concept. Unable to shake the pilot from his opinion, General Schulgen was left to ponder what measures he should recommend be implemented by the military. 6.

The first few days the military gave the saucer story scant notice and then on June 28th an official Intelligence report that had moved through official channels gave military Intelligence something to think about. There is no certain evidence the following account is that which absorbed General Schulgen's attention but it would seem it was that particular incident.

A Lt. Armstrong of the Army Air Corps had seen something odd and felt compelled to file an official report. While piloting a P-51 to Portland, Oregon, on June 28th, Lt. Armstrong saw something approaching his aircraft he could not identify. The time was 3:15 CST and he was maintaining an airspeed of 285 mph at 10,000 feet altitude. His position was some 30 miles northwest of Lake Meade, Nevada. It was then a half dozen white, round, objects, that moved smoothly through the atmosphere doing about the same speed as his P-51, passed him at an angle some 4,000 feet below. The things were about three feet in diameter and were not birds or anything Lt. Armstrong had seen before. 7.*

*This case information was taken from official Air Force files. The records of the military's UFO investigative project Blue Book are available on microfilm. For information on ordering, one should write the General Services Administration, Modern Military Archives Division, Washington DC 20408. Lt. Armstrong's report is listed as number 53. Further footnotes referring to Air Force Blue Book file cases will be given as: "Blue Book File #53."

On December 17, 1969, it was announced that the Air Force was terminating its investigations of UFO reports. A grand total of 13,000 cases were on file with 701 still listed as unexplained. The collection of data amounted to 84,000 pages of documented data, various photographs, sound recordings, film strips, and other material. The collection was first stored at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, where access was restricted. In 1976 the National Archives in Washington DC put the UFO cases on microfilm so they could be made available to scholars

What strikes home instantly was the uncanny similarity to the Kenneth Arnold's encounter! Needless to say this fact did not escape official attention. Belatedly the Air Force began to compile reports for its reference but oddly very few found their way into official file cabinets out of the hundreds available.

Here is a sample of what did make the file folders:

A bus driver claimed that on a run a few miles out of Clarion, Iowa, 4:45 p.m., June 29th, he noticed a strange object fly by his vehicle approximately 1,200 feet high. Within moments four more such objects flashed by. The driver braked to a stop and stepped out of his bus to take a look around. It was then, he said, when he sighted 13 more objects approaching at a speed he estimated to be 300 mph. The objects were oval-like in shape and flew in single file. They appeared to be quite large. He reckoned that the dingy-white ovals were some 12 feet thick and some 200 feet in diameter. After the objects disappeared to the north, the bus driver became aware of a hum like an electric motor that had been audible during the sighting. 8.

While the military was getting off to a slow start, public excitement had already reached full throttle. Phones jangled off their cradles in newsrooms, police stations, and airport offices, as agitation increased at an alarming rate. Some semblance of a real panic loomed as major newspapers splashed huge scare headlines across their front pages: DISCS MYSTIFY SCIENTISTS, LAYMEN. Newsmen were frantic to get the real lowdown. In Santa Rosa, California, a phone call to the newsroom of the local newspaper alerted the staff to the presence of one of the mystery discs doing a sky dance over the downtown business district which set off a mad rush by everyone to the rooftop. Surging up the stairwell, the frenzied newspeople collided with a couple of janitors manhandling a heavy sofa to a lower floor. It was a scene worthy of Laurel and Hardy.

A good photograph would have been dandy but so far there had been a puzzling lack of success. This poverty of pictorial confirmation was exasperating. Anyone who could throw a net over one of the elusive objects would have had his fortune made, yet with not even a good picture of a saucer, a capture seemed very remote indeed. Washington could only hope, and until then authorities would have to continue with the routine gathering of reports like the following:

Philadelphia, PA, July 5th: Paul Moss, 14, said Saturday (4th) he saw a flying saucer about 40 inches in diameter following a transport plane crossing the Delaware River.

Moss said he was playing baseball with a group of other boys when he saw the disk, orange in color, at one time out distance the plane. 9.

but only after a team of Air Force Reservists deleted some names from the records. Critics have claimed that UFO reports are still being compiled by other Intelligence commands and that many old reports cannot be accounted for. (It is believed by some that there were documents never filed with the Air Force that contain significant UFO information.)

Springfield, IL, July 5th: A group of motorists reported Saturday (4th) they had glimpsed the mysterious "flying saucers" ...one Claude Price, superintendent of concessions at the Illinois State Fair said the group stopped their cars on a road two miles west of Decatur and watched the discs shoot across the sky. 10.

Augusta, ME, July 5th: The Civil Aeronautics Administration office said it had received a report that a dozen of the mysterious sky discs had been seen over this city.

The CAA said Dan Kelly, program director at radio station WRDO here, advised that he saw about 12 objects believed to be discs.

Kelly said the objects were travelling northerly very fast. 11.

Kansas City, MO, July 6th: At 1:45 p.m. a Major A.B. Browning AC/A3, Pentagon, saw a bright, silver, disc-shaped object while flying at 10,000 feet in a bomber. Visibility was unlimited. 12.

Phoenix, AZ, July 7th: A former Naval Ordnance Laboratory employee photographed an object making circles in the sky (no copies of the pictures are in the official files). 13.

Mt. Baldy, CA, July 7th: At 3:50 p.m. a 1st Lt. A.E. Moorman, while flying with his squadron at 20,000 feet, reported a flat object with no wings or verticle fins flying above the flight at about 35,000 feet. 14.

A photograph showing a small white dot was obtained in Seattle but a better chance to get their hands on a definite photo came at Alabama July 6th. That night over Birmingham UFOs buzzed about and a picture taken of them showing a pair of light colored dots leaving a short vapor trail. The film was sent to the Birmingham Army Air Field authorities where professional photographers confirmed that the images were not due to a flawed negative. Moreover, as the Commanding Officer of the Air Base noted, it was the general consensus of the citizens of Birmingham that "something was in the air" over the city that evening. Newsclippings of civilian UFO reports and one made by a military observer were forwarded to the 14th Air Force Headquarters, ADC, at Orlando, Florida. 15. Orlando relayed the case to the Continental Air Defense Command at Mitchel Field, New York, with the remark that the 14th Air Force: "...has made no investigation of 'flying discs' reports because this is an isolated case[!]." 16.

The military witness had observed the saucers over Birmingham at 11:45 p.m. travelling southeast. The saucers were two feet in diameter and were rushing along at about 500-600 mph. As soon as one disappeared, another came into view, until about eight in all had passed silently overhead. 17.

The first wave?

The platter puzzled nation continued to "see things" as reports peaked July 8th. Not everyone was buying it however. Some airline pilots at Atlanta, GA, on standby between flights, told the press they termed the sky enchantment mere imagination. One blamed clouds and another quipped that "a lot of folks must have had too much to drink." Finally a chief pilot snapped that unless he could get a better explanation or see one himself, he wouldn't accept reports without qualification, and he continued: "It certainly doesn't seem to be the first wave of an invasion from Mars." 18.

Kenneth Arnold was at long last interrogated by Pentagon agents (his report is listed as case #17 in official files). The military officer that questioned Arnold came away impressed by the Boise flyer's sincerity and made the notation for the official record that if Arnold was making the story up he was in the wrong business and should do story plots for the Buck Rogers comic strip. 19.

As these events took place, General Schulgen secretly conferred with various government officials and was repeatedly assured that the strange flying objects were not American experimental devices. If this was true and the phenomenon could not be attributed to mass hysteria, then the airspace over the United States was being infiltrated by spy craft of another country making the mystery an Intelligence problem of the first magnitude. Naturally General Schulgen's mind initially occupied itself with scenarios of Russian mischief and to deal with that possibility he sought the assistance of J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation. Bureau files show that the first interest in the UFO riddle by Hoover's men was on July 6th when the following brief message was forwarded to Washington from a district office in Dixie:

"About 12 so-called flying discs passed over Darlington, South Carolina approximately 5:30 p.m. today. Advise if wish details. 20.

And on the West Coast an urgent teletype message to FBI headquarters from an agent in Burbank, California, related the alarming report that one of the strange flying objects had plowed into a nearby forest area igniting a roaring inferno (the object was a hoax device that started a small fire). 21.

FBI help was needed as stories became more interesting and the human element more prominent in evaluations.

"Come in planet X." "Come in planet X."

"Let me speak to Ray Palmer."

The above was how a columnist for a Phoenix, Arizona, newspaper introduced a news item about the alleged seizure of 64,000 copies of the July 9, 1947, issue of the Arizona Republic, but let's start at the beginning. First the supposed UFO sighting that got things rolling.

Storm clouds scudded across the sky over Tucson, Arizona, as lightning flashed followed by loud cracks of thunder. On the wet afternoon of July 7, 1947, at about 4:00 p.m., a W.A. Rhodes took advantage of a brief break in the downpour to dash to his workshop at the rear of his property. As he crossed his yard he thought he heard an odd noise that drew his attention to the eastern sky. He thought a jet plane was approaching but for several seconds nothing was visible and then to his surprise a bizzare elliptical object about 25 feet in diameter and making about 500 mph came into view at 5,000 feet. A grey color, the UFO did not show much contrast with the clouds, but it was so low it was clearly visible and began to get even lower. As Rhodes watched the thing started to spiral downward making two complete orbits about a half mile wide until it reached an altitude of 2,000 feet. A camera was just inside his workshop door so he grabbed it and snapped a couple of pictures before the UFO suddenly

soared upward at a 45 degree climb, plunging into a towering cumulus cloud. The object had approached near enough for Rhodes to discern a small, flat feature in the middle top he surmised was a "nonprotruding canopy" for the pilot of the craft. Other than that the UFO was smooth surfaced. It had a definite front and rear that gave it the appearance of a shoe heel, something of a U-shaped configuration. The trailing edge tapered to two pointed ends and seemed to be tapered also from "wingtip to wingtip." The shape thus encouraged a belief in him he was gazing at a new aircraft patterned after the U.S. Navy's "flapjack" fighterplane that had been featured on the front cover of the May, 1947, issue of the magazine Mechanix Illustrated, but Rhodes was puzzled since the UFO had no propellers or landing gear like the Navy plane.

This case is interesting even without the artificial intrigue later injected by Mr. Ray Palmer, an editor of a magazine published long after the 1947 July days of saucer sensations. Palmer, as editor of Flying Saucers, was a lively and controversial personality in saucerdom for decades churning out essays by the dozen about the supposed goings-on behind the curtain of secrecy erected by the powers-that-be in Washington which contained little fact but seemed to manage to fill his publication from cover to cover. He also had much to say about the "Shaver mystery," and always found space to print the opinions of borderline authorities on the UFO riddle. All in all, much of what Palmer said and did can be ignored.* Concerning the Rhodes affair Air Force records since declassified tell us that letters were actually exchanged between Rhodes and the military, moreover, the Pentagon was fascinated enough to do some follow up, but Palmer asserted that government agents not only commandeered the Rhodes negatives they collected every copy of the Arizona Republic that showed the Rhodes' pictures on the front page which meant a house to house canvas of the City of Phoenix on July 9, 1947. Palmer may have sold a lot of magazines but that number couldn't have matched the amount of laughs the claim got in the newsroom of the Republic. 22. Actually military records show that Intelligence personnel picked up the negatives right after the Republic went to press the evening of July 8th but there was no way authorities were going to play paperboy in reverse. 23.

*Ray Palmer hired Kenneth Arnold to investigate the Tacoma, Washington, saucer fragment incident of July, 1947. This story is told in great detail in a book co-authored by the two gentlemen titled The Coming of the Saucers.

As early as 1946 Palmer published UFO reports in the letters to the editor column of the science fiction pulp Amazing Stories. The Wisconsin editor even suggested a conspiracy of silence concerning the UFO mystery long before the expression "flying saucers" was even coined. Later, saucer skeptic Dr. Donald Menzel would even attempt to pin the disc outbreak on Palmer who no doubt would have been greatly flattered, but only a very weak case could be made for that assumption. Palmer was something of a character, but a harmless one, though he did get into the hair of Donald Keyhoe and NICAP on a few occasions.

With that out of the way, we can ponder an aspect of greater import.

Rhodes and the Russian rumor.

Authorities continued to pry into the Rhodes affair for months engrossed with the possibility that it might be an authentic event, because other than the curious photos, apparently there existed two more reasons for the High Command to remain heedful of the Phoenix case.

Three days before Rhodes took the pictures of the supposed flying craft, a letter was sent to the Los Angeles Examiner (that was sufficiently credible to earn the attention of government agents) and in that note to the editor there was detailed some unguarded conversation uttered by an officer on shore leave from a Russian tanker that had recently docked at Long Beach Harbor. According to the Soviet merchantman, the boys in the Kremlin were perfecting a saucer-like aircraft powered by atomic energy, and once boosted into the air, soared along the "earth's gravitational contour lines," whatever that meant. This devilish disc-like machine could spew controlled radioactive clouds fatal to animals, birds in the air, and by Jove, even the worms in the ground.

The similarities between the images in the Rhodes' photographs and the touted Russian "invention" are fairly marked. The alleged Russian device was said to be only 18 inches thick and of a kidney-shape outline with the pilot in a prone position while guiding its flight. Generally, this matches Rhodes' U-shaped object with the "nonprotruding" canopy, thus was it an accident that the first good saucer photo compared so well with the supposed Communist design? This could confirm the Russian rumor, or it could mean Rhodes faked his story and pictures since the Soviet missive saw print the same day as the claimed Phoenix UFO flyby (July 7th). 24.

The latter idea is attractive to the skeptic yet Rhodes was buttressed by none other than Kenneth Arnold who belatedly made a single change in his original saucer account, stating that one of the nine UFOs he saw had a different outline than the rest, appearing crescent-shaped with a dark spot (a canopy?) in the center. 25.

Mindful of the foregoing, alarmists could make something of a curious Independence Day sea alert in Pacific waters when a forest ranger noticed what appeared to be a "ship on fire" just off the coast near San Francisco during the afternoon of July 4th when saucers in the air were as thick as gnats on a summer's eve. No ships sent out an S.O.S. and the only vessel in the exact area at the time, which just happened to be of a Russian nationality, reported everything was hunky-dory. Was that ship launching the saucers being reported that afternoon?

A night to remember:

Lightning clawed the dark night heavens. Eerie glows and shattering booms disturbed the peace of the desert. At a remote sheep ranch some 30 miles south of Corona, New Mexico, a W.W. Brazel tossed and turned on his bunk in a tiny primitive cabin he called home while a rare summer storm spent its fury outside.

Rain tapped on the window. More booms and flashes continued to ruin his sleep. One explosion seemed a lot louder and stranger than the others.

At sunrise Brazel ambled out the front door to smell the clean, rain-washed air. He looked around. An amazing sight met his eyes. There strewn over a wide area of desert was an enormous amount of metallic fragments. He hadn't the slightest idea what the mess could be but he didn't have the time to look too close because he had to leave for town on business.

Out on the ranch Brazel was out of touch with civilization and it was only after being in Corona awhile did he hear some people talking about the latest national excitement called flying saucers. It immediately occurred to Brazel that perhaps something of that nature may have blown up near his cabin the stormy night July 3rd. He decided that once he returned to his ranch he would peer closer at the strange metal and finally make up his mind if the fragments warranted the notification of authorities. 26. When Brazel arrived back at his place in the desert, he checked the metal again. Just the amount of the debris justified an investigation. Soon after he left for Roswell, New Mexico, to make inquiries about buying a new truck but he also promised himself he would approach someone in authority about the mysterious crash. Brazel rolled into town on Monday, July 7th. 27.

Meanwhile, a Major Jesse A. Marcel stationed at Roswell Air Army Air Force Base happened to look up one evening early in July while driving near Roswell. Speeding lights in the dark heavens were visible and Major Marcel was astounded by the velocity of the glowing points as they swept overhead for he was familiar with the very latest in advanced aircraft. He hesitated to speak about it but later he received confirmation of the odd aerial phenomenon from another military observer. Little did he suspect he would be party to something far more fantastic. Before long Marcel would be talking to Brazel. 28.

"If anyone wants me, tell them I've gone fishing."

Approached by reporters, the VFW Chief Louis E. Starr backed away from revealing everything he knew, but he did say he was given to understand General Spaatz had fighter craft out on saucer hunts. Was that true? Where, pray tell, was the Commandant of the Army Air Forces during the platter paroxysm? General Carl Spaatz turned up in the Pacific Northwest, and when brought to bay by the press on July 7th, he shrugged and said: "I've been out of touch with things for—four or five days." Flying saucers? Never heard of them. After denying any knowledge of the country having an aerial problem or pursuit planes ordered aloft to bring down mysterious unexplained objects, General Spaatz asked to be excused because he was going fishing at Medford, Oregon! 29.

On a national level the saucer enigma still resisted explanations. Fully aroused the International News Service dispatched its newsmongers to the White House only to have them turned away at the door by official spokesmen with unequivocal denials ringing in their ears that President Truman knew anything about the sky phantoms.

A conference of atomic experts meeting at Lake Success, New York, expressed a mild interest in the saucers but of course mere

spoken words could not entice the scholars to drop everything. 30. Now if one were to crash?

"We interrupt this program to bring you a special bulletin."

"The Intelligence office of the 509 Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Airfield, has come into the possession of a disc through cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office." 31.

Listeners around the nation turned up their radios and stopped what they were doing. Hanging on every word, those fascinated by the saucer mystery concentrated on the disembodied voice that read off a couple of brief paragraphs. It went like this. A supposed disc had crash landed on a ranch near Corona, New Mexico, around the first of July. A Mr. W.W. Brazel of the Poster Ranch had discovered the remains. Eventually Mr. Brazel showed up at the sheriff's office at Roswell which in turn contacted Roswell Army Air Base. The military sent a Major Jesse Marcel of the Roswell 509th (atomic) Bomb Group Intelligence Office to ascertain the importance of the find. The fragments were deemed of sufficient interest to be taken to the Air Base where the public information officer, Lt. Walter Haut, told the Associated Press: "The many rumors regarding the flying discs became a reality today." Lt. Haut added that the material evidence in their possession was being forwarded to higher headquarters at Fort Worth. The Base Commanding Officer at Roswell, Colonel W.H. Blanchard, was quoted by the press as: "...specifically describing the discovery as a flying disc." 32.

The news media received very few details as strict security was immediately imposed. It was officially rationalized by insisting that the flying discs were: "...high level stuff." 33. Meanwhile, wireservice teletype machines and radio stations spread notice of what the newspeople termed: "a momentous discovery."

Bedlam.

Washington was caught flat-footed. So many reporters jammed the Pentagon press room one would think money was being given away. Lt. General Hoyt Vandenberg, Vice Chief of Staff, Army Air Corps, dashed to the press room to take charge personally and bring some order out of the chaos. Fending off the pad and pencil boys, General Vandenberg got Fort Worth, Texas, Eighth Air Force Headquarters, on the phone and conferred with the officer in charge, Brig. General Roger Ramey. Nearly every major American newspaper, plus some foreign ones, tied up the phone lines to the Roswell Sheriff Office of George Wilcox. The San Francisco Examiner, however, correctly surmised that the Commanding Officer of the Eighth Air Force was its best bet and got through just ahead of its competitors.

After Vandenberg hung up, General Ramey made himself available to the press. The San Francisco Examiner, a Hearst paper, was the first to get through to the General. The Examiner found General Ramey in a seemingly jocular mood whose first words when picking up the receiver were: "Everybody in the country is trying to get through on this telephone." His statement on the saucer matter was less sensational than those coming from Roswell. The fragments, General Ramey said, were "flimsy," of a foil construction of some

sort. The General had the word of Warrant Officer Irving Newton, the Fort Worth Air Base forecaster, that the thing was only a beat up weather balloon radar reflector. The Fort Worth commander expressed his consolations that he had to disappoint the news media by stripping the "saucer" find of its glamor. 34.

The tumult had lasted an hour.

After the capture story had swelled and then burst like a bubble, military officers at Roswell Field received, according to sources known to United Press, a "blistering rebuke" from Army Air Corps Headquarters in Washington for their part in the panic. 35.

The day after the Roswell uproar Kenneth Arnold submitted a formal written report of his June 24th experience "that suppositively started it all," an affidavit requested by the military. Besides his testimony, Arnold added comments about the tardy acknowledgement by the government of the aerial mystery and his belief the objects were some sort of aircraft of an advanced design. The military wrote back several days later asking for permission to quote from Arnold's account of the saucer sighting but refrained from making remarks about the flyer's opinions. 36.

Kenneth Arnold was receiving 18 letters a day about UFOs in 1967, some twenty years later. He was 57 years old by that time and had run for public office twice without success on the Republican ticket. In 1967 he was still receptive to press inquiries and said he leaned toward the theory that UFOs may be "living organism of an unusual kind." Questioned by UPI he expressed unhappiness with the news media over what he believed was poor reporting on the UFO subject. Arnold insisted he had made his original report for patriotic reasons and not for notoriety. 37. By 1973 Kenneth "Saucers" Arnold, as some less than polite persons had tagged him, was still living in Idaho driven into seclusion with an unlisted phone number after being annoyed by skeptics and believers alike. Not helping matters any were personal problems unrelated to the saucer mystery. 38.

The same day as the Roswell excitement another downed saucer story came out of Louisiana. According to press accounts an alleged flying disc, a 16 inch aluminum platter, had spun out of control and slammed to earth outside the city of Shreveport breaking up on impact. Discovered by a local auto salesman, the battered object was promptly located by a military Intelligence team from nearby Barksdale Air Field and spirited away. 39.

The so-called crashed disc at Shreveport turned out to be a hoax but it had ramifications that were all too real for the FBI. Hoover's agents sped to Shreveport a step behind the military and were left out in the cold. Hoover bristled at the affront and immediately interpreted the snub as an important challenge to the Bureau's jurisdiction. General Schulgen attempted to soothe Hoover by calling in a FBI representative for consultation on July 9th. The General, acting on the Pentagon's behalf, told Hoover's man the military was utilizing the full extent of their scientific manpower in the effort to unravel the tangle of data on the discs. Moreover, he said Army Air Bases across the nation were on the alert to check flying disc reports in their respective areas. These investigators were only following orders in their

speedy gathering of evidence. In the future, he continued, all information would be shared with the Bureau. As for a specific role in the study, it was felt that the Bureau should question persons reporting spectacular sightings to ascertain whether or not such individuals were: "...prompted by a personal desire for publicity or political reasons." 40. By political the General meant: "...individuals of Communist sympathies with a view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon." 41. Hoover, his organization given a vital assignment, was appeased.

In due time Hoover would find his vital assignment a series of blind alleys. There were no Communist inspired schemes to ferret out. The real story was contained in the reports like the following where the witnesses were above reproach.

A "Lt. J.C.M." stationed at Muroc AFB July 9, 1947, was one of those persons who had only scorn for "silly saucer sighters" who would say anything to get their name in the papers. In the Post Exchange building that afternoon of July 9th, the young officer had nothing favorable to utter about "saucers" blasting the reports as nonsense and expressed such sentiments as "I gotta see it to believe it" as he walked out of the door. He had just taken a few steps when an aircraft noise attracted his gaze skyward. He saw a plane and to his shocked surprise two other objects that shouldn't be there in the shape of silver discs hurdling overhead. Quickly the lieutenant summoned three others to confirm the sighting, a woman base employee and two sergeants. His formal report on the episode reads:

"I pointed in the direction of the objects and asked them the question 'Tell me what you see up there,' whereupon all three, with sundry comments, stated, 'They are flying discs,' To further verify my observance, I asked them to tell me in what direction the objects were travelling, without indicating the direction myself, and again all three, in a consistent nature, stated that the objects were moving toward Mojave, California.

I had time to look away several times and renew my vision of the objects to make sure that they were not any result of eyestrain, or in any nature an optical illusion. The objects in question were not, repeat, were not, aircraft and the objects could not have been weather balloons released from this station since they were travelling against the prevailing wind and since the speed at which they were travelling and the horizontal direction in which they were travelling disqualified the fact that they were weather balloons.

After the observance of this phenomenon, hoping that I might have time to enlist further witnesses, I immediately ran into the dispensary to get personnel who are medical officers to verify, for my own curiosity the actual observance of these objects but by the time I reached the back porch of the dispensary...the objects had by that time disappeared due to the speed with which they were travelling.

Upon further investigation, two of us at the same time sighted another object of a silver spherical or disc-like nature at approximately 8,000 feet travelling in circles over

the north end (of the field). I called the objects to the attention of ----(name deleted) and the other personnel standing nearby. All of us saw the objects, with the exception of two out of the seven personnel. All of us looked away from the objects several times to make sure it wasn't an optical illusion.

From my actual observance the object circled in too tight a circle and too severe a plane to be any aircraft that I know of.

It could not have been any type of bird because of the reflection that was created when the object reached certain altitudes. The object could not have been a local weather balloon for it is impossible that a weather balloon would stay at the same altitude as long and circled in such a consistent nature as did the above mentioned object.

I am familiar with the results of too constant vision of the sun or any bright object and I am aware that optical illusions are possible and probable. I wish to make this statement, that the above mentioned observance was that of actual subject matter." 42.

Affidavits were also obtained from the two sergeants which confirmed the lieutenant's observations.

A scientific advisor under contract to assist the Air Force in evaluations two years after the forementioned report was filed found the document impressive but the military didn't seem to think it warranted much concern, but then things had changed after the passage of a couple of years for reasons to be explained later. The scientist wrote of the case: "The witnesses were certainly excellent, independent military men describing the most unusual sighting on a clear day. What more could the Air Force want?" 43.

A scan of declassified files covering this period, while revealing no detailed official judgments of the UFOs by the High Command, does not, nonetheless, indicate much wrangling over whether or not the flying saucers were "real," that they had weight and solidity and existed in a physical matrix. Instead, at this point in time, there seemed to be enough acceptance to give the military investigations a more ordered direction. With all the UFO reports available, official attention zeroed in on the danger of the penetration of American airspace by foreign missile-like devices from the Arctic and sea approaches. One would like to foil penetration, but one would also like to back-track the objects and find out something about their origin.

Journalist Sidney Shalett, after being briefed by military Intelligence early in 1949, wrote of the military's impressions during this period, mid-July, 1947, thusly:

"We knew that the Russians had scooped up all the German scientists they could corral. We knew that the Russians, with the help of German scientists, had developed some small disks with explosive edges, launched by a compressed-air catapult, for possible use as an ordinance item. We knew that the Russians were hot for developing snorkel submarines capable of launching buzz bombs; our own Navy has been able to fire the Loon, its version of the German buzz bomb, from

submarines off Point Mugu, California. And we remembered the Japanese wartime stunt of letting free balloons drift over to this country as a possible means of initiating incendiary or germ warfare; it was a slightly screwball undertaking, but some of the balloons did get here." 44.

Thus experts in the Wright Field Intelligence Center sat up and took notice when messages marked "Canada" hit their desks, and by July 9th some interesting ones had arrived.

A Canadian constable and others in the community of Grand Falls, Newfoundland, vouched for the fact that, as one of them put it, a phosphorescent aura accompanying a "barrelhead-like thing" shot past at 11:30 p.m. on July 9th. Four round-shaped objects flying side by side were also seen. 45.

Almost exactly 12 hours later a UFO again lit up the countryside of Newfoundland, a case that produced some absorbing data. At Harmon Air Field, Newfoundland, a number of people, including some airline mechanics, saw a high speed, round-like, object the apparent size of a transport plane. It glistened in the sun and left behind a trail of bluish-black smoke approximately 15 miles long while it zoomed northeast on a horizontal trajectory. The object cut through some clouds, boring a "hole," a gap which was photographed twice by a witness using an Argus with a 50 mm F-2 lens. The two Kodachromes were rushed to the Intelligence Chief of Staff at Newfoundland Base Command and then hurried on to American authorities.

The following is the story given by the three principle witnesses, a J.N. Mehrman, a R. Leidy, and a J.E. Woodruff. The trio was returning from a fishing trip July 10th and were driving up a mountain road near Stephenville Crossing. It was Woodruff who became excited first: "Look at the cut in the sky," he yelled. Mr. Mehrman glanced at the scattered clouds at 8-10,000 feet and then also detected a bluish-black vapor trail that apparently had made a knife-like "cut" through a cloud formation. The edges of the "cut" he described as: "...feathered similar to a weld, as if you cut a weld in half." 46. Mr. Leidy, like Mehrman, did not spot the phenomenon immediately, yet Woodruff's actions called for a look so the car they were riding in was brought to a halt so they could give their attention to the sky. Leidy said he remembers: "It was a definite trail and caused the clouds to break open as it went through. It cut a clear path through the clouds and you could see the trail right through the cloud, it looked to be travelling in a big circle and it left sharp edges to the clouds." 47.

Mr. Woodruff observed what had made the "hole." He stated: "I saw the object break out where the clouds opened and it left its trail behind it...the object appeared to be a translucent disk-like wheel travelling at a terrific rate of speed and opened the clouds as it went through the air. The disk was travelling horizontal. It appeared to be about the size of a C-54." 48.

The U.S. Army Air Corps Technical Analysis Division at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, was enthralled. The experts said:

"The bluish-black trail seems to indicate ordinary combustion from a turbo-jet engine, athodyd motor, or some combination of these types of power plants. The absence of noise and apparent dissolving of the clouds to form a clear path indicates a relatively large mass flow of rectangular cross section containing a considerable amount of heat." 49.

Witnesses were questioned more closely especially Mr. Woodruff who confirmed that the gap in the cloud was clean in shape and as wide as the UFO. Also, all of the witnesses asserted they had seen the smoke trail leaving the cloud and extending to the horizon. No explosion was noted. Both points were not favorable to a meteor explanation, moreover, Intelligence agents discussed the case with the Commander of Harmon Field and received assurances no British or Canadian aircraft had been in the area at the time of the sighting. Weather records were examined and they confirmed the witnesses testimony about the sky conditions: cumulus clouds at 8-10,000 feet.

Mr. Woodruff left for Gander AFB but military investigators tracked him down to obtain any amplifications. Anxious to help, Mr. Woodruff met the investigators plane, and when questioned again, reiterated his previous statements, adding that the "hole" remained in the cloud for well over an hour and that the vapor spewed out by the UFO was a bit darker than the sky, a flat, ribbon-like, bluish-black smoke that reminded him of an exhaust gas of a diesel engine. The UFO itself he described as a "translucent disk shape" that appeared to have little depth and produced no audible sound. He was firm about these aspects.

A military analyst lamented the fact that the film was a little overexposed but conceded, as they were doing now with UFOs in general, that: "...it is evident that some such phenomenon did occur." 50.

A summation tainted with strategic considerations spelled out the belief they were not dealing with an ordinary aircraft. It read that it was their: "...conclusion that a body having terrific heat or other power to split a cloud had passed through." 51. Moreover: "It was very noticeable that the course of the phenomenon was approximately 30 degrees east of true north which could be an indication that it did not originate from a foreign country." 52. A meteor seems to be the only thing that could give off such heat but, as the experts remarked, the low altitude and apparent horizontal course would rule it out. 53.

The passage of another 24 hours brought with it a UFO report from Elmendorf AFB in Alaska. This time the UFO was seen speeding from north to south, a more "pro-Russian" trajectory. Various military officers at Elmendorf watched the thing which resembled a grayish balloon, about 10 feet in diameter, following the contour of the nearby mountains. Since the object moved into a strong headwind, a balloon theory was not considered. The report was flashed southward with priority clearance straight to the Chief of Intelligence. 54.

UFO reports in the press, particularly on the national news wires, had greatly abated by the second week of July. This happy

happenstance eased public pressure on the military and defused their more acknowledgeable critics. Already the influential Joseph and Stewart Alsop, writing on July 13th, were taking aim at the military for its impotent handling of the flying saucer problem. To the columnists the confusion displayed by the military during the height of the flap, combined with the nagging residue of unexplained sightings, made plain that the U.S. had no adequate early warning system against surprise attack. Swayed by flaring Cold War tensions, the Alsop brothers suggested that the Nazi developed A-9 winged rocket may have been responsible for the "ghost rocket" phenomenon in the skies over Sweden in 1946, a supposed achievement of German-Soviet collaboration. The journalists lectured the Pentagon on the Swedish occurrences: "The rockets were timed to disintegrate in the air before contact but small parts of the weapons were discovered on the Swedish ground." 55.

Official records show that a representative from J. Edgar Hoover conferred with Intelligence experts other than General Schulgen to pursue all possible leads as to whether or not the saucers were Uncle Sam's, a notion the Bureau had trouble shaking off. One such expert, Col. L.R. Forney of MID, strongly assured him the objects were not a War Department project and gave additional encouragement to the proposal of FBI involvement.

When FBI official D. Milton Ladd received the initial paperwork on the flying saucer business, he offered a disparaging appraisal since the Bureau had already spent a considerable number of valuable man hours checking idiotic practical jokes, nonetheless another Bureau bigwig, a Clyde Tolson, who also happened to be Hoover's personal friend, penned some favorable marginalia on the Army Air Corps letter requesting aid in its UFO investigations, a missive dated July 15th. Hoover, stung by the quick grab of the alleged saucer by the military team at Shreveport, was only too ready to give final ratification. 56.

By the third week in July the lower echelons of the Army Air Corps received official notification of FBI help and of the agreement that the recovery of any downed disc would be a cooperative venture with mutual access to any and all artifacts. 57.

Fully committed the Bureau assumed a cloak and dagger attitude with teletype messages to FBI headquarters and documents pertaining to the subject of flying saucers labeled variously: "Security Matter-X," "Internal Security," or "Sabotage." 58.

FBI Bulletin #42 disseminated in late July officially alerted local Bureau offices to conduct background checks of UFO witnesses, however it soon became apparent there was no Communist plot behind the saucer sightings. 59.

Public concern continued its decline. Newsweek magazine, in its July 14th edition, observed that to vast throngs from New York to San Francisco the saucers had substance because people believed they had seen them with their own eyes. As for the War Department, Newsweek delightedly passed along a punnish remark originating from that sober source which stated that the saucer matter remained: "...up in the clouds." 60.

Some citizens were still hoping for a break in the mystery

but little did they know they had a rather extended wait. An anonymous college student quoted in the Portland Oregonian may have been more right than he knew when he blurted out: "It would be terrible if we have to worry along for the next 100 years without knowing." 61.

With the slacking off of reports came an increasing decline in the numbers of people venturing to make such encounters public. E. Page of Konnewick, Washington, was an example. While over Utah Lake on July 12th a half dozen of the famous shiny platters sped past his single engined plane, fluttering and stabilizing, fluttering and stabilizing, over and over. This amazing flock of "nervous somethings" was a sight to behold, but upon landing Mr. Page found that even his best friend now considered the saucers as probably just a silly fad that had run its course and no longer a fit subject for conversation. As a result he didn't get around to telling the press or authorities. 62.

This lassitude was not shared, however, by those in responsible positions. The vanguard attempt to put the pieces together was born in Army Air Corps Intelligence, an analysis of 18 of the better saucer reports on file by the last week of July, 1947. Since all the reports were obtained from technically trained observers, enough reliable detail was available to determine the "typical" flying saucer report. The outline that emerged forced the Intelligence expert doing the evaluation (his name is not mentioned) to the conclusion that: "...something is really flying around." 63. Whatever the phenomenon was, he stated, it had a metallic appearance and was circular with a flat bottom and slightly domed top surface. In size, it compared favorably to a large aircraft (actually many other reports indicate much smaller objects) and could do 300 knots—plus. Whatever controlled them, he surmised, must be a highly efficient system for the unknown objects maintained excellent formations (aircraft in 1947 were flown by manual control. The automatic pilot devices at that time were crude and slow in operation. The tiny, light weight, and lightning fast electronic computers in use today had not yet been invented. The discs may have used such computers but the military at the time had no way of imagining the existence of such efficient gear.). Occasional oscillation were noted but the expert made no attempt to explain it (this may be due to automatic corrections by the forementioned "efficient control system."). Blue-brown vapor trails associated with some saucers was attributed to a power plant consisting of a liquid fuel rocket engine. 64.

It can be said, then, that very strong ideas about Russian snooping was now being entertained in the Intelligence analysis section. How would the High Command respond to such an analysis? Did it call for a crash program? Should there be an allout military alert?

A "peculiar rift," a mystery wrapped inside an enigma.

In spite of the assessment, a "peculiar rift" had developed between Army Air Corps Intelligence and the higher ups in Washington, which the forementioned expert said took the form of the: "...lack of topside inquiries when compared to the prompt and demanding inquiries that have originated topside upon the former events (ghost

rockets), give more than ordinary weight to the possibility that this is a domestic project, about which the President, etc. know." 65.

The unexplained lack of interest by the topmost military chiefs crops up again in an FBI document that relates an exchange between Special Agent S. Wesley Reynolds of the FBI Liaison Section, and a Lt. Col. George D. Garrett of the Army Air Intelligence. While Reynolds was questioning the Colonel about the possibility that the discs were highly classified domestic experiment, Colonel Garrett remarked: "...when flying objects were reported over Sweden (in 1946), the 'high brass' of the War Department exerted tremendous pressure on the Air Forces Intelligence to identify these sightings." Colonel Garrett went on to state: "...that in contrast to this, we have reported sightings of unknown objects over the United States, and the 'high brass' appeared to be totally unconcerned ...this led him to believe that they knew enough about these objects to express no concern." 66.

The experts at Wright-Patterson, Ohio, couldn't afford the luxury of pondering the queer actions of Washington for it had to get on with the business of gathering data and interpreting any threat from the Soviets. They proceeded with their time-honored methods.

Meanwhile, at a hotel in downtown Portland a prospector by the name of Fred Johnson rested his weary bones after spending weeks tramping around the rugged crags on the slopes of Oregon's Mt. Adams. He purchased a newspaper and took it up to his room so he could catch up on current events. One front page item snagged his eye instantly, an article about "flying saucers." He soon learned about a pilot named Kenneth Arnold that had reported spotting a strange formation of "tailless jets" soaring down the length of the Cascades from Mt. Rainier to Mt. Adams. Mt. Adams? Johnson thought hard, comparing the date, time, and location, with a recent extraordinary experience of his own unequaled in his 30 years of gold hunting. According to the press this fellow Arnold was catching hell from critics. Everyone was finding it hard to believe the Boise pilot, but Johnson did, and for a very good reason. The prospector followed the tribulations of Arnold for awhile until he was moved to post a letter to the military. Authorities quickly had some men knocking on Johnson's hotel door.

Johnson told military investigators he had been working the Mt. Adams area on June 24th, the same day as the Kenneth Arnold saucer sighting. Poking around the rocks at the 5,000 foot level that afternoon he stopped to read his watch and noticed that the compass attached to the timepiece was twitching for some unexplained reason. Shortly thereafter a flash of light dazzled his eyes. He glanced upward. Approaching in the sky was an unusual object. Using a small telescope he always carried, Johnson peered at a strange shape as it drew near out of the northwest. He then became aware of more such objects banking in the sun 1,000 feet above him near the peak of Mt. Adams. The objects moved silently and in appearance seemed to be: "...30 feet in diameter tapering

sharply to a point in the head and in an oval shape, with a bright top surface." 67.

One of the UFOs looked different resembling: "...a big hand of a clock (this may have been cigar-shaped 'mother ship') shifting from side to side like a big magnet." He said he lost sight of the objects when, while banking on edge, they slipped into a cloud. 68.

West Coast Intelligence Headquarters at Hamilton Field, California, telegraphed Army Air Corps Headquarters in Washington to say: "...your attention is invited to the similarity of statements by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Arnold." 69.

While mulling the idea of unidentified missiles being catapulted out of the Arctic from some unknown Communist base, it came to the attention of military experts that there existed an interesting civilian UFO report in the press that warranted a closer inspection. Famous private pilot, Richard Rankins, had stepped forward with his own flying saucer sighting that appeared in the Portland Oregonian. To the experts certain elements stood out like neon. For one thing, Rankins had an outstanding reputation in aviation so if he said he saw something flying he couldn't identify, it was no doubt viewed something significant. Also, the Rankin sighting was said to have taken place before Kenneth Arnold's June 24th report. Finally, Rankin claimed that the formation of saucer-like objects he observed, some 7-10 in number and flying in a "V" formation, swept overhead at high speed headed north, and a half hour later evidently the same group of UFOs was seen again by him coming out of the north headed in a southern direction. Rankin told reporters he knew about the Navy's test plane, the XF5U-1, or the "Flying Flapjack," so he believed the objects were probably a secret military craft of a similar design. The implication of the coming and going of the formation was not lost on Rankin for he suggested that the craft may have a base nearby. The location of the Rankin sightings was Bakersfield, California, in early June. Bakersfield is almost due south as the crow flies from Mt. Rainer-Mt. Adams trajectory taken by the UFO formation reported by Kenneth Arnold later that month that caused a national sensation. 70.

Naturally there was some wondering about the possibility Rankin and Arnold had observed UFOs traveling a Pacific Coast route.

The secret summary of July 16th:

An attempt to synthesize seemingly unrelated events into a believable rationale was prepared for circulation within Air Corps Intelligence, a summary dated July 16th and stamped SECRET. It dealt with the Canadian UFO reports from Newfoundland and American ones from Alaska, which in turn was joined with references to the silver-colored objects sighted over Hungary on June 10, 1947, emphasizing that the European mystery, the ghost rockets of 1946, were recorded before similar manifestation kindled apprehensions in the "Zone of the Interior" (North America). The implication lent further evidence to the idea that the UFO phenomenon was independent of mass hysteria and possibly tinted a Russian red. 71.

The Hungarian episode had had some subsequent support that is even more favorable to the flying saucers being interlaced with UFO

activity overseas, for if the following account can be verified, there were more than "silver balls" in the air over Hungary. The report follows:

On June 10, 1947, at about 3:30 p.m., a Mr. Gyorik Ference, a Hungarian citizen, was waiting to cross Areana Street in downtown Budapest when something up in the heavens attracted his gaze. Other people on the sidewalk were likewise tilting their heads in response to something unfamiliar moving in the sky. Some sixty degrees above the horizon strange yellow-red platter-like objects hove into view. There were four of the objects trailing one another in an in-line formation, making their way through the atmosphere in an odd "swimming" motion. The flat, round, aerial things passed out of sight to the northwest over Varosliget Park after having been in sight for 30 seconds. 72.

More speculation:

The district FBI office at New Haven, Connecticut, forwarded a document of special interest to Bureau headquarters in Washington on July 18th about the remarks volunteered by a scientist with an excellent background in wartime government work and currently employed at a research laboratory in Stamford. The document reads:

"Mr. --- (deleted) stated that the topic of 'flying saucers' had caused considerable comment and concern to the present day scientists and indicated that he himself had a personal theory concerning the 'flying saucers.' Prior to advancing his own theory, Mr. --- remarked that immediately after the conclusion of World War II, a friend of his, Mr. ---, allegedly observed the 'flying saucers' from an observatory in Milan and Bologna, Italy. He stated that apparently at the time the 'flying saucers' had caused a little comment in Italy but that after some little publicity they immediately died out as public interest. Mr. --- stated that it is quite possible that actually the 'flying saucers' could be radio controlled germ bombs or atom bombs which are circling the orbit of the earth and which could be controlled by radio and directed to land on any desired target at the specific desire of the agency or country operating the bombs. He stated that one of the items of interest which he personally has observed is the fact that the saucers have been observed in Mexico City, New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Halifax, Newfoundland, Paris, Milan, Bologna, and Yugoslavia as well as Albania. By placing a string around the globe of the earth it would be noticed that all of the above mentioned cities form a direct orbit or circle around the earth and would be more or less in line of any path in which the saucers could be circling.*

*Dr. David Saunders, using documented observations of UFOs in Ted Bloecher's book, The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947, claims that a straight plot of 36 sightings existed between Monterey, California, and Baltimore, Maryland, with an average deviation of 1-1/4 miles for the period of time July 3rd to July 16th. For more details consult the Santa Ana (California) Register of October 2, 1974, which has the article: "UFO Data Computer Study—Key to Sightings Prediction?" by David Branch.

Mr.--- further states that he had recently talked with ---, one of the owners of --- Company in Glenbrook, Conn., and had been informed by --- that his company is making a large powerful telescope to be used in searching the stratosphere for atom bombs. 73.

Still another document that contained a special element of particular fascination to military Intelligence, which was indications of flying saucer sightings prior to the Kenneth Arnold June 24th report, arrived at Air Corps Headquarters in the form of a letter on July 21st. Authored by a couple of Virginian meteorologists, it is worth quoting at length:

"...Mr. Walter Minezewski has observed this strange metallic disc on three occasions through the theodolite while making his pibal observation during the last six months (November, 1947 - April, 1947). Miss Baron's report agrees with Mr. Minezewski observations except as to the color which she reported as a dull metallic luster. Mr. Minezewski last observed this disc in April, 1947, at the 1100 E Pibal Observation when the balloon was at 15,000 feet. The disk was followed for 15 seconds, apparently moving on level flight from east to west to the far north of the station. The object was a metallic-like chrome-shaped something like an ellipse with a flat level bottom and a dome-like round top. The disc appeared below the balloon, was much larger in size in the instrument, and shined like silver.

It was impossible to estimate the height or speed of the disc except that it appeared to be moving very rapidly. Miss Baron observed the disc when her balloon was at about 27,000 feet. All of the days in question were either clear or with very few clouds and good visibility." 74.

The direction given for the April sighting is east to west indicating a possible origin off the Virginia coast. Of similar interest was a report dated July 23, 1947, from a fisherman sailing off the coast of Belgium in Europe telling of a "flat, sperical, greenish-colored body skimming across the sky spewing out a trail of white smoke. 75. Such reports might give some credence to ship-launched missiles, or so military Intelligence might surmise.

During these developments the average American had no way of knowing about the official goings-on at military Intelligence, FBI Headquarters, or at the Pentagon. All the man-in-the-street knew was what he could glean from the news media and there was darn little to be found. At the end of July one peerless source of public information, Life Magazine, complained about the meager supply of photographs, none of which met their exacting standards, therefore, one supposes, the magazine felt safe when it published a full page cartoon ridiculing the "hysteria" instead. Similarly, the Baltimore American typified editorial mood generally prevelant to many newspapers that had been wavering which were not giving into disbelief producing story headlines like: FLYING DISCS JOIN OTHER MASS HOAXES. Newsweek had to really scratch around for a comment by this time. It printed: "A few disc-shaped shadows linger. A Nashville radio station played 'Flying Saucer Blues.' A Chicago tavern advertised a Flying Disc cocktail." 76. It seemed that the discs had whirled on into the summer's heat where whence they came.

The FBI investigation floundered being reduced at times to passing on reports that dribbled in by circuitous channels. On July 7th an Air Corps Captain observed from the air over southern Wisconsin a saucer-shaped object that: "...descended vertically edgewise through altocumulous clouds, stopped at 4,000 feet, and assumed a horizontal position and proceeded in a horizontal position for 15 seconds covering 25 miles and again stopped and disappeared..." 77. The observation was written up the day of its occurrence and turned into the Commanding General office at Bolling AFB. It then was forwarded to the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol, finally it was passed on by them on July 24th to FBI headquarters (17 days later). There didn't seem to be much urgency to send data the Bureau's way! 78.

In order to clarify the American secret weapon theory even further, the representative of the FBI, Special Agent Reynolds, went to one of the "topside" persons in the military, General Curtis LeMay, Chief of the Research and Development of the Army Air Corps. The agent went through General Schulgen who drafted a memorandum addressed to General LeMay, which requested an answer to the question of whether or not the discs were a secret military experiment. Since an affirmative reply would certainly render useless any FBI involvement, Hoover's man hoped for a speedy acknowledgement which would set the Bureau free to attend to more vital matters with its limited manpower. 79.

If the saucers were not due to Communist agents making false reports, there wasn't much to keep the FBI busy. Military Intelligence, however, pressed on with its intercontinental missile/plane hypothesis. July 31st military Intelligence made additional inquiries into the episode about the UFO that "bored" a hole in a cloud over Newfoundland. During discussions with the Commanding Officer of Harmon Field, a Mr. Larkin, a businessman from Kansas City, Kansas, sat in on the talks and suggested that the experience of a Captain Gullage, Master of the steamship Burgse, might be of some import for it seems the Captain had sighted some mysterious flashes in the sky while at sea off Newfoundland July 15th. Moreover, Mr. Larkin said he had been aboard the Burgse in the same area on July 20th chatting with Captain Gullage about the weird aerial lighting display when the Captain pointed in the same direction and to the astonishment of both the phenomenon chose that very instant to reappear. There were four flashes of light this time about one second apart crossing from the northeast to the south-southwest at high velocity at a 30 degree angle to the horizon. Mr. Larkin, familiar with Aurora glows was certain the flashes were not the Northern Lights. 80. Was this phenomenon a high speed projectile arcing through the ozone toward U.S. targets? Elsewhere two reports came in to military Intelligence on July 29th and are of some interest.

Hamilton AFB, California:

A Captain Ryherd spotted a pair of strange objects in an in-line formation approach Hamilton Field. Stunned he tapped the shoulder of a Lt. W.L. Stewart who had just piloted an aircraft to a landing and was taking his leave of the runway. Ryherd pointed out the weird intruders. Both officers watched as one UFO stalked

a P-80 in a landing traffic pattern as its companion UFOs flew cover in a weaving motion. Captain Ryherd said the UFOs were about 20 feet in diameter, were circular in shape with a bulge on the bottom, and of a whitish tint. We know what that meant but Captain Ryherd refused to use the expression: "flying saucer" protesting any attempt to drag the words out of him. Anyway, the two "nonsaucers" broke off their tracking of the jet fighter and raced away: "...so fast they made the P-80 look like it was standing still," said one eyewitness. 81. What flies that fast?

Canyon Ferry, Montana:

Three men were motoring to Helena, Montana, on July 29th and were 25 miles from the city when one of the fellows shouted: "See it! See it! There's a flying saucer!" The sedan slid to a halt as a meteor-like thing at 3,000 feet elevation approached the witnesses. The UFO, which the men termed a "disc-shaped machine," slowed to a stop and remained stationary except for a slight fluttering, then it began to rise and fall straight up and down. Seemingly three feet across and only inches thick, the object glistened, and shimmered as it danced in the sun's rays. Not knowing just what they were observing the men could make no accurate estimate of the UFO's true size. After a brief time the UFO shifted gears at the top of one of its high bounces, zooming away at an amazing velocity: "...after only traveling a quarter of a mile the craft 'melted into thin air' as if because of tremendous speed." 82. What flies that fast????

Yet another case, not in official files, surfaced in an Associated Press dispatch dated July 29th. It seems that the day before a twin-engined United Air Lines passenger plane, Flight 105, the same regularly scheduled run often piloted by Captain E.J. Smith whose saucer sighting back on July 4th had captured so much press notice, was preparing to descend for a landing at Boise, Idaho. The pilots, Captain C.F. Gibian and First Officer J. Harvey, were stunned as a disc-shaped thing swept into view and approached the airliner headon. Before the danger of a collision became acute, the onrushing UFO changed course and fled the area. The duration of the encounter exceeded two minutes. 83.

Flying cigars, cigarettes, and firecrackers:

Some reports that were compiled dealt with an odd configuration. Amid the novel sightings of "flying saucers" there were a few of "missile-like" profiles.

August 4th:

At 4:00 p.m. near Everett, Massachusetts, a pilot and his navigator sighted an object that was bright orange zooming along at a lower altitude than their aircraft. The navigator, Mr. White, was the first to see it and told the pilot to peer out the side-window. There, about a mile away something approximately the size of a fuselage of a fighter plane and resembling a 15 foot, shiny cigarette of a deep gold color with blunt ends, was zipping through the air pushed along by a glaring jet exhaust. Moving at around 150 miles per hour, the UFO remained visible for half a minute until a cloud screened it from further observation. 84.

August 6th:

An ex-bomber pilot was talking with neighbors about six o'clock in the evening in Philadelphia when an object spewing a blue-white flame flashed overhead at about 450 mph. A slight hissing noise was heard. One witness said the thing looked like a giant firecracker leaving a fiery trail 100 feet long. Another denied that the smoke trail was anything near that long, saying that the vapor dissipated after only two seconds. The official report mentions: "Both the offices of Naval Intelligence and Army Intelligence were requested by the Philadelphia office to ascertain if either the Army or Navy was doing any experimental work on new types of planes or equipment in the vicinity of Philadelphia." 85.

Also on August 6th:

A flying disc was reported maneuvering in the heavens over Robert Lee, Texas. Five citizens swore they had watched as an object shifted positions in the sky. The thing zoomed out of sight northward in the direction of the town of San Angelo. After some 15 minutes the thing returned to the area of Robert Lee and resumed its sky antics. When half an hour had elapsed the disc began to change, becoming more like a thin cigar-shaped object emitting vapor in the process. Eventually the aerial maveric receded over the horizon. 86.

The Madagascar monster:

There might be some hesitation about the inclusion of the following case since it appeared in a popular book, but military Intelligence thought it of enough value to be made part of official UFO files. A Mrs. A.M. King of Nairobi had taken passage on the S.S. Llandovery Castle and in early July was taking a stroll on deck about midnight as the ship navigated the Straits of Madagascar. She and her escort were attracted to a "bright star" that approached in the dark sky. She later wrote:

"Suddenly a searchlight appeared which flashed a strong beam of light on the water within 50 yards of the ship. It (the object) descended, its beam shortening and becoming brighter as it neared the water, and the next instant there was no more light, but an object appeared apparently made of steel and shaped like a cigar cut at the rear end. It remained in the air about 20 feet above the sea, parallel with the Llandovery Castle, and traveling in the same direction.

Gaining a little in speed, after a second or two the whole shape disappeared without a sound, from the rear issuing fierce flames which shot out to about half the length of the object. It appeared that there must be something like a huge furnace inside the thing, but still we could hear no noise from the flames. No windows could be seen, only a band of metal round the entire thing, which, if it had been a complete cigar-shape would have been centrally situated.

The object was very large, about four times the length of the Llandovery Castle, and about four times as high.

We had a wonderful view, but in a few seconds it disappeared. No light was seen forward as it left; it just vanished soundlessly in the darkness." 87.

At the beginning of August an FBI agent by the name of J. Patrick Coyne composed an essay on the disc problem in the form of a memorandum addressed to the Assistant Bureau Director D.M. Ladd. Agent Coyne compared the contemporary riddle with the wartime problem of the trans-Pacific fireballoons launched by the Japanese against the United States. After helping the Army at the outset to establish the character of the strange objects, he wrote, the military dismissed the Bureau without so much as a thank you or proper credit. From what he could determine, Coyne continued, the discs were a similar military weapon of some sort that called for none of the Bureau's expertise, and as a result agents were probably wasting their time in a thankless task. He noted that the military was doing its own interrogating so why use the FBI? 88. Why indeed?

Still around.

August (exact date not recorded).

Near Los Angeles at 10:00 a.m. while hiking in the mountains a man reported seeing a small object on the ground that suddenly took off and "knocked him to the ground." 89.

August 7th:

Judge and Mrs. Albert Turner reported sighting seven (saucers) in the sky east of Red Mountain (near Randsburg, California). Describing them as silver in appearance the Turners state that the saucers hovered in the area for a period of fifteen to twenty minutes. 90.

On that same August 7th day a R. Hatfield of Roseburg, Oregon, was mystified by something, a "mysterious object," he said, that put in two appearances over Myrtle Creek Airport. Being manager of the facility, he commandeered an aircraft and took up pursuit after the thing hove into view the second time. Climbing to 50,000 feet Hatfield sighted the object and tried to close in but his quarry "woke up" and left in such a hurry there was no chance to get near. 91.

Intelligence authorities in the lower echelons became curious over classified orders finally urging a maximum effort, for the Russian theory seemed to hold little promise and Air Corps Intelligence advisers shook their heads over reported UFO maneuvers, doubting anything human could pilot the saucers.

Apparently it was these feelers that produced a secret cypher message from London dated August 8th which informed American Intelligence that months earlier, on January 16, 1947, to be exact, a Mosquito fighter of the Royal Air Force on a training flight was diverted to a target picked up on radar which could not be identified. The British plane started its run on the UFO when the fighter was over the North Sea about 50 miles from the Dutch coast. Roaring through the sky at 22,000 feet the Mosquito fighter leaped ahead as its pilot shoved the throttle wide open to take up the chase. The UFO darted away like a startled rabbit toward England leaving the fighter laboring to keep up. For a half an hour the pursuit lasted until the English countryside appeared below, the pursuit ending in the Norfolk region with the object fleeing over the far horizon. The secret cypher on the incident says of the UFO: "...the strange object seemed be be efficiently controlled in

its evasive actions." 92.

Although classified, accounts of this "ghost plane" (there were a number of these that spring, all of which went from east to west, none returning) and the military's futile attempts to bag one, were reported in the press so why the "secret" stamp? Apparently it was the renewed official concern about the incidents that was being concealed.

Reports still continued although they were not often nationally publicized. The regional director of the weather bureau at Anchorage, Alaska, was a recipient of a strange report on August 4th by some pilots employed by a regional flight service. Why the aviators contacted the weather bureau is a mystery itself nonetheless the forecasters in Anchorage forwarded the report to the Alaska Military Communication System at Seattle, Washington, thus getting it into Intelligence channels. As for the sighting, it seems that a Captain J. Peck and his co-pilot, V. Daly, were flying their plane near Bethel, Alaska, a small town in the western part of the state not far from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, when the pilots radioed the regional weather station something was dead ahead of them they couldn't identify (perhaps the flyers first believed the thing to be a weather instrument?); anyway, the object was silhouetted against the sky which was lit brilliantly by the sun low on the horizon. Captain Peck hauled back on his controls to bring his plane up to a safer altitude. Now a thousand feet higher, the pilots glanced downward and spotted the UFO closer but on a changed course. Still dark against the sky, it looked to be as large as a C-54. Intrigued, Captain Peck dove on the object as it pulled away doing his best to get a better view, but it speeded up to an estimated 500 mph and was lost to view in four minutes, a fantastic performance for something smooth surfaced with no apparent engines of any kind. 93.

As previously stated, August UFO activity passed unnoticed by the vast bulk of Americans and as for official investigations, they were well cloaked by security, however a bizzare hoax concerning alleged fragments of a flying saucer at Tacoma, Washington, received extensive news coverage. The merits of the case are minimal but it did put a spotlight on the military's unseemly haste to get their hands on something that "didn't exist." After the Tacoma hoax had run its course, a spokesman for the Fourth Air Force (covering the Western U.S.) addressed a gathering of reporters explaining that the much-heralded "saucer fragments" had turned out to be just common slag (this was confirmed by an independent civilian source), and what's more, he snapped, as far as the military was concerned, flying saucers still being reported elsewhere around the nation did not have: "...any basis in fact." 94.

This fervent castigation of the saucers put a certain Signal Corps operator in Seattle in a vacillating mental state, for he was sitting on the UFO report from the weather bureau at Anchorage, Alaska, concerning the sighting made by Captain Peck. The Captain was well known in the Northwest because he was the chief pilot for a regional company air service, a 17 year veteran of flying and definitely a no nonsense guy. The Signal Corpsman wondered: should

he send the report to Washington or not? Hesitating only briefly, he passed it along to higher headquarters with a personal note attached in which he did his own castigating by insisting that Captain Peck's observation was of "national interest." 95. This caused some perturbations in Washington when the message arrived in the offices of the High Command, but for the moment that story will have to wait.

More items of "national interest."

Near Silver Springs, Ohio, August 10th, at 9 o'clock at night, a Lt.Col. F.L. Walker, GSC, of the Air Force's Scientific Branch Research Group spotted an object crossing the sky on a straight course from north to south leaving a long thin trail of flame and smoke like: "...a tracer bullet." The object abruptly vanished in midflight. 96. It might have been just a meteor and probably was, but the fact that the observation was put in Air Force files indicates how hypersensitive the military had become to "missile-like" phenomenon.

August 13th:

Near Twin Falls, Idaho, at 9:30 a.m., a county commissioner and an ex-sheriff reported an "inverted pie plate" 20 feet across and ten feet thick passing over at a great height and making a roaring noise. 97. More on this case later.

August 14th:

At Guam in the western Pacific at 10:40 a.m. some enlisted men saw a number of crescent-shaped objects on a zig-zag course moving twice as fast as an airplane. 98.

FBI agents were sent to the home of a R. Switzer in Sacramento, California, to ask questions about something seen August 14th in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Switzer told the agents he had been driving along Cedar Ravine Road that day with his wife and kids when a smoke trail appeared. At the head of the smoke was an object about five feet long and fourteen inches wide (he estimated), and of a metallic appearance that flashed in the sun. While in view the mystery cylinder was suddenly: "...engulfed in a puff of dark grey smoke about ten feet in diameter." 99. He said he had turned to say something to his wife but it was obvious that she had seen the whole thing for her mouth hung open and she was waving a finger at the lingering smoke cloud. No particles were detected falling out of the vapor. Mr. Switzer guessed the thing had exploded fairly low and about 800 yards from the road. An air search was conducted but nothing out of the ordinary could be detected in the area. No more was attempted since the terrain was too broken for an exacting ground inspection. 100. With that the inquiry was ended.

What was approaching? Bombers? There was no contrails and no sound. Were they ducks? No, they were heading the wrong way for this time of year and were in too perfect a formation. These thoughts coursed through the mind of the observer, a veteran commercial pilot who later became an A&E mechanic with aviation inspection authorization. He was seeing some dark specks growing larger in the sky, moving South and North in a vertical Vee formation with one on a point and the others stepped above and below intrail. The location of the sighting was the outskirts of

St. Louis, Missouri, on August 11, 1947, during a softball game. The objects were soon discerned as disc-shaped, nine in number, approaching at some 25,000 feet and doing about 1,000 mph in the cloudless, cobalt-blue heavens. At arm's length the discs appeared to be the size of a grape. Dark on one side and light colored on the other, the objects flipped in unison every two seconds.

Both teams and some 25 spectators watched with great interest. The ballplayers were an excellent collection of witnesses with one team consisting entirely of aircraft ground instructors and the other team made up of pilot and aircraft mechanic students. 101.

Teletype report:

ATTENTION: DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTENTION: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, BUTTE, MONTANA

SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS

These signals led off an alert sent out by FBI agents in the Idaho area after a story appeared in the Twin Falls Times-News concerning a "vision" of a "saucer-jet." The thing was reported flying "in" a canyon. Could it have been trying to sneak into the U.S. under radar coverage?

The Air Force's official file on the case is faithful to the newspaper account with the exception of being lean worded:

"...(deleted) had sent his sons to the river for some tops from his boat. As they were overdue he went to look for them, when he noticed some 300 feet away some 75 feet in the air a sky-blue object silhouetted against the steep walls of the (Snake River) canyon on the far side. (The canyon is about 400 feet deep and 1200 feet across at this point.) The object was traveling 75 feet in the air (300 feet below the rim of the canyon) and so was plainly visible. --- states that the sky-blue color would probably not be noticed against the sky. He states that 'It did not spin like a top.' However, he did say that the trees over which it passed almost directly did not just bend with the wind as if a plane had gone by but that they 'spun around on top as if they were in a vacuum.' (Air Force emphasis).

Keith ---, a son, eight years of age said he saw the machine coming down the canyon heading from east to west and following the contours of the ground. Billy, age ten, another son, saw it almost immediately. Both watched it fly out of sight behind a tree in a matter of moments. 102.

Of special interest, of course, were what the two children said of the pair of apparent smokeless turbine, or red rocket, exhaust flames through which: "...could be seen daylight..." as the craft zoomed by with a swishing sound. 103. The jet-like knots on the UFO's side are depicted as emitting puffs of smoke in the drawing done by an artist on the staff of the Times-News but according to the eyewitnesses, such detail was not apparent during the sighting and the puffs had been penciled in as an explanatory emphasis. 104. 105.

One other point that should be touched upon here was the sky-blue color. This hue may have been the reflection of the atmosphere

off a mirror-like finish, but officially this was not considered. 106.

An Air Force scientific advisor some months later, grading the case on its merits as being a possible inexplicable event, reduced the report to the mere sighting of an "atmospheric eddy." The military people went along: "It seems logical to concur with (the) ...deduction, that this object was simply a rapidly moving atmospheric eddy." 107. We have to put off any debate with this seeming bias attitude here and instead continue with the attitudes that were contemporary with the sighting date.

Some thought on the matter shows that there may have been some similarity with the glistening rocket-like thing that split the clouds over Newfoundland back on July 9th. Was this an interloper that was sneaking under radar coverage by flying down a canyon, some sort of jet-assisted craft on a spy mission originating from Canada or beyond? The Twin Falls witness did not lack an opinion: "The canyon floor is rough at that particular point and it rode up and down over the hills and hollows at a speed indicating some type of control faster than the reflexes of man. It is my opinion that it is guided by instruments and must be powered by atomic energy as it made very little noise..." 108.

Military agents that went to Twin Falls were interested enough to check out another report in the Salomon Dam area that occurred at the same time. One of these witnesses was County Commissioner, L.W. Hawkins, who with a former county sheriff, told the Times-News that: "...a sound resembling the echo of a motor caused him to look upward, and there he saw two circular objects that reflected light. They were traveling at a great speed and higher than most airplanes ..." 109.

Do saucers burn their bridges behind them?

A case not to be found in the FBI files "pertaining to UFOs" but having something eerie about it nonetheless, is the fate of the Salmon River Bridge linking Warm Springs, Idaho, with the city of Riggins, a 400 foot-long structure spanning a 90 foot gorge. A wood trestle bridge supported by steel cables, it seemed secure enough on the clear, warm, afternoon of July 24, 1947. Three people, a Mr. and Mrs. William Bowman and a friend, Mrs. Isabel Swope, left Warm Springs that day and drove the lonely highway to Riggins. Approaching the Salmon River, they caught sight of a towering column of smoke ahead. Arriving at the bridge the trio was absolutely amazed to find the entire structure ablaze. Even the steel cables that could resist temperatures of 2,800 degrees were melting from the heat. Mr. Bowman took two photographs and then notified authorities.

Nothing else in the canyon was disturbed which raised questions about possible sabotage. The local FBI office conducted an investigation without results, at least none that were shared with the newsmedia. The most profound question was how the heat could reach temperatures in excess of 2,800 degrees outside the confines of a furnace? Oregon Forest Rangers could only suggest lightning as the cause although they admitted the weather was hardly conducive to electrical discharges. The Rangers did, however, relate the fact there had been an unusual number of "meteors" setting fires that summer. 110.

Terror near Tamarack:

What causes enough heat to melt steel cables on a quite ordinary day? Perhaps, if we are a bit daring in our thinking, it can be postulated that something quite out of the ordinary passed that way, that something flew by spouting jets of fire.

There is another story from the same region that might help to explain the blazing bridge or at least expand on possibility that things were not normal. On July 30th a John Ostrom of Nissa, Oregon, an elderly gentleman highly regarded by friends and neighbors, wheeled his heavy Army surplus truck out on the highway leading out of Tamarack, Idaho, and accelerated to 45 miles per hour. A mile from town, Ostrom joined the ranks of UFO sighters when a "silver ball" of blinding brilliance came into view. At this point the 66-year-old Ostrom could only claim an "ordinary" UFO experience, but then the baseball-like UFO apparently decided whoever was driving the truck rated a closer look so down it plunged at a 30-degree angle aiming its dive directly at the windshield. Ostrom, terror stricken, let go of the steering wheel and covered his face. The "ball" hit the truck with a bang, glancing off the top-forward edge of the vehicle's cab. Everything happened so quickly Ostrom was able to regain control of his truck and bring it to a safe stop. He got out and examined the metal body and found a dent that showed a "weld-like" surface as if the flying ball had been intensely hot. 111.

America had succumbed impressively to the saucer story in a few respects, according to the Gallup Poll of August 15, 1947, which found that public awareness of the aerial mystery had reached 90% leaving such famous newsmakers like the Marshall Plan and the Taft-Hartley labor bill far behind in the ratings, but when tested about the possible explanations to the riddle, prosaic answers claimed a lion's share of the percentages. Most took a liking to possible secret weapons, balloons, hoaxes, etc. Nothing was said about "alien visitors," not even a measurable 1% toyed with the concept. 112.

If "they" existed, where did they come from? From what point of the compass did they arrive? This is granting that the things were artificial solids and not to be numbered among the less spectacular prosaic answers the public favored.

The UFO that dropped in for a visit.

A forest ranger on fire watch in a high wooden tower atop Mt. Josephine, Skagit County, Washington, had more than smoke plumes to report on August 17, 1947. A "thing" dropped straight down out of the sky to the northeast of the lookout. The "thing", shaped like a huge clam, fell tipped at an angle, slowed to a stop, leveled out, and then "floated leisurely as if suspended on a cord" for a few minutes before whizzing off to the southeast with ever increasing velocity. 113.

For some reason UFO reports over the Northwest remained numerous. On the 19th, strange objects suddenly filled the skies over Twin Falls, perhaps seeking their companions of six days before. Witnesses first spotted a single disc zooming in a northeasterly direction followed a short time afterward by a flight of ten disc-like objects in a triangle formation. Within minutes a trio of discs, also in a triangle formation, came into sight on the same

course. Almost before witnesses could catch their breath, another triangle formation, this time consisting of 5-6 objects, traced a path across the heavens going in an identical direction as their fellow sky travelers. On the heels of this manifestation, one of the largest flights of UFOs ever reported soared overhead, thirty-five to fifty in number, lined up in a triangle formation. This group also proceeded northeast. The weird sky show had still not ended for within a half an hour small groups of discs came over the horizon at short intervals returning from the northeast and fleeing in a southwest direction. 114.

Approximately the same date, the exact day is not recorded, an Air Force Major beheld a tight formation of elliptical objects said to be a brilliant yellow-white in color, approaching Rapid City, South Dakota, swooping down out of a dark night sky at an estimated 350 mph. They then pulled up and climbed away, accelerating rapidly, all the while remaining equally spaced in their maneuvers. 115.

FBI agents finally found their way to Phoenix on August 29th to question W. Rhodes exhaustively about the saucer pictures taken back in July. The FBI also checked a news story in the Wilmington (Delaware) Morning News that referred to a local resident who claimed the sighting of a strange object twice, once in September, 1946, and another in October the same year. He described one of the objects as a sort of "flying tube" some 15 inches in diameter zipping through the air at 1,000 mph. It was jet powered and travelled west to east crossing the coast in Rehoboth beach area. 116.

"Buzzed by a buzzsaw."

News item datelined Seattle, Washington, August 30th: "Three mountain climbers said today they were buzzed by a flying saucer that was 'round, almost transparent and sounded like a buzzsaw.' Roger Hamilton, his wife, Patricia, and Dick Hamilton said they sighted the object near Snow Lake on the Snoqualmie Pass Sunday. The trio said it went so fast 'none of us had time to take a picture.'" 117.

The haunting of Holloman:

The greatest concentration of atomic and missile research installations in the world in 1947 was to be found in the state of New Mexico. The experts that lived and worked in the region were not given to casual interpretations of the unusual, yet the UFO malady would infect the eyes of these men, and even the equipment they used, nonetheless producing the eerie suspicion the research being done there might be subject to a reconnaissance by something beyond comprehension.

The start of a long series of odd visitations is mentioned in an official statement drawn up by the Holloman AFB Operations and Projects Group, Electronic and Atmosphere Division. Prepared by the Communications Officer, it read in part:

"During the latter part of August, 1947, this organization was carrying on several test runs with a modified SCR-270 at this base. I had released a corner reflector and two balloons and was watching them in their flight as they drifted to the southeast from this base. While watching the balloons through a pair of ten power binoculars, a white object, appearing to be round, came into my field of vision. I followed the object as

far as possible but lost it within seconds after picking it up. The object was traveling at an unprecedented rate of speed and appeared to be several thousand feet over the top of the Sacramento mountain range, traveling in horizontal flight south to north....it was definitely not a balloon and apparently not manned judging from the violent maneuvers which were performed at a high rate of speed." 118.

Still trying.

The FBI, still active, notified the U.S. Department of Justice, Communications Section, Washington, in a message marked "urgent" that a resident of Oswego, Oregon, had, on September 3rd, at about noon, sighted 12-15 round silver objects in the sky high over the city. The local Bureau office said it would interview the observer. Washington later commented that no conclusion could be reached since the report contained "insufficient data." 119. This would be a typical brushoff for more than one case.

The report of Captain Peck, mentioned earlier, finally forwarded by the Signalman in Seattle, passed through a few hands and its sentiments produced frowns. Air Defense Command at Mitchell Field, New York, sent what amounted to a rebuke to its West Coast department. Addressed to Fourth Air Force Headquarters at Hamilton Field, California, a message dated September 3rd, stated that the Air Defense Command wished: "...to correct the impression of the Signal Corps officer submitting the Bethel, Alaska, report that the Fourth Air Force 'claims there is no such things as flying discs...' Also, there was: "...some misinterpretation of an utterance by a public information officer about a collision of a flying disc with a boat in Tacoma harbor, an incident whose existence was found to be false." The message was signed by the Assistant Adjutant General. 120.

During the routine exchanges of documents among government departments an FBI man in San Francisco happened across one piece of paper that made his eyes pop, a "restricted" message dated September 3rd. It was typed on an Army letterhead and indicated that the FBI's true investigative role was other than the Bureau was led to believe. Actually the Air Corps did not want to be encumbered with certain aspects of UFO investigations so the FBI was steered to taking on: "...the task of tracking down all of the many instances which turned out to be ashcan covers, toilet seats and whatnot." The missive was to be forwarded to: "...certain Commanding Generals in the Army Air Forces from a Col. R.H. Smith, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence Headquarters, Air Defense Command, Mitchell Field, New York." 121.

In writing to the Assistant Bureau Director, D.M. Ladd, in Washington, the San Francisco agent termed the military letter as: "...tending to indicate the Bureau will be asked to conduct investigations only in those cases which are not important and which are, almost, in fact, ridiculous." He went on to say he believed his superiors should take up the matter with the Air Corps concerning the: "...scurrilous wordage which, to say the least, is insulting to the Bureau." 122.

Ladd alerted Hoover to the outrage, asking that a protest be lodged with the Assistant Chief of Staff-2, to break off field interrogations, and act henceforth as a mere information channel

to the military. 123.

At this inopportune moment, on September 5th, General Schulgen finally got General Le May's official answer to the FBI's earlier insistence to knowing absolutely if the discs were American. General Schulgen had Le May's declaration that: "...a complete survey of research activities discloses that the Army Air Forces has no project with the characteristics similar to those which have been associated with flying discs." 124. By now the Bureau wasn't sure it cared.

In the field FBI agents carried on unaware Hoover was boiling mad over the whole business.

Yet another lead cropped up in the Salt Lake Tribune. A Utah case that occurred on September 10th, some two days earlier, was dispatched to FBI headquarters in Washington. Local agents in Utah questioned the witnesses who said they had taken a break from a card game and were standing on their porch at their home in Logan, Utah, when they noticed some light colored objects circling overhead. Other witnesses around town claimed there were five groups of yellow-white objects, each group numbering 35-60, in orbit over the community. Speculation at first mentioned lights on airplanes or even "groups of morning stars." These snap explanations were discarded just as quick. Whatever they were, they were too fast to be birds and during the whole passage no wing movements were detected. 125.

Even remote locations came under consideration. Word was flashed from the Air Sea Rescue Operations at the Hawaiian Sea Frontier Headquarters to Navy Intelligence office of the 14th Naval District concerning an unusual incident on September 13th, involving a Pan American airliner enroute from Midway Island to Oahu, Hawaii. On arrival in Hawaii a Lt. Comdr. M.A. Young questioned both the pilot and co-pilot to ascertain what had occurred. The pilots said their plane had been droning along uneventfully only a few miles out of Midway flying at 3,000 feet and doing 205 knots. Things were so routine at this point the airliner was put on automatic pilot. It was just after dusk and an occasional towering cumulus cloud populated the sky. The tiny speck of Necker Island had just passed below when what was at first believed to be the lights of another aircraft appeared with an exceptional brilliance. The light suddenly turned on an intercept course with the Pan American craft. As it sped up, it divided into a pair of lights and took on an ominous crimson hue. The lights winked out abruptly and nothing further happened. The pilots were alarmed at the high velocity, estimated to have been over 880 knots, and baffled at the course change and level flight of what would ordinarily be shrugged off as a meteor. Military interrogators tried repeatedly to get the pilots to say the horizontal flight path and veering motion were imaginary but the aviators turned back these efforts. Since both flyers had exceptional service records their testimony was finally accepted. Fleet Intelligence Office, Pacific Fleet, and A-2 of the 7th Air Force at Hickman Field, were alerted. What further action was taken, if any, is not disclosed. 126. Perhaps the forementioned case lacked the startling credentials of others but it does serve to illustrate the existence of possible UFO activity and military concern far

from the shores of the U.S.

General Schulgen now felt it was time to get some substantial assistance. He pleaded his case to the Commanding General of the Air Force* Air Material Command, Lt. General Nathan F. Twining who heard out General Schulgen and agreed to call a conference to consider the matter.

When the conference convened no Schulgen people were present but many others from other departments were there. Some were from the Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2 Office. Chief of Engineering Division, and the rest from the Aircraft Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of the Engineering Division T-3. This panel of judges pondered the interrogation reports and preliminary evaluations submitted by General Schulgen's Intelligence and Technical experts. It was felt that the accumulated data should be examined in a statistical study armed with the knowledge that one could expect the numbers to follow normal probability curves. Allowing for the fact that natural phenomenon must be responsible for some disc reports and that much of the unexplained residue could be attributed to that which was "visionary" or "fictitious," the Air Force experts were still left with an impressive stack of paper. What was in those remaining files was pure dynamite. The key sentence in this exchange of views went: "If certain characteristics appear repeatedly in reports from different people it may be possible to infer causal factors." Realizing, however, they lacked vast numbers of UFO reports in coded form, only a "considered opinion" seemed realistic.

Taking the data at face value, the expert's opinion merely amounted to an amplification of the quick estimation given the phenomenon by one of General Schugen's advisors back in late July based on just 18 flying disc reports. There was a concession that meteors misinterpreted could account for some sightings. Other than that they were forced to conclude that the "phenomenon was real" and not misinterpretations or hoaxes. The reported high speed, amazing agility, excellent control, and usually silent operation, were taken into account. The original "flying saucer" expression continued to hold up as preponderant number of witnesses described shiny circular, or elliptical, flat objects. The experts left the door opened a crack to the possibility the U.S. was conducting a high security test project in spite of repeated official assurances to the contrary. Considering the general physical features reported for the flying saucers, it was assumed that given enough time and money an aircraft of a 7,000 mile range might be perfected but due to the difficulties of such an undertaking it was believed such an effort would be massive enough to be independent of existing programs and thus an endeavor unknown to

*Aircraft had long played a support role to land troops and were considered an integral part of the Army organization, hence the title: "Army Air Corps." With the introduction of long range bombers, air warfare achieved an independent strategic importance sufficient to warrant the creation of a separate service branch. The Army Air Corps became the "Air Force" on September 18, 1947. General Carl Spaatz became the first Air Force Chief of Staff.

many acknowledgeable Air Force authorities. (The development of the atomic bomb was an example they could have used.) This liberal interpretation, it goes almost without saying, left an allowance for a technical breakthrough by a foreign power, a worry serious enough by itself to earn the saucer stir a full fledged investigative project.

Amid all this intellectual surrendering to the improbable, the experts tossed in one cautionary sentence: "Due consideration must be given (to)...the lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects." 127.

Acting on these recommendations, General Twining requested that the investigation of the flying saucers be given a code name, a security classification, and a priority rating. A monthly detailed compilation of data was to be disseminated to the following organizations for comments and recommendations: the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JRUB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, RAND Corporation, and the NEPA. The forementioned conclusions about the saucers reports were not actually that, they were only "considered opinions" with specific directives yet to come, but when General Twining's letter containing the "opinions" arrived at General Schulgen's office dated September 23rd, it gave immediate respectability to the subject that had been meeting with uneven acceptance in many quarters.* Air Material Command Intelligence was ordered by General Craigie to: "...continue the investigation within its current resources in order to more closely define the nature of the phenomenon." 128. The solitary word "phenomenon" implied a vagueness not evident in the "considered opinions," as the Air Force, it seems, now sought to corral a mysterious "super-airplane."

*This official document with General Twining's signature first achieved public attention in 1956 in a book authored by Edward J. Ruppelt which referred only to the September 23rd date and the statement that: "the reported phenomenon is real."

Later, in 1960, the head of the Air Force's UFO investigation at the time, Lt. Lawrence J. Tacker, vigorously denied the document's existence challenging Pentagon critic Donald Keyhoe's faith in Ruppelt. Two years before, on January 22, 1958, during the television show, "UFOs: Enigma of the Skies," produced by CBS' Armstrong Circle Theatre, Keyhoe was censored on the air when he tried to mention this document, and others, the sound portion cut off by technicians in the control room. The program staff simply wanted no confrontation with the military. The program, put together with military cooperation and participation, was not a free debate but a carefully scripted presentation much to Keyhoe's disgust and subsequent rebellion. His vital evidence was crossed out in the script in spite of Keyhoe's preprogram protests.

One of the few positive results of the 1968 "Condon Report" was a declassified reproduction of the "Twining Letter."

On the saucer scene things maintained a steady pace. On September 11th UFOs again visited Portland, Oregon, at 5:15 p.m. when police and many others spotted a silvery object approach and then circumnavigate the city. The local FBI office routinely filed the reported information. 129. Meanwhile, things came to a head in Washington at Bureau headquarters.

J. Edgar Hoover, who had taken umbrage at the Air Force's "ashcan lid and toilet seat" document, fired off a note to Major General George C. McDonald, Assistant Chief Air Staff-2, across town in the Pentagon. Knowing Hoover the working was remarkably restrained:

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been requested by your office to assist in the investigation of reported sightings of flying discs.

"My attention has been called to instructions disseminated by the Air Forces relative to this matter. I have been advised that these instructions indicate that the Air Forces would interview responsible observers while the FBI would investigate incidents of discs found on the ground, thereby relieving the Air Forces of running down incidents which in many cases turned out to be 'ashcan covers, toilet seats and whatnot.'

"In view of the apparent understanding by the Air Forces of the position of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this matter, I cannot permit the personnel and time of this organization to be dissipated in this manner.

"I am advising the Field Divisions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to discontinue all investigative activity regarding the reported sighting of flying discs, and am instructing them to refer all complaints received to the appropriate Air Force representative in their area." 130.

Within days, on October 1st, FBI directives ordered:

"All future reports connected with flying discs should be referred to the Air Forces and no investigative action should be taken by Bureau agents." 131.

When one ponders the expense, effort, and the tough attitude Hoover had about the image of his FBI, it is small wonder involvement with hoaxes irritated, and during the summer there had been some corkers. Some samples:

Saucer secret solved (for 50cents):

Word of a discovery of a silver saucer at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on July 11th, by a member of the Civil Air Patrol, reached Colonel De Ford, Chief of Staff, Second Air Force, who had investigators telephone Black River Falls to question the finder. Failing to locate the disc discovery, investigators dialed the city's Chief of Police who, as it happened, verified the existence of a strange saucer-like object that had been viewed by hundreds of townsfolk and was being kept in a bank vault for safe keeping. FBI agents chartered an airplane and quickly arrived at Black Falls to inspect the fantastic "find." When they saw the thing they pronounced it a fake. Determined to pursue the matter regardless, a Colonel Sanders of the 137th AAF at World Chamberlain Field was

ordered by his superiors to bring the device to the Headquarters of the Second Air Force. When the thing arrived the Commanding General and his staff peeked at and poked at the 16-inch plywood and cardboard saucer stuffed with old radio tubes and sporting a crude propeller. The big brass finally agreed with the FBI. The finder (and apparently the creator of the disc) had charged Black Falls folks 50 cents a look. At least Uncle Sam was spared that expense. 132.

Another hot case:

The 15th of July an object ended up on a housetop in Seattle Washington, where it set the roof afire. The thing was a 28-inch hollow wood disc drenched in turpentine. Once in flames, the disc was evidently tossed wildly in the air. Someone, perhaps in the Seattle Fire Department, detected a hammer and sickle symbol on a portion unaffected by the heat and that's all it took. The FBI in Seattle wired Washington immediately with a cable marked: "Urgent." Navy bomb and electronic experts raced to the site. A quick glance told them the device couldn't possibly be enemy secret weapon. A mite embarrassed one supposes, the FBI terminated its interest in the incident with: "No publicity thus far and no comment being made in the event press inquiries are received." 133.

The fate of fakes:

When one of these phoney platters got as far as Air Defense Headquarters at Mitchel Field, New York, July 23rd, an official acknowledgement of the fact contained language of undisguised distaste. The "saucer" was not to be: "...dignified by any further consideration" ...and that Headquarters would hold it "...for a reasonable length of time and then dispose of it in the nearest ash receptacle." 134.

After the October 1st Hoover directive, the FBI was spared participation in such nutty aspects of the aerial controversy. The Bureau files dried up from this point on indicating that there was good compliance to the Chief's orders.

The Air Force, however, was stuck for better or worse but luckily the decline of press coverage of the controversy kept cases down to substantial events of possible scientific interest.

A vertical loop:

Something flew a giant vertical loop in the sky over the Southwest U.S. on October 8th leaving a trail of smoke so thick it was mistaken for a sky writer when first sighted. Near Mt. Charles, Nevada, a smoky "something" had soared in a slight rising course and then reversed itself without a turn (a 40 degree angle). An Air Force Reserve Officer had stopped his car to take an earnest look. Shortly thereafter he drew the course of the object on a scrap of paper because he was convinced there was something utterly strange about the thing which was so small it was undetectable, yet left a bellowing vapor trail. 135.

A horizontal loop:

Although no exact date is available, perhaps the inclusion of this October case is appropriate here. It seems that over Dodgeville, Wisconsin, at about midnight, a civilian observer saw

something come out of the northwest. He claims it was: "... moving slowly to the south. All at once in a sudden burst of speed it circled from right to left in a huge circle and moved toward the south at the same time. No sound, smell, or trail noted. A very high rate of speed was maintained in making the circles." 136.

"Flying Quien Sabe."

Another tiny "missile" terrorized the border country around El Paso, Texas, several days later. It produced a mystery October 12th which one newspaper called a "Flying Quien Sabe"—the Spanish equivalent of "who knows." That particular morning something "cigar-shaped and two feet long," blue and silver in color, flashed over the farm of Savas Aranda just outside the Mexican village of Casta in Chihuahua some 30 miles southeast of El Paso. The thing passed from east to west, and because the general description matched that of a rocket (an American missile had swerved off course and impacted south of Juarez earlier in the year on May 29th), it was first suspected to be a wayward U.S. Army device of some sort. Aranda, a reserve officer in the Mexican Army, spoke with U.S. Custom officials at the border town of Fabens, Texas, telling them the strange object apparently came down somewhere in the Zanalayuca mountains. Major General J.L. Homer, Commandant of Fort Bliss, Texas, questioned Aranda and was satisfied that the object in question was not an errant V-2 from White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico. Many Mexicans reported an explosion and felt some quaking of the ground so General Homer organized and led a search party into the Zanalayucas. Officially nothing was found. Mexican search teams likewise had no luck, at least that was all that was announced. 137.

A priority message sent over the Air Service Command Teletype Network, dated 14 October 1947, from Col. W.R. Clingerman, of Alamogordo AAF, Alamogordo, New Mexico, spelled out: "REQUEST ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING UNIDENTIFIED FLAMING OBJECT REPORTED TO HAVE CRASHED INTO THE ZANALAYUCA MOUNTAINS OF MEXICO AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30 PM ON 12 OCTOBER 1947 PD THE ORIGIN OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THIS INCIDENT APPARENTLY ARE FROM EL PASO TEXAS PD SIGNED ANALYSIS DIVISION T-2." 138.

Alamogordo soon tapped back: "LAST MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM THIS STATION 8 OCT AND RECOVERED IMMEDIATELY PD LAST MISSILE LAUNCHED BY WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND WAS 9 OCT AND RECOVERED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY PD THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FROM MEXICO CITY CMA MEXICO RELEASED A WNHIS MORNING THAT THE UNIDENTIFIED FLAMING OBJECT THAT LANDED ABOUT 35 MILES FROM JUAREZ MEX DEFINITELY A ROCKET AND WAS ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED FROM SOME TEXAS BASE. 139.

On October 15th the War Department's Classified Message Center passed further information on to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., from Fort Sam Houston, Texas: "REFERENCE PREVIOUS UNVERIFIED REPORT OF AERIAL OBJECT LANDING IN MEXICO OPPOSITE TOWN OF FABENS, TEX, REPORTS RECEIVED THIS DATE FROM CG AAA AND GMC AND BRANCH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FT BLISS TEX TO THE EFFECT MEXICAN GARRISON OF JUAREZ STILL SEARCHING SUSPECTED AREA OF IMPACT. NO RESULTS REPORTED. NO VERIFICATION OF REPORT. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING." 140.

Final official word termed the Mexican incident a "false report." 141.

Strange meteor-like UFOs pose a question that challenges even the most rabid UFO buff: "If UFOs are machines, what conceivable value are devices that destroy themselves after so brief a sojourn in the atmosphere?"

Candidates for "meteor-like" unexplainables are not all that rare. Popular Astronomy commented in its June, 1947, issue: "...the occurrences of indulations, spirals, abrupt curves in the motions of meteors, while reported from time to time for visual observations, has never been recorded photographically... since they appear impossible from a physical consideration... it is necessary to regard visual reports of such motions with suspicion." 142.

Military people cared only about postulations derived from their own concerns. Could there be something sinister aloft?

Scores of witnesses sighted an unusual "meteor that dipped" passing over Manitoba, Canada, October 13th. One of the many accounts reads: "A blue glow became visible moving eastward at high speed throwing a brilliant red-tinged flame forward and downward. A silent explosion occurred." The official report on this "meteor" was stamped SECRET and was examined carefully by Canadian experts from the Guided Missile Section of the Defense Research Board. A preliminary analysis suggested: "...a super step rocket and that the sudden dip and explosion was the cutting in of a second stage." 143.

A study of the commotion in the Canadian city of Hymers on October 25th certainly gives the impression something odd had indeed arrived:

"Fifty townspeople saw an object sweep over their town, then hover for 15 minutes, after a time it returned to its same direction from whence it came. In moving it looked like a long streak of fire, but was dark at the front end. Most of the object was as bright as the sun and hurt the eyewitnesses eyes to look at it. The eyewitnesses also noticed that the mystery object was giving off heat waves." 144.

"Plotting and charting."

When a professor of Aeronautics stopped by at Air Force Intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, in early November, he let it be known that he had watched an extremely unusual object put on a high performance show in the skies of the U.S. Southwest. Dr. Wood (no first name is given) fascinated the military with his scholarly evaluation of the UFO's animated behavior. The Intelligence people became convinced that correlations existed with other such incidents and took down the details for: "...plotting and charting for important Intelligence purposes." 145.

To pursue this point further, there is a paragraph in Air Force files which seems to be the sole other reference to a "plotting project." It reads: "It is further requested this office (Air Material Command, Wright Field) be advised as to progress being made on the plotting of all flying disc incidents to date (The date of this document is November 18, 1947), particularly in North America. It was understood that Dr. Carroll (?) was going to plot these incidents, but no further word was

received regarding this effort."* 146.

Map work contributed toward an understanding of the termination of a track as well as its origin. The significance of the former aspect may have had great importance in the commotion at Four Corners, a desolate place so undistinguished it is best described by a coordinate. On October 30th a Lt. Young of the New Mexico Wing of the Civil Air Patrol relayed an alarm over the CAP communications network to Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, about an: "...airplane falling in flames." This was the point at which all four states are contiguous. Major Charles L. Phillips, AF, CAP liaison officer at Kirtland, and Captain John Featherstone and Lt. Allen Bolles, CAP communications officers, cooperated in analyzing the flaming object as something other than an aircraft so they contacted Dr. La Paz at the New Mexico Meteorite Institute according to a prearranged plan. Due to the remote area and winter weather, no immediate follow up was initiated by Dr. La Paz. 147. Months would pass before anymore would be heard of this fall, in fact well into 1948.

Meanwhile, public awareness grew languid. This is mirrored in the modicum of information in the media and magazines. Science Digest, in its October, 1947, issue offered a tiny, half-hearted, obituary under the heading: "Remember the Flying Saucers?" In this small mention of the big turmoil the problem was reduced to one of public gullibility. On the other hand, Argosy magazine came closer to the mark because it had sniffed around a little and in its November issue told its readers that the flying saucers were being taken seriously by certain military people and scientists.

Besides Argosy, Dave Johnson, the aviation editor of the Idaho Statesman, the city newspaper of Boise, had maintained a healthy respect for the aerial mystery. When an unusual case saw print in the Portland, Oregon, Oregon Journal, November 13th, Johnson learned of it and placed a phone call to Air Force authorities just in case the news story had eluded official notice.

The story in the Journal detailed an incident 120 miles off the Oregon coast where a pair of "somethings" spewing jet-like streams of flame were seen by some officers on the bridge of the U.S.S. Ticonderoga. The officers used a radio-telephone hookup to alert the hydrographic station in San Francisco because: "...of a request by that office for any sightings of Flying Discs." 148. The Second Officer aboard the tanker Ticonderoga was one of the most surprised sailors sailing Neptune's realm when the two "flying question marks" came over the watery horizon. Momentarily stunned, he eventually yelled: "There goes some flying discs!" The objects soared across the sky in a low arc doing an estimated 800 mph going from horizon to horizon in about 45 seconds. It was hard to tell of course but it was though the objects were about 36 feet in diameter. 149.

The military officer that took Mr. Johnson's call expressed

*A fragment found in official files devotes the following to the plotting business: "Extract from Report No. 1, Project No. 364, Contract No. W33-038-1118, Mapping, Charting, and Reconnaissance Research Laboratory."

his gratitude and assured the Idaho Statesman editor that orders to formally investigate the UFO problem had recently come down from the highest official level (General Twining's September 23rd letter). During the telephone conversation Mr. Johnson happened to say something about an "unusual meteor" witnessed by CAA officials over southern Idaho, mentioning that the fireball was a pulsating blue-green color that left an odd luminescent smoke trail which persisted for some time. The "meteor" crossed from the southwest to the northwest above the mountain terrain between Boise and Mountain Home after dark (no date was given). The Air Force Intelligence officer was all ears much to Johnson's surprise, and the military agent hinted that the "meteor" may not have been a natural phenomenon. 150.

According to a source other than Mr. Johnson or the Air Force, more than one "meteor" visited the northwest at that time. A military cargo plane had been flying at 11,000 feet above Walla Walla, Washington, when a bright flash startled the pilot. A fireball-like object had shot up with an enormous height-scaling power coming from somewhere below the aircraft and just missing the nose of the Army transport. The glowing object, a blue-green blob, flew out of sight on an upward slant. Hardly 20 minutes had elapsed before three other aircraft flying over southern Idaho sighted the same UFO or something a close kin to it. Casting off a brilliant blue-green ray of light, a large fiery sphere zoomed across the vault of the heavens horizontally, leaving behind a ribbon of green vapor four miles long. One pilot confessed he had been nearly frightened out of his wits by the unexpected pyrotechnics. 151.

Intense forensic contests about the UFO problem were still in the future yet there were stirrings as the year came to a close. In fact a writer named Lionel Shapire charged in November that the mysterious saucers were being built in Spain by ex-German rocket experts. This drew comment from the Air Force Chief of Intelligence at Wright Field, Col. H.M. McCoy, in a letter to the Pentagon office of the Director of Intelligence, which declared:

"The story by Lionel Shapire regarding war weapons developed in Spain evidently was printed in a number of leading newspapers throughout the country. The significance of this article will be dependent upon certain essential elements for such alleged important developments, such as funds, materials, experimental testing facilities, and technological 'know-how'. The latter is supposed to be supplied by German scientists. The German scientists at this Hq indicate that no important scientists from Germany are working in Spain, and those mentioned in this article are not known to them.

If possible, therefore, an effort should be made to obtain names, qualifications, or any information that might help to identify the alleged German scientists working in Spain." 152.

For some reason Colonel McCoy followed with a brief note five days afterward requesting that the previous "UFOs made in Spain" letter be classified: "Secret." 153.

Overseas, the riddle of UFOs had acquired a limited notoriety but not reaching the scope of the "ghost rocket" excitement of the

year before. Greece, with its troubles with political tensions and rebel activity along its northern border in 1947, experienced sightings of mysterious "missiles" over the country's northern provinces. The Greek government assigned its top physicist, Dr. Paul Santorini, a man so brilliant he was a personal friend of Einstein, to look into the possibility Russian missiles were being used to intimidate the Greek army. Government technicians were made available to assist professor Santorini, who, with such help, quickly established to his satisfaction that the mystery was not due to Soviet devices. The U.S. State Department was following the political situation in Greece closely and Athens looked to Washington for guidance in its weak and divided condition, thus during the course of these bilateral consultations word reached the Pentagon of Dr. Santorini's work for the Americans immediately instructed the Greek government to order the termination of the professor's studies. Later, American scientists flew to Greece and interrogated Dr. Santorini in some detail on his findings. The episode left the Greek pedagogue convinced of the super-secret nature of the UFO problem. 154.

That we are dealing with possible flying saucer activity in this part of the world is supported by a Persian Gulf incident of November 5th. As the story goes, crewmen aboard the oil tanker Chipola were said to have sighted eight saucer-shaped objects whizzing through the air a mere half mile away while the vessel made its way through the warm waters off Arabia. As the sailors watched, the objects in question climbed out of sight gaining height while in an echelon formation. 155.

December brought with it some UFO reports from northern Germany where odd objects leaving green-colored wakes were seen. This area was sensitive militarily and unusual aerial activity there enhanced the Pentagon's anxiety over possible Soviet intrusions. On the evening of December 12th a young girl in Oslo, Norway, perceived what seemed to be a regular falling star, yet even this put the military into motion. The U.S. Air Force typed up the account the crux of which states:

"The object which appeared unusually bright in comparison to other falling stars the witness had observed, traveled from right to left on an arc of a circle, the curvature of which was very great." 156.

The writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance, that had expressed a hunch the flying discs might be Nazi devices perfected in Franco's Spain, came under fire from Air Force General Carl Spaatz who granted an interview to the Boise, Idaho, Idaho Statesman in the middle of the month, at which time he blasted the Spanish-Nazi idea while voicing his dissatisfaction with UFO evidence so far accumulated insisting that the public continue to pass on reports of anything unusual in the air. Pressed for his own feelings on the mystery, the General muttered a little about the "fact that none of the famous discs had been detected on radar" and if the things were real then their origin was beyond his ken. This, however, did not prevent General Spaatz from warning in stern tones that there was no reason for authorities tapping their heads and looking smug until there is a definite

improvement in international relations. 157.

On the 22nd of December the Associated Press quoted a legislator from Oregon, Congressman Harris Ellsworth, who insisted: "...he had received reliable information concerning the development of high-velocity missiles by Soviet scientists." The AP article was titled: "Mystery Discs Again Linked to Russia." Specifics were lacking. 158.

Just days later the American Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual winter meeting and during the opening sessions Dr. D.C. Wylie of the University of Iowa read a paper to a gathering of astronomers echoing the concern of the Alsop brothers while proposing that a nation wide "sky patrol" be established to check on unexplained phenomenon reported in the atmosphere. He cited the failure of science to explain the flying saucers and stressed that this lack of success could lead to an erosion of public confidence in authorities and the danger of another Pearl Harbor if vigilance remained relaxed. At the very least, he pleaded, science might gain scientific knowledge by a complete investigation into the flying saucer controversy, charging that there seemed to be no provision for determining if there was any factual basis to the flying discs and for all he knew: "...present national policy was to ignore UFO reports." 159.

As we have seen the UFOs were not exactly being ignored. In fact, General L.C. Craigie, Air Force Director of Research and Development, had just then given authorization to the establishment of an investigative project to collect data on: "...reports of sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere." On December 30, 1947, the project was set up and the code name "SIGN" conferred on the effort and a security priority of 2A assigned, the second highest possible. 160.

The quiescence in the public sector, now only disturbed by occasional voices like those of Shapire, Ellsworth, and Wylie, would prove a lull, already the irrepressible Ray Palmer had pushed plans for more visibility of the flying saucer problem imagining a full issue of Amazing Stories carrying a non-fiction treatment. This scheme, however, ran afoul of the Ziff-Davis publishers still smarting from Palmer's "Shaver Hoax" of the previous years. Undaunted, his small frame packed with enthusiasm, Palmer quit his editor's job on Amazing Stories' staff to launch his own literary effort which he proposed to fill with messages about the enigma of the skies. He would go on to earn credit as the subject's earliest publicist as well as the most consistent one. 161.

For six months military Intelligence at Wright Field had compiled files, consulted various experts both American and foreign, especially German, and made computations on their slide rules while mulling imagined explanations. By the end of 1947 the verdict leaned toward an aerial machine that greatly surpassed all conceivable designs known to science, something that confirmed early "considered opinions" of September. Project SIGN was just a new-born babe but its conclusions were already beginning to mature. The flying saucers, the Air Force experts surmised, must

be a product of a: "...highly developed state of technology." 162. From this point on a single question transcended all others: "Whose technology?"

So much for the public sector, and so much for declassified Air Force files, but let's ask another question in capital letters: "WHAT HAD REALLY HAPPENED AT ROSWELL?"

Returning to that morning of July 7, 1947, we find the New Mexican rancher W.W. Brazel driving his pickup truck over to the sheriff's office at Roswell to tell about the "mess in the desert." The sheriff, after listening to Brazel, assumed that something had come to grief so he dialed Roswell AFB. It was about noon at the time and the previously mentioned Major Jesse Marcel was caught eating his lunch when the phone rang. The sheriff started his conversation with a puzzled drawl which related: "...that a rancher told me something that's weird you ought to know about..." Major Marcel asked to speak to Brazel for a first-hand account on the "weird" occurrence and then he hung up and went to his Commanding Officer Colonel William A. Blanchard who urged further onsite investigation. Later in the day Major Marcel and a CIC agent by the name of Cavitt set out in a 1942 Buick staff car, with a small jeep trailer in tow, across the expanse of rock and sand that lay between Roswell and Brazel's place. Since it was after dark when they arrived, the two military officers spent the night with Brazel in the small cabin where the trio feasted on a can of cold pork and beans.

The rays of the morning sun of July 8th revealed that the trip had not been for naught because spread before their eyes lay a strange assortment of metal-like material: 3/8-inch square beams with odd hieroglyphic markings, tough brown-colored parchment-like material, sheets of "tinfoil" of extreme strength, and black, brittle, plastic-like residue. Major Marcel remembers he also found what looked like a small box several inches on a side that may have been an electronic device. The two military officers loaded what they could into the trailer, which was far less than the total, and then drove back to Roswell AFB. 163.

Major Marcel stopped at his home in Roswell on the way to the air base and brought some of the mysterious material into the kitchen where he tried to piece together something recognizable. As Marcel's son remembers it, he was just twelve at the time, the small room couldn't begin to hold the metal junk thus the original dimensions of the object had to be quite large, furthermore he recalled the pinkish characters stamped on some remnants. 164.

The material was baffling. It wouldn't bend or break and had practically no weight to it. The surfaces had a wood-like feel but the low density did not mean it would respond to heat. No scorching resulted when a cigarette lighter was held close to the material. One of the first things Marcel decided, using his knowledge of military equipment, was that the pieces were not from an airplane or rocket. Strange stuff indeed and there was much more scattered over an area of 250 feet by 4,000 feet in a NE to SW direction near Brazel's cabin.

Having no luck assembling the puzzle, Major Marcel tossed the material back into the jeep trailer and continued on to the

air base. After Marcel arrived at the military installation, the public relations officer of Roswell AFB, Lt. Walter Haut, learned of the find and made the public announcement that excited the nation. Major Marcel's superior, Col. William Blanchard, ordered the material put aboard a B-29 and flown directly to Carswell AFB, Headquarters of the Eighth Air Force, just outside Forth Worth, Texas. The Major and P/R officer Lt. Haut accompanied what was being touted by the news media as a "momentous discovery" on the flight East. 165. So far, so good.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon was in an uproar. At Carswell AFB reporters lay in wait for Major Marcel, a cluster of microphones all set up for a news conference starring the Major from Roswell. He, however, stayed out of sight while he waited for word from General Roger Maxwell Ramey, Commander of the Eighth Air Force, as to what he should say or do. General Ramey at the time was on the phone discussing the situation with General Vandenburg at the Pentagon. What did General Vandenburg tell Ramey? Nothing of this conversation is available in open official files.

After consulting with Vandenburg General Ramey summoned Major Marcel, telling him to bring some of the mystery metal. In General Ramey's office Major Marcel spread out a tarp and placed some samples on top. Outside the press was clamoring for a peek at the "wreckage." At this point the General made a strange decision. General Ramey had an old weather balloon radar reflector brought in and the mysterious metal removed. The reflector bore a crude resemblance to the material found by Brazel and it was this shiny metal sheet that the reporters were allowed to see and photograph. The newspeople were assured that the forwarding of the material to Wright Field Laboratories for tests had been cancelled. 166.

After the press had left Major Marcel was sworn to silence. The B-29 from Roswell returned home but Marcel was kept off the flight and the aircraft was filled with armed guards escorting the mysterious metal back to New Mexico. Subsequent investigation determined that a military team was sent out to Brazel's ranch where they located the remainder of the metal and picked the ground cleaner than a hound's tooth. 167.

Brazel was instructed by the military to say very little to the newsmedia, nonetheless he couldn't resist snapping: "I am sure what I found was not any weather balloon..." 168. This makes sense because downed balloons were a common occurrence in the New Mexico area and a reward was given to ranchers that returned the instrument package to authorities, but then there is no need to resort to guesswork or the testimony of any civilian because there is some official documentation that discredits the balloon idea!

The Brad Sparks discovery.

While Air Force records evidently have been purged of references to the Roswell incident, UFO researcher Brad Sparks happened on a critical bit of evidence in a stack of otherwise unimportant declassified FBI documents. It reads:

TELETYPE

FBI DALLAS

7-8-47

6-17 P.M.

DIRECTOR AND SAC, CINCINNATI URGENT FLYING DISC,
 INFORMATION CONCERNING...(deleted), HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH
 AIR FORCE, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THIS OFFICE THAT AN
 OBJECT PURPORTING TO BE A FLYING DISC WAS RECOVERED
 NEAR ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, THIS DATE...(deleted) FURTHER
 ADVISED THAT THE OBJECT FOUND RESEMBLES A HIGH ALTITUDE
 WEATHER BALLOON WITH A RADAR REFLECTOR, BUT THAT TELE-
 PHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEIR OFFICE AND WRIGHT
 FIELD HAD NOT BORNE OUT THIS BELIEF. DISC AND BALLOON
 BEING TRANSPORTED TO WRIGHT FIELD BY SPECIAL PLANE FOR
 EXAMINATION. INFORMATION PROVIDED THIS OFFICE BECAUSE
 OF NATIONAL INTEREST IN CASE AND FACT THAT NATIONAL
 BROADCASTING COMPANY ASSOCIATED PRESS AND OTHERS ATTEMPT-
 ING TO BREAK STORY OF LOCATION OF DISC TODAY....(deleted)
 ADVISED WOULD REQUEST WRIGHT FIELD TO ADVISE CINCINNATI
 OFFICE RESULT OF EXAMINATION...WYLY
 END. 169.

Meanwhile, official press handouts wrapped up the case.
 The Dallas Morning News was one of those newspapers that printed
 the military's final say:

"Maj. E.M. Kirton, Intelligence Officer at Forth Worth
 Army Air Field blew the disc theory sky high at 5:30 p.m.
 when he told the Dallas News 'there is nothing to it.'

'It is a Rawin high altitude sounding device,' Major
 Kirton said. He described such an instrument, when un-
 damaged, as of a design resembling a six-pointed star.

The Army and the Weather Bureau use the device, attached
 to a balloon, for gathering high altitude data. It is made
 partly of tinfoil-like material, the officer said.

The identification at Forth Worth is final, Major Kirton
 said, and it will not be necessary to forward the object to
 Wright Field, as originally planned. What will be done with
 it?

'I suppose we will throw it away,' Major Kirton ventured."
 170.

Residual fascination was hopefully dispelled by General
 Ramey who made a radio broadcast the evening of July 8th to deny
 again the "hasty" official statement made by Lt. Walter Haut of
 the 509th (atomic) Bomb Group that the flying saucer mystery had
 been solved at last. 171.

Still some reporters were not quite satisfied and General
 Ramey had a few sharp words for the nosey members of the Fourth
 Estate when requests were made to examine the "weather device"
 themselves. The General growled: "It's in my office and it
 will probably stay there." 172. And: "The special flight to
 Wright Field has been cancelled, gentlemen. This whole affair
 has been most unfortunate, but in light of the excitement that
 has been stirred up lately about these so-called flying discs,
 it is not surprising. Now let's all go home and call it an
 evening." 173.

Just suppose the Roswell object was some sort of mysterious machine. If so, the authorities were not inclined to share the knowledge with the public or just anyone in the military. The day Brazel brought the crash occurrence to the attention of the Air Force, an Albuquerque radio station learned of the metal debris being recovered at the Brazel ranch and attempted to teletype word to other affiliated stations but as the electronic pulses raced through the cables, the message was abruptly interrupted by a security override evidently originally meant to safeguard the classified activities of the Los Alamos and White Sands installations. A line of type intervened that commanded: "DO NOT CONTINUE THIS TRANSMISSION." 174. Shortly thereafter the station manager received a phone call from an individual named "Mr. Slowie" who claimed to be the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington. He ordered the Roswell story killed. Also, New Mexico's Senator Dennis Chavez phoned the manager and thundered over the line: "I don't know what you're doing but you better stop it." 175, 176.

This outright censoring of information was still not enough for the High Command. The decision was made to go on the offensive against those who dared entertain thoughts that there was something to the UFO riddle:

"Ramey's A-2 Division (Intelligence) Chief, Colonel Alfred E. Kalberer, began making public appearances at meetings of several civic organizations around the Fort Worth area with a presentation designed to 'counteract the growing hysteria toward flying discs.'" 177.

Thus by the time 1947 passed into history the public was still ignorant of what was behind UFO reports; and Air Force Intelligence, having been handed this hot potato, would have to find out what it could by checking sighting reports, the High Command being unwilling to let any low level personnel see any really good evidence. Even before the Air Force's investigative effort was formally launched, the powers-that-be apparently saw the project as a public relations move, nonetheless the engineers at Wright Field assigned to Project SIGN would become convinced enough eventually to firm up some definite opinions without metal debris.

The year 1948 wasn't very old before the "official policy" to "counteract growing hysteria toward flying discs" seemed justified. There was another crash but this time it was one of the military's own machines. Worse yet, a pilot was dead.

To be continued in the next booklet in this series:

THE UFO RIDDLE: 1948, JANUARY - JULY.

APPENDIX

In the Introduction there was a mention of a declassified Intelligence report concerning "flying projectiles" in the skies of Scandinavia in 1946, a document compiled by an American "Central Intelligence Group." Since the material in large part supplements the data in the author's booklet: The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets, the report will be reproduced for the reader's information.

The report states:

"As reported by foreign broadcasts, technical information on rockets and guided missiles activities in Denmark is generally negligible. The following texts, however, do contain some limited data (mainly speculative) on the speed, dimensions and altitude of flying objects reportedly observed in Scandinavian countries and in other European countries from the middle of July to October, 1946. In compiling the available material, therefore, not only the Danish radio but other Scandinavian and European sources are cited.

'A strange object flying through the air was observed at noon today (July 13) by workmen in Stockholm. The object was round, and appeared to be rather small. It sent a strong blue-green light, but no sound could be heard. It is reported from Hudiksvall that railway workers this morning saw an object a few meters long and with backward-sloping wings flying toward the north at a height of about 150 meters. They heard a sound resembling that of an outboard motor.' (Stockholm FBIB Daily Report for July 15, 1946.)

'A projectile, flying at a height of from 10 to 20 meters and at great speed from the southeast to northwest, has been observed at a place north of Uppsala, Sweden. When the projectile exploded, it sounded like three bangs following closely on each other, and the smoke which resulted covered an area of 4 or 5 kilometers.' (Kalunborg, Danish Home Service, July 16, 1946, 5:30 a.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 17, 1946.)

'It is reported from Norway that the so-called 'ghost rockets' now appear to have reached the Stavanger area. According to a newspaper report, some Stavanger people observed an object which gave off a yellow-red light approaching from the southeast at a great height. The object was traveling at a very high speed, and disappeared towards the northwest.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, July 16, 1946, 1:00 p.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 17, 1946.)

'The so-called ghost rocket has again been sighted near Sundsvall where today (July 18) three workers saw a cylinder-shaped, shiny object moving in the sky at an altitude of 200 to 300 meters, noiselessly and without any smoke exhaust. It was moving at first towards the west, but before disappearing, it had a northwesterly course.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, July 18, 1946, 1:30 p.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 19, 1946.)

'A morning newspaper (unnamed) writes today that the mysterious projectiles that have been observed over Scandinavia cannot be dismissed as ghost planes. The paper writes further: 'Pending the results of the further investigations being made in Norrbotten—if there is anything left to investigate—it could be wished that the authorities make it known in a suitable way that we do not wish our country to become a target. Those who send out these projectiles apparently wish to know how far they can go and we very kindly give this information in the press, in telegrams, and reports from the different places. Perhaps we ought to stop this in order not to encourage any further traffic. If the sender-country did not receive any information from us, perhaps they would find it more advantageous to direct the fire to another less thickly populated, and where it would be equally possible to follow the line of the projectiles. Such possibilities over the open sea exist if ships and planes are handy. International courtesy should demand a little more consideration, even if it would cost a little more in money and trouble, provided of course that the 'X' country does not wish to give the practice as much publicity as possible in order to impress 'Y' country or 'Z' country. At the moment the publicity is a Swedish interest and the work is helped by finding out what it is all about. To a certain extent the attention paid to it by the press is a suitable introduction for a severe protest, which cannot be left out when there are results from the investigation.' (Stockholm, Overseas Service in English, July 22, 12:40 p.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 23, 1946.)

'Yesterday a visitor from London saw a ring projectile. He told a newspaper it looked like a V-2 bomb. The visitor, a Mr. Harrison, served in England during the war and saw V-1 and V-2 bombs countless times. The Swedish Defense staff is, however, not making a statement on the matter for the time being.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 13, 1946, 4:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 13, 1946.)

'The experts have ascertained with certainty that the 11 centimeter long object of unknown origin which was found does not come from any stratosphere projectiles...' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 14, 1946, 4:00 EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 15, 1946.)

'A flying object somewhat different from those observed previously, was seen this morning by four people working in a woodyard near one of the large lakes in central Norrland. It resembled a small airplane, and flew at an altitude of about 200 meters, making a hissing noise. It had a short body, a tail and two small wings. The object descended at colossal speed and crashed into the lake.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 14, 1946, 1:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 15, 1946.)

'In an editorial about the stratospheric bombs which have recently been seen over Sweden, SKAANSKA DAGBLADET says that it is the general assumption that they have a new kind of radio-directed weapon. It is suggested that the Russians have found incomplete German weapons about which there was so much talk in the last phases of the war, and that they are trying to perfect these weapons by experimenting with them over Swedish territory. SKAANSKA DAGBLADET continues: "But a scientist who has seen one is of the opinion that they are meteors. Undoubtedly it will be established shortly which is correct. The Swedish authorities are making every effort to clear up the matter." The newspaper is of the opinion that the theory of experimenting with weapons is the correct one. Two of the so-called stratospheric rockets were observed early this morning over (Storeby) near Koege. They came from the south and resembled cigars with flames...One of the rockets ...at an altitude of about one kilometer and it was possible to follow its course northward. The rockets were seen by several people.' (Kalundberg, Danish Home Service, August 16, 1946, 11:40 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

'Many people say that they saw stratospheric rockets over Oeresund last night. Two oblong, glowing objects moving from south to north with smoke coming out of their tails were seen at (Snekkesten).' (Kalundberg, Danish Home Service, August 18, 1946, 5:30 a.m. EST; Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

'This morning a stratospheric projectile was observed over a town in southern Sweden which exploded with a loud bang when it met a hailstorm. Afterward a strong smell of gunpowder was noticed. The explosion was so strong that the houses shook. It was about 500 meters high. After the explosion what appeared to be a mist collected, and it was still to be observed after the hailstorm had passed.

According to meteorological experts, who were approached by the Air Defense Division of the General Staff, a very probable explanation is that it was a tornado in connection with a very strong flash of lightning. The object which was believed to be seen might have been a so-called 'coil of cloud' from the tornado.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 16, 1946, 1:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

'A report from Goeteborg says that a mysterious bright light and violent explosion occurred so near the buildings that it was at first feared that a barn had caught fire. The explosion was heard round about the farms and at some places a bright light resembling a meteor was seen shortly before the blast. Some observers say that they are convinced that the stratospheric projectile was an ordinary meteor.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 18, 1946, 6:40 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

'Before the big autumn maneuvers of the Swedish Air Arm, the Air Arm has given some big exhibitions at Karlsborg. The main objective was to give the 1945 Defense Investigation Committee an idea of how the Air Arm works and what resources it has. At the same time, the Chief of the Air Arm, General Nordenskiöld, took the opportunity of inspecting his forces. A new weapon had its premiere: a rocket projectile which is shortly to be put into production at Bofors. The guests were very much impressed by what they saw.' (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 21, 1946, 6:30 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 22, 1946.)

'The NEW TIMES in its news section against 'Misinformation and Calumny' exposes the anti-Soviet campaign launched in Sweden in connection with the fabrication about the flight of mysterious rockets, the provocative rumors about the arrest of German children in Soviet-occupied Germany...' (Moscow, Soviet European Service, in English to the United Kingdom, September 4, 1946, 11:00 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 5, 1946.)

'During the past 2 days several aircraft of unknown nationality have been seen over Bornholm. During the same time ghost rockets have been observed over the western areas of Denmark.' (Oslo, Norwegian Home Service, September 11, 1946.)

'According to press dispatches from Patras, two rockets coming from the north were seen crossing the skies over the city on the night of Saturday to Sunday (September 14-15). (Athens, in French for 'Friends of Greece Abroad,' September 16, 1946, 3:30 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 17, 1946.)

'Tetuan—the CIFRA Agency announced that during the night of last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 'reddish-green balls of fire' passed over Tangiers and, linking them with similar fire balls which recently were reported over Sweden and France, the agency suggested in careful terms that they could be flying bombs.' (Paris, AFP, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, September 16, 1946, 11:35 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 18, 1946.)

'Oviedo—A ball of luminous green light was seen to cross the sky in the early morning by a number of people. The ball had an appearance of what the press described as what a flying bomb looks like.' (Valladolid, Report for September 20, 1946.)

End of document.

FOOTNOTES

1. Columbus, Ohio, 5 July 47, (AP).
2. Pendleton, Ore., 26 June 47, (AP).
3. "Why Don't The Damn Things Swim- So We Can Turn Them Over To The Navy?" by Edward J. Ruppelt. The TRUE Report on Flying Saucers, #1, Fawcett Publishers, Inc., Louisville, Ky., 1967, pp.39,57. (Article first published in 1954).
4. Pendleton, Ore., 27 June 47, (UP).
5. "UFO Related Information from FBI Files," by Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 3535 University Blvd. West, Suite 23, Kensington, Maryland 20795, November, 1977, p.2.
6. Ibid., FBI Document filed 10 July 47, p.24, (AP).
7. Blue Book File #53.
8. Blue Book File #47.
9. The Portland (Ore.) Oregonian, 5 July 47, p.24, (AP).
10. Springfield, Ill., 5 July 47, (INS).
11. Augusta, Me., 5 July 47, (AP).
12. "UFO Information from the FBI Files," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, December 1977, Part II, p.2.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Blue Book File #56.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Atlanta, Ga., 8 July 47, (UP).
19. Blue Book File #17.
20. "UFO Information from FBI Files," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, November 1977, Part I. Document filed: 6 July 47.
21. "UFO Information from FBI Files," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, December 1977, Part II, p.2.
22. "Coffee Break," by Don Dederer, Arizona Republic, 18 November 58.
23. Blue Book Files. No case number or other designation given. The data can be found on reel number two of the microfilmed records.
24. San Francisco Examiner, 7 July 47, p.2.
25. Coming of the Saucers, by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer. Privately published at Amherst, Wisconsin, 1952, pp.53,162.
26. "Ref. Information from Major Jesse Marcel, USAAG(Ret.) via telephone interview," 2 January 79 (Document from Stanton Friedman files).
27. Ibid.
28. "UFO Crash," Document #948438. Pratt for Levy. 17 December 79, p.11 (Stanton Friedman files).
29. San Francisco Examiner, 7 July 47, p.1, (AP).
30. Washington D.C. Post, 8 July 47, p.3.
31. "AAF Flying Saucer Exposed as Box-Kite Weather Balloon," by John G. Norris, Post reporter, Washington D.C. Post, 9 July 47, p.8.

32. Washington Post, 9 July 47, p.8.
33. Ibid.
34. "Flying Disc Found By Air Corps Only a Weather Balloon," by Dick Pearce, San Francisco Examiner, 9 July 47, p.1. (Picture of General Ramey and Col. T.J. Dubose with the balloon radar reflector is on page 3.)
35. Washington Post, 10 July 47, p.2-B.
36. Blue Book File #17. (A controversy over the distance and size of the objects seen by Kenneth Arnold still continues. The objections had arisen very early and had been brought up by Dr. J. Allen Hynek in his April, 1949 report to Project Grudge. See Hynek's book: The Hynek UFO Report, p.99.)
37. Flying Saucers, by the Editors of Cowles and UPI, The Cowles Education Corporation, New York, N.Y. 10022, pp.36-38.
38. "Whole Flock of 'em Flew Over Again," by Ed Wilks, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1 April 73, p.11F.
39. "AAF Flying Saucer Exposed as Box-Kite Weather Balloon," by John Norris, Washington D.C. Post, 9 July 47, p.8.
40. "UFO Related Information from the FBI Files," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, November 1977, Part I, p.2.
41. Ibid.
42. Blue Book Files: #1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and IF.
43. The Hynek UFO Report, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dell Publishing Company, New York, N.Y. 1977, p.97.
44. "What You Can Believe About Flying Saucers," by Sidney Shalett, Saturday Evening Post, 30 April 49, Part I, p.138.
45. Blue Book File #39.
46. Blue Book File #27.
47. Blue Book File #26.
48. Blue Book File #27A.
49. Blue Book File #26 and #60.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
52. Ibid.
53. Ibid.
54. Blue Book File #42.
55. "Matter of Fact," by Joseph and Stewart Alsop, Washington Post, 13 July 47, p.5B.
56. "UFO Related Information from FBI File," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, November 1977, Part I, p.3.
57. Ibid.
58. Ibid., Part II, p.2.
59. Ibid., Part I, p.3.
60. "Spots Before Their Eyes," Newsweek, 14 July 47, p.7.
61. "Flying Discs Still Excite," by J. Hugh Pruett, Astronomer Extension Division, Oregon Higher Education System, Eugene Oregon, Portland Oregonian, 19 July 47(special).
62. "The Scientist and the UFO," by Frank B. Salisbury, Bioscience, January 1967, p.21.
63. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, November 1977, Part II, pp.7-8.

64. Ibid.
65. Ibid.
66. Ibid.
67. Blue Book File #68.
68. Ibid.
69. Ibid.
70. Blue Book File #29.
71. "Flying Objects Reports Summary," Extract from Weekly Intelligence Summary, ATIC, 16 July 47. Blue Book Files.
72. "UFOs Behind the Iron Curtain," by Joe Brill, Skylook, #76, March 1974.
73. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, December 1977, p.7.
74. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, December 1977, Part II, pp.1-2.
75. Belang Van Linburg (a Belgium newspaper), 6 August 47.
76. Newsweek, 21 July 47.
77. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, December 1977, Part II, p.2.
78. Ibid.
79. Ibid.
80. Blue Book File #26.
81. Blue Book File #52.
82. Blue Book File #63. This report can be found in the August 7, 1947 issue of the Spokane, Washington, Spokesman Review, p.1.
83. Boise, Idaho. 29 July 47, (AP).
84. Blue Book File #73.
85. Blue Book File #70.
86. Coming of the Saucers, p.137. Most of the historical UFO reports in this book were contributed by author-researcher Harold T. Wilkins. This book has an impressive photographic section which includes the following UFO pictures:
 - A reproduction of the front page of the Toronto, Canada, Globe and Mail which shows an alleged saucer trailing yellow vapor. Date given is September 14, 1947. Quality of reproduction: poor. Page 170.
 - The photo taken by a Boise, Idaho, resident Charles Shangle on August 13, 1947. A luminous object high in the sky that showed up on film as a faint gray dot. Quality of reproduction: very poor. Page 171.
 - Al Hixenbaugh's famous photo showing two broad streams, or vapor trails, that appeared over Louisville, Ky., on July 7, 1947. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 174.
 - An interesting picture showing a formation of four round, white things passing over Morristown, N.J. at 10 a.m. on July 10, 1947. The picture was taken by John H. Janssen. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 174.
 - Something that showed up as a dark lens-shape when the negative was developed, which may be of interest since the person who handled the camera, Robert W. Kirk, claims that the object in question was "transparent like glass," and seemed to be twenty feet in diameter. Since the distance to the object

was unknown, the size estimate was only a very rough guess. (The reader is referred to the July 10, 1947, Newfoundland case and the words of J.E. Woodruff used to describe his UFO: "A translucent disc-like wheel.") Quality of reproduction: good. Page 176.

- The "first" saucer picture, a snapshot by Yeoman Frank Ryman showing a white, round, object over Seattle, Washington, on July 4, 1947. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 18
- The two William A. Rhodes photos taken on July 10, 1947, at Phoenix, Arizona. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 164.
- More UFO photos are reproduced but they are either undated or deal with incidents in another time period.
- Other photos of interest included: John E. Ostrom of Nissa, Oregon, pointing to the welt-like dent in the top of his truck cab after his vehicle was hit by a "silver ball" on July 30, 1947. Page 168.
- Two photos taken by William Bowman of the bridge that spanned the Salmon River in Oregon that mysteriously caught fire on July 24, 1947. Pages 188-189.
- 87. Clipping in Air Force Blue Book Files—no reference given.
- 88. "UFO Related Information from the FBI Files," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, November 1977, Mailer 2.
- 89. Ibid.
- 90. Randsburg Times, Randsburg, California, 7 August 47, p.1.
- 91. Roseburg, Oregon, 7 August 47.
- 92. Blue Book File #54.
- 93. Blue Book File #58.
- 94. San Francisco Chronicle, 9 August 47, p.6.
- 95. Blue Book File #58, "Letter: Harold D. Johnson T/4 Signal Corps, CIC, Bethel, Alaska to CO, Alaska Communication System 550 Federal Office Building, Seattle, Washington, 5 August 47.
- 96. Blue Book File #67.
- 97. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, December 1977, Mailer 2.
- 98. Ibid.
- 99. Blue Book File #67.
- 100. Ibid.
- 101. Letter to the Air Force, 8 December 1966, St. Louis, Missouri. Name of correspondent deleted. Air Force Files.
- 102. Blue Book File #75.
- 103. Ibid.
- 104. "Flying Saucer Reported Flashing Down Canyon at 1,000 Miles Per Hour: Two Others Are Seen," by John Brosman, Twin Falls, Idaho, Times-News, 15 August 47, p.1. Drawing of saucer by Vic Goertzen of the Times-News staff.
- 105. "Snake River Canyon Sighting," by Thomas M. Olsen, The Encyclopedia of UFOs, Edited by Ronald Story, a Double Dolphin Book, Garden City, N.Y., 1980, pp.337-338.
- 106. Blue Book File #75.
- 107. Ibid. (The scientific advisor was J. Allen Hynek.)
- 108. Twin Falls, Idaho, Times-News, 15 August 47, p.1.
- 109. Ibid.

110. Coming of the Saucers, pp.188-189.
111. Ibid., p. 168.
112. "Gallup Poll," by George Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion, Princeton, N.J., 15 August 47.
113. Letter to ATIC, 17 June 47, by observer Richard Eaton. Air Force Files.
114. Blue Book File #64.
115. Blue Book File #135.
116. Blue Book File #65.
117. Seattle, Washington, 30 August 47 (UP).
118. Statement filed by---(deleted) Communications Officer of Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico, Operations & Projects, Electronic & Atmospheric Division, 3-4 June, 1948. Supplement to trip report to Watson Labs, 3-4 June 48, p.2, by James C. Beam, Lt. Col., USAF Project Officer Tech. Intel. Director. Blue Book Files.
119. Blue Book File #51.
120. Blue Book File #58.
121. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, December 1977, p.6. Document filed: 19 September 47.
122. Ibid.
123. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, The Mufon UFO Journal, December 1977, #121, Part III, p.11, Document filed: 25 September 47.
124. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, The UFO Investigator, December 1977, Part II, p.4.
125. Blue Book File #62.
126. Blue Book File #59.
127. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, Edward U. Condon, Project Director, Bantam Books, New York, N.Y., 1969, pp. 894-895. Further references will be listed as the Condon Report.
128. Ibid.
129. "UFO Related Information from the FBI File," Maccabee, APRO Bulletin, December 1977, Mailer 2.
130. Ibid., pp.6-7.
131. Ibid., p.7.
132. Letter: To Commanding General, Air Defense Command, Mitchel Field, N.Y., from Colonel W.R. Sweeley, Asst. Chief of Staff, A-2, Headquarters, Second Air Force, Fort Crook, Neb., 16 July 47. Blue Book Files.
133. FBI letter dated: 16 July 47. The letter originated from Seattle, Washington. Blue Book Files.
134. Letter: To Commanding General, AAF Washington 25, D.C., from Headquarters ADC, Mitchel Field, N.Y., Colonel R.H. Smith. Dated: 23 July 47. Blue Book Files.
135. Blue Book File #71.
136. Listed on Blue Book Project 10073 file card. No case number given but has a number notation: 7-3712-4. Blue Book Files.
137. El Paso, Tex. 13 October 47 (AP), and 16 October 47 (AP).
138. Teletype message, Air Command Teletype Network. To: Commanding Officer, Alamogordo Army Air Field, Alamogordo, New Mexico, ATTN: Col. Paul F. Helmick. From: W.R. Clingerman, Colonel, Air Corps Chief, Analysis Division Intelligence (T-2). Date 14 October 47. Blue Book Files.

139. Teletype message. To: C.G. AMC Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: TSNAD, ANALYSIS DIV T-2. From: Helmick CO AAFLD Alamogordo, N.M. Dated: 15 October 47. Blue Book Files.
140. War Department Classified Message Center. To: Chief of Staff US Army, Washington, D.C. From: COMGEMARMYFOUR, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Dated: 15 October 47. Blue Book Files.
141. El Paso, Tex. 16 October 47 (AP).
142. "A Sinuous Photographic Meteor Trail," by Carl August Bauer, Popular Astronomy, Vol.IV, No.6, June 1947, p.1.
143. Blue Book File #34.
144. "Project Saucer to Project Grudge," by George D. Fawcett, Flying Saucers, September 1963, pp.12-13.
145. Blue Book File #31.
146. Letter: To: Chief of Staff, U.S.A.F., Washington 25, D.C., Office Director of Intelligence, Lt. Colonel Garrett, Jr. From: H.M. McCoy, Colonel, Air Corps, Chief of Intelligence. Dated: 18 November 47. Blue Book Files.
147. "The Achondritic Shower of February 18, 1948," by Dr. Lincoln La Paz, Journal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, September, 1948.
148. Blue Book File #35.
149. Ibid.
150. "The Mystery of the Flying Disks," by the Editors, Fate, Vol.1, Spring 1948, pp.27-28.
151. Flying Saucers on the Attack, Harold T. Wilkins, 1954, Citadel Press, New York, pp.84-85.
152. Letter: From H.M. McCoy, Colonel, USAF, Chief of Intelligence. To: Chief of Staff, USAF Washington 25, D.C. ATTN: Office Director of Intelligence, Lt. Colonel George Garrett, Jr., 18 November 47. Blue Book Files.
153. Letter: From: H.M. McCoy, Colonel USAF Chief of Intelligence. To: Chief of Staff, USAF Washington 25, D.C. ATTN: Office Director of Intelligence, Lt. Colonel George Garrett, Jr., 24 November 47. Blue Book Files.
154. "Greek Scientist Backs UFO-Connected Blackout Theory," The A.P.R.O. Bulletin, March-April, 1967, p.9 (originally a statement to the annual conference of the Greek Astronomical Society).
155. Coming of the Saucers, p.132.
156. Intelligence Report: "Luminous Object," date recorded: 25 March 48. Blue Book Files.
157. "The Mystery of the Flying Disks," Fate, Vol.I, #1, Spring 1948, pp.27-28.
158. (AP) 22 December 47.
159. New York Times, 27 December 47, p.28.
160. "What You Can Believe About Flying Saucers," by Sidney Shallet, The Saturday Evening Post, April 30, 1949, pp.137-138.
161. "Raymond A. Palmer," by Daniel Cohen, The Encyclopedia of UFOs, p.259.

162. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, by Edward J. Ruppelt, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1956, pp.46-47.
163. Ref: Information from Major Jesse Marcel USAAF(Ret.) via telephone interview 2/79 (Stanton Friedman files).
164. Letter: To: William Moore from Jesse Marcel, 18 April 79 (Stanton Friedman files).
165. "Transcript of Interviews," Jesse Marcel, pp.32-34, May, 1979. (William Moore Files).
166. Ibid.
167. Letter: Jesse A. Marcel to William Moore, 18 April 79 (Stanton Friedman Files).
168. The Roswell Incident, by Charles Berlitz & William Moore, 1980, Grosset & Dunlap, New York, p.41.
169. Personal interview between the author and Brad Sparks, 24 December 80 (photocopy of document in Brad Sparks' files).
170. The Dallas Morning News, 9 July 47, p.2.
171. Ibid., p.1.
172. Roswell Incident, pp.28-29 (Roswell [New Mexico] Daily Record).
173. Ibid., pp.29-30 (Roswell [New Mexico] Daily Record).
174. "UFO Battles the Air Force Couldn't Cover Up," by Ann Slate and Stanton T. Friedman, Saga's UFO Report, Winter, 1974, p.60.
175. Personal interview between the author and Stanton Friedman, 6 April 80.
176. The Roswell Incident, p.42.
177. Ibid., p.88.