

UFOs: A HISTORY VOLUME 1: 1947



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UFOs: A HISTORY

1947

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

LOREN E. GROSS

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FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

T. Gross

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Most of all, I would like to single out Stanton Friedman. His positive attitude and his suggestions were vital to the final completion of this research work, to say nothing of his allowing me access to his extensive collection of UFO material.

Loren E. Gross

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."

UFO's A HISTORY: 1947

As 1946 came to a close, unusual meteors began to alarm the United States. Scandinavia had been troubled by similar problems in February, and by June the European "meteor" problem had developed into the ghost rocket mystery. Would there be an American "ghost rocket" panic by the summer of 1947? The emotional element, it seems, was present. On December 1, 1946, a spectacular meteor rattled more than windows in Longview, California. A woman telephoned the Longview police department and exclaimed: "...the air is full of rockets and bombs! We are being attacked! What shall we do!" 1.

Nine days later the American midwest was subject to a meteor shower that caused even more confusion.

Airport officials, police departments, and astronomers, were deluged with reports from frenzied witnesses. Reports of loud whistlings in the heavens, strange balls of fire, and flaming airplanes were made. The phenomenon was transitory, therefore so

METEORS FLASH ACROSS SKIES

Just before Jan. 10

No Explanation By
Astronomers. 4-B

— 1946
(By United Press)

Meteors which flashed across mid-western skies during the past 24 hours kept police departments, airport officials and astronomers busy answering questions of frenzied witnesses, but left them all without explanation for the aerial displays.

From Tulsa, Okla., east of Des Moines, Ia., came reports of "balls of fire," "flaming airplanes," and "loud whistlings in the sky."

The meteors were first reported at 5:20 a. m., Tuesday, by a woman at McPherson, Kan., who told police she had seen a blazing airplane fly

over the city and crash at the edge of town.

Two hundred miles southwest of McPherson, at Garden City, Kan., a meteor reportedly made a "loud whistling" noise as it passed over the town. Once again there was a flood of "falling airplane" reports and army fliers from a nearby airfield were sent aloft to search for the scene of the crash.

Astronomers Stumped.

Employees of the airport observation tower at Kansas City, Mo., saw the meteor north of that city Tuesday night. Omaha, Nebr., airport employees also saw the meteor at about 7:30 p. m. During the morning display, a United Airplane pilot witnessed the sight at Des Moines, Ia., and said he thought it was a burning airplane.

Mrs. Jessica Young Stephens, astronomer at Washington university, St. Louis, Mo., could offer no explanation for the sudden appearance of the red, fire-like meteors. She said a white, rather than red, meteor display, known as the Geminid Shower, was expected Wednesday or Thursday night.

was the excitement.

January 6, 1947 found England's Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery in Moscow for a high level visit. Other than Stalin's outspoken mistrust for the recent Anglo-American agreement of a "standardization of defense" which the suspicious old fox of the Kremlin made Marshal Montgomery go to great lengths to define, the Russians seemed friendly enough for the moment.

Making a mental survey of the condition of the war ravaged countryside, Marshal Montgomery reported to his government that the Communists might not be ready for an aggressive move for another 15 to 20 years. 2.

While the Russians' leaders were toasting Marshal Montgomery with vodka in Moscow, the commandant of a Portland, Oregon military academy came close to being bashed on the noggin by a chunk of "something" that had dropped down out of a clear blue sky, along with a number of egg-sized hailstones. Oddly, only an area of 15 square feet was affected by this queer cloudless "weather" phenomenon. The Academy's headmaster told a Portland newspaper, the Oregonian, that the strange chunk of dark material that nearly struck him had a jacket of ice, and hit with such force it rebounded six feet high. According to an Oregon state geologist, the unidentified mass was composed of eleven different metals, but that no analysis gave a clue to what it was, or where it came from. 3.

It had been a warm clear day when the unusual fall had occurred, and it immediately became obvious an airplane might have dropped the ice, but the CAA authorities confirmed the fact that no airplanes had been over the campus area at the right hour of the day, so during the short span of days in which official investigators examined various theories, the Oregonian did some research on its own. On January 7th the Oregonian suggested that long-range rockets from the White Sands missile testing range in New Mexico might be responsible, adding that the landing bases for the Swedish ghost rockets had never been discovered so there might be a connection. The Commander of the White Sands range was contacted but he denied that his installation could have sent aloft a rocket that could have reached Portland. 4.

U.S. Army Air Force Intelligence officers then showed up and asked to see the mysterious chunk of metal. The Oregonian reported: "[the] president of the academy said the army representative to whom he relinquished the object offered little explanation of the army's interest, beyond saying that it was wanted 'for examination.'" 5.

The Oregonian proved to be well informed and reminded its readers that a man named Charles Fort believed he had discovered proof of unexplained things cruising the earth's atmosphere fifty years before. The Oregonian asked; ". . .who on earth—or the moon—is upstairs anyway?" 6.

Tiffany Thayer received the Oregonian news stories on the Portland excitement from Society members and he savored the brief Fortean acknowledgement, but to expect much more one would have to be an optimist to say the least.

A further U.S. Army Air Force communiqué quickly slapped down

any notion the freak occurrence at Portland could be, by any stretch of the imagination, connected with the Swedish ghost rockets. 7.

Things were quiet for a while in the American Press until March 22, 1947 when the New York Times reported that the mysterious ghost rockets had returned to European skies. 8.

The report by the Times may well have prompted the following remark by the editor of Amazing Stories, who lectured his readers in the magazine's April issue: "Does it take a fiction magazine like Amazing Stories to stress the importance of not taking these [UFO] 'mysteries' lightly?" 9.

The Russians had been repeatedly accused by the European press as being responsible for the ghost rockets, if true a scientific feat that Western experts would find very alarming. There was one advanced V-2 rocket design that had something of the potential of the reported ghost rockets and it was a long-range, antipodal, rocket glider dreamed up by a German missile expert named Eugene Sanger; however, the design did not come to Stalin's attention until April, 1947. When Stalin did learn of the long-range missile, he grasped the significance of the weapon and summoned a conference of his top advisers. That same month, in a secret room in the Kremlin, Stalin met with Molotov, Malenkov, and Beria; also present were Stalin's son Vassili, and the Soviet Generals Voznesenski and Voroshilov. The group listened quietly for a while to a couple of Soviet experts describing the history of the German rocket program. The experts, the Soviet Army colonels Serov and Tokaty-Tokaev, had spent considerable time discussing the Nazi V-2 and its 250 mile range, when Malenkov, his patience running short snapped, "Who can we frighten with it? Poland?" Stalin hushed Malenkov and asked the military aides to move on to the Sanger rocket design that held some promise in being able to circumnavigate the globe.

After the lecture Stalin ordered his son Vassili and the rocket expert Tokaty-Tokaev to travel secretly to Western-occupied Germany where Sanger was believed to be living, and persuade the German scientist to come to the Soviet Union and continue his work on the long-range missile.

After months of fruitless effort to find Sanger, Vassili and Colonel Tokaty-Tokaev returned to Moscow. Such was the Russian intercontinental missile program in the spring of 1947. Colonel Tokaty-Tokaev defected to the West in 1948 and told Western Intelligence about the "Sanger rocket meeting." 10.

Experts in the West were aware of the Sanger rocket design, though they did not know what the Russians were up to in the spring of 1947. The mysterious ghost rocket activity in 1946 had no doubt meant many sleepless nights for Western Intelligence experts, but as yet there was no indication the Soviet scientists could reach North America, the heartland of democracy, nevertheless the Pentagon was soon due for a jolt because the Sanger rocket glider was supposed to move the atmosphere with a rising and falling motion like "skipping a flat stone over water."

On May 19, 1947, the Del Salto Observatory in Chile detected the presence of what it called a "strange meteor" in the heavens over Santiago. The object: "... moved slowly through the ionosphere, producing at intervals discharges of whitish smoke." Also: "...

4

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Att:

Chief of Staff

United States Army Air Corps

HUNGARY

"Strange Objects" Rumors:

Rumors drifting in from rural areas of Hungary mention "Silver balls flashing across the sky in daytime." No accurate description or confirmation of this phenomena has yet been obtained, but it does recall the flashing objects over the Scandinavian countries thru late 1946 and early 1947.

10 JUNE 1947

SECRET

(facsimile)

this strange meteor remained for a certain time and then crossed the horizon at a considerable speed." 11. Observatory officials felt that: "...owing to the fantastic character of the phenomenon it was decided not to reveal this observation. . . ." 12. Later, on July 11th, observatory officials finally notified the press. The reason for this turnabout will be apparent when we discuss the events of July.

Back in the U.S. Fordean R. DeWitt Miller put together a selection of his Coronet articles for a book titled Forgotten Mysteries, in the spring of 1947, telling of ghosts, vanished people, lost cities, sea serpents and such. Charles Fort was only briefly mentioned, although Mr. Miller was careful to credit Fort as the man who was the first to dare assert that the planet earth had "guests." Yet the total effect was that the strange Bronx author remained a little honored prophet, probably to be stuck in books like Forgotten Mysteries indefinitely, sandwiched between Nostradamus and the survivors of Lemuria, amid the latest speculation on the Pyramid of Gizeh, sharing the stage with the Loch Ness Monster, holding hands with the Abominable Snowman, and moving over for the vast stonework of Sacsahauman. 13.

Amazing Stories devoted its entire June, 1947, issue to the "true" spaceman-subterranean story as related by the magazine's special correspondent, a fellow that claimed some kind of "psychic understanding" of the secret doings of these undetected alien civilizations. All of this correspondent's articles in the June issue dealt with the antics of the alleged underground beings, and just why the spacemen were ignored is not clear. However, the editor of Amazing got an author-member of the Fordean Society to write a two-page spread on the spaceman angle for inclusion in the June issue. The resulting article was titled: "Visitors from the Void." The author, Fordean writer Vincient Gaddis, penned an accounting of the phantom airplane newspaper clippings gathered by Tiffany Thayer during the 1930s. 14. The editor of Amazing had a 50-50 chance of being right on top of one of the biggest news stories of the year, yet just about all of his money, unfortunately, was riding on the theme of the subterraneans.

A prominent Fordean, Alex Saunders, wrote some time ago:

I still remember vividly a certain June day. I had returned home from work, had my supper, and was relaxing with a newspaper when an item caught my eye and literally froze me solid. . . Heart pounding, I cut out the clipping and promptly mailed it to Tiffany Thayer. . . How the mystery affected me! I was on pins and needles with excitement. 15.

Saunders knew that the evidence had always been within the pages of Charles Fort's books and he now thought: "...things were happening—fast!" He earnestly believed: "...the solution was finally close at hand." 16.

Something had happened the day before in the skies of the State of Washington.

At Pendleton, Oregon, late in the afternoon of June 24th, the weather was clear with the exception of some rain over the mountains to the east. At the city airport preparations were being

Signed
Kenneth Arnold.
Box 387

Base, Idaho.

Top View

side view

Very Bright
when seen reflected
Were Black against
snow

→
travelling this way.

made to welcome a 60 plane air fleet, a tri-state air tour to promote private aviation by business concerns, which was due the next morning. Everything was routine until the phone rang at the airport office. Calling was the airport at Yakima, Washington, to notify Pendleton about a particular plane that would soon arrive there. A Yakima airport official said over the phone that if anyone wanted to hear about some strange new "aircraft" they should check with the pilot of the Callair due to land at Pendleton within the hour.

When the Callair arrived the pilot, a Kenneth Arnold, was mobbed by a large crowd. Everyone wanted to hear about some "tailless jets." Arnold said that before touching down at Yakima, Washington, enroute to Pendleton, he had been in the air over Mineral, Washington, about 3 o'clock, headed east, when a string of objects caught his attention crossing his path some fifty miles away on a southward course, following snow-blanketed ridge of the Cascade range:

The first thing I noticed was a series of flashes in my eyes as if a mirror was reflecting sunlight at me. . . . I saw the flashes were coming from a series of objects that were traveling incredibly fast. They were silvery and shiny and seemed to be shaped like a pie plate. 17.

Arnold was unable to see any tails on the strange "aircraft" and he thought that very peculiar. Alerted to the possibility he was witnessing something highly unusual, Arnold gave the objects his full attention:

I counted nine of them as they disappeared behind the peak of Mount Ranier. Their speed was apparently so great I decided to clock them. I took out my watch and checked off one minute and 42 seconds from the time they passed Mount Ranier until they reached the peak of Mount Adams. . . . All told the objects remained in view slightly less than two minutes from the time I first noticed them. 18.

While the physical description was strange (flying wings were at that time being tested by the military), interest focused on the amazing speed of the "jets." Calculations made by Arnold were checked and rechecked, and after much discussion an estimation of some 1,200 miles per hour seemed inescapable. The airmen were stunned by the figures. 19. A new world speed record for aircraft had just been announced June 20th. At Muroc, California, a Lockheed jet P-80 had reached a speed of 623 mph, a figure only half that of the "tailless jets" Arnold claimed to have clocked.

The Portland Oregon Daily Journal carried the following about Arnold's discussion with the other pilots at Pendleton: "Some of the pilots thought it over and said it was possible [said Arnold]. Some of them guessed that I had seen some secret guided missiles. People began asking me if I thought they were missiles sent over the North Pole." 20.

Arnold eventually left the crowd at the airport to go to his

hotel and get some rest, temporarily satisfied that the eerie formation of "tailless craft" must have been a test of Uncle Sam's latest missile. Like the other airmen, Arnold was impressed most of all by the objects' incredible speed. Nothing human, Arnold was sure, could have survived the violent movements of the mysterious objects as they skipped along, therefore the things must have been some kind of radio-controlled missile.

The following morning every plane of the tri-state air fleet had arrived at Pendleton's municipal airport by 9 o'clock and all of the pilots met in the local VFW hall for breakfast. The pilots were in jovial spirits. When the main speaker rose to give his address, he was set upon by some men in white coats and strapped in a straitjacket while the audience howled with laughter. If you're wondering if it was Arnold that was tied up you're wrong. The strange aircraft reported the day before had been forgotten by everyone but Arnold who still retained a nagging curiosity. Late in the morning Arnold was downtown when a gentleman stopped him in the street and brought up the subject of the "mystery missiles" once again. He said he was from the city of Ukiah and had seen a similar formation of "mystery missiles" the same day, June 24th, in the sky over his home. The gentleman added that the strange objects would weave and threaten to break out of alignment as they flew through the air. 21.

The encounter with a man who also claimed to have seen the strange "aircraft" emboldened Arnold. Before leaving for Boise, Arnold gathered together his courage and went over to the office of the East Oregonian, Pendleton's only newspaper. It was noon time as Arnold timidly walked into the East Oregonian building and asked to talk to someone in the news department. Nolan Skiff, who wrote the "End of the Week" column, invited the flyer to have a chair by his desk and listened as Arnold slowly began to describe what had happened the 24th over the Cascades. At first Mr. Skiff thought Arnold might be a kook, but as the flyer's story unfolded the sincerity with which it was told quickly overcame any doubts about Arnold's honesty. Arnold freely admitted it was a fantastic story, yet he said he had to believe his own eyes. The "missiles" traveled, Arnold remarked, like a flat rock bouncing along the surface of water, a rising and falling motion (undulatory flight).

Another staff member, Bill Bequette, had been taking down Arnold's story and believed it might have national interest. The East Oregonian was hooked up with the news wire of Associated Press so Bequette sent a short message out on the teletype, pausing at the point which called for a name for the phenomenon. Thinking of the motion of objects Bequette spelled out "flying saucers." 22.

Hundreds of newspapers picked up the Arnold flying saucer story and carried it on the lower half of their front pages. Immediately, dozens of persons contacted the press to tell of similar sightings made by them that same day or earlier in the month. People said they had been afraid to say something, or had thought nothing of it, believing the objects were government devices.

Kenneth Arnold's sighting received some support from a member of the Washington State forest service who had been on fire watch

at a lookout tower at Diamond Gap, a small settlement near the town of Salmon, just south of Mount Rainier. About three o'clock the afternoon of June 24th the forest service lookout noticed something in the sky which he said were: "...flashes in the distance quite high up in the east [and they] ...seemed to be going in a straight line and made a strange noise, higher pitched than most airplanes make." 23.

Arnold hung around the East Oregonian office until June 27th, watching the AP teletype tapping away, spewing out dozens and dozens of flying disc sightings, but the information he patiently waited for, a satisfactory answer to the mystery, did not appear.

A Portland newspaper reporter phoned Arnold in Pendleton and asked if the saucers had not been reflections within the cockpit or an illusion created by the glare off the snow on the slopes of Mount Rainier. The Boise flyer, a little upset, repeated his story in detail and stressed that he wasn't trying to gain notoriety.

The Portland Oregonian published the telephone interview which included Arnold's remarks on some exasperating results of the increasing excitement:

[Arnold]. . .said a preacher called him from Texas and informed him that the strange objects Arnold claimed to have seen batting through the ozone actually were harbingers of doomsday.

Arnold said he didn't get the preacher's name during their phone conversation, but the minister said he was getting his flock ready for the end of this world.'

That was unnerving, according to Arnold, but it wasn't half as disconcerting as the episode in a Pendleton cafe.

Arnold said a woman rushed in, took one look at him and then dashed out shrieking, 'There's the man who saw the men from Mars,' She rushed out of the eating place 'sobbing that she would have to do something for the children,' Arnold added with a shudder." 24.

Arnold snapped to another reporter: "This whole thing has gotten out of hand. I want to talk to the FBI or someone." 25.

Panic, however, was rare. Consider the following that occurred at Walter, Oklahoma. The press reported that on the night of June 25th a man happened to notice some strange objects in the sky over Walter. The news account read: "He watched them 'flying around and around each other' for about 30 minutes, he said. Then he went to bed." The news story continued: "...[he] thought about waking up some of. . .[his] neighbors but decided if it meant the end of the world they would be just about as happy sleeping when the world ended." 26.

Back at Pendleton Arnold went to a photography shop and purchased a \$150 movie camera. And then he told Bill Bequette of the East Oregonian that if any of those baffling saucers dared show themselves again he would at least catch them on film. With that, Arnold left Pendleton for his home at Boise Idaho. 27. After Arnold had departed the East Oregonian editorialized on the nationwide saucer invasion and stated that whatever the objects were,

they had better be American. 28.

When Arnold arrived at Boise in his plane, he was met by the press, and still disturbed by the apparent disinterest of the authorities he declared: "If I was running the country and someone reported something unusual, I'd certainly want to know more about it." 29.

It wasn't long before persons came forward to give Arnold's story support from experiences of their own that predated the June 24th episode by a considerable period of time. The Oregon Daily Journal, for example, printed the following: "Lloyd Kenyon . . . reported he first saw the discs while in the Russell Islands [in the Pacific] in 1943. He was aboard a ship at the time and said several others saw the objects traveling at an unbelievable speed. . . he reported it to intelligence officers who contended the objects were meteors. . . but [Kenyon said] they certainly looked as though they might be some kind of plane." 30.

Meade Layne mailed postcards to all the members of the Borderland Research Organization on June 29th, notifying them that the flying saucers were not from Mars but were from some kind of "etheric world." A "trance control" was responsible for the idea and Layne suggested that the "Karreeta, similarly contacted nine months before, might also be of "etheric construction."

For the record, at Norwood, Ohio, in the early morning hours of June 30th, a housewife said she saw one very large saucer and six smaller sized ones in the dark sky. This particular case is mentioned because of the fascinating series of similar "mother ship" reports made later in the Norwood area in 1949. 31.

Also on June 30th, another newspaper, this time in Wyoming, ran an item about a local man who told of his sighting strange balls of fire in the air over Germany during the war. By this time things had quieted down to a level where there were few sightings and indifferent press coverage.

From the missile test range at White Sands, New Mexico, the military issued a carefully worded, but not very convincing, explanation of the saucers apparently in an attempt to calm the public. The military used the magic words "astronomical phenomena" that, in the year 1946 had helped people forget the European ghost rocket controversy. 32.

UFO sightings had slacked off to such an extent by July 2nd many felt the "flying saucer fad" had run its course. The United Press rushed to get a comment from Orson Welles before interest totally died, and out of Hollywood came a news story headlined: **WELLES THINKS FLYING SAUCERS WILL FIZZLE OUT.** Orson would prove a poor prophet. Reporters said of him:

Orson Welles, who once "scared the shirts" off Americans with an invasion from Mars broadcast, said today he didn't have a thing to do with the flying saucers.

"Once actor-producer-director-writer, currently making 'MacBeth,' pointed out that during his 1938 radio hoax dozens of Americans reported seeing space ships landing.

"People are imaginative and gullible," he said. "I'll bet 10 to one this will fizzle out." 33.

The news media need not have hurried to get Welles' opinion

because on July 3rd the number of UFO reports began a dramatic increase.

One unusual "saucer" sighting took place at Redding, California, on July 3rd when a man and his wife spotted a large, shining, "flying triangle" moving swiftly and silently in a northerly direction. 34.

The same day another report of interest concerned an incident at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Santa Rosa, California. The Santa Rosa Press-Democrat called the case a startling development because the witness was a trained observer. The witness told the Press-Democrat:

I noticed it first a few minutes before 5 p.m., on Thursday. From my location, it seemed to be about 1,000 feet above the main north-south runway at the airfield, and I would judge that it was 15 to 20 feet in diameter . . . it was impossible to judge size and distance accurately, because there was nothing about the object that enabled me to make an accurate approximation of size.

It was the shape of a giant pocket watch, without the stem, and it was covered by silver material that looked like airplane aluminum. There were no marks of any sort on the surface. It was perfectly smooth.

The object was moving at about the speed of a glider in normal flight attitude, and indeed on my first glimpse I automatically recorded it in my mind as a glider.

But an instant later I realized that there was something strange about it and looked back. Then I noted that it had no wings, no apparent projections of any sort.

It moved smoothly in a northerly direction until it reached the north end of the runway, then turned to the east, banking slightly and headed toward Santa Rosa. I was forced to turn my attention away from it for a moment, and when I looked again it was gone.

From my observation, I would believe that the object was controlled in its flight, either directly or by gyro-control. Its only deviation from a straight path was for wind currents, and after tipping or rising with a current it would recover its level flying position.

The recovery was made in much the same manner as a glider appears to recover when a thermal current forces one wing up or down. At the same time, the return to normal was accompanied by an overcompensation effect which is typical of gyro-control. 35.

The witness would not say the object was a "flying saucer," just that it was something he had never seen before in all the years he had spent around airports. Although he was known to the Press-Democrat, he refused to let his name be publicized. Also, he said that he had not put any credence in flying disc sightings because he felt he was too intelligent for such nonsense, but after his own experience he had to admit there was something to the mystery.

The day after the foregoing report appeared in the Press-Democrat the newspaper was contacted by another witness who was not reluctant

Flier Tells of 'Rockets' Whizzing over Mountains

PENDLETON, Ore., June 26.—(AP)—Army and CAA spokesmen expressed skepticism today over a report of nine mysterious objects—big as airplanes—whizzing over western Washington at 1200 miles an hour.

Kenneth Arnold, a flying Boise, Idaho, businessman who reported seeing them, clung, however, to his story of the shiny, flat objects, each as big as a DC-4 passenger plane, racing over Washington's Cascade Mountains with a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail of a kite."

An army spokesman in Washington, D. C., commented, "as far as we know, nothing flies that fast except a V-2 rocket, which travel at about 3500 miles an hour—and that's too fast to be seen."

The spokesman added that the V-2 rockets would not resemble

planes and started to clock them, "but their motion was wrong for jet jobs."

"I guess I don't know what they were—unless they were guided missiles," said Arnold, who continued here on a business trip.

FLYER 'SIGHTS' HIGH-SPEED MYSTERY OBJECTS

But Army Thinks It's 'Mirage'

PENDLETON, Ore., June 26.—

(AP)—An objects—

Officials Doubt Story Of Phantom Air Fleet

BY TOM CATON

Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Many an official eyebrow was cocked Thursday at the story of a flying Boise businessman who said he

altered 1200 m. days at Washin.

The describe possible, tortured,

None dispute Arnold the str.

agreed ing thing.

that fast except a V-2 rocket. 1 2:58 p. m. two days ago toward it when they appeared in front of him twenty-thirty miles away at

Dr. J. Hugh Pruett of the astronomy department of the University of Oregon extension division at Eugene told The Oregonian that the "whatzit"

8

Oregon Journal FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1947

Arnold Insists Tale Of Flying Objects O. K.

PENDLETON, June 27.—(AP)—Kenneth Arnold, a veteran pilot

STRANGE FLYING OBJECTS ALSO REPORTED SEEN OVER OKLAHOMA CITY Mystery Spreads as Second Pilot Tells of Sky Ghost

See story on page 1 also.

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 26.—(AP)—Don't sell those strange flying objects reported whizzing over western Washington until the returns are all in—a flier claimed Thursday he saw one flash over Oklahoma City.

"It was about five or six weeks ago, as near as my wife and I can

remember," said Byron Savage, 38, Oklahoma City businessman pilot.

"I was standing in my front yard at the time, about dusk, with a little sunlight in the sky, when a flat, disklike object came across the city from just a little east of south and was gone in about four or five seconds.

"The machine, or whatever it was, was a shiny, silvery color—

very big—and was moving at a terrific rate of speed.

"The funny thing about it was that it made no noise. I don't think it had any kind of internal combustion engine."

Referring to a claim by Kenneth Arnold, flying Boise, Idaho, businessman that he saw nine objects in western Washington similar to the one Savage described, the Oklahoma City pilot declared:

"I know that boy up there (Arnold), really saw them."

Savage said he told his wife about the object at the time but "she thought I must have seen lightning," and he also told some skeptical pilot friends.

"I kept quiet after that," he continued, "until I read about that man seeing nine of the same things. I saw and I thought it only fair to back him up."

Mrs. Savage said Thursday she now was convinced her husband saw the object.

"He was very much worked up about it when he read about the man in Washington," she declared.

Savage said the object he saw was high in the air—"somewhere around 10,000 feet, I couldn't be sure, judging it from the ground where I was."

to be identified. The Press-Democrat printed the second account:

Confirmation of a report by a trained observer who Monday revealed for the first time the detailed description of one seen hovering over the navy air station came from Dr. R. W. Nelson, a dentist. His description of the mysterious object tallied closely with that given by the first observer who preferred to remain unidentified.

Dr. Nelson said that he saw the object about 5 p.m. while he was gazing out a window on the ground story of his residence. He estimated that it was about 50 feet in diameter. "There it was," he said, "with a beautiful silvery luminous sheen."

He explained that the object had a "silvery luster" as distinguished from a shiny appearance.

The object fluttered like a leaf, headed northwest and disappeared while he watched. 36.

By July 3rd it seemed that authorities were finally going to heed the plea made by Kenneth Arnold to take the flying saucers seriously. An Army Air Force spokesman announced: "If some foreign power is sending flying discs over the United States, it is our responsibility to know about it and take proper action." 37.

A comment about the Kenneth Arnold case:

Arnold; who died on January 16, 1984, at the age of 68; gave an informative interview to Gregory Long in 1981. The most interesting part was Arnold expressing anger with Air Force BLUE BOOK advisor Dr. J. Allen Hynek. It seems that Hynek had interpreted the Arnold report as containing "certain inconsistencies of size and distance," therefore the objects seen zooming over the Cascades that afternoon could well have been known aircraft. That upset Arnold who charged that Hynek had based his evaluation on an erroneous Air Force version of the June 24th incident. When later confronted by Arnold, and asked why he had not consulted the original text, Hynek merely replied: "Well, I was working for the Air Force." 1.

1. Long, Gregory. "Kenneth Arnold: UFO 'Pioneer'." The MUFON UFO Journal ed.: Richard Hall. Seguin, Texas. #165 November 1981. p.7.

The July Crisis

It seemed like it was going to be a routine Fourth of July holiday. Things were fairly quiet in downtown Portland, Oregon, with most of the businesses closed and Portlanders in general taking their ease in the hot July sun. At midday, in the parking lot of the city police department, Patrolman K. McDowell took delight in a flock of hungry pigeons as he scattered bird seed over the warm asphalt. The birds pecked away at seed oblivious to anything else. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the birds became alarmed. Patrolman McDowell looked skyward, and high in the sky he spotted: "...five discs speeding overhead [and] ...dipping up and down in an oscillating motion." McDowell dashed inside the station house to tell the police dispatcher. All patrol cars were immediately alerted by radio, and within a few moments two different mobile units reported seeing the saucer-shaped objects. People in the streets also caught sight of the discs as a large number of silvery, fluttering, saucer-shaped objects were clearly visible crisscrossing the sky over the city. The objects banked, rose, fell, circled, zoomed off, and then returned. Clusters formed and then split up. Harbor patrolmen radioed in from the dock area, saying the discs could be seen from there. 38. Shortly thereafter, Sheriff Deputies across the Columbia River in Washington saw no less than twenty of the discs speeding north in a chain formation. Deputy Sheriff Fred Krives said the discs were strung out in evenly spaced intervals and appeared to be "slewing off to the side." The discs were in sight for about a minute and 30 seconds. 39.

The Portland sightings were particularly convincing to the International News Service because the discs were plainly visible from the bureau's Portland office. 40.

The aerial show over Portland was the beginning of a huge wave of sightings that would cover the whole nation.

At Hauser Lake, Idaho, 200 persons attending an Independence Day ball game watched a disc moving around in the sky for 30 minutes before it shot straight up out of sight. 41.

Sixty more persons at Twin Falls, Idaho, were enjoying a picnic when three groups of discs flew into view: "Some of the saucers were described as flying in V-formation, while others circled and dived in loose formation." 42.

Reported flying disc behavior was peculiar and the mere oddness of it seems to indicate witnesses were either seeing actual objects, or that people's imaginations were carefully attuned. One witness in Oroville, California, saw two discs over a school: "They were about a foot apart moving pretty fast; they kept circling and moving up and down." 43.

At Bakersfield, California, witnesses watched a shiny, pie tin-like object speeding overhead. They said the object was: "flipping over and over as it crossed the sky." 44.

More to the south, at Riverside, a woman watched a disc about the

size of a dinner plate cavorting in the air. The saucer: "... dipped and dived for ten minutes then took off toward Colton." The woman phoned the Riverside Daily Press and said that she thought saucers behaved "silly." 45.

In all, about 2,000 saucer reports would be made in the U.S.*

Down Mexico way, according to United Press, Mexicans spotted some saucers in the sky near the U.S. Border. Discs were reported over the cities of Juarez, Chihuahua, and Mexicali. Phone calls were made to the Mexican National Defense Ministry, but the ministry spokesman that handled the calls put an abrupt end to inquiries, saying: "Don't call me, I don't believe in the things."

46. Up north an unnamed RCAF spokesman in Ottawa told the press brusquely: "Catch one and we'll look into the matter." 47. No doubt the RCAF spokesman was somewhat disconcerted a short time later when the press reported: "Ontario, Canada, joined the parade of places where the disks have been reported sighted. Scores of residents of the Wallaceburg area in southwest Ontario said today they saw two large formations of flying saucers swing over a wide arc in the sky. . . ." 48.

In fact, a number of reports came in from Canada. On June 26th something was seen in the sky over Ottawa. It hovered for five minutes. About the same time a weird, glowing "flying stove-pipe" was seen flying over Lake Deschenes near Ottawa. From Prince Edward Island came a report on July 2nd telling of the passage of a strange object headed north. A bright green flying disc appeared over Ottawa July 4th, and the same day some residents of Sarnia, Ontario, reported some flying objects a little over a foot in diameter that resembled "translucent plates." The following day a flying saucer sighting was made at Sherbrooke, Quebec; and on July 7th, another disc was spotted over St. Catharines, Ontario. Finally, on July 9th, five saucers were seen over Kincardine, Ontario.

A science writer for one of the news services agreed with the skeptics and wrote a long article which blamed the flying saucer sightings on light reflections, but a New York psychiatrist countered with a statement to the press which pointed out that the number of "mental mistakes" were too massive to be just psychological. Furthermore, one newspaperman in Tennessee swore that he had seen some unexplained flying discs way back in 1945, long before the current flap. He told the press that the objects he saw in 1945 looked: "... a bright aluminum color and were going at terrific speed." The journalist stated that he had not called attention to what he had seen because he thought the objects were connected with the highly secret activity at nearby Oak Ridge. 49.

*The most complete record of the 1947 UFO flap is contained in Ted Bloecher's The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947. This book is a detailed chronological record of some 850 UFO sightings reported in the United States between June 1st to July 30th. There is also considerable analysis of press coverage which is highly informative.

Mr. Bloecher estimates that if small town papers were searched, the 850 figure could be doubled. A search of 102 small town newspapers in one state, California, confirms Mr. Bloecher's guess. Some of the more interesting reports from this study of California newspapers are given in this book.

Also on July Fourth, a forest ranger stationed at a lookout tower north of Fort Ross, California, observed something odd on the surface of the ocean about ten miles off the coast. It appeared to be a burning ship that sank after some twenty minutes. The coast guard searched the whole area thoroughly with no results. A check showed that no ships were supposed to have been in the area at the time of the sighting, nor was any vessel reported missing. The ranger, Earl Halle, nevertheless, insisted he had seen what appeared to have been a ship afire on the horizon. 50. The report may have given U.S. Intelligence a jolt. Was the thing a Russian submarine launching robot aircraft?

It must be noted that ranger Hall's sighting is not unique. UFOs emitting intense crimson light have been mistaken for burning ships before, when the UFOs were apparently resting on the surface of the ocean or hovering just above it. There are also many cases of glowing and smoking "meteors plunging out of the sky and into the sea, which were possibly UFOs.

Probably the most dramatic conversion from skeptic to believer was the experience of Captain E. J. Smith, a story that made nearly every major newspaper.

As early as June 26th Captain Smith, a pilot for United Air Lines, had been approached by reporters and asked for his opinion on the flying saucers being seen over the northwest, an area where he regularly flew airliners. He told reporters: "I've never seen anything like that [Arnold's flying saucers] and the boys [other pilots] say they haven't either. . . what that other fellow [Arnold] probably saw was the reflection of his own instrument panel." 51.

On the evening of July 4th at Boise, Idaho, Captain Smith was walking up the ramp to board his plane, flight 105, for a trip to Seattle when someone mentioned the massive wave of saucers taking place all day over the northwest. Captain Smith joked: "I'll believe in those discs when I see them." 52.

The airliner lifted off at 9:04 p.m. and turned toward Seattle. As Captain Smith remembers it, the control tower at Boise bid him farewell by: ". . . joshingly warning us to be on the lookout for 'flying saucers.'" 53.

Shortly after takeoff five disc-like objects, one larger than the rest, approached Captain Smith's DC-3 headon. Stunned, Captain Smith and his co-pilot Ralph Stevens watched as the objects quickly reversed direction and took up a course that paralleled their own. For 45 miles Captain Smith was able to keep the objects in sight. Co-pilot Stevens thought the objects were aircraft at first and flashed the airliner's landing lights. The objects reacted by changing formation from a very tight cluster to a more open one. The cluster of discs then began to open and close repeatedly before settling down into a loose formation. This group soon vanished and another group of four came into view. The new group soon merged and vanished to the northwest. The airliner's stewardess, Miss Marty Morrow, verified the sightings. 54. 55.

Flight 105's next scheduled stop was the airport at Pendleton, Oregon, a place not unfamiliar with flying saucers. Captain Smith radioed ahead, telling the Pendleton control tower that he and his crew had just seen a whole flock of the mysterious flying discs.

Airport officials contacted the press and had a newspaper reporter on the telephone as Captain Smith taxied his airliner up to the Pendleton airport terminal. Within moments of landing, a shaken Captain Smith was relating all the details. 56.

The Captain Smith report was picked up by Reuters News Service and sent around the world. Even some small eight page newspapers in India carried a lengthy account of Captain Smith's experience, along with references to the massive wave of UFO sightings that were exciting the whole of the U.S.

From Dayton, Ohio, at this time, came the following news item:

German scientists shook their heads in wonderment today over reports of mysterious "flying saucers" skittering thru the skies over a dozen states.

A spokesman said the scientists, many of them experts from the Nazis' most carefully guarded experimental laboratories, "say they never heard of anything from the past, present or future answering the description.

Guided missile experts here also professed ignorance. 57.

Yet in spite of the above disavowals, the public imagination was dry tinder awaiting only a sizable spark to set it aflame. One such spark came on the afternoon of July 4th in the form of a letter; The Los Angeles Examiner received a crudely written note on July 4th that alleged the flying saucers were newly invented Russian atom powered planes, aircraft that left deadly radioactive clouds in their wake. The writer of the letter claimed that the information came from Russian crewmen of a Soviet tanker that had visited Los Angeles harbor a few days before.

The Examiner showed the letter to a nuclear physicist who said the idea was: "...not entirely nonsense." 58. The reaction of the physicist prompted the Examiner to publish the story and to contact the FBI.

The Russian Vice Consul in Los Angeles, Eugene Tunantzev, replied to the charge as soon as he heard of it:

Russia respects the sovereignty of all government and by no stretch of the imagination would it use another country for a proving ground. . .Russia has plenty of territory of its own for any scientific experimentation. 59.

The United Press had the following to add to Tunantzev's denial:

High-ranking U.S. Army officers agreed with Tunantzev. They discounted theories that the flying discs might be secret weapons. . .they said it was significant that none of the discs had yet registered on army radar. 60.

But Tunantzev's assurances failed to smooth things over. The big wave of UFO sightings had hit the West Coast the same day, July 4th, and the first indications of panic appeared. The most vulnerable point was Hawaii with memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor still very vivid. The news from Hawaii was generally ignored for very little of the excitement that began to sweep through.

the islands appeared in the newspapers on the mainland. The Denver (Colorado) Post, however, had a very active staff on duty during the holiday and they took the initiative by placing phone calls to various sections of the country. In Hawaii the Post found out that: "...there were wild rumors that the United States was at war with Russia, and that the Soviet was sending the devices [saucers] over the country by way of the north pole." 61.

The rumors may well have been triggered by military officers, for Kenneth Arnold's "flying saucers" had been spotted coming from the direction of the arctic and the reported motion of the odd disc-like craft resembled that which one might expect from a long-range, Sanger type, rocket. In Washington, this must have caused a stir for within a short time the press was notified that certain steps had been taken. The Associated Press told the nation that on July 6th: "The Army Air Force alerted jet and conventional fighter planes on the Pacific Coast. . .in the hopes of chasing and explaining the mystery of the 'flying saucers' which in 12 days has challenged the entire country." 62. It was emphasized that the primary mission of the military alert was the photographic identification of the phenomenon, but the press found out that the warplanes were also armed with live ammunition. 63.

In the Pacific Northwest it was learned that aircraft were on aerial patrol, ready at moment's notice in case a flying saucer appeared. The newspapers reported: "Five P-51s of the Oregon National Guard cruised over the Cascade mountains of Washington—a sixth circled over Portland in constant radio contact with the other five." 64. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer declared: "Swamped with newspaper calls from cities all over the country, the War Department in Washington had nothing to say to shed light on the weird phenomena." And in the same excited tone the Seattle paper continued: "News wires carried thousands of words as a mass of evidence mounted swiftly throughout the day. Literally hundreds of aerial and ground observers concurred in reports of single and multiple discs." Kenneth Arnold met United Airlines Captain E. J. Smith at the Post-Intelligencer office in Seattle and together they examined a fuzzy image on a photograph taken the day before by Coast Guard Yeoman Frank Ryman. The Post-Intelligencer quoted the two as agreeing that: "we can't all be crazy." 65.

General Carl Spaatz, Army Air Force Commandant, rushed to the Pacific Northwest, while a Pentagon spokesman insisted that: "... he [Spaatz] had not gone there to investigate [the saucers], but merely to make a speech at Seattle and for an airfield inspection at Tacoma." 66.

The Chicago Daily News reported:

The National Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars told newsmen in Columbus, Ohio, it is his understanding General Spaatz had experts combing the country attempting to identify the discs.

Capt. Tom Brown of the Air Force public relations staff in Washington acknowledged that the Air Force had decided there was "something to the saucer reports" and have been actively investigating the mystery for ten days without much results." 67.

On July 4th the Denver Post placed a call to David E. Lilienthal, head of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, to ask if the flying discs had anything to do with government atomic projects. Mr. Lilienthal denied that was the case but he told the Denver Post that he: ". . . was anxious to know if any of them had 'fallen to the ground.'" 68.

The Naval Observatory at Washington, D.C. concluded on July 5th that: ". . . the mysterious 'flying saucers' were not at least, astronomical phenomena." 69.

Dr. H. H. Nininger, director of the American Meteorite museum near Winslow, Arizona, made the simple observation that if the flying saucers were meteors then: ". . . the sky would be filled with them at night, when they would be more visible." 70.

In Idaho Kenneth Arnold planned a disc expeditionary flight and an Army Colonel asked to accompany him. The request was a sign of how things had changed. Just before Arnold took off he told the press: ". . . a lot of people first thought I was cracked, but they'll have to change their tune now." 71.

Just as the saucer mystery threaten to create a panic, a conference was called at Los Alamos, New Mexico. The Denver Post learned of the gathering because of its special relationship with a Dr. Roberts. On July 6th the Post printed:

One puzzling aspect of the nationally watched enigma of the heavens was a meeting in New Mexico of Los Alamos officials and Dr. Walter Orr Robert, superintendent of the high altitude observatory of Harvard and Colorado universities at Climax, Colo. A telephone call to Los Alamos and White Sands, N.M. failed to locate Roberts or the officials with him. Roberts is a regular contributor to the Denver Post. 72.

Also on the 6th of July, a widely publicized incident occurred at Acampo, California. The United Press reported:

Residents of Acampo. . . thought for sure they were being attacked by flying saucers before dawn Sunday when they heard a roar, saw a glow in the sky--and then all the lights went out. . . [witnesses said] the noise was "like a four-motored bomber with its props feathered for a take off." Looking toward the sky [witnesses] saw the glow, as all power in the community went off. 73.

It may have been just a coincidence, but on the following day a number of official comments appeared in the press urging people to remain calm.

The assistant chief of air staff for research and development, Major General C.E. LeMay, was quoted by the Chicago Daily Tribune as saying he believed the: ". . . disc reports are 'nothing to worry about.'" 74.

The Air Material Command of the Army Air Forces at Wright Field insisted it could not take action because as yet it had no: ". . .

reputable information." 75.

General Irving O. Schaefer, commanding officer of Colorado's National Guard, admitted that fighter planes under his command were on standby ready to take off and intercept the flying discs at a moment's notice, but he: "... cautioned against any 'mass hysteria.'" 76.

Likewise, Maj. Duncan Annam, public relations officer of McClellan Field in California, was quoted by the Los Angeles Times as saying: "Lots of people are worried to heck about the things [saucers], but there's nothing to get excited about. If there were anything to them the Army would have notified us." 77.

Flying discs invaded the airspace of northwestern California on July 7th and Sheriff B. J. Richardson told the Yreka-Journal that he was receiving numerous phone calls. One woman said she had seen strange discs high in the sky over the Marble Mountains "surrounded by balls of fire." Also, an elderly gentleman phoned the Sheriff and declared that: "... eerie colored discs which glinted in icy greens and blues had swooped low over his home." Terrified, the man had shouted over the phone: "It's the end of the world, send help!" 78.

Most sightings, however, were less spectacular. Typical was the report of two farmers harvesting barley near Glenn, California. During the afternoon of July 7th the two men noticed the sun reflecting off three rows of discs flying at great speed high overhead. They said the discs: "... moved with an up and down motion and also tipped from side to side." There were about twenty-five of the objects which maintained perfect formation but before they passed out of sight the three row formation changed into a perfect "v." 79.

Two teenagers were surf fishing at Fort Bragg, California, on July 7th when, about 3:10 p.m., they noticed a "flat glistening object" in the sky approaching them from the direction of the ocean. The object lost altitude rapidly and hit the water about 400 yards from shore. The impact kicked up a tall column of water, but the object floated for a while before it apparently sank. It seemed to be about the size of an auto tire.* 80.

Tiffany Thayer received one clipping, an editorial from an issue of the Washington Post, which quoted the head of the U.S. Bureau of Standards as saying he was: "... satisfied that the whole thing [the flying saucers] is just one of those mass illusions like the Loch Ness sea monster." 81. Thayer remembered the quote when he was compiling flying saucer reports for publication in Doubt, so when the Toronto Globe and Mail reported that an eye specialist in the city of Saskatoon had sighted a half dozen discs crossing the sky, Thayer couldn't resist a comment: "If an 'eye specialist' doesn't know what he sees who does?" 82.

A noteworthy item was a peculiar story in a Houston, Texas, newspaper about the alleged discovery of an aluminum disc, twenty inches across and six inches thick. The disc was supposed to have been marked with the following words:

*An identical incident took place January 18, 1956, off Redondo Beach, California.

NON-EXPLOSIVE. . .Military secret of the United States of America, Army Air Forces M4339658. Anyone damaging or revealing description or whereabouts of the missile subject to prosecution by the U. S. Government. Call collect at once, LD 446, Army Air Force Depot, Spokane, Washington. 83.

The day after the above story appeared in the Houston paper the gentleman responsible changed his mind and said the Air Force saucer-missile tale was a practical joke. The episode is mentioned here because an almost identical story surfaced in March, 1950, during a radio broadcast by a respected news commentator. The broadcast was put into print for the July, 1950, issue of Readers Digest. Referring to an unnamed but allegedly authoritative source, it was asserted that the flying saucers were real missiles and were "good news" for Americans, but the time was not ripe for revealing their secrets. 84. The story was met with considerable scoffing but remains an unexplained footnote to the UFO mystery.

More news of the supposed disk, said to have been discovered on July 6th on a beach close to Trinity Bay, Texas, was published in the July 8th issue of the Houston Press:

"Norman Hargraves, former Boy Scout executive, admitted today it was he who perpetrated a flying saucer hoax that even Army authorities took seriously.

"A disk that made a crash landing near his home bore lettering and directions to notify an Army Air Forces officer in Spokane, Washington, Mr. Hargraves told newspapers.

"Wellington Field officers investigated the report late yesterday and pronounced it as false." 85.

References to the Hargraves hoax can be found in Air Force General Hoyt Vandenburg's "Desk Log," material researched by UFO expert William Moore. The reader is referred to the document reproduction in this text.

Anyway, returning to July, 1947, we find that something similar to the Houston hoax followed quickly on its heels.

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July 7, 1947 (Cont'd)

- 1:10 P.M. Mr. Hicks of the Toronto Star, Toronto, Canada on phone - He spoke in regard to the "flying discs". They understand these discs are a U.S. plane that is still on the secret list. He asked Gen. Van what he thought they were and Gen. Van was quite noncommittal. Gen. Van said that some National Guard Planes were on duty on their own volition to search for the discs, but that no planes have been put on duty from Hq, AAF.
- 1:20 P.M. General Tommy Power
- 1:40 P.M. Cong. Drewry of Va. on phone requesting a B-29 be sent to Blackstone, Va. for a celebration by the CAP and volunteer fire organizations in the vicinity. Date - July 27. May be able to do some recruiting on that day. Gen. Van said he would look into the matter and advise Mr. Drewry's office.
- 1:50 P.M. Mr. Leo on phone re article on "Saucers". Said one had been found with instructions on it to get in touch with Colonel Frank Hackett in Spokane. Mr. Leo reported the matter to General Schulgen, G-2.
- 1:52 P.M. Mr. Zuckert on phone informing him with reference to National Guard that all planes where we haven't squadron or group headquarters should take their people away.
- 1:55 P.M. Mr. Leo and General LeMay with reference to discs.
- 2:00 P.M. Colonel Frank Hackett, Spokane, Washington on phone - General Van informed Colonel Hackett that we had gotten a call from the Houston Chronicle saying that a flying disc had landed there with his (Colonel Hackett's) name on it. Gen. Van asked if he knew anything about it. Colonel Hackett stated that he knew nothing at all about it. Gen. Van told Col. H. that it was reported here that Col. H. said that his people knew all about it and that a statement was coming out from Washington. Col. H. said, "I have said nothing". Col. H. had the Chronicle called and told to get in touch with the F.B.I. - get photographic proof - and then get in touch with Gen. Twining.
- 2:20 P.M. Colonel Bob Warren, Ellington Field, Tex on phone. - Gen. Van informed Col. Warren that the Houston Chronicle had found a disc about 20" in diameter and 5 or 6" thick. It is supposed to have Col. Frank Hackett's name on it. We are most anxious to explode this thing. I would appreciate it if you would get in touch with the Chronicle, ask them where it is, go out and see the thing and then call me back. The line of approach is that we have nothing like that, we don't understand what it is, but we are leaving no stone unturned to be sure. Colonel Warren said it would be a couple of hours before he could call back.

End of the Beginning

"Flying saucer found! U.S. military experts now inspecting a crashed disc in New Mexico!" Radio stations startled a jittery American public on July 8th with the forementioned news bulletin. An Army press agent, it seems, had announced unequivocally to the news media that a saucer had crashed on a ranch in New Mexico and that the military was examining the wreckage. The news media jammed all the telephone lines to New Mexico to obtain details on the downed disc. Even three London newspapers tried to get through.

The commanding general of the Eighth Air Force, General R.M. Ramey, tried to quiet the furor by going on the radio, and at the Pentagon, Lt. General Hoyt Vandenburg, deputy chief of the Army Air Force, rushed to the press section to take charge personally because the confusion there was running a close second to the uproar in New Mexico. Memory of the clamor evidently made a long lasting impression on Vandenburg. 86.

Just as the wreckage of the alleged saucer was about to be packed and sent to Air Force Intelligence at Wright Field, Ohio, for closer examination, an Army weather man identified the "saucer wreckage" as merely the remains of an old weather balloon. 87.

The Pentagon claimed it was greatly embarrassed by the mistake but the effect of the episode must have been welcome. There had been a big letdown and its psychological influence put a brake on the accelerating excitement. As it turned out President Truman's Press Secretary chose this moment to announce that the Chief Executive had not yet authorized a full scale investigation into the flying saucer mystery. 88. This announcement was accompanied in the press by quotes from three prominent scientists who scolded the American public for succumbing to "group hysteria." 89.

In the smaller communities there were UFO sightings of interest that never made newspapers of large circulation. As a consequence many reports have never been widely publicized. For example, near the small town of Lodi, California, south of Sacramento, something was seen at a very low altitude not many hours after the neighboring community of Acampo suffered an unexplained electric power blackout. A farmer by the name of Lloyd, got up early the morning of July 6th and was working in his vineyard, which was northwest of Lodi on Telegraph Road, when he saw a flying disc. According to a local newspaper Mr. Lloyd:

...said the saucer was gray in color and about the size of an automobile steering wheel. He estimated that it was flying about 20 feet above the ground [Mr. Lloyd] ...was plowing when he first noticed the object 300 feet away. It was traveling in a southerly direction and narrowly missed the pump house at his home, he explained. As far as he was able to determine, no one else saw it.

Lloyd said the noise made by the motor of his tractor drowned out any noise made by the "flying saucer." It was traveling in a straight line and maintained the same

altitude. 90.

Tiffany Thayer, of course, got a big bang out of the saucer stories, in the beginning at least, and he especially enjoyed the following two reports. It seems that at Palmdale, California, a housewife had phoned the local sheriff about a "mother disc" and its "milling" children. The sheriff thanked the woman and hung up with an abrupt click. Apparently it was just another one of those wild saucer stories. Yet Thayer had received a clipping from Tacoma, Washington which told of something very similar, seen about the same time, by lawmen!

Here are the cases as they were reported in the local Tacoma and Palmdale newspapers.

Early in the morning of July 7, 1947, a bright moon hung in the dark, cloudless sky over Tacoma. Things were quiet around town until a little after 2:30 when an officer Johnson noticed some strange glowing discs moving rapidly about the sky. After watching, for a while, in disbelief he finally turned to his partner and asked:

"Do you see anything, Skip?" Yeah, do You?" Davies answered, cautiously.

"Uh huh. Over to the left of that big tree," Johnson replied.

"I thought I was screwy," Davies remarked with apparent relief.

"I've been watching it for five minutes."

"So have I," Johnson admitted.

The mysterious objects moved so fast they took one's breath away. The discs glowed, turning: ". . . from a brilliant red to purple to blue-white and back to red, progressing through the color cycle as they moved about on an erratic course. . . ." One disc leaped 5,000 feet straight up in a split second. No sound was heard during the performance. 91.

Another newspaper learned these additional details from the two policemen:

One central saucer, they said, appeared to act as sort of a "flagship." It appeared larger or closer than the others, with the smaller saucers repeatedly making sorties to the proximity of the larger disc and then gliding away southward. 92.

Unfortunately, the Palmdale report was much less detailed:

One Palmdale woman reports seeing a "Mother Saucer" with a bunch of little saucers playing around in the sky. Occasionally the smaller saucers would return to the mother saucer for nourishment or gasoline or whatever the saucers use to romp around in the atmosphere. 93.

There was one report from Riverside, California, that is sure to catch the eye of any modern UFO buff for there has been much speculation since 1947 about UFOs and electrical power outages. On July 7th a man reported to the Riverside Daily Press that: ". . . he saw six discs 'the size of small plates' hovering over a power line when he went outside to find the cause of static in

his radio." 94.

Although Albert Einstein refused any comment on the aerial mystery, (10. famed physicist Luis Alvarez told the press he had doubts about reported size and speed estimates in flying saucer reports, pointing out that such estimates would have to be highly subjective. 96. The professor made no mention, however, about reported characteristics that were not so subjective in nature and showed a very high degree of uniformity.

When the massive July 4th wave of UFO sightings hit the news-wires, many news media editors that had previously harbored suspicions the saucers were just a brief summer silliness, now became convinced there must be something to the phenomenon, and sent reporters scattering in all directions to colleges of psychology, to army posts, to private laboratories, and to weather bureaus, in the hope of finding a clue that would lead to a solution of the mystery.

By this time author R. DeWitt Miller spoke up and gave his opinions to United Press. He said the UFO problem was a very old one but that he was nonetheless impressed with the recent excitement. He said; "Never have reports of strange sky phenomena been so widespread and so uniform as the 'flying saucers.'" He suggested three possible solutions to the riddle: 1.) U.S. secret weapons, 2) Craft from outer space, 3) Devices from some other dimensions of time and space. 97.

The same day, July 8th, an official statement came out of Washington, D.C. The word "not" is how it appeared in the news-story:

Official Washington was sure today that it knew what the flying saucers were NOT—but it hadn't the faintest idea what they were.

The Army Air Forces said they had the matter under investigation.

Preliminary study has revealed that the flying saucers are NOT:

1. Secret bacteriological weapons designed by some foreign powers.
2. New type Army rockets.
3. Space ships.

Privately, some Air Force officers say the saucers are NOT—and let it go at that. But officially, the AAF said it is "keeping an open mind" because the disks have been reported by so many responsible persons. 98.

It wasn't long before Walter Winchell was quoting R. DeWitt Miller but we know he could have done better than that. As it turned out an Associated Press reporter made the discovery in Chicago's Newberry Library. There the reporter claimed to have discovered a "rare unknown" book, the scarlet colored volume titled The Book of the Damned. 99. Thayer howled with laughter when he read about the "great discovery" of the "unknown" book. Awhile after this "discovery" the news agencies tracked Thayer and the Fortean to their lair (July 23rd) to ask: "Who was this guy Fort?" And: "Can we quote such and such?" This was the high-point of the whole history of the Fortean Society and it was sad

Fort himself was not alive to take a well-earned bow.

Orville Wright, co-inventor of the airplane, was still alive and kicking, however, and out of Dayton, Ohio, the home of the retired pioneer, came a statement attributed to the famed aviator on July 8th, which pinned the disc scare on the Pentagon trying to ignite World War III. 100. Thayer awarded the highest Fortean honor on the old flyer, a Society Fellowship.

In spite of Mr. Wright's explanation the public was more inclined to believe their eyes. A motorist traveling near Indianapolis saw a "low-flying, fiery, copper-colored, disc" flash by. He stepped on the gas and managed to keep the object in sight for 10 minutes. Police pulled him over and gave him a ticket for speeding. 101.

Sightings had become so numerous that when authorities in the state of Kansas said there had been no reports in that state so far, the claim was treated as news and carried on the news wires: "Kansas Sees no Saucers." Rewards for one of the elusive discs ran from a mere 3,000 dollars to a cool million.

The Fortean Society publication, Doubt, number 19, covering the months of June and July, 1947, would be a memorable issue for its editor Tiffany Thayer. The flying saucer story would fill nearly every page, an awkward turn of events since the Society under Thayer's leadership had wandered a long way from Charles Fort's hypothesizing about scout craft from a celestial super-Rome. Anti-Wassermen testers, anti-vivisectionists, anti-vaccinationists, flat earth adherents, and proponents of universal disarmament, to name a few, had all but taken over the space available in Doubt.

There was no way to ignore the saucers for the moment, so Thayer planned to print what was pouring into Fortean headquarters. However, he introduced the special flying saucer issue of Doubt with an 800 word essay on what he believed to be the future intent, and past accomplishments, of the nation's newspapers to sell the American public various "pipedreams." Newspapers he believed that were captained by editors with woodpulp souls. And then he began to list and make a brief remark about every saucer sighting, but after reaching the 380th item he ran out of room. Such a collection! Compared to other topics the saucer story was a tidal wave. For once Thayer began to develop a dislike for some Fortean data, and it took the fun out of things when he had to compete with Time and Life.

That there had been a few speculations about space visitors never really thrilled Thayer since such ideas never had much of an appeal to him. Shucks, Thayer commented, the Fortean Society already had one member who claimed nightly conversations with the inhabitants of the planet Venus.

Charles Fort's name turned up in highly friendly news dispatches from Los Angeles to Scotland and was mentioned in some scientific journals, which was one result of the saucer controversy Thayer could not fault in the least.

Thayer also enjoyed the fact that the Fortean Society had come across a saucer sighting that was printed on June 7, 1947, some seventeen days before the Kenneth Arnold report. According to the Times of India saucer-shaped objects were seen in the sky

over Bombay, India. The report read: "About 9:00, a dazzling object emitting blue and red light, [was seen]. . .fifteen minutes later, another [object was sighted which emitted a] . . . blue light. The latter was round in shape [and was] . . .accompanied by several smaller sized ones." 102.

The American press may have missed the Bombay sighting, but it came up with one of equal interest from China on July 14, 1947: "Shanghai—(AP). . .North China news agency said crowds of Chinese near the summer palace in Peiping's suburbs reported seeing 'an enormous saucer emitting bright beams in all directions and dazzling the eyes of all who saw it. . .'" 103.

Other reports from overseas in July came from Australia, South Africa, Ireland, Norway, Italy, France, and one from an aircraft flying over the Bay of Biscay. According to a Captain Norman Waugh, he was piloting a twin-engined Viking aircraft over the bay when a strange object passed him by. He estimated that the object was traveling over 600 miles per hour at an altitude of about 15,000 feet above the sea and was headed in a northeast direction. 104. England contributed one of those odd "mother ship" sightings on July 11th when a woman told authorities she had seen: ". . .a large object with smaller saucers scuttling along behind." 105. Holland's Leyden Naval Radio Service broadcast a report of a cluster of flying discs traveling across the sky at great speed and altitude. A short time later the Netherlands News Agency reported a single flying disc, also crossing the sky high up and at a tremendous velocity. 106.

Witnesses in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on July 8th, claimed to have spotted four luminous discs speeding overhead, traveling in pairs. The objects came out of the northeast and then headed south. Charles Julia, a prominent San Juan lawyer, told the press he had seen a similar bright colored object a few days previously but had thought the thing was the result of some sort of government experiment. 107.

On July 10th newspapers in Rio De Janeiro announced the sighting of the mystery objects over Brazilian territory, particularly in the skies over the city of Presidente Prudente, in the state of Sao Paulo. One expert tried to explain the objects as "meteoric stones which had lost their brilliance," but witnesses rejected the suggestion. The Brazilian Minister of War declared that he was planning to visit President Prudente and other areas where the strange objects were reported. Less impressed, however, was the Rio morning paper Diario Da Noite which blamed the outbreak on a worldwide psychosis. 108.

From Guatemala in Central America came the report of a sighting at the city of Ixtapa, close to the Mexico border. Travelers boarding at Pan American Airways airliner yelled in surprise as a flat-shaped object trailing golden vapor crossed the sky. 109.

According to a survey of some South American newspapers sources, as published by the Argentine Center for the Study of Unusual Phenomena, numerous cities in Chile, Argentine, and Uruguay, reported UFO sightings during July. This survey is probably not totally complete and there was no survey of other South American countries, but there seems to be some indication that the UFO wave in the United States slowly shifted south, peaking around July 10th-14th in the Santiago-Buenos Aires region.

Cities reporting UFO sightings in Argentina were: July 11th, La Plata; and on July 15th, Buenos Aires. At the Argentine city of Balcare, July 19th, police, townspeople, and railroad workers, reported a whole flock of flying discs, about 50 in number, passing from north to south during a rainstorm. It was said that the discs appeared to be about 20 centimeters in diameter. 110.

Sightings made in Chile were: July 7th, Algarbo; July 9th, Los Cerrillas; July 10th, Santiago (2); July 11th, Valdinia, and Alcones; July 12th, Volcan Calbuco, and Maria Pinto; July 13th, Santiago, and Puyehue; July 14th, Temuco, and Caldera; July 17th, Valparaiso (2) and San Antonio; July 21st, Cajon, and finally on July 23rd something was seen in the air over Frutillar. Uruguay reported sightings at Colon on July 6th and one at Punta del Este on July 11th. 111.

It was only a matter of time before Kenneth Arnold became aware of that collection center for strange data, and forum for speculation, the Fortean Society. Arnold applied for membership, and writing to Thayer suggested the Society sponsor him on a lecture tour to help turn up clues to the origin of the mystery objects. But Arnold encountered Thayer's rapidly diminishing interest in the flying saucer subject and received a negative answer. 112. Since such magazines as Popular Science and The Saturday Evening Post were putting out welcoming hands to the flying discs as a proper subject to print, Thayer's initial lukewarm enthusiasm for the mystery cooled more and more. Although the Fortean Society had, for over a decade, been a clearing house for outcasts, nothing in any other category approached the volume of flying saucer data saturating the organization's mail. Thayer felt the Society might be in danger of losing its rebellious reputation if it entertained any extraterrestrial matters which had suddenly become so familiar and popular. In any case the UFO subject had achieved the momentum it needed to get along without being championed by the Fortean Society.

Since the newspapers were doing a good job of covering the UFO enigma, Thayer printed less and less about the mystery in Doubt from then on, returning the vacated space to his favorite topic of perpetuating dissent.

A passing note should be made of the first recorded "encounter" case having to do with the 1947 flying saucer wave. On July 9th the following account appeared in the Nashville Tennessean:

Meanwhile as newspaper office telephone calls on this latest form of mid-summer madness multiply, it's obvious that the subject is getting a grip on people. One man, apparently perfectly sane and sober, wrote the editor of the Nashville Tennessean a long, interesting letter about his brush with a couple of Men from Mars on a nearby flying field.

The strange little men, "all heads and arms and legs, and glowing like fireflies," landed and alighted from a flying saucer as he drove along a highway, the man wrote.

The man from Nashville and the Men from Mars exchanged greetings (in sign language) and the saucer finally took off in a cloud of dust, so the letter says. 113.

One wonders just what the military was now thinking. Take General Carl Spaatz for example. We can get some idea from an article that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post in 1949. General Spaatz, Air Force Chief of Staff, was well aware, it seems, that the Russians were tinkering with all kinds of new aircraft and missiles, but if the saucers were Soviet devices, how come they evaded detection coming and going from Russian territory? And military Intelligence had absolutely nothing to show for its investigation efforts, not even: ". . . a loose nut off any unexplained object to examine." 114.

On July 10th the San Francisco Chronicle titled the latest saucer news: "Few Discs Now—Story Cooling Off." A feeling began to grow that in spite of everything perhaps people had only been "seeing things." 115. Events had seemingly reached a climax but nothing had happened. If the saucers were illusions they were becoming a bore because too many sightings were too similar. If the saucers were Russian, why hadn't the Communists boasted about it, or for that matter, attacked us. If the saucers were visitors from Mars, why hadn't they landed in front of the White House and presented their credentials. The Chronicle quoted Senator Taylor (D. Idaho) who told the press: "I almost wish the flying saucers would turn out to be space ships from another planet." It was explained by the Chronicle that: "Senator Taylor is plugging for a United States of the World and said the mere possibility that the spinning discs might be hostile 'would unify the people of the earth as nothing else could.'" 116.

And who should turn up on July 10th but Mr. Dana Thomas. Now a white-haired old gentleman he nonetheless had clear memories of the 1896 airship excitement. He told the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury-Herald that the current flying saucer controversy reminded him of the old airship mystery and how the San Francisco Call had championed the airship's existence. He also mentioned the antics of California's one-time Attorney General H.H.H. Hart who "knew the airship's inventor." Most of all, however, Mr. Thomas enjoyed telling the Mercury-Herald how one fellow made money off the airship mystery and never missed a beat even when faced with potential disaster:

An enterprising showman had two trucks of odds and ends of sheet metal dumped at night at Twin Peaks. He "discovered" it the next day and declared that it was an airship wrecked as it struck the side of the hill. Admission was charged for seeing the "remains" until one of the truckmen saw the bottom of too many whiskey glasses and told the part he had played in the deception. The admission sign was changed to "The greatest hoax of the century." 117.

Another person who commented on the flying disc mystery on July 10th was the Chief Executive. An INS newstory datelined Washington read:

President Truman today said that current stories of "flying saucers" reminded him of the "moon hoax" which

had the citizenry agog a century or so ago.

Asked at his news conference whether he had seen any "saucers" the president laughed and said he had not—none except those in the newspapers. He then asked news-men whether they had heard of the moon hoax. That incident grew out of a series of highly imaginative "scientific" illustrations published in the New York Sun about the middle of the last century, purporting to describe life on the moon. 118.

Skeptics of the flying saucers like to blame Kenneth Arnold for "starting it all," thus the most sought after saucer report is a clearly described flying disc sighting published in a newspaper just before Arnold's Washington sighting. No "early" 1947 disc report has been discovered in a major U.S. newspaper (Blocher), but in some small town newspaper such a news item may yet be found. One intriguing report from Canada was printed July 13th in the Victoria, British, Columbia, Daily Colonist, which may be an authentic because UFO experts have subsequently determined that birds, dogs, horses, and other animals, react to the presence of UFOs.

Port Alberni, B.C. July 12—Flying saucers are old stuff in Alberni. They were sighted by Pearl Linton of Alberni, over the city in April. She saw two of them.

What is more, ducks and chickens are sensitive to the passing of the strange missiles. The attention of Miss Linton and Thomas Atkinson was drawn to the saucers by the crackling of ducks. Two disks of bright aluminum color were traveling in the direction of Beaufort Range. They were high and traveled on edge. 119.

On July 17th Arnold turned up once again in Pendleton where he gave a lecture in the VFW hall on the subject of flying saucers. He told the assembled crowd the discs may utilize nuclear energy and then he brought up R. DeWitt Miller's book of Coronet articles that Walter Winchell had mentioned over the air. It is a certainty Arnold related his own experiences of June 24th something he has been asked to do a zillion times since. He also revealed a six hour interview with military intelligence that had taken place the previous weekend. The most interesting thing about the interview was that the Intelligence officers that talked to Arnold admitted the Air Force had known about the flying saucers as early as the month of April.* 120.

"Eyes From Mars," read the little headline over a small article in one newspaper. The article stated:

*An official U.S. Air Force report on UFOs, Project Blue Book Report #14, says the following about old UFO reports: "Sightings alleged to have occurred prior to 1947 were not considered since they were not reported to official sources until after public interest in 'flying saucers' had been stimulated by the popular press."

R. L. Farnworth of Chicago, president of the U.S. Rocket Society, a member of the Fortean society, a club honoring Charles Fort, founder of an anti-science cult. . .[said today] "this isn't the first time people have seen legitimate spots in the sky. It happened at least three times in the last century. Nobody ever found out what any of the objects were. Scientists agree they weren't astronomical bodies. 'Nothing surprises me. I wouldn't even be surprised if the flying saucers were remote-control eyes from Mars.'" 121.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the flying saucer sightings was the reported behavior of the objects. Reports indicated that the objects exhibited distinctive traits. If so, were the flying saucers actual mechanical devices? Were they from another world?

The 1947 reports give the impression the reported objects were indeed artificial devices spying on America, weird aerial machines racing about the skies on mysterious and urgent missions. Significant characteristics taken from different eye witness accounts are given in the following list.

The following quotes are taken from Ted Bloecher's large collection of 1947 newspaper reports. The "case number" refers to the identifying code number Mr. Bloecher gave to every UFO report in his book Report on the UFO Wave of 1947.

- Case 36: "The discs were weaving and circling very rapidly in formation and after a while they dispersed in all directions." 122.
- Case 277: "The object would fly in a circle for about five minutes and then shoot off a mile to the south, tear back again, stand still for half a minute, and then start circling again." 123.
- Case 373: "It circled clockwise very fast and then stopped quite suddenly. It then sped away. A moment later it returned and hovered for a minute or two before beginning to circle again." 124.
- Case 291: "The group of objects flew in a circular pattern until two broke loose and zoomed away. The cluster of circling objects then formed into a chain which became V-shaped. The formation flew away." 125.
- Case 707: "Two groups of objects approached Denver and when they arrived in the sky over the city they scattered over the downtown area where they hovered for a while. After a short time they resumed formation and sped off." 126.

Things had become so calm by July 21st Newsweek felt it could write the flying saucer's epitaph. Newsweek declared that no one could explain the sudden absence of the objects while adding that "few cared." 127.

One of Kenneth Arnold's last appearances in print during the hectic year of 1947 was when he was interviewed by a reporter from the Denver (Colorado) Post on July 22nd:

Arnold was first to give an eyewitness account of the disks and "It's upset the whole routine of my life" he complains.

It's not funny to me," said Arnold, on a business trip to Denver, Tuesday.

"I don't read Popular Science or Startling Comics. I don't know anything about atomic fission. I don't know what it was I saw. All I know is that I saw nine objects that performed like aircraft, traveling at tremendous speed." 128.

Actually, Kenneth Arnold's story was quite tame compared to some other flying saucer reports.

The Watsonville, California, Register-Pajaronian, printed a letter to the editor on July 18th from a Mr. N.M. De Arman who wrote that he had been driving along a road a few days previously when:

At a point some four miles northward from LeGrand my attention was taken by some object glistening in the sunlight forward and to my right. It was very high, and was waving, or bouncing up and down in its course, traveling in a direction which would take it across my road further ahead. At first I thought it was some type of aircraft which was having trouble, and was bound for a crash landing. I shut my own motor off and coasted. I put my head out the window listening for motor sounds. There was none. Next I thought to speed up, and if possible be there when it came down, but before I could get my car up to 75 miles per hour the shiny object had disappeared behind the far-away distant clouds. I have never seen anything like it in appearance. The first sight of it suggested Saturn and its rings to me. 129.

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." 130.

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." 131.

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 lambaste 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. 132.

As the days passed the enthusiasm mounted. Kenneth Arnold complained: "I haven't had a moment's peace since I first told the story." 133. 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. 134.

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. 135.

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. *136.

*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. 137.

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. 138.

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. 139.

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. 140.

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. 141.

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). 142.

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 vertical fins flying above the flight at about 35,000 feet. 143.

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. 144. 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[!]." 145.

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. 146.

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." 147.

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. 148.

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. 149.

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). 150.

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 bizarre 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 canvass 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. 151. 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. 152.

*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). 153.

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. 154.

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. 155. 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. 156.

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. 157.

"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! 158.

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. 159. 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." 160.

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." 161.

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." 162. 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. 163.

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. 164.

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. 165.

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. 166. 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. 167.

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. 168.

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." 169. By political the General meant: "...individuals of Communist sympathies with a view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon." 170. 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 hurtling 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 of disc-like nature at approximately 8,000 feet travelling in circles over

Alerts

Planes on W. Coast

'May Be Something' To Flying Saucers

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—The Army Air Forces alerted jet and conventional fighter planes on the Pacific Coast yesterday

ing and a tory of th which in lenced the Gen. Carl commenda Northwest v the strange seen.

An Wash there to my for d come A Arm six f land on a flyin area phot Lo mem of Pa Colo unde "grip ing v A both

ARMY SET TO

NOVA chanic service types of of the s tonville. at an all

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with a center an air First phenom Kennell

'Discs' Seen Near Ocala, Orlando

TAMPA, Fla., July 5 (AP)—The first report from Florida of flying discs similar to those seen in Western skies in recent days turned up today.

Mrs. J. E. Harp of nearby Lutz said that on March 30, as she was driving between Ocala and Orlando she saw several silvery discs keep appearing and disappearing. It was about 11 a.m. of a clear day.

Her seven-year-old daughter

Myster Report

Flying Saucers Sailing Through 1 Puzzle Hundreds Of Amateur O

See Local Story on Page 25

In the center and are partially rocket propelled on the takeoff."

Falls, Idaho. And in Ore., so many residen

Flying Disk Discovery Turns Out To Be Dud

Nashville, Tenn.

Object Found In New Mexico Weather Device

FORT WORTH, Tex.—(AP)—The discovery of a "flying disk" reported by an army public relations officer proved a dud yesterday when the object was identified as a weather balloon.

Warrar Newton, 1 army's E weather sta pect found in a ray wind mine the di winds at hi He said weather at States using and that it, any one of High Altitude "We use go so much can see," radar set is balloon and triangulate charted, he When rig object looks is silvery li

report of nic ener- ted at by m scienc metals, manding engineer- north- t sai ed, cor there or as the I said he k under the: suce heir

STRANGE Myst

See story on page OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Don't sell the

WHAT IS TH Discs M

See story on page 1 also. By ROBERT W. FENWICK, Rocky Mountain Empire Editor The Denver Post. Copyright, 1947, by The Post Publishing Company. Does cosmic cataclysm ride brilliant wings of those, etc



FORT WORTH—Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, intelligence officer of the 58th Bomb Group, is shown above examining the "flying saucer dud" found on a New Mexico ranch.

Whizzing 'Pie-Pan'

1947 FENDLETON, June 28 (AP)—A tale of nine mysterious objects—big as airplanes—whizzing over Western Washington at 1200 miles an hour got skepticism today from the army and air experts. The man who reported the objects, Kenneth Arnold, a flying Boise, Idaho, businessman, clung, however, to his story of the shiny, flat objects, each as big as a DC-4 passenger plane, racing over Washington's Cascade mountains with a peculiar weaving motion "like the tail or a kite." An army spokesman in Washington, D. C., commented "As far

V-2 rockets would not be the objects reported by and that no high-speed mental tests were being the area where Arnold's objects were. A civil aeronautics ad- jon inspector in Portland "I rather doubt that it would be traveling that fast," Arnold described the as "flat like a pie-pan," shiny that they reflected like a mirror. When first sighted at feet, they were strung on a ribbon that he takes as

CHASE 'SKY DISKS'

y 'Flying Discs'

ed in 31 States

e Air With The Greatest Of Ease

ervers And Scientists In 28 States

from Mrs. E. J. Harp, of Intz, who said she saw the objects in Boise, Ida., on Independence day indicate "directed motion, rather than chaotic." eastern states had their reports. Observers, earlier all from west

ING OBJECTS ALSO REPORTED SEEN OVER OKLAHOMA CITY

y Spreads as Second Pilot Tells of Sky Ghost

remember," said Byron Savage, 38, Oklahoma City businessman pilot. "I was standing in my front yard very big—and was moving at a terrific rate of speed. "The funny thing about it was that it made no noise. "I know that boy up there (Arnold) really saw them." Savage said he told his wife and daughter about it. Mrs. Savage said Thursday she

MYSTERY OF THE SKIES?

stify Scientists, Laymen

ples of fear—only a burning curiosity mingled with some apprehension.

One puzzling aspect of the nationally watched enigma of the saucers was a meeting in New Mexico of Los Alamos officials and

In the United States, however, efforts were being made to get an official photograph of the discs. Col. Al Dutton of the Oregon National Guard said the guard's squadron had six P-51 fighter planes equipped with guns and

She said they were circular and silvery but at one time appeared like a long pipe, thin. "There was a blood-red flash at the rear of the disc like a flame or a bright light," she said. Mrs. McLeod said she saw the disc at

Disk Tale

'No Sale'

In Europe

LONDON—(AP)—Don't mention those flying saucers on this side of the Atlantic unless you're prepared

Plane Report Gets Army Skepticism

By his plane's clock he timed them at 1:42 minutes for the 47 miles from Mount Rainier to Mount Adams, Arnold said, adding that he later figured by triangulation that their speed was 1200 miles an hour.

"I could be wrong by 200 or 300 miles an hour," he admitted, "but I know I never saw anything so fast."

He said at first he thought they were geese, but quickly saw they were too big—as big as a DC-4

were—unless they were guided missiles," said Arnold, who continued here on a business trip.

"Everyone added fuel," say it too if you watched those things, impossible. Arnold said he was miles west of route from when he explained it for a marriage

Flying Saucers; Divorce. Pittsburgh, July 8.—Connie Dunbar told Judge Harry H. Rowand in divorce court yesterday there was no mystery about the flying saucers in his home—they were wife-propelled. The judge granted Dunbar, 35, a divorce.

from which he viewed the objects would make difficult a precise estimation of their speed.

any error would not that speed. "as closer than the 14,000 feet and of him, he said, could estimate the objects better between peak once view of them. He said was 25 miles related.

the objects after rolling it down. He also described the objects as "saucer-like" and their motion "like a fish flipping in the sun." Mostly, he said, he was surprised at the way they twisted just above the higher peaks, almost appearing to be threading their way through the mountains. "Ten thousand feet is very low for anything going at that speed," he said. Arnold was flying a three-engine

Flying Disc Enig

MYSTERY FLOODS HAV

By ROBERT W. FENWICK.
Rocky Mountain Empire Editor
of The Denver Post.

ed in twenty-eight states by
Saturday evening. Wire serv-
ices were glutted with rumors

nection with atomic energy
experiments.
Officials at White Sands,

thing" about the flying
Alexander de Sovereign,
ternationally noted autho-
on all types of aircraft,
reached by telephone at

Officials Doubt Story Of Phantom Air Fleet

BY TOM CATON
First Writer, The Commercial

Many an official eyebrow was
cocked Thursday at the story of
a flying Boise businessman who
said he saw nine mirrored
"aircraft" clipping along
1200 miles an hour a couple
days ago near Mt. Rainier
Washington.

The incident was various
described as "fantastic,"
possible, "a mirage" and
"tortured, persistent vision."

None would go so far as
dispute the word of Kenn
Arnold that he thought he
saw the strange objects, but
agreed he must have been
seeing things that weren't there.

"It is very peculiar that
was the only person to witness
such a spectacular sight,"

Dr. J. Hugh Pruett of the
astronomy department of the
University of Oregon extension
division at Eugene told The
Oregonian that the "whatzit"

POST con-
to-coast tele-
on attempt to
and identity
astronomic

SCIENTISTS ARE UNABLE TO GIVE EXPLANATION

By The Associated Press

ing saucers" re-
in 21 states by
persons, and cou-
from scores of
named sources he country.

ernment sources
see one" stand on
it, and no scientist
called explanation.
Angeles Evening

"Nothing Flies That Fast"

Army Scoffs, But Man Clings To Story of Whizzing Objects

PENDLETON, Ore., June 26—(AP)—Army and CAA spokesmen
expressed skepticism today over a
report of nine mysterious objects
big as airplanes—whizzing over

Arnold described the objects
as "flat like a pie-pan," and so
shiny that they reflected the sun
like a mirror.

He said he was flying east two
days ago toward Mt. Rainier when
he appeared directly in front of
at 10,000 feet altitude.
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Atom!

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rman of the At-
Commission, told
it in a telephone
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old Urey,
niversity
"gibber-

tute of
rlier re-
scientists
—wrote

Twin Falls Picnickers See Disc

See story on page 1
TWIN FALLS, Ida., July
—Three groups of "fliers"
were seen by sixty picnickers
Twin Falls City park within
minutes late Friday, A. Z.
of Goose Creek, Tex., report-
urday.

Mitchell, visiting in the
said that a formation of
terious objects was seen at
p. m. by seven persons.

He said that ten men
thirty picnickers saw one
of nine or ten discs
through the air. At 2
Mitchell said that a third
eighteen "flying saucers"
seen by sixty persons who
scanning the sky after the
flights.

Mitchell said that the
seven was in V-formation
other two groups were ob-
diving in loose formation.

Probably 'Man-Made'

CHICAGO, July 5.—(AP)
Oliver J. Lee, director of
observatory at Northwood

Two Denver Men Sight 'Flying Discs'

Two Denver men, one an
army air force veteran, were
among persons in various parts
of the nation Saturday who re-
ported sighting the mysterious
and elusive "flying discs."

The air force veteran, A. L.
Cochran of 3315 Curtis street,
said he was sitting in his car
Thursday when he viewed three
of the strange objects in the sky
out of the after-dinner

Flier Tells of 'Rockets' Whizzing over Mountains

PENDLETON, Ore., June 26—
AP)—Army and CAA spokesmen
expressed skepticism today over
a report of nine mysterious ob-
jects—big as airplanes—whizzing
over western Washington at 1200
miles an hour.

Kenneth Arnold, a flying Boise,
Idaho, businessman who reported
seeing them, chipped, however,
to his story of the shiny, flat ob-
jects, each as big as a DC-4 pas-
senger plane, racing over Wash-
ington's Cascade Mountains with

planes and started to clock them
"but their motion was wrong at
jet jobs."

"I guess I don't know why
they were—unless they were guid-
ed missiles," said Arnold, who
continued here on a business trip

Bay, Wis., Dr. Gerard Ku
expressed the belief that
are man-made and probab-
ly controlled. Dr. Kuiper, di-
rector of the observatory, added:

"If these things were



SAW FLYING SAUCERS—Portland, Ore., July 5.—Capt. E. J. Smith, United Air Lines pilot, describes discs he saw while flying from Boise, Idaho, to Portland last night. Co-pilot Ralph Stevens, left, tells a reporter over telephone that "we saw them." Both had scoffed before.—(AP Wirephoto).—(Story on Page 1.)

The army didn't brush off
the matter entirely, however.
Officials said if such things are
flying around the country, will

Gamma Grips Nation

TAI WITH WAR RUMORS

of General Electric in charge of secret experiments for the army and navy at Schenectady, N. Y., said all he knew about was paper not high in port can-

Meanwhile, reports came from Louisiana, Maine and west coast points that the shiny, circular objects had

tradicted a report published in the Los Angeles Evening Herald which quoted an unidentified scientist in nuclear

say anything definite about it."

Lillienthal was anxious to know if any of them had

More 'Flying Saucers' Reported Across U. S.--Coast Guardsman Snaps Photo

Authorities Hope To End Puzzle

By United Press

SEATTLE, Wash., July 5.—Coast Guardsman Frank Ryman, 27, had a picture today snapped from the front porch of his home which authorities hoped would clear up the mystery of the flying saucers.

Ryman said an enlargement of the shot made with a Graph yesterday port Lakes

—NEA Telephoto. Ryman's Photograph of an airplane, a cloud and a balloon.

(In New York City, Pictures said a print of supposedly the "object," one-eighth of an inch in diameter, of an inch in

Authorities were still

Arnold Insists Tale Of Flying Objects O. K.

PENDLETON, June 27.—(UP)—Kenneth Arnold, a veteran pilot and fire control engineer, Thursday clung stoutly to his story that he saw nine, shiny crescent-shaped objects at altitudes mis-

Reports Of Flying Discs Continue To Pile Up

(PHOTO ON PAGE 2)

By United Press
Hundreds of persons stared into



KENNETH ARNOLD, Boise, Idaho, flyer, who clings to his story of seeing nine shiny, flat objects whizzing over Western Washington—some as late as 1940 miles on from

Airliner Chases 'Queer Objects'

(The following is an eyewitness account by a United Airlines pilot, Captain E. J. Smith of Seattle, of how he chased a strange group of objects sighted last night in the sky over Boise, Idaho.)

By CAPT. E. J. SMITH
As told to United Press

SEATTLE, July 5.—As our flight, No. 108, took off from Boise, Idaho, the tower joyously warned us to be on the lookout for "Twine"

Disc Blitz Feared As Lights Go Out

LODI, Cal., July 7 (UP)—For Residents of Acampo, a residential community one-mile north of here, thought for sure they were being attacked by flying saucers before dawn Sunday when they heard a roar, saw a glow in the sky—first, and then all the lights went out.

Mrs. W. C. Smith, wife of a high school physics instructor, said the noise was "like a four-motored bomber with its props feathered for a take-off. Looking toward the sky, she saw the glow, just as all power in the community went off. Her neighbors said they had seen the same glow and heard the same roar.

Erving Newcomb of the Pacific Gas and Electric company took a peep-pooched the flying saucer theory, and said a low-flying crop-dusting plane probably

All Over the Nation People Talk Saucers

T-Bone Steaks High in the Sky Or Propaganda?

From Wire Dispatches
Descriptions of the "flying saucers" ranged from T-bone high in the sky to "propaganda" dished out by the go in Dayton, Ohio, Orville the inventor of the atom yesterday that the flying craze is "propaganda" that the government to support state department caught us into another war.

The 75-year-old scientist is more propaganda for fear up the people and to believe a foreign power signs on this nation."

Local Student Says He Saw Disks Over City

The flying saucer furore has finally hit Nashville.

ARMY PLANES JOIN SEARCH FOR 'SAUCERS'

Disc-Dizzy Nation Still Seeing 'Em

By The Associated Press
America's "flying saucer" jag reeled on today. Stiff necks and goggle eyes were the order of the day. Sky watching was a new profession. North Carolina joined the disc-

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." 171.

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?" 172.

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." 173.

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. 174.

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." 175. 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." 176.

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." 177.

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." 178.

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." 179.

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." 180. 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." 181. 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. 182.

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. 183.

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 acknowledgable 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." 184.

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. 185.

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. 186.

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." 187.

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. 188.

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." 189.

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." 190.

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. 191.

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." 192. 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. 193.

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." 194.

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." 195.

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." 196.

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. 197.

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." 198.

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 he 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. 199.

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. 200.

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

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

July 14, 1947

page 4-A

**MEN FROM MARS
AGAIN, THIS TIME
IN FLYING SAUCERS**

**Radio Man Fails to Tell
Listeners It Is Joke—
Many Phone Calls.**

RALEIGH, N. C., July 14 (UP)—Carl Goerch, local radio commentator who excited a wide area last night with a broadcast of men from mars in flying saucers, said today he underestimated the gullibility of his radio audience. Telephone calls from several states jammed radio station WPTF's switchboard after the broadcast.

Goerch, an amateur aviator, told of meeting a flying saucer in the air near Benson, N. C., and finding it contained a crew of men from Mars with bulging green

eyes and yellow skins. He told of talking with them by holding up signs in his cockpit while they did the same.

Goerch admitted he erred in not branding the story as imaginative, but said he thought it was so wild no one would believe it.

"From now on," he said, "regardless of how absurd a story is, I'm going to label it plainly as a joke."

Station Manager Richard Mason said he had received no official complaints and planned no action against Goerch, whose script was not checked by the station.

Newspaper switchboards and airport telephones also were flooded with queries.

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. 201.

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. 202.

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, 1946 - 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." 203.

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, spherical, greenish-colored body skimming across the sky spewing out a trail of white smoke." 204. 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 prevalent 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." 205. 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..." 206. 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! 207.

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. 208.

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. 209. 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. 210. 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." 211. 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 head on. 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. 212.

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. 213.

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." 214.

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 maverick receded over the horizon. 215.

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." 216.

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? 217. 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." 218.

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. 219.

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. 220.

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 to be efficiently controlled in

its evasive actions." 221.

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 which 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 dived 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. 222.

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 bizarre 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." 223.

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." 224. 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. 225. 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. 226. 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. 227.

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." 228. 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. 229. With that the inquiry was ended.

What was approaching? Bombers? There were 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 in trail. 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. 230.

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. 231.

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. 232. 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. 233. 234.

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.
235.

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." 236. 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..." 237.

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 ..." 238.

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. 239.

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. 240.

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. 241.

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. 242.

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. 243.

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. 244.

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. 245.

"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.'" 246.

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." 247.

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." 248. 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. 249.

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." 250.

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." 251.

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. 252.

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." 253. 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. 254.

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 Hickam Field, were alerted. What further action was taken, if any, is not disclosed. 255. 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 P. 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 Schulgen'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 numbers 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." 256.

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." 257. 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 was 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. 258.

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 wording 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." 259.

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." 260.

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 corks. 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 discoverer, 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. 261.

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." 262.

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." 263.

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 billowing vapor trail. 264.

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." 265.

"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. 266.

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." 267.

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. 268.

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." 269.

Final official word termed the Mexican incident a "false report." 270.

NEWS, San Francisco, CA - Oct. 14, 1947

'Glowing' Missile Seen in Sky—By Five Persons

Five disturbed witnesses opened the fall Frying Skewer Season with reports today that the "biggest thing since Halley's comet" whizzed across California's Sunday night skies.

The reports, from Oakland and Monterey, indicated some object, origin and destination unknown, traversed the sky about seven hours before a mystery missile crashed across the Mexican border from El Paso, Tex. There was nothing, however, to link the two events.

First report of the object came

from Ben Dobos, 44, 365 Lester av., Oakland, a photographer (who didn't get a picture of what he saw.)

At 34 minutes and 30 seconds after midnight, Mr. Dobos said, he and Cabdriver A. J. Goldstein saw a glowing object in the northeast quadrant of the sky "about the size of the front end of a four-motor plane, viewed from below when at an altitude of 200 feet."

He said it was moving at "terrific speed" westward and left no trail. "It had a nucleus strongly fluorescent, diffused to the outer edge,"

Mr. Dobos said. "It looked like Saturn with a ring around it—but it was definitely not a meteorite."

The object, he said, traveled in a straight line and "did not drop toward the horizon."

Emmett McMenamin, clerk of Monterey County, said about the same time he saw "the biggest celestial thing since Halley's Comet," soaring from the northeast to southwest over the Monterey Peninsula. Two other Monterey residents

accompanying Mr. McMenamin, also declared they saw the phenomenon. It had a reddish glow and a fiery tail, Mr. McMenamin said, and other wise resembled reports from Tama and Mexico on the unidentified object which bursted into the Zamalesque Mountains and exploded about 7:30 a. m. (P.M.T.) yesterday.

Both reports gave the object's direction as eastward rather than inland and made it unlikely the object was the same as the Mexican "mystery missile."

EXAMINER, San Francisco, CA - Oct. 14, 1947

Cavalry to Aid Mexico Mystery Bomb Search

EL PASO (Tex.), Oct. 13.—(AP)—Mexican mounted troops tonight prepared to ride tomorrow into the sandhills and mountains near Cueta, Mexico, seeking a mysterious flaming object which residents said soared over the town yesterday to explode in billows of smoke ten miles away. Search is just across the Mexican border from Fabens, Tex. The

object was estimated to have landed about fifteen miles southeast of El Paso, Tex.

Brig. Gen. Enrique Diaz Gonzalez, commandant of the Juarez Garrison, across from El Paso, led a search party into the range of mountains beyond Cueta, Colonia Reforma and Guadalupe today. Possibility of finding a crater or recoverable fragments of the object spurred the search.

Metal-testing instruments similar to mine detectors were used by the reconnaissance party.

Tomorrow, mounted troops will aid the foot troops.

Some persons familiar with the sand dune terrain of the area leading to the Zamalesque Mountain Range said that aerial reconnaissance probably would be necessary and that a crater large enough to be seen from the air probably would have resulted from an explosion as large as that described by witnesses.

At least four persons, three from Cueta and one from Colonia Reforma, about five miles from the border, reported they saw the flaming object. Many residents of Fabens and Colonia Reforma reported they heard two explosions as the body apparently exploded.

Persons driving along the highway saw smoke billowing from the mountains about the time of the explosion.

OCT. 12, 1947

Mystery Missile

Object Explodes In Mexico— 'Not V-Rocket'

By the Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas, Oct. 12—An unidentified flaming object soared over the Texas-Mexico border today, apparently smashing into the Zamaelayuca mountains of Mexico with a loud explosion and billows of smoke.

The approximate impact area was estimated to be less than 10 miles from the point where a V-2 rocket, off its track, crashed south of Juarez May 28.

The public relations officer at the White Sands proving grounds, where the V-2 rockets have been launched, said none of the missiles had been fired since October 9.

Major General John L. Homer, Fort Bliss commander and military officials at air fields and other installations in the Southwest, said that no guided missiles had been fired today and no rocket planes were missing from fields in the area.

OBJECT SEEN

At least four persons saw the fiery object darting through the skies "with the speed of a falling star" at approximately 9:30 a. m. Mexican time (7:30 a. m. EST) and many people in the Fabens, Texas, area, 28 miles east of El Paso, on the Mexican border, heard the explosion of the body when it struck.

Two persons on the highway between El Paso and Fabens reported seeing an unaccounted-for billow of smoke in the Zamaelayuca mountains about the time that the explosion was heard.

Abbas Aranda, a reserve captain in the Mexican army, was the first to report the incident. Captain Aranda, unable to reach the Juarez military garrison by telephone, went to the U. S. Customs House, four miles southeast of Fabens, and reported the incident to J. C. Bunnell, U. S. Customs inspector.

J. W. Hooten, editor of the El Paso Times, said Bunnell telephoned Sheriff Alan Falby here that the Mayor and other officials

many people in the Fabens, Texas, area, 28 miles east of El Paso, on the Mexican border, heard the explosion of the body when it struck. Two persons on the highway between El Paso and Fabens reported seeing an unaccounted-for billow of smoke in the Zamaelayuca mountains about the time that the explosion was heard.

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J. W. Hooten, editor of the El Paso Times, said Bunnell telephoned Sheriff Alan Falby here that the Mayor and other officials of Guadalupe, Mexico, across the border from Fabens, had informed him they saw the object, about five feet long and three feet in diameter, come over the town traveling more than 20 yards above the ground and explode with a terrific noise and that smoke was still thick in the impact vicinity three hours later.

'FROM THE U. S.'

Captain Aranda said the object was traveling from east to west, which would indicate that it came from the direction of the United States.

He said he was at the Hernandez Torres filling station near his home at Basca, Mexico, when he first saw the object.

"Attracted by a brilliant light," Aranda said, "I looked up and saw an object trailing blue flame traveling at great speed east to west. It made no noise while traveling but two blasts were heard shortly after it disappeared over the sandhills near Colonia Reforma." Colonia Reforma is a small town near the border.

The captain said he was not sure whether the object crashed into the sandhills or mountains.

(United Press said that General Homer, who returned to El Paso late today from the explosion area, said the object, whatever it was, landed so far out in the Mexican desert that no trace of it had been found. He added that any search of the Mexican interior would be conducted by Mexican army authorities.)

In reply to numerous queries, the general said he could make no statement as to whether the object might have been a flying saucer or a flying saucer. He said he had not seen the object and did not know the count in the summer.

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 undulations, 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." 271.

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." 272.

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." 273.

"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." 274.

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.** 275.

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. 276. 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." 277. 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 thought the objects were about 36 feet in diameter. 278.

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. 279.

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. 280.

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." 281.

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." 282.

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. 283.

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. 284.

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." 285.

The writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance, who 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. 286.

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. 287.

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." 288.

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. 289.

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. 290.

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." 291. 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 "tin foil" 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. 292.

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. 293.

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. 294. 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. 295.

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. 296.

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..." 297. 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 TELEPHONIC 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 ATTEMPTING TO BREAK STORY OF LOCATION OF DISC TODAY...(deleted) ADVISED WOULD REQUEST WRIGHT FIELD TO ADVISE CINCINNATI OFFICE RESULT OF EXAMINATION...WYLY
END. 298.

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 Fort 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 undamaged, 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 Fort 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."
299.

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. 300.

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." 301. 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." 302.

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." 303. 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." 304, 305.

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.'" 306.

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.

NOTES

UFO researcher William Moore discovered an interesting Air Force document that originated from the Air Intelligence Requirements Division, headed by General Schulgen. The document was a five page draft, dated 28 October 47, of a proposed Secret data collection memorandum for distribution to Air Force military attaches overseas. After examining the text, Moore made the following observation:

"Portions of this draft are extremely interesting in that they seem to suggest that somebody already had considerable data on the operation of flying discs and was looking to obtain more through standard intelligence channels." 1.

Critical portions are given below:

"DRAFT OF COLLECTION MEMORANDUM"

"OBJECT

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

"GENERAL

1. An alleged 'Flying Saucer' type aircraft or object in flight, approximately the shape of a disc has been reported by many observers from widely scattered places...This object has been reported by many competent observers, including USAF rated officers. Sightings have been made from the ground as well as from the air.

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

- a. Relatively flat bottom with extreme light-reflecting ability.
- b. Absence of sound except for an occasional roar....
- c. Extreme maneuverability and apparent ability to almost hover.
- d. A plan form approximating that of an oval or disc with a dome shape on the top surface.
- e. Absence of an exhaust trail...
- f. The ability to quickly disappear by high speed or by complete disintegration.
- g. The ability to suddenly appear without warning as if from an extremely high altitude.
- h. The size most reported approximated that of a C-54 or Constellation type aircraft.
- i. The ability to group together very quickly in a tight formation....
- j. Evasive action ability indicates possibility of being manually operated, or possibly by electronic or remote control devices.
- k. Under certain power conditions, the craft seems to have the ability to cut a clear path through clouds.

3. The first sightings in the U.S. were reported around the middle of May.... The greatest activity in the U.S. was during the last week of June and the first week of July.

4. This strange object, or phenomenon, may be considered, in view of certain observations, as a long-range aircraft capable of a high

rate of climb, high cruising speed and highly maneuverable and capable of being flown in very tight formation. For the purpose of analysis and evaluation of these so-called 'flying saucers,' the object sighted is being assumed to be a manned craft of unknown origin. While there remains a possibility of Russian manufacture, based upon the perspective thinking and actual accomplishments of the Germans, it is the considered opinion of some elements that the object may in fact represent an interplanetary craft of some kind.

5. There is also a possibility that the (German) Horton brothers' perspective thinking may have inspired this type of aircraft - particularly the 'Parabola,' which has a crescent plan form..."

"REQUIREMENTS

"Requirements appear at Incosure No.1...."

"DRAFT INCLOSURE NO. 1"

"1. Research and Development

(Requests specific intelligence information on the German Horton Brothers' and their work, as well as Russian interest in same.)

"2. Control

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

- a. Boundary layer control method....
- b. Special controls for effective maneuverability at very slow speeds or extremely high altitudes.
- c. Openings in either the leading edge top and bottom surfaces that are employed chiefly to accomplish boundary layer control or for the purpose of reducing the induced drag. Any openings described as to shape, size, etc. This investigation is significant to justify a disc shape configuration for long range application. (Emphasis in the original.)
- d. Approximate airfoil shape in the center and near the tips.
- e. Front view and rear view shape."

"3. Items of Construction

- a. Type of material, whether metal, ferrous, non-ferrous, or non-metallic.
- b. Composite or sandwich construction utilizing various combinations of metals, metallic foils, plastics, and perhaps balsa wood or similar material.
- c. Unusual fabrication methods to achieve extreme light weight and structural stability." 2.

There is much more to the memo but it can be easily applied to conventional aircraft and is not of interest to us. As stated before, this document was just a draft paper, and when William Moore located the final version, he discovered some fascinating omissions. The "interplanetary suggestion" was cut out and so was references to "metallic foils, plastics, and perhaps balsa wood or similar material." 3. One hardly needs to point out that the Roswell "spaceship" was suppositively made out of just such materials!

1. Moore, William L. Phil Klass and the Roswell Incident: The Skeptics Deceived (William L. Moore, Publications & Research, 4219 West Olive Ave., Suite No. 247, Burbank, California 91505, 1986). p.10.
2. Ibid, pp.11-13.
3. Ibid. p.13.

The only seeming "solid" bit of evidence to counter the Moore-Friedman version of the Roswell events was a July 9, 1947 AP news dispatch printed in the July 9th issue of the Carlsbad, New Mexico, Daily Current Argus. The information was from Roswell and quoted rancher Brazel as saying the debris he discovered was a weather balloon and that he had found it some time before, June 14th in fact. This statement, which seems to negate the Moore-Friedman thesis, is presented by critics out of the context of the events taking place at Roswell at that moment. Brazel was under great pressure from authorities and had made the statement with an Army Air Force Counter-Intelligence agent at his side. Moore offers eight separate first-hand accounts that show Brazel spoke under duress. 6.

Some of the material in the Roswell Incident that did not concern the events at the Brazel ranch or the plains of San Augustin and were included without the knowledge of Moore and Friedman, thus they will not defend sections of the book that dealt with things they did not personally investigate, nonetheless the two UFO researchers feel the book will have a positive effect of encouraging more witnesses to come forward. The investigation is continuing. (I might inject a personal note here. One of the really key witnesses, the military agent known only as "Cavitt" that accompanied Major Jesse Marcel during the recovery of the debris at Brazel's ranch, was identified by me during some routine UFO research. When contacted by Moore, Mr. Cavitt was friendly and talked about a number of things but refused to discuss the Roswell case. He could have insisted the debris was a weather balloon, the official explanation, but refused to be drawn into any discussion about it whatsoever. ---L.E.G.)

Footnotes:

1. Moore, William L. The Roswell Investigations, New Evidence, New Conclusions. (William L. Moore, Publications & Research, P.O. Box 1845, Prescott, Arizona, 86302, 1981 -82) p.2.
2. Moore, William L. Phil Klass and the Roswell Incident: The Skeptics Deceived (William L. Moore, Publications & Research, 4219 West Olive Ave., Suite No. 247, Burbank, California 91505, 1986) p.3.
3. Ibid, p.4.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid, pp.6-7.

A comment or two about the "Maury Island episode" of 1947:

This writer accepts the claim that the episode was a fraud and feels that it is not worth an extensive treatment, if any at all. Associated Press newsmen Elmer Vogel quickly determined the truth, and when interviewed in April 1969, he related his 1947 experiences. Vogel had visited one of principles, a Mr. Dahl, and was talking with the man on the back porch when: "His wife came out with a butcher knife and I thought she was after me, but she waved it under his nose and said 'I'm tired of being embarrassed by your lies. Tell this man the truth.'" 1.

Theodore Morello, Tacoma United Press correspondent and bureau manager, was a central figure in the incident's investigation and he also supports the conclusion that the case was a fabrication. This is explained quite well by De Wayne B. Johnson who wrote an M.A. dissertation in 1950 with the title: "Flying Saucers -- Fact or Fiction?" Morello was an intimate friend of Johnson. 2.

1. Strentz, Herbert. "A Survey of Press Coverage of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1947-1966." Ph.D. dissertation, Northwestern University, 1970. p. 212.
2. Johnson, De Wayne. "Flying Saucers -- Fact or Fiction?" M.A. dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles, August 1950. pp. 103-ff.

Comment:

"I should point out dutifully a couple of mistakes in your description of the Roswell incident on page 78. Haut was ordered to put out the press release by Blanchard. He, Haut, did not go to Ft. Worth. Marcel was told to keep quiet before the press showed up. He was on the plane which returned to Roswell but the pieces had been taken off the plane under guard, put on another plane which did go on to Wright Field."

--Stanton T. Friedman
Nuclear physicist -lecturer

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 - A reproduction of the front page of the Toronto, Canada, Globe and Mail which shows an alleged flying saucer trailing yellow vapor. The date given for the picture is September 14, 1947. Quality of reproduction: poor. Page 170.
 - A photo taken by a Boise, Idaho, resident Charles Shangle on August 13, 1947. A luminous object high in the sky which shows up on the film as a faint gray dot. Quality of reproduction: very poor. Page 171.
 - Al Hixenbaugh's famous photo showing two broad streams of vapor that appeared over Louisville, Kentucky, on July 7, 1947. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 174.
 - An interesting photo showing a formation of four round, white dots over Morristown, New Jersey, at 10 a.m. on July 10, 1947. The picture was taken by John H. Janssen. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 174.
 - Something which showed up as a dark lens-shaped object when the negative was developed appeared in a picture taken by a Robert W. Kirk. This picture may be of interest since Mr. Kirk claims that the object in question was "transparent like glass" and seemed to be 20 feet in diameter. Since the distance between camera and object is unknown, the size estimate was only a very rough guess. (The reader is referred to the July 10, 1947, Newfoundland case. A J.E. Wooddruff describe the object seen by him as a "translucent disc-like wheel.") Quality of reproduction: good. Page 176.
 - The "first" saucer picture, a snapshot by U.S. Navy Yeoman Frank Ryman. It shows a white, round, object over Seattle, Washington on July 4, 1947. Quality of reproduction: good. Page 181.
 - 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 that take place in a year other than 1947.
 - Other photos of interest include: John E. Ostrom of Nissa, Oregon, pointing out the welt-like dent in the top of his truck cab after his vehicle was hit by a strange "silver ball" on July 30, 1947. Page 168.
 - Two photos taken by a William Bowman of the bridge that spanned the Salmon River in Oregon and which mysteriously caught fire on July 24, 1947. Smoke and flame are visible. Pages 188-189.
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ARE THEY JET PROPELLED?

Woodland Man Sights Disks at Close Range

The far-famed "flying objects" were seen at close hand over Woodland, Wash., Friday afternoon.

In two groups, numbering either 9 or 10 in all, and soaring between 1000 and 2000 feet, they skimmed silently as clouds from north to south—making a south-easterly turn as they disappeared.

There was no sound, no vapor trail, only the very thin, pie-plate affairs now reported as having been seen in several Western states, which, as they "undulated" in the air, flashed the rays of the sun like the reflection from mirrors.

REPORT TELEPHONED

This is the report, telephoned in a matter-of-fact tone to The Journal late Friday by Clyde Homan, who lives in Woodland and is manager of Tulips, Inc., a bulb-growing property about two miles south of that city in South-western Washington.

Homan said the objects also were seen by the farm foreman who was in a war-house but ran to the door as Homan called and glimpsed them just as they were disappearing in the southeast.

"I was sitting at my desk in the office when a bright flash came in the window," Homan reported. "I looked up at the sky and saw these things in two groups pretty close together. I didn't get an exact count—there were four or five in the first bunch, and the same number in the second, which was behind the first some 400 or 500 yards.

"I couldn't see shapes much either because they were very

bright, reflecting the sun like from metal—not glass mirrors—and the flash was so bright I couldn't make out the shape behind it.

"They were going fast, but not any 1200 miles an hour. I'd say about twice as fast as an ordinary airliner, maybe 600 miles an hour. There was no particular formation except that they were bunched.

"The peculiar thing was the way they moved along—tilting back and forth, tipping up and down, undulating—and every time they reached the right reflection angle, the flashes came."

Homan ventured the opinion the objects might have been the new type of tailless aircraft known as flying wings.

DAY WAS CLOUDY

Homan was reminded that the day was mostly cloudy and he replied, "It was partly cloudy here, with sunshine occasionally through the clouds. There were 'holes' of blue sky. And, anyway, the clouds were high, and these things weren't over 1000 to 2000 feet up and were flying under the clouds.

"And there wasn't a sound, not a trace of vapor trail—just these things sailing along. As soon as I saw them, I ran to the warehouse and called the foreman, and he got to the door just in time to see them. They came over the hill back of us here from the north and they were following straight along the Pacific highway. Just south of here they veered off sharply to the southeast.

"Shape? Very flat, very, very thin, particularly when you saw

them on edge as they were banking, and very bright."

Homan said he had flown many times, feels he knows pretty well the speed of planes, and is confident these "objects" were going just about twice as fast as airliners and judged them to be jet-propelled, but he was puzzled by absence of the vapor trail.

"And I am not too excitable and I have good eyesight and I know what I saw this afternoon," he said in conclusion. "I'm surprised you don't have reports from others of having seen them today."

Meanwhile, other reports of the flying saucers continue to come in.

United Press reports that Charles Kastl, railroad engineer of Joliet, Ill., said he spotted "about nine" of the things as he walked along a highway at 1:50 p. m. Central standard time Tuesday. If these are the same ones seen by Kenneth Arnold, Boise, it means they must have covered the distance from Seattle to Chicago—about 2000 miles—in 80 minutes.

FLIPPED TOGETHER

Kastl said he could see no connecting link between them, but they acted as though the leading disk had a motor in it to power the others because when it flipped, the others would do. When it would right itself, the others would right themselves.

Archie Edes of Wenatchee said he saw one explode about 200 feet from the ground near Moses lake last Friday night. He said there was no blinding flash, but a great shower of sparks and flames seemed to hurtle to the ground.

FLI DALLAS

7-3-47

6-17 PM

DIRECTOR AND SAC, CINCINNATI

URGENT

FLYING DISC, INFORMATION CONCERNING. MAJOR CURTAN, 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. THE DISC IS HEXAGONAL IN SHAPE AND WAS SUSPENDED
FROM A BALLOON BY CABLE, WHICH BALLOON WAS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY
FEET IN DIAMETER. MAJOR CURTAN FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE OBJECT
FOUND RESEMBLES A HIGH ALTITUDE WEATHER BALLOON WITH A RADAR
REFLECTOR, BUT THAT TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEIR OFFICE
AND WRIGHT FIELD HAD NOT ~~STRENGTHENED~~ FORMED THIS BELIEF. DISC AND
BALLOON BEING TRANSPORTED TO WRIGHT FIELD BY SPECIAL PLANE FOR EXAMIN
INFORMATION PROVIDED THIS OFFICE BECAUSE OF NATIONAL INTEREST IN CASE
AND FACT THAT NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, ASSOCIATED PRESS, A
OTHERS ATTEMPTING TO BREAK STORY OF LOCATION OF DISC TODAY. MAJOR
CURTAN ADVISED WOULD REQUEST WRIGHT FIELD TO ADVISE CINCINNATI
OFFICE RESULTS OF EXAMINATION. NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING
CONDUCTED.

EX-23
JULY
RECORDED

END

CHXX ACK IN ORDER

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DPI H6

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8-22 PM OK FBI WASH DC MJW

'Disc' Sighted Near Madison by Professor

By BETTY CASS

(State Journal Columnist)

A Madison man, Prof. E. B. McGilvary, 1920 Arlington pl., one of the most respected and conservative of men ever connected with the university, is believed to have seen one of the "flying saucers" several days before they were reported from the northwest.

Professor McGilvary, who is emeritus professor of philosophy at the university, was playing cards at the home of Mrs. Mary North at the Magnus Swenson estate on the Middleton road about three weeks ago and as he left the house late in the evening a bright object in the sky caught his attention.

He glanced up and saw a round illuminated object about two-thirds the size which the moon normally appears. It was moving from southwest to northeast more rapidly than most astronomical bodies normally move but not as fast as a meteor usually moves.

Prof. McGilvary's first thought was that the object was an especially large meteor moving more slowly than usual. Then he realized that it was not leaving a trail of light, as meteors do, and that it did not have the fiery quality of a meteor but was, rather, as though it was illuminated.

It moved across an open place in the sky between the treetops and then disappeared behind the trees. Prof. McGilvary, who was more interested in its strange behavior than in its appearance, immediately went back to the house and told Mrs. North about it, adding that he was sorry she had not seen such a strange phenomenon.

Mrs. North stepped outside and looked at the sky, but there was no more evidence of it and neither of them thought any more about it until about three days later when the first story of the "flying saucers" appeared in the papers.

Even then Prof. McGilvary did not talk about what he had seen, and for two reasons. First, he did not think it was of any importance to anyone and, second, because he is extremely reticent about publicity, and it was only after much persuasion that he was persuaded to talk about it this morning.

JULY 7, 1947

Saucer Just Didn't Fit Editor's Idea of Scoop

WAPAKONETA, O. — (UP) — The nation's most embarrassed saucer-seer today was Richard L. Bitters, editor of the Wapakoneta Daily News.

Bitters revealed that he and his wife saw a number of the flying objects on the night of June 23—two days before they were first reported in the Pacific northwest.

But Editor Bitters sat on his scoop for two weeks before he could get up the nerve to report it.

The "UFOs: A HISTORY" series represents the most ambitious and comprehensive attempt yet made to apply the historian's skills and methods to a subject so "un-historical" by nature, so unscientifically documented and so little esteemed in general by conventional scientists and academics: that of Unidentified Flying Objects.

And yet, the UFO presence in contemporary society has been a pervasive and persistent one; one sees the UFO motif everywhere, indicating that its impact on our culture has been profound and permanent. It cries out to have its modern rise carefully charted and delineated. No-one is better-qualified to take up this fascinating challenge than Loren Gross, who has devoted decades of painstaking—and always scrupulously objective—historical research into this project. Modern-day researchers into The Unexplained, as well as future students of 20th Century history, will be the grateful beneficiaries of his labor.