

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1949 July - December

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA

"UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse."

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

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

1 July. General Cabell's letter to Dr. Kaplan.

With units in the field making urgent pleas for stronger investigative action, General Cabell tired of waiting for Dr. Kaplan's official conclusions and recommendations. The Air Force Director of Intelligence wrote a polite letter to the California professor hoping to move things along:

"Dear Dr. Kaplan:

The news has reached me that you recently visited installations in New Mexico and discussed the 'green fireball' observations in that area with interested individuals and agencies.

I appreciate the interest which you have taken in personally investigating these reported observations since Dr. LaPaz called them to your attention. As I mentioned when we discussed the matter last April, your views will be particularly useful in determining appropriate disposition of information on the 'green fireball' type of unidentified objects or phenomena collected and investigated under Project Grudge, (unidentified aerial objects).

I am, therefore, looking forward to hearing your conclusions and recommendations on the 'green fireball' incidents.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,
/S/ C. P. Cabell" (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. Joseph Kaplan, Institute of Geophysics, Department of Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, California. From: C.P. Cabell, Major General, USAF, Director of Intelligence. 1 July 49. Copy in author's files.

2 July. Summary of Observations, Camp Hood.

Impressive data was being generated by Army artillery observation and plotting methods using triangulation (more than one observer). The information obtained on the clear, moonlit night of May 7th was remarkable. "Fireballs" 15, 24 and 16 yards in diameter were tracked. (See pages 2-3)

July. *Argosy* article. (See pages 4-8)

3 July. About five miles north of Vaughn, Montana. (Early morning)

Green ball of fire.

A letter to Ed Sullivan of the Civilian Saucer Investigators of Los Angeles reads:

"...my wife and I were driving between Conrad, Montana and Great Falls to meet an early morning plane. About five miles north of Vaughn, Montana we were startled by a burst of blue-green light that lit up the entire area from

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE

2 July 1949

PREPARING OFFICE

Office of the AG of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

SUBJECT

Summary of Observations of
Aerial Phenomena, Camp Hood, Texas

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

COMPLETELY RELIABLE A
USUALLY RELIABLE B
FAIRLY RELIABLE C
NOT USUALLY RELIABLE D
UNRELIABLE E
RELIABILITY UNKNOWN F

OF INFORMATION:

CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES . . . 1
PROBABLY TRUE 2
POSSIBLY TRUE 3
DOUBTFULLY TRUE 4
IMPROBABLE 5
TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED 6

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Beginning 6 March 1949, a series of aerial phenomena has been observed in the vicinity of the restricted area at Camp Hood, Texas. For want of a better appellation, this phenomena has by common consent been tagged "Balls of Fire." The phenomena has recurred at Camp Hood on the average of every nine days since it began. Complete reports of each incident have been reported in detail to the Commanding General Air Materiel Command, by direction of the Director of Intelligence, 25 March 1948. Detailed reports of numerous similar phenomena at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Los Alamos, New Mexico, have already been made direct to the Director of Intelligence.

Observations made at Camp Hood indicate:

The "fire balls" are highly luminous "lights" usually greenish-white but sometimes orange-red in color.

They are usually round but are sometimes of diamond or oblong shape.

Some move and some appear to be fixed "bursts"—described as like the turning on and off of an electric switch. The movement has been reported as in an arc, vertical, and zig-zag.

Observations always occur on the same or consecutive nights—the shortest observation period being one night and the longest three. The smallest number of individual phenomena reported during any period of manifestations has been 4 and the largest 50.

When artillery observation and plotting methods were used, the following data was obtained by triangulation: On 7 May 1949, from 1940 hours to 2105 hours. Weather was clear and a bright moonlight night.

Diamond shaped fireball, red to greenish white, 15 yards in diameter and 1,000 feet high, moved approximately 100 yards horizontally in 57 seconds and appeared to "go out."

Diamond shaped fire ball, 24 yards in diameter and 1,300 feet high, moved approximately 120 yards horizontally in 40 minutes and then appeared to "go out."

Diamond shaped fire ball, 16 yards in diameter and 1,600 feet high, moved horizontally in 9 minutes and then appeared to "go out."

DISTRIBUTION

DI, GS, USA; CG, AMC, Wright Patterson Air Force Base; File.

WD AGO FORM 568
1 JUN 47

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-48346-1

CONFIDENTIAL

S/I, Office of the AC of S, G-2, Headquarters Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 2 July 1949, subj, "Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena, Camp Hood, Texas"

No sound or odor has ever accompanied the phenomena.

All observed groups of phenomena have "bracketed" the restricted area.

Over 100 men and officers have observed and reported the phenomena (including field ranks and college graduates).

Flights of aircraft and all firing and training schedules have been checked and rechecked without a single such incident having been found that coincides in time and place with any of the observed phenomena.

No explanation of this phenomena is known to nor has any been presented to this headquarters. In the absence of scientific equipment and observers, it appears that no explanation is foreseeable.

(A-1)

ARGOSY

The COMPLETE Man's Magazine

JULY 1949

MY LAST
HOME RUN
by Joe DiMaggio



THE CAPTAIN'S PRISONER

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FLYING SAUCERS!



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ARGOSY

THE COMPLETE MAN'S MAGAZINE

JULY, 1949

volume 329

number 1

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Cover Painting by Charles Dye

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ARGOSY, July, 1949, Vol. 329, No. 1. Published once a month by Popular Publications, Inc., 118 East 17th St., New York 17, N. Y. Henry Slesinger, President and Secretary, Harold A. Goldsmith, Vice President and Treasurer. Entered as second-class matter November 13, 1944, at the post office at Philadelphia, Pa., under the act of March 3, 1912, authorized as second-class matter by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada. Copyright, 1949, by Popular Publications, Inc. This issue is published simultaneously in the Dominion of Canada. Copyright under International Copyright Convention and Pan American Copyright Convention. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form. Single copy, 15 cents. Annual subscription for U. S. A., its possessions and Canada, \$1.50; other countries, \$1.75. Send subscriptions to 583 East 17th Street, New York 17, N. Y. When submitting manuscripts, authors are asked to send self-addressed envelope for their return, if found desirable. The publisher will exercise care in the handling of unsolicited manuscripts but assumes no responsibility for their return. Title registered in U. S. Patent Office. Printed in the U. S. A.

ARGOSY

by **FREDERICK G. MOOREHOUSE**

**Here an aviation expert starts on the trail of
one of flying's biggest mysteries—and comes up
with conclusions which are new and startling.**

The Case of the FLYING

I AM putting myself way out on a limb. As a writer who spends all his time investigating and reporting modern-day aviation, I say baldly:

1. There are flying saucers.
2. They represent the most advanced form of guided missile yet to appear.
3. They use a new source of propulsion which derives from an incredibly compact "soft fission" atomic powerplant that affords amazing performance in terms of range and speed.
4. They use a new scheme for guidance and control. It's simple, yet it gives a never-before-reached degree of precision.

Now for documentation:

When I started on the Flying Saucer trail, I found myself—in common with a lot of my colleagues—at a dead end, as far as the military was concerned. So I started out on a new trail by working backward. I consulted several aero-dynamicists: "Is it aerodynamically possible for a disc-shaped object to fly? If so, how?"

The well-known Chance Vought XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack" has a partly-oval-shaped wing; and this was the closest thing in recent years to a circular airfoil. (This was the plane which was called the answer to the saucer riddle, although only two models were built and neither ever left the East Coast.) A circular airfoil would prove highly efficient. But if you didn't have propellers and rudders—which the Flapjack did and the saucers did not, so far as anyone knew—where would the power for flight come from, and how could the round flying wing be controlled?

The experts suggested, secondly, that if a circular wing were large and thick enough, a radial engine might be mounted vertically in its center and drive a horizontal propeller, helicopter fashion. But it would be too unwieldy for good performance.

Thirdly, the principle of rotation, or autorotation,

was recommended. Give a disc enough spin and it will fly far and fast. This principle makes it possible for Junior to sail pie plates or old Victrola records amazing distances. The spinning disc could be controlled like a helicopter, by "cyclic pitch," or tilting in the direction you wanted to go. The problem of powering a rotating circular airfoil was admitted to be an engineer's nightmare, however.

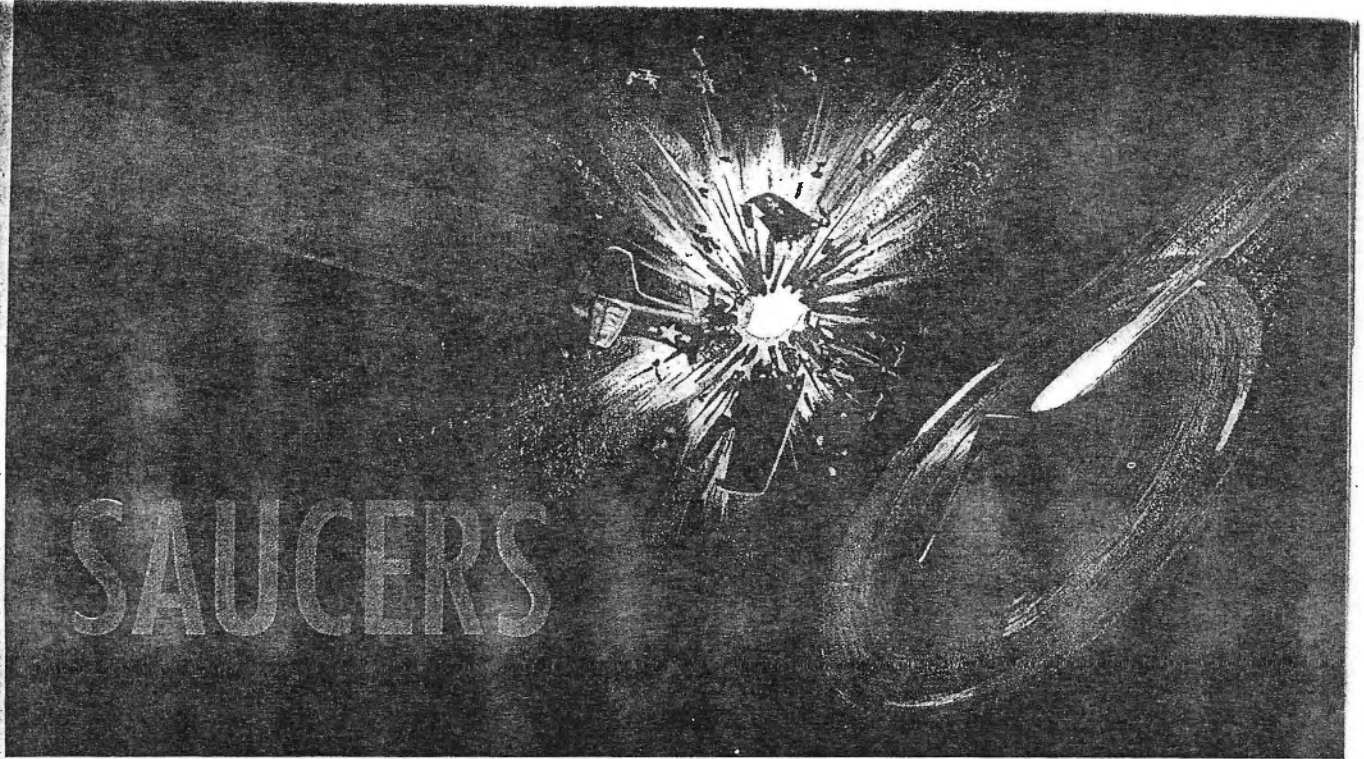
The trail got hot when I dug up some new information from private scientific sources which have proved extremely reliable in the past. This data fits so logically into the saucer jigsaw that I believe that only the U.S.A.F., Army, or Navy could elaborate any further, and that when their official account is revealed it will serve to prove further my Case of the Flying Saucers.

They are disc-shaped, with a sharp edge and the same general cross section as the diamond airfoil used on some high-speed airplanes. This is shown in the diagram on page 23, which is based on one scientist's "reconstruction" of the disc.

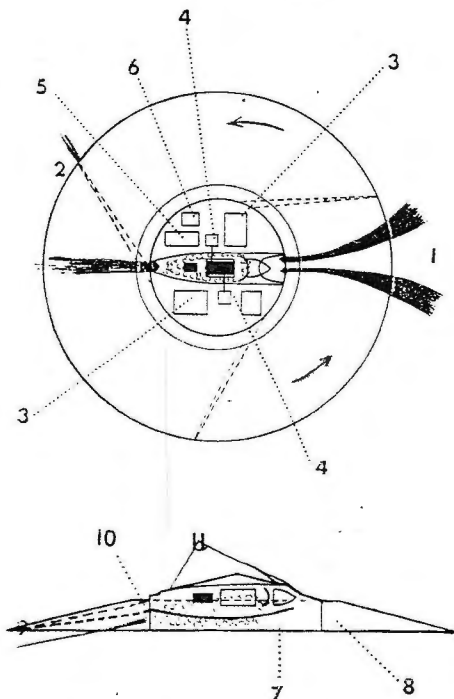
One model is nearly thirty-three feet in diameter and about five and one-half feet thick at its center. A smaller disc is approximately twenty-three feet in diameter and correspondingly thinner.

The disc has a cantilever structure, with only four internal bracing members. The rest of its strength is incorporated in the skin, which is of sheet-steel alloy of a new molecular formation. The center section is stationary and contains the fission engine and instruments for guidance and control. The outer two-thirds of the disc's diameter revolve at moderate speed.

The autorotation principle makes flight possible. To obtain the necessary spin, the engine's jet stream is ducted into three tailpipes—equally spaced around the disc—and "canted" at angles to the disc's diameter. This is the arrangement which, in an elementary way, makes those pinwheel fireworks spin. There is a larger, straight auxiliary tailpipe which cuts in auto-



Author's conception of flying saucer, as the advanced guided missile might perform in action.



Acme Photo

Photographer says this is actual saucer picture.

SAUCER SAILS, like a pie plate thrown by a child, because of its flat shape and high-speed spinning. At left, above: Some experts say this is what a saucer looks like and how it works—(1) ramjet fission engine, (2) offset blast nozzles, (3) gyra-autopilots, (4) timer and throttle motors, (5) beam following radio device, (6) magnetic sensing device, (7) stationary center, (8) rotating rim, (9) main blast nozzles, (10) auxiliary top jet for burst speed, (11) magnetic sensing antenna in fin. Jet stream from atomic engine in disc's center is ducted into offset nozzles in rim, kicking rim around, pinwheel fashion. Auxiliary top jet cuts in automatically for quick bursts of speed needed to escape pursuing planes. Another "defense" is optical proximity fuse to destroy disc when inquiring plane—or ground—approaches too closely. Magnetic "sensing" device keeps discs in formation. Automatic gyropilot governs banking and turning in flight.

matically for burst speed. This explains the undulating motion which many observers first noticed in the saucers' flight—this resulting from the rotation—and also accounts for the amazing bursts of speed in which the discs often disappeared.

An extremely clever device, which works on the same general principle as the optical proximity fuse, triggers off the main jet when another object such as an airplane comes within a certain distance of it. My sources believe that these optical fuses are half "blind" in that they respond to all shapes or patterns except circles or ovals. This might explain why a formation of saucers can operate—they can "tolerate" each other. The only object that might sneak up on one is another disc. It would take a disc to catch a disc, in other words.

Formation flight, the weirdest part of the saucer behavior, is controlled by a device described only as "magnetic regulators." There is a master disc or "commander" that controls the "slave" saucers by locking them together magnetically—towing them on what is, in effect, an invisible magnetic rope.

This corroborates information from another source that the saucer idea is the brainchild of the German scientist who designed those mysterious "silver balls" used for a while as an anti-air weapon against Allied bombers. These were aerial mines, said to have been made of gas-filled steel-impregnated glass spheres that were highly magnetic.

The control mechanism is said by my sources to have three principal elements: (1) a horizontal gyro to keep the disc's stationary center stabilized in a fore-and-aft line along the direction of flight; (2) a combination vertical gyro and pendulum device to

keep the disc level in straight flight or govern banking (turning) when change in direction is desired; (3) an automatic "throttle" that regulates engine fission (and, thereby, the amount of thrust) and works the tailpipe "gates."

The guidance scheme is, of course, hooked up with these controls and consists of three or four elements: (1) A compact apparatus that permits "pre-set" flight over a definite course for a given interval of time. (This might be of the rather simple type used to guide the V-1 and JB-2 robombs, which are pre-set missiles.) (2) A compact beacon receiver no larger than that used in personal planes: This is for "beam following." This corroborates one of the first peculiarities observed in the discs' behavior—their tendency to hew close to our airways. (3) A timer device. (4) An independent magnetic regulator, used only when formations are employed.

Complete disintegration is caused by a self-destroying detonator which is believed by my sources to be hooked up in some way with the engine. What has not been established, insofar as these informants know, is the exact manner in which the detonator works.

This may be accomplished by use of a proximity fuse, adjusted to operate under certain conditions. The few scattered reports, none officially confirmed, of the discovery of small segments of apparently exploded flying saucers, may quite possibly have resulted from a slight malfunction of this detonating device.

Another moot point concerns the methods by which the saucers are launched. One possibility is a catapult which is a larger, glorified version of the gimmick that shoots the trap-shooter's disc-shaped clay pigeons.

Another more likely scheme involves the use of JATO rocket bottles to start the disc on its way. Because its engine is essentially a ramjet, considerable speed must be gained before it becomes operative. In any case, some launching device is essential not only to start off the discs but to get them out of the way of the people concerned before the fission engine starts trailing radioactive "ash."

Last, but most important of all, is the soft-fission powerplant which is the only kind of engine that provides intercontinental range today without a prohibitive load of conventional fuel such as gasoline. In fact, the atomic powerplant's range is limited only by the time it takes the plutonium charges to exhaust themselves. Even at the high heat level these charges must operate, their productive time is estimated to exceed twenty hours. At 1200 m.p.h., that is all anyone needs.

My sources reconstruct the fission powerplant as being a compact, cylindrical case of stainless steel lined with beryllium and graphite. Inside this six-and-a-half-foot long cylinder are the "reactor" or miniature pile, a heating element, a beryllium reflector, and two cadmium control rods that serve as throttles.

Fissionable slugs of uranium or plutonium are incorporated in the reactor. When throttle movement withdraws the cadmium rods (which, when inside, "stop the engine" by soaking up all the streaming neutrons), the atoms of these fissionable slugs are released. These are directed against the heating element. This heat expands the compressed air in the same way that burning fuel expands the air in a conventional ramjet. The expanding air rushes out the tailpipe. The recoil action spins (Concluded on page 92)



Director Mankiewicz shows her how to do it.

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

◀ The Picture ▶ The Girl ▶

THE GIRL: Like so many others, Susan Hayward trekked to Hollywood to test for the role of Scarlett in "Gone With the Wind." And, like so many others, she was turned down cold. For years, Susan and her pretty face wandered around the movie capital, appeared in everything from "Beau Geste" to "I Married a Witch." But nothing much happened to her until Producer Walter Wanger turned her into a lady-drunk for "Smash-up." That started her on the way to the big time. Her work in Twentieth Century-Fox's "House of Strangers" will take care of the rest. **THE PICTURE:** Susan's looks and acting give added sock to the story of a father (Edward G. Robinson) whose sons conspire to ruin him. One of the sons, Richard Conte, plays the love of Susan's life.

J. C. Milligan—Twentieth Century-Fox

The Case of the Flying Saucers

(Continued from page 24)

the disc or, when the main jet is used, kicks the disc forward. The stream of fast neutrons is regulated by the position of the throttle to govern the speed of the saucer. The design of the engine is the significant item; anyone with scientific training could figure out how it works—so I am not revealing any dark atomic secrets here.

Two years have passed since the first reports of flying saucers over America. Since that time it is known that the Air Force has conducted extensive research into the matter. Late in April, in the first of its official reports on the subject, the Air Force stated that sixty percent of the reported appearances

of flying saucers could be dismissed under the four general explanations of "weather balloons," "planets," "clouds," and "imagination." They added, significantly, that forty percent of the flying saucers could not be explained on any grounds.

The Air Force has stated that the flying saucers are not due to American experimentation in a new type of flying missile. I say that what many people saw was exactly what I have described in such detail. They were actual flying saucers, guided missiles of a new and revolutionary design.

Your guess is as good as mine as to who was flying them, but this I can

tell you: Our Armed Services have had—perhaps miraculously—two years of grace since the first flying saucer was sighted. You may rest assured that their research has not been confined to tracking down reported observations. If a foreign country has perfected such a fantastically efficient weapon of attack, our own scientific researchers and weapon designers have not been idle. Every weapon produced by man has always developed a counter-weapon capable of checkmating it. In a recent official comment, our Air Force noted, significantly, "Flying saucers are no joke, but they are no cause for public alarm." ● ● ●

The Captain's Prisoner

(Continued from page 20)

the dirtier. Sloan was a religious fanatic and feared for his ruthless exercise of a master's authority, and few men cared to ship with him. I thought of my hundred dollars and wondered if it was worth it.

Denardo shrugged at the expression on my face. "Ephraim's getting along in years now and he's settling down a bit—even has himself a wife in Hong Kong. Maybe you'll find he ain't so fussy about the way he keeps himself or the ship but he's a good mariner and there's a sense of humor under that frozen face of his."

That Sloan had a sense of humor was a complete surprise to me, and I said as much.

"Ever hear of the cobra business he pulled on a haul from Bombay to Shanghai?"

I shook my head.

"Brought a big box aboard ship, he did, and secured it on the fo'c'sle, warning all hands about the good-sized cobra that was in it. Well, the first night out the box was found with its cover off and no sign of the snake. For two days the crew goes hunting from stern to stern but they couldn't find the cobra. It was nine days to Shanghai and everywhere the hands would walk they'd be looking behind them and shying away from dark corners—and at nights they'd be afraid to sleep more than two winks, making out the littlest sound to be this poisonous snake crawling across the deck on its belly."

Denardo chuckled. "Of course, the box had been empty from the start, but not a mother's son of them knew it."

He handed me the envelope. "The Nemesis is beyond the breakerwater, like I said. You can't miss it."

II

DENARDO was right. You couldn't miss it. I hired a sampan at the landing, and as we went bobbing past the breakerwater into the choppy waters of the outer bay, I saw a freighter squatting low in the water, her sides a

solid scab of rust and not a sign of paint from stack to waterline. She was an ugly ship, an eyesore even among battered junks and sampans cluttering the harbor. Her bridgehouse was too far aft, and too large for the size of her, and her stack tilted forward, giving her the grotesque appearance of a vessel that traveled backwards. On the fantail, a small structure, little larger than a watchman's shanty, looked as if it had been thrown up on second thought to balance her lines.

An aroma of green tea mingled with rancid galley odors as we pulled alongside a Jacob's ladder. I tossed a coin to the sampan coolie, climbed the ladder and swung aboard.

She was secured for sea, her booms cradled and deck gear well lashed. Outside the galley a half-naked coolie squatted by a slop bucket, warding off green flies with one hand while he pawed the garbage with the other. Further aft, beside a cargo winch, three white men were kneeling and rolling dice across a faded yellow blanket. A fourth, in oil-stained coveralls, stood to one side watching, sucking contentedly on a stubby cornucob. He was short and stocky, with a ruddy bald head and wide pleasant face. I recognized him immediately as MacDonald, a quiet Scotsman who had been chief engineer of a West Coast steamer I'd shipped on.

Glancing up, he hurried across the deck with outstretched hand. "Hold on, lad, you're shipping with us?"

I nodded and shook his hand. "This tub is a depressing sight, Mac. It will be nice to have a friend aboard."

MacDonald frowned. "Have you seen Sloan yet, or was it Denardo?"

"Just Denardo."

"Then don't count too much on getting hired, lad. I know your feet are firm to the deck but Sloan likes his mates to look his idea of mariner, meaning something like his own dirty self. Don't do much talking while you're in there. Listen and say 'Yes, sir,' and you'll maybe get the job." He

motioned toward the bridgehouse. "He'll be in his cabin, starboard side, and you'll knock when you enter—and be sure to remove your hat. Come below later, lad, and we'll have a talk."

I left MacDonald there, and a moment later stood in front of a flat-top desk, the surface of which was so scarred and splintered that it looked more a chopping block than a desk. On it was a large leather-bound Bible. The cabin stank of stale clothing.

I held the envelope out and Sloan ignored it, glaring up at me with strange yellow eyes that flickered darkly, like oil lamps with defective wicks. He was a powerful man, with thick, sloping shoulders that bulged under a ragged blue jacket. His weathered face was pockmarked. Dried tobacco juice rimmed his colorless lips.

Sloan's face was dirty and ugly, but there was something more there. There was evil, a perverted evil, and for the first time I felt afraid of a man.

"From Denardo?" His voice was low.

I nodded, still holding the letter out.

"You can take that letter," he said slowly and distinctly, "and wipe your nose with it. I asked for a man, not a milk-fed cabin boy."

For a moment I gaped at him. Then my face burned and my fear of him drained away. "Suits me," I said, feeling only contempt for his ignorance. "This pesthole of yours stinks like a river scow, anyway."

For the moment I thought he hadn't heard me, as his eyes were fixed intently on the desk, his face without expression. But when he spoke, his voice held a thin edge.

"You're a man with opinions, I see."

"I'll be going now—" I began.

Suddenly his hand flashed under his jacket and before I could move, a sliver of steel spun from his hand and imbedded itself in the scarred desk top.

I had taken two steps backward before I saw that Sloan's eyes were still on the desk. I looked down.

On top of the desk, a cockroach was staring at the quivering brightness that

horizon to horizon which included a Mountain Range 40 or 50 miles to the west. There was no sound with the light, which lasted for approximately 30 seconds, and since they were no clouds in the sky we knew it wasn't lightning. Immediately after the flash we saw a blue-green ball of fire dropping toward the ground about a half mile from us. It looked as though it were fastened to a parachute which wasn't strong enough to handle it because although dropping fairly fast it wasn't fast enough for a gravity drop. This (we [sic -- thought? Word missing.] that it was some type of flare) fireball lit the area up for about 10 miles around. It went all the way to the ground [If true, this is worth noting] and when it hit the light was gone and there was no sound that we could hear." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Ed Sullivan. P.O. Box 1471, Main Post Office, Los Angeles, California. From: A.E. McCorkle. 219 South Bozeman Ave. Bozeman, Montana. 21 July 52. CUFOS archives.

3 July. Longview, Washington.

(This is some additional data on the case)

Dr. James McDonald questioned the principle witness, a Mr. Moulton Taylor and learned that the objects were yellowish in color and not a pure white. McDonald also revealed the results of his research:

"I've dug out the weather data and examined question of whether any of the nearby radiosonde or pilot balloon stations could conceivably have launched balloons that might have accounted for those three objects that were seen on the morning of July 3, and it appears to be entirely out of the question. Of course, in addition to that, the flipping motion, the appearance from three distinctly different directions, and the metallic glinting, all suggest something quite different from balloons." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Moulton B. Taylor. Box 1171. Longview, Washington. 98632. From: Dr. James McDonald. 27 May 68. Dr. James McDonald papers. University of Arizona at Tucson Library. Special Collections Division. Tucson, Arizona.

Drawing of area and flight paths of the three UFOs. (See page 10) Source: Air Force BLUE BOOK files.

3 July. Astoria, Oregon. (1:00 p.m.) (See clipping)

Boise, Idaho, Saturday Morning, July 9, 1949

Stakeholder

Observer Says Discs Were Only Flock of Birds

The big "flocks" of flying discs reported to have been seen over Barber Thursday were debunked Friday by another person who witnessed the objects in the sky.

L. L. Reighard who is employed at the lumber yard at Barber said the objects in the sky were "Brant," a large white bird. The birds flew into the northeast, Reighard said.

The two Boise men who reported the discs, said they saw a man in the lumber yard looking up and they looked up also and saw the white objects. However, Reighard said that he had been watching the birds for some time and could tell they were only birds.

Boise (Idaho) Stakeholder July 8 1949 **'Unusual Objects' In Sky Reported By Two Boiseans**

The flying discs are zooming around in larger flocks these days.

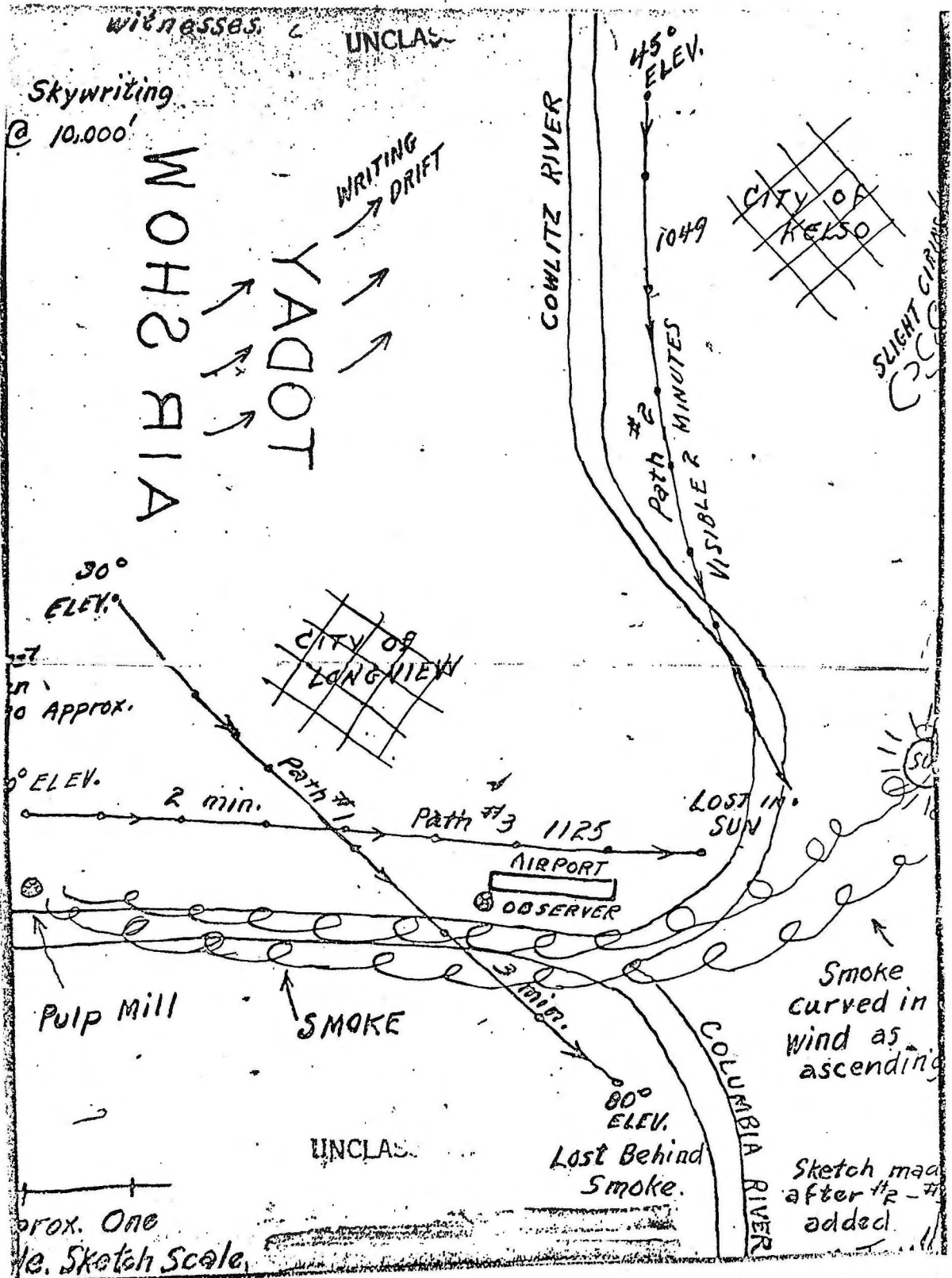
Ted Heikes, 1405 North Twenty-second street, and Bob Moore, 701 North Nineteenth street, said they saw "from 50 to 100 unusual objects" flying through the sky Thursday afternoon.

"We were riding along this side of Barber," said Heikes, "and we saw some lumber pillars and a truck driver looking up in the sky. We stopped and looked, too, and right above us we saw the objects."

Heikes said the objects were aluminum colored on one side and dark on the other.

"They seemed to be tied together. First they were strung out in a long string, then they were in a V shape and they even got jumbled together. But they traveled in a northeasterly direction and were out of sight in about 10 minutes. When they flipped over so the side was toward us they were almost invisible."

Heikes said the discs were flying underneath the scattered clouds, but the weather bureau placed their height at 25,000 feet.



13 July. Kaplan's response to General Cabell. (See below and pages 12-13)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

July 13, 1949

CONFIDENTIAL

Major General C. P. Cabell
Director of Intelligence
Department of the Air Force
Hqs. United States Air Force
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General Cabell:

Your letter of 1 July 1949 regarding the "green fireball" observations of Dr. Lincoln La Paz was a timely one. It arrived at the time when I finally decided that some well considered opinions might be presented. I have deliberately waited for nearly ten weeks since my visit to New Mexico for three reasons. First of all, I was so favorably impressed by the quality of the observations made by security guards and other personnel at Los Alamos, that I wanted to have a "cooling off" period before arriving at any conclusions. Secondly, I wanted to wait long enough to allow for some more reports of fireball incidents. Finally, and possibly the most important reason, I wanted to find out whether one could theoretically predict a new atmospheric phenomenon of the type described. I would like to comment on each of these points in turn, and finally to make some recommendations.

At the recent meeting of the American Physical Society in Seattle, Dr. N.E. Bradbury, Director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory suggested that a conference be arranged at Los Alamos early in September, in order to discuss these incidents. He proposed that in addition to Dr. La Paz and myself, Drs. E. Teller and G. Gamow be invited to attend. I believe that these two distinguished theoretical physicists plan to be at Los Alamos during the time proposed and it should be possible to arrive at valuable conclusions. I am to be at the Geophysical Research Laboratory of the Air Materiel Command from about 22 August until 2 September and thus I can stop at Los Alamos on my way back to the Coast. In any case, it is relatively easy to go to Los Alamos from Los Angeles and it is my feeling that such a conference should be held. The fact that Dr. Bradbury volunteered the suggestion indicates that he has not come to any definite conclusions. I might say at this point that I have come to one and will present this conclusion in this letter.

I am attaching a memorandum which will describe the conferences that I attended during my visit to New Mexico installations. I will now come to the three points referred to in the first paragraph of this letter.

At the conference held on 28 April in the office of Director Wells of the A.E.C. at Los Alamos, I had the opportunity to hear the stories of several security

Major General Cabell
July 13, 1949
page 2

guards and other A.E.C. personnel who had seen these unusual fireballs. I was particularly impressed by the consistency of their opinions as to the wave-length of the radiations emitted by the fireballs. When we showed them a spectrum chart, every observer picked out a wave-length which agreed well with that of the so-called auroral green line of atomic oxygen. This line lies in the yellow-green at a wave length of 5577 Angstrom units. A strong pure source of such radiations has been produced by me in my laboratory and it gives one the impression of looking at a bright emerald. I'll return to this point later. While one may question the observations on which speeds and directions are based, it is not likely that several observers will agree on color and not be correct. Of all of the observations that have been reported color is probably the one on which most reliance may be placed.

My second point had to do with possible future incidents. In a letter just received from Dr. La Paz, he reports the occurrence of three more remarkable fireball incidents, each one occurring very nearly at 8:10 p.m.; the dates are 5 June, 20 June in New Mexico, and 29 June in Arizona. He also called my attention to a report by Dr. D. H. Menzel of the Harvard College Observatory of some remarkable objects seen on the night of 12 May 1949. A report on this has been written by Dr. Menzel for the A.M.C. at Wright Field. I have not seen the report.

Finally, can these be natural atmospheric phenomenon of the type described? It is not too difficult to conclude that some new atmospheric phenomena will be observed during these years when the atmosphere will have been under more study than ever in man's history. The increased awareness of the public relative to atmospheric phenomena is a natural result of the increased scientific interest in the earth's atmosphere.

As I pointed out earlier, the one certain characteristic of this phenomenon is the color. The descriptions indicate that the color might well be restricted to a very narrow range of wave lengths, possibly even monochromatic. Now, as we pointed out earlier, the oxygen atom emits a radiation in both the aurora and the light of the night sky at a wave length of 5577. This is the well-known green auroral line.

The best laboratory source of this line so far reported is one discovered by me. This source is the auroral afterglow of nitrogen at a pressure of 100 mm Hg containing small amounts of oxygen. Under proper excitation conditions and N_2/O_2 ratio, it is possible to observe an intense green glow lasting for about thirty seconds. The spectrum of this glow changes with time and within two seconds of the interruption of the discharge, the spectrum is effectively monochromatic, consisting only of the green line. There is therefore a mechanism in nitrogen-oxygen mixtures which makes it possible after the introduction of energy by means of an electrical discharge, to have an afterglow in which the only radiating mechanism in the visible is that of the oxygen atom emitting the green auroral line. I have been studying this phenomenon recently and am now

Major General Cabell
 July 13, 1949
 page 3

convinced that if nature produced an aurora at the levels at which the green fireballs were reported, such auroras would radiate only the green line in the visible.

It is interesting to note that the pressures at which this laboratory phenomenon has so far been observed with the greatest intensity is 100 mm. This is the pressure in the atmosphere at about 9 miles. It is highly probable that the phenomenon would be observed with similar characteristics over a fairly large range of pressures, say from 100 mm on up. It is safe to conclude that at the levels at which the green fireballs have been reported, auroras would have spectra in which the green line would be much more intense than in high level auroras.

My conclusion therefore is, that based on (1) the most reliable aspect of the observations, i.e., the color, and (2) on the existence of a laboratory phenomenon which predicts a "green aurora" at these levels, the soundest conclusion at present is that we are dealing with a new type of auroral display. The absence of sound would agree with this hypotheses. Although not absolutely ruled out, it is generally agreed that the aurora is a silent phenomenon. The rapid horizontal motion reported for the fireballs is difficult to explain. The occurrence of these phenomena at low magnetic latitudes is also difficult to explain on the hypothesis that they are caused by natural auroral activity of some kind. It is however interesting to emphasize that in the two characteristics which are the most reliable ones reported, the phenomenon resembles the aurora. It is for these reasons that at the present time, I must conclude that we are dealing with a natural phenomenon.

The possible importance of any new atmospheric phenomenon, particularly one which apparently occurs low in the atmosphere, is so great that I would like to recommend the setting up under Dr. La Paz's direction, of a carefully planned photographic and spectrographic patrol of the area in which most of these incidents have been reported. The by-products of such a program are sufficiently promising as to justify its setting up. This problem was discussed with Dr. La Paz and others during my visit and he is prepared to embark on the program. With sufficient consultative help he should be able to organize and operate a valuable program.

Sincerely yours

J. Kaplan

J. Kaplan

P.S My use of the term "aurora" means that the radiative processes are auroral in character and not necessarily that the cause is auroral.

15 July. UFO reports increase "five times?"

Ohio State University wanted to do a radio interview when it learned one of its faculty members had conducted a study of flying saucer reports for Air Force called the: "Ohio State Research Foundation Project 364." The Air Force Office of Public Information contacted the Director of Intelligence, USAF, for information in order to draft a reply. The school was notified that the study, done by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, was classified RESTRICTED.

Additional reasons were outlined in an internal military memo for the benefit of the PIO people in case any further such requests were made:

"Project #364 represents the results of Dr. Hynek's investigations and analysis of flying saucer reports for the Air Force. It does not represent the only analysis of such incidents which has and is being made in an effort to provide identification of flying saucers.

"Since the appearance of the Shallet articles in the *Saturday Evening Post* and the release of similar information by the Director of Public Relations concurrently with the Shallet articles' publication, Hq. AMC has received five times the number of flying saucer reports as occurred prior to publicity. In addition, the reading public has offered approximately fifty explanations and theories which range from sensible considerations to the wildest fantasy.

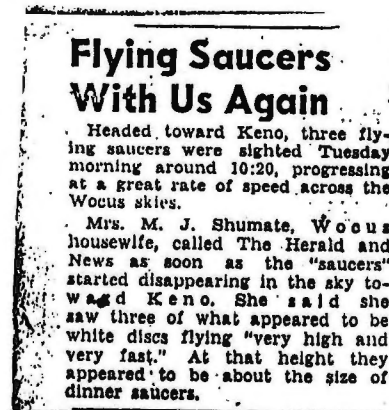
"Adverse criticism of the AF investigations and publicity concerning such investigation appeared in the June issue of the *Infantry Journal*." (xx.)

(xx.) Memorandum for Record. AFOAI-DA,
Maj Boggs/bjm/5867, Wrtn 15 July 49.
Copy in author's files.

19 July. Wocus, Oregon. (about 10:20 a.m.)

"Size of dinner plates" (See clipping right)

20 July. General Anderson's office suggests an investigation of the Camp Hood and Sandia reports.



Air Force Plans and Operations, DCS/O, under the command of Major General S.E. Anderson, received information from the following sources describing the events at Camp Hood and Sandia: "Memo for General Picher dated 21 June 49 with Memo dated 13 June, and Fourth Army Report dated 19 April 49." (The memos, dated 21 June and 13 June, are not available, but the 19 April Army report may be the one on page 45 of my *UFOs: A History January-June, Supplemental Notes*. The report mentions 50 flare-like bursts of light at Camp Hood during a 25 minute period.) General Anderson forwarded all three memos to the Director of Intelligence, DCS/O and requested an investigation and appropriate recommendations. The request from General Anderson's office would reach General Cabell desk on August 13th. (See August 13th for a note by Cabell and the draft of a formal reply to General Anderson)

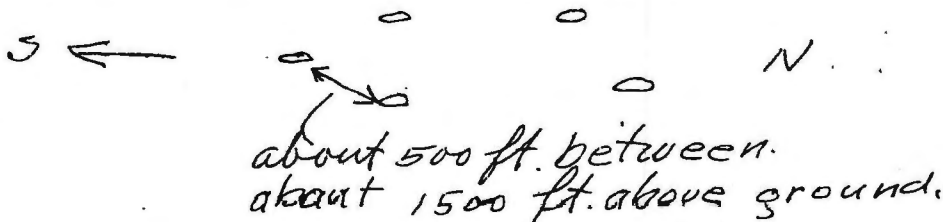
28 July. Green fireball problem dumped off on the Geophysics Section.

In spite of the fact Dr. Kaplan qualified his endorsement of the natural phenomena explanation, a Colonel Holzman diverted any scientific investigation into the green fireballs from Research and Development to upper atmosphere studies. (See memo on page 16)

? July. Near Alexandria, Kentucky. (noon)

"Like two saucers rim-to-rim."

It was a bright day and the witness was looking over a valley from a location atop a small hill. The witness was a retired teacher/editor by the name of Harry Andrews. He claims five objects came into view that appeared like "two saucers rim-to-rim" and during their passage they were "perfectly plain to the unaided eye." The color of the objects was like "new aluminum." As the group of objects passed over on a southern course, the last two turned sharply to the left. All of the objects gradually faded into atmospheric haze in the distance. (See drawing below) (xx.)



(xx.) NICAP UFO Report form. Harry D. Andrews, 12025 Shore Drive, Loveland, Ohio.
Date of report: 7 January 65. CUFO archives. NICAP files. Copy in author's files.

Late July. Elsmere, Delaware. (about 6:00 p.m.)

"Like two saucers put together."

A Mrs. Catherine Allen of New Castle, Delaware, was in the kitchen washing dishes when her 11-year-old son James entered the room and urged her to "come out and see the round silver thing." Mrs. Allen didn't want to leave and told her son the object must be just an airplane. James insisted the object wasn't anything ordinary because it was round, silent, and stationary in the sky. To please her son, Mrs. Allen followed him outdoors, thinking that perhaps the object was a new type of dirigible (New Castle AFB was only a few miles away). Standing on the lawn, Mrs. Allen looked to the east where the "thing" was suppose to be. She was surprised to see something only about 300 yards away. It was round "like two saucers put together" and the color of the "dull side of a roll of aluminum foil used in cooking." The UFO, or whatever, was also very low, appearing to be "sitting on the tree tops" of some trees on the property of the Dela Power & Light sub station next to the B & O Railroad line.

Suddenly, without warning, the object was gone. Mrs. Allen couldn't explain the abrupt disappearance so she made various suggestions: "As far as I can see, it must have gone away from us, behind the trees, or gone so fast I did not see [sic] direction." (xx.)

(xx.) NICAP UFO Report form. Mrs. Catherine Allen, 9 House Road, Chelsea Est. New Castle, Delaware. Date of report: 6 May 66. CUFO archives. NICAP files. Copy in author's files.

By W. G. Lewis NARS, Date Jan 24, 1985.

CONFIDENTIAL

AFOAI-DA
Maj Boggs/bjm/5867
Wrtn 28 July 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM:

1. To prepare a reply to letter from Dr. Joseph Kaplan, Institute of Geophysics, University of California, concerning conclusion on "green fireball" phenomena in New Mexico.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. Letter from Director of Intelligence to Dr. Kaplan on 28 June 1949 requested information on Dr. Kaplan's investigation and conclusions concerning "green fireball" observations in New Mexico.

3. Dr. Kaplan's reply of 13 July 1949 stated that his interviews with observers of the phenomena had shown the most reliable aspect of the observations was the color. Dr. Kaplan personally determined that the phenomenon can be reproduced in the laboratory. He finds that in color, the "green fireballs" resemble an auroral afterglow obtained from a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen (under 100 mm Hg pressure) which has been excited by an electrical discharge. The same conditions could obtain in the atmosphere at a height of about 9 miles. Dr. Kaplan concludes that the "green fireballs" are natural phenomena. He recommends a project for investigation of this natural phenomenon under Dr. La Paz, University of New Mexico.

4. Matter was discussed with Colonel Holzman, Office of Research and Development, DCS/M, who advised that Research and Development is willing to receive data on "green fireball" phenomena for consideration but does not believe it is advisable to encourage further investigation. If Research and Development considers it necessary, facilities are available for scientific investigation of upper atmosphere phenomena.

5. Letter has been prepared from Director of Intelligence to Dr. Kaplan expressing value of conclusion. Indication is given that Director of Intelligence will not have responsibility of establishing investigative projects for natural phenomena but will transmit Dr. Kaplan's conclusion and recommendation to Geophysics Section, Directorate of Research and Development, DCS/M, which has responsibilities for upper atmosphere research.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

6. Approval, signature and dispatch of letter to Dr. Kaplan.

COORDINATION:

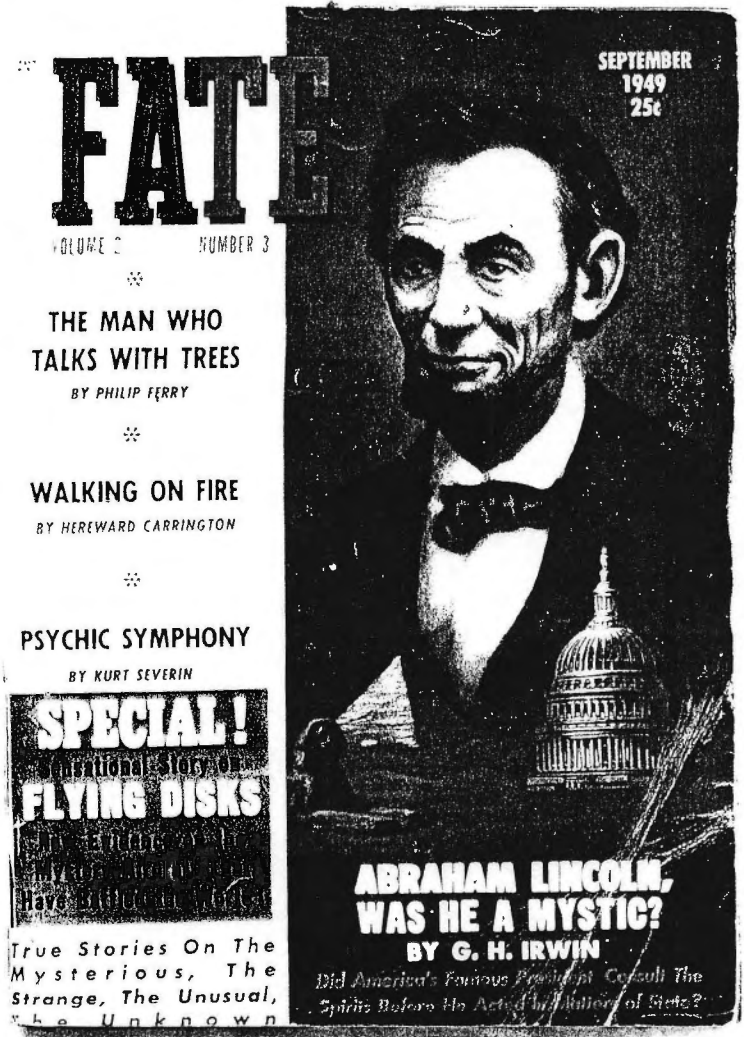
Colonel Benjamin G. Holzman, AFMRD, Extension 741532

CONFIDENTIAL

the Editorial

AS we write this two news stories confront the American people. One is the public admission by the Army Air Force that the flying saucers are "no joke," but rather, are real to the extent of forty percent of all reports. FATE, naturally, is quite pleased to find its stories justified, and its stories stamped with the seal of official confirmation. FATE is the only magazine, or any other type of publication, which presented the facts about flying disks as they happened, accurately, honestly, and promptly. We told our readers how real they were, and proved it with competent eye-witness stories and photos.

THE SECOND "story" event of importance of the week is the appearance in the *Saturday Evening Post* of a story entitled "What You Can Believe About Flying Saucers" by Sidney Shalett. We haven't seen the second installment of this featured article, but we do have a few comments to make about the first. Readers of FATE will find nothing new in the article, and in fact, much of the information comes from its pages; however, the article is interesting from the standpoint of what it did not print.



3 August. Los Angeles, California. (5:15 p.m.)

"Most everything freakish hereabouts."

J. Waldo Wernicke had lived in Los Angeles since 1908 and he believed he had seen "most everything freakish hereabouts," however on the afternoon of August 3, 1949, he spotted what he called a "WHAT'S IT" which really made him curious.

It was clear that day with no air traffic in sight and the temperature a mild 64 degrees. Seated on a West Washington streetcar, Mr. Wernicke was gazing upward when he spotted a radiant, silvery, saucer-shaped, object about 2,000 feet above the intersection of Western Avenue and

Olympic Blvd. He estimated that the thing was about six feet thick and about 25 feet in diameter. What really held his attention was that the thing was trying to move upward in a southerly direction by a series of peculiar jerks that reminded him of the actions of an octopus. Making little progress, the object came to a stop and hovered. The "WHAT'S-IT," as Mr. Wernicke termed it, abruptly tipped completely over. Simultaneously the "WHAT'S-IT" became obscured by a dirty brown, bubbling vapor. Immediately thereafter, the obfuscated mass zoomed north (opposite of its previous course), the thing displaying a strange convulsive irregular whirling as it sped away. (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: "To Whom It May Concern." From: J. Waldo Wernicke, 2406 Kent Street, Los Angeles 26, California. Date: April ? 1954? (Paper torn) Copy in author's files. Wernicke claims he sent a copy of his sighting to the U.S. Naval Intelligence at 512 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles *Times* on August 3, 1949. Later he sent copies to Wright Field AFB and the editor of *True* magazine in 1950. He claims the latter two acknowledged receiving his report. I believe I got this from CUFOs files. Not sure -L.E. Gross.

9 August. Boggs (Cabell) acknowledges the natural phenomena solution.

On August 9th Major Boggs prepared the following letter for General Cabell's signature:

"Dr. Joseph Kaplan
Institute of Geophysics
University of California
Los Angeles 24, California.

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

Your conclusion on the 'green fireball' phenomena as explained
In your letter of 13 July 1949 is most helpful.

Since you conclude that in this instance we are dealing with a natural phenomenon, I am of the opinion that further investigative activity cannot be appropriately handled by the Directorate of Intelligence. I am, therefore, passing the information in your letter to Colonel Benjamin G. [Holzman? Photocopy blurred], Directorate of Research and development, Hq. USAF, for consideration by the Geophysical Sciences Branch.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,
C.P. Cabell
Major General, USAF
Director of Intelligence." (xx.)

(xx.) AFOAI-DA. Maj Boggs/bjm/5867. Wrtn 9 Aug 49. Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence. Decimal File 000.9 1948-1949. Copy in author's files.

13 August. General Cabell admits "we were all pretty jittery" and that he is still not completely "sure."

In a handwritten August 13th note, General Cabell played down the anti-UFO tone of his staff member, Major Boggs, GRUDGE liaison at AFOAI-DA:

"Send file around to General Moore [General Ernest (Dinty) Moore, Chief of Air Intelligence Requirements or AFOAI] so that he can take action to change the impression left in the minds of Colonel Day... [Hearn? Word not clear] and others that we 'tend to ridicule' the report [I'm not sure which report he is referring to, probably Camp Hood and green fireball sightings, but his comments can be said to apply to UFO reports in general ---L.E. Gross]. I'm sure Boggs did not mean to do so, but all of us must remember that we were all pretty jittery about this ourselves, and only as we got 'Grudge' well under way and had the advantage of careful analyses did we begin to relax a bit. We should applaud these other these other folks for being interested and leave them with the impression, which is a fact, that our evidence tends to discount any foreign aircraft being involved, but we are not sure and so have project Grudge in being." (xx.)

(xx.) Cover Sheet. From: Dir P&O DCS/O. Summary: Report of Aerial Phenomena. Date: 20 July 49. Type: R&R. (Note on document in "Special Instructions - Remarks" section by Cabell is dated August 13th) Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9.

Maj. Boggs' opinion of the UFO mystery.

We have an interview of Maj. Boggs by author Daniel Lang. Mr. Lang wrote:

"From the beginning, the officers in charge of Project Saucer recognized a peculiar difficulty in their assignment. 'If you look out the window and see something, how can I prove or disprove what it was if I didn't see it and you can't tell me much about what you saw?' Major Jerre Boggs, who was then the chief liaison officer between Wright Field and the high command in Washington, asked me one day shortly after Project Saucer had presumably become a thing of the past. 'It would be different if flying saucers were known to exist. Then we could have collected evidence indicating the degrees of probability that such things were sighted and the reason for their appearance at a given place. But it is impossible to prove, logically and with finality, a double negative - that is, that there are no flying saucers and that people have not seen flying saucers. The best we could do under the circumstances was to deduce, first, from the fact that it had not been proved, that saucers *had* been seen and, second, from the fact that reasonable theories could be advanced to explain away all the *reports* of seeing them, that probably nobody had seen them at all. The fewer the theoretical explanations and the less plausible they were, the more reason there was for suspecting people *had* seen saucers.' The Major shook his head, and continued, 'It's a difficult concept to grasp, but so was the job we were tracking.'

"I asked Major Boggs whether there was any way to account for the epidemic of reports of strange celestial objects. "Of course there is," he replied. "If you look up at the sky long enough, you can almost always made out something there that appears strange. And more people are looking up now than ever before. Kids don't count freight cars any more; they count airplanes. People who were trained in air observation during the war have gone right on observing. Also, the public hasn't forgotten that the atomic bomb was kept secret from it for three years. This time, people want to know what's cooking, so they look up." Major Boggs sighed. "Time was when people used to make a wish if they saw a shooting star. Now they telephone the Air Force."

"Major Boggs and I pondered this unromantic age in silence for a moment. Then he returned briskly to the problems that had confronted the investigators. 'The one tangible thing we had to work on was the fact that the sky is full of things,' he said. 'I can't even come close to estimating the number of commercial and military aircraft up there at any given moment. Then, there are more than five hundred outfits of one kind or another that release balloons from time to time. These range from simple weather balloons, no larger than a volleyball, to complicated clusters of balloons, as big as a house, for radar soundings or cosmic-ray research. At night, balloons always have trailing lights. In addition to all those balloons, there are advertising blimps, the sweeping beams of searchlights and air-lane beacons, clouds that reflect the sun and other sources of light, clouds scudding by the moon, and pieces of paper that are swirled aloft from the street by the wind. And, of course, birds, kites, St. Elmo's fire, meteors, comets, lightning, and fireballs—or, if you prefer, bolides, which are bits of interplanetary matter, with trajectories that sometimes seem to parallel the surface of the earth, trail a wisp of flame, and disintegrate with a flash when they hit the earth's dense atmosphere.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Lang, Daniel. *The Man in the Thick Lead Suit*. New York, N.Y.:Oxford University Press, 1954. pp.29-31.

As a final touch, Boggs mentioned his best argument: "You know, not one of these wonder saucers ever malfunctioned. My God, we have our hands full with conventional planes, but these saucers never seem to get in trouble and have to make force landings." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. p.45.

Brigadier General Ernest Moore, who was to check Boggs' work, also seemed sold on an anti-UFO view. He told Lang:

"First off, he said, 'the Russians have nothing to do with these so-called saucers; I'll swear to that on a stack of Bibles, if you like. Second, we don't have any secret new types of aircraft that could have started all this commotion. Third, nobody, in our opinion, has spotted space ships from some other planet. Fourth, everything our investigators learned has been made available to the public.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.27.

The feelings of Maj. Boggs and Gen. Moore appear reasonable in 1949, but the passage of time eroded confidence in such a simplistic approach. Captain Edward Ruppelt, who took over the Air Force's UFO investigation two years later, had many more good reports to work with, and he remarked: "If you took any one of these incidents by itself, it might not mean much. But in view of the number and caliber of the informants, you couldn't help taking their claims seriously." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.47.

15 August. Reply to General Anderson. "No cause for alarm."

The request submitted by General S.E. Anderson, Director of Plans and Operations, back on July 20th to investigate Camp Hood and Sandia (green fireballs) arrived too late. Dr. Kaplan's opinion that the unidentified phenomena being reported was from natural causes (that was received by Hq. AMC back on July 13th) put an end to any possibility there would be any special effort by GRUDGE to determine the origin and nature of what was being seen. The Fourth Army came very close to obtaining what they felt they needed: specialized equipment and scientific experts. Col. John M. Schweizer, writing on behalf of the Director of Intelligence, DCS/O, told General Anderson:

"Reports of incidents at Camp Hood, Texas, and Sandia, New Mexico, were sent by reporting agencies to Hq. AMC. These reports have been receiving investigative attention under 'Project Grudge' activities directed by Hq. AMC. Detailed investigations are conducted by 'Project Grudge' on all reports of unidentified objects and phenomena which have occurred from June 1947 to date. The continuing efforts of this project are directed toward establishing the identity of each object or phenomena reported. Each report receives individual investigative attention and analysis as well as consideration in the light of other reports of a similar description.

"Reports from the Camp Hood, Los Alamos and Sandia areas have mainly involved observations of light phenomena. Those which have been reported from the Los Alamos and Sandia areas have been subjected to a great deal of investigations and analysis by many persons including well qualified scientists. All appear to have an explanation on the basis of natural phenomena.

"The definite results from investigation of the incident observed at Camp Hood on 18 April will be obtained from the "Project Grudge" office at Hq. AMC and forwarded at a later date to your Office.

"Considering the effort which continues to be applied toward identifying 11 incidents and the fact that the majority of reports have been found to be the result of misidentifications, it seems doubtful that the 18 April incidents at Camp Hood holds any cause for alarm on the grounds that it may be an activity detrimental to security.

"A field exercise to watch for unidentified objects was established by Camp Hood Training Memorandum No.8, dated 4 May 1949. However, observations by the group including the subject report (apparently from the same source) have failed to provide data of a quality which can be used to identify observed phenomena.

"Early in the investigative activity of 'Project Grudge' a proposal was considered for providing radar reconnaissance to detect 'flying saucers.' This proposal was turned down by DCS/O on the basis that the logistic requirements for such a project could not be sustained by the Air Force. An additional proposal for night fighter reconnaissance with heat-seeking infra-red was also considered but rejected as impractical.

"In the light of evidence available from investigations of unidentified aerial incidents, there does not appear to be a sufficient requirement for the Director of Intelligence to request the establishment of a 24-hour radar reconnaissance for the sole purpose of detecting possible future occurrences of light phenomena. However, there may be other considerations, which require control of the air over important installations. The gathering of significant data on any identified incidents by facilities set up for these other purposes might supply some data that would be useable in establishing their identity.

John M. Schweizer, Jr.
Colonel, USAF
Executive
Directorate of Intelligence" (xx.)

(xx.) Subject: Report of Aerial Phenomena. To: Director of Plans & Operations, DCS/O. From: Director of Intelligence, DCS/O. Date: 15 August 1949. : U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9. Copy in author's files.

17 August. LaPaz's fifth report and Kaplan's opinion.

Three days after Col. Schwiezer informed General Anderson of Dr. Kaplan's opinion the aerial phenomena being reported was from natural causes, Dr. Lincoln LaPaz submitted his fifth report on "anomalous luminous phenomena" ("green fireballs") observed in New Mexico. Dr. LaPaz noticed a change in the reports and wanted to bring this to the attention of the military. The change might have had impact but it seems the military was satisfied with Kaplan's evaluation even though Kaplan's opinion was conditional, as stated in ink at the bottom of his July 13th letter to General Cabell: "My use of the term 'aurora' means that the radiation processes are aurora in character and not necessarily that the cause is auroral." (See page 13)

Dr. LaPaz noticed that more recent green fireball reports described descending objects in near vertical paths instead of horizontally, as had been previously reported. Moreover, reports appeared to be concentrated on weekends, especially on Sunday around 8:00 p.m. More convinced than ever the phenomena was unexplained, LaPaz strongly urged the establishment of a "systematic observing program." It was too late. (For LaPaz's complete report, see my *UFOs A History 1949: July-December*. pp.28-30 --L.E. Gross)

17 August "Recommend termination of special project activity." (See page 23)

CONFIDENTIAL

AFOAI-DA
 Maj. Boggs/bjm/5867
 Wrtm 17 Aug 49

000.9
 Flying
 Discs

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORDPROBLEM:

1. To inform Chief, Air Intelligence Division on status of "Project Grudge" and related activities for investigation of unidentified aerial observations.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. "Project Grudge" officer from Hq. AMC on a recent visit to Defensive Air Branch stated that a final report on all so-called "flying saucer" incidents had been prepared and was being reviewed by Chief, Intelligence Department, Hq. AMC, before forwarding to Hq. USAF.

3. In substance this report is underated to conclude that the majority of reported incidents have been identified and there are no identifications of intelligence interest or concern. Further, the AMC report is said to recommend consideration of the entire "flying saucer" affair by psychological warfare specialists for the possible interest it may hold on mass reaction to such reports.

4. The portion of "flying saucer" reports involving green fireball observations has been adjudged as natural phenomena, and the Geophysics Sciences Branch, Directorate of Research and Development DCS/M, Hq. USAF, has been informed of this conclusion. Related data and correspondence is in the process of being referred to that office for any further consideration.

5. It is anticipated that upon receipt of the AMC report at Hq. USAF, AFOAI will be in a position to recommend the termination of special project activity and return the matter to one of normal interest. Recommendation could also be made for the appropriate modification of collection directives on unidentified aerial object incidents. Since concurrence on Project Grudge activities and preliminary conclusions was obtained through the medium of JIC Memoranda (JIC Memo 542 - Army concurrence; JIC Memo 542 - Navy concurrence; JIC Memo 545 - JIC concurrence), it may be appropriate to place any final conclusions and action on record by this means.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

6. No action is recommended until referenced AMC report has been received and reviewed.

COORDINATION:

Colonel Harris, AFOAI-DA, Ext. 2466. *[Signature]*

CONFIDENTIAL

Mid? August. Near Circleville, Utah. (about 10:30? 11:45? a.m.)

"Looking us over?"

Ray Whittaker owned a dairy farm outside the city of Circleville, Utah. One morning in mid-August 1949, Ray, his 11-year-old son Larry, and a 50-year-old farm hand named John W. Grigsby, were stacking hay in a big meadow near Otter Creek Reservoir in Kingston Canyon, an area where very few people lived. The sky was a clear blue that morning with no clouds. No wind was blowing. Ray, Larry, and John would have a UFO experience that day.

Right before the sighting, Ray's wife and mother-in-law had just driven up, bringing lunch to the work site. The two women were still in the car when young Larry heard an odd whining sound. Larry looked in the direction of the noise. About a mile away, coming over a low ridge in the south and flying "lower than aircraft," were three objects in a V-formation, one in the lead with two behind. The things were solid bodies with distinct edges. No markings or openings could be seen. No haze or glow was noticed. No exhaust or smoke was visible. The objects were round and metallic in appearance, symmetrical, like two saucers face-to-face. Ray and John also heard the sound, spotted the objects, and watched them as they drew near. Ray said the objects were "so low they got a good look." The "saucers" maintained a level flight path and passed by the three witnesses about 300 yard away north of the them, not directly overhead, and at an altitude of about 40-50 feet. Ray wasn't sure about their size. He guessed the objects may have been 50-100 feet in diameter and about 8-10 feet thick, with the thickest part in the middle. The objects were moving fairly slow, in fact Ray received the impression the objects were "looking us over." After passing them by, the leading object of the three flipped at an angle (the left side going down) and headed toward the northwest in a gentle turn. The two objects following performed the same maneuver. The objects got smaller and smaller until finally they went behind some mountains.

Ray, John, and Larry saw and heard the objects. The two women heard the strange sound but missed observing the objects. No one notified the authorities at the time.

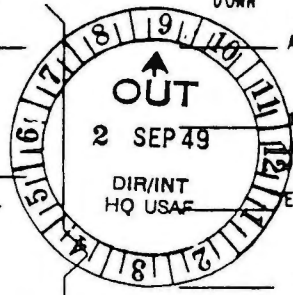
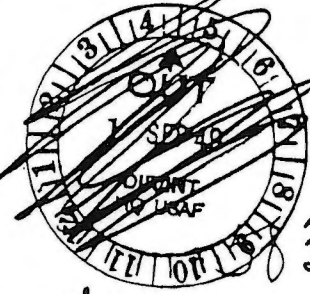
In 1967 Ray Whittaker learned of Dr. James McDonald's UFO investigations and contacted the University of Arizona professor to tell his story. In 1967 Ray was the principal of Piute High School, Junction, Utah. (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Tempe, Arizona. From: Ray S. Whittaker. Principal, Piute High School, Junction, Utah. 84740 Date: November 8, 1966. Dr. James McDonald files. University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division. Copy In author's files.

19 August. "You can't do that."

Passing the Buck to the Geophysical Sciences Branch did not work as a reply to the Army. A note written on August 19th states: "Answer must be wrapped up as an Air Force answer. DCS/M is a part of Hq USAF and you cannot answer to Army with passing the responsibility to another part of Hq USAF. Wrap up complete answer in conjunction with DCS/M. You have the ball." (See page 25) (xx.)

(xx.) "Special instructions - Remarks." 19 August 49. U.S. Air Force Intelligence UFO files. Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9.

DATE: 8 Aug 49 FROM: AMS		CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL	
a. <i>[REDACTED]</i>		SUSPENSE DATE <u>25 Aug 49</u> ASGD BY <u>OAI-EEV-</u> NO. _____	
DATE RECEIVED DIR/INT <u>10 AUG 1949</u>		c. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - REMARKS DATE <u>19 Aug 49</u> NO. <u>1</u> <i>Answer must be wrapped up as an Air Force answer. DCS/M is a part of the USAF and you cannot answer to Army with passing the responsibility to another part of the USAF. Wrap up complete answer in conjunction with DCS/M. You have the ball.</i> (Use other side this sheet for additional remarks)	
d. TO BR. TO TO TO TO TO TO TO TO TO DOWN BR. UP DOWN DIV. UP DOWN DIR/INT TO OIP-PP } _____ AFOIP _____ OIP-FL } _____ OIP-SP } _____ OIR-CO } _____ OIR-DD } _____ OIR-AA } _____ OIR-SR } _____ OIR-RC } _____ OAI-OA } _____ OAI-DA } _____ OAI-AE } _____ OAI-AF } _____ OAI-SY } _____ PERS } _____ M & R } _____ B & F } _____ CABLE } _____ } _____ } _____ } _____		  X Action ✓ Coordination	
e. DATE REC'D BR _____ ACTION ASGD TO _____ DATE _____ SIGNED _____ DATE _____		f. DISPATCH <u>AMS</u> FILE _____ DISPATCHED BY <u>Arg</u> TO _____ DATE DISPATCHED _____	

23 August. Answering the Director of Intelligence, GSUSA.

Intelligence Division, GSUSA, concurred with Fourth Army that technical personnel equipped with scientific apparatus should be sent to the Camp Hood area. The reasons given are mentioned in an August 23rd letter. (See below in paragraph five)

CONFIDENTIAL

AFOAI-DA
Lt Col Hearn/st/5867
Wrtn 23 Aug 49

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

PROBLEM:

1. To answer basic request by Commanding General, 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas, and concurrences by Commanding General, Fourth Army, and Director of Intelligence, GSUSA, for sending technical personnel equipped with scientific apparatus to observe aerial phenomena in the Camp Hood area.

FACTS AND DISCUSSION:

2. Highly luminous "fireballs" usually greenish-white but sometimes orange-red in color have been observed over the past six months in the air at Camp Hood, Texas. Similar phenomena have been observed at Sandia Air Force Base and Los Alamos, New Mexico.

3. Commanding General, 2d Armored Division, by letter (AG 452.1 AKDCB), subject, "Aerial Phenomena", requested that technical personnel with scientific apparatus be sent to Camp Hood to make accurate observations of aerial phenomena. By 1st and 2d Indorsements, Commanding General, Fourth Army and Director of Intelligence, GSUSA, concurred in request and passed it to Hq. AMC for action.

4. In view of special investigative efforts on light phenomena observations by Dr. Kaplan for the D/I, Hq. USAF, his conclusion that incidents were observations of natural phenomena and the decision that investigations of this type phenomena could not be appropriately handled by air intelligence, Hq. AMC was advised to forward basic letter to Hq. USAF for answer.

5. Intelligence Division, GSUSA, has been contacted and concurrence in 2d Armored Division's request is premised on the following:

a. "This seems to be the first series of unexplained aerial phenomena that are persistent enough for scientific study and evaluation."

b. "While there is no indication that the incidents are the result of hostile action, or that they could cause any damage, they are sufficiently unusual to warrant expert evaluation."

6. Col. Benjamin G. Holzman, Directorate of Research and Development, assisted in preparation of a reply to be forwarded to ID, GSUSA. This

CONFIDENTIAL

reply informs ID that observations in southwestern U.S. have been tentatively adjudged as natural phenomena and are being considered by Geophysical Sciences Branch, Directorate of Research and Development. Reply states that USAF has adequate facilities for celestial observation near Alamogordo, New Mexico, and has no requirement for additional facilities as requested by 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas.

7. Information copies of all correspondence pertaining to this matter are being sent to Hq. AMO, Project Grudge.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

8. Approval, Signature, and forwarding.

COORDINATION:

Col. Benjamin G. Holzman, AFMCD, Ext. 74153
Mr. John E. Jackson, ID, GSUSA, Ext. 75121

CONFIDENTIAL

31 August. Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada. (3:00 p.m.)

"At first they thought it might be pigeons."

According to Canadian Army records, a S/Sgt. (name officially deleted) of the NWT & Y, Signal System, paid a visit to the GSO II (Int) Headquarters Western Command (Being unfamiliar with Canadian organizations, I cannot explain these terms -L.E. Gross) to report an incident which his sister experienced on August 31st at the town of Swift Current in the province of Saskatchewan. In addition to a personal report made to her brother, a newspaper account of the woman's sighting was submitted to Army Headquarters. The reported movement of the objects was odd. As stated in the press story: "At first they [the NCO's sister and a lady friend] thought it might be pigeons. The strange objects were like flying saucers, a string of them, gyrating, oscillating and weaving among each other as they sped across the bright blue cloudless sky." (xx.) This odd movement is a characteristic of a "genuine" UFO

(xx.) Swift Current, Saskatchewan. *Swift Current Sun.* 31 August 49.

UFO report if the shifting is ultra quick and drastic enough, otherwise there is a possibility the women were watching a string of balloons. The one part that run counter to a balloon idea is that one object suddenly plunged to earth, an unlikely event if it was tethered to the rest.

Here is the NCO's statement:

"My sister, Mrs. [deleted], a kindergarten teacher of Swift Current wrote me early in September 1949 that she had seen flying saucers in the vicinity of Swift Current. My sister is 33 years of age, very level headed and a reliable person.

"Upon receiving her letter I asked her to give me a detailed report giving specific questions. In response to my request my sister wrote me, which reads in essence.

"On the 31 August 1949 at 3:00 p.m. I was walking eastward on Chaplin Street, when I observed four objects in the sky in a northeasterly direction from Swift Current. These objects were flying in an easterly direction. I called the attention of a truck driver [A passing Tripp Lumber Company vehicle] and the occupants of the truck also saw the four objects flying in the sky. All during that time I was accompanied by another woman who also observed the incident.

"I estimated that these objects were approximately ten miles away (?) and and about 400 feet high (?) [The question marks are in the original. No doubt the witness realized that such estimates by unqualified observers could be way off the mark]. They were flying in a haphazard fashion, weaving amongst themselves but generally maintaining same height and direction. I did NOT [Emphasis in the original] estimate the speed but I was told later that the occupants in the truck drove for three blocks and were still observing these flying saucers. This should give some estimate of the duration of the incident. Just before the objects disappeared over the horizon one of them seemed to fall to the ground. There was no noise connected with the phenomenon, all objects seemed the same size and of a silvery colour, their shape was round, and no smoke or fire was observed."

(xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Army Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Attention: DMI (MI O&S) Department of National Defense, Army. Subject: "FLYING SAUCERS." From: C.R.R. Douthwaite, Major, G-2 Int, HQ Western Command, Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Date: 27 September 1949. Copy in author's files.

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Just as official interest in UFOs was suppose to be slowing to a "normal" intelligence activity, it came to the attention of the Fourth Air Force, Hamilton Field, California, that an impressive UFO observation had been made on May 24, 1949, at a site two and one-half miles up from the mouth of the Rogue River in Oregon. (See my UFO monograph *UFOs A History: 1949 January - June*. pp.76-77). The UFO report was forwarded to the Fourth Air Force by the Security Officer for The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics department at the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory, Moffett Field, California. Two of the UFO witnesses were employees of the Ames laboratory. One was Don Heaphy who worked in the Supersonic Wind Tunnel and the other was Gilbert Rivera who was attached to the Ames drafting section. The Security officer felt it was advisable to sent the UFO report to the Air Force since both witnesses were "somewhat familiar with high-speed flight configurations" and thus were "undoubtedly competent." The Air Intelligence Information Report filled out for this case happens to list the names of the NACA at the time. One name stands out: "Dr. Edward U. Condon."

31 August. The NACA Langley Lab.

It is interesting to note an inquiry about UFOs from a NACA employee of the Committee's east coast lab in Virginia. This is the letter:

"U.S. Air Force
Air Material Command
Intelligence Division
Wright-Patterson Field, Ohio

31 August 1949

Gentlemen:

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the recent report on the subject of official investigations of the 'flying saucers,' which I understand has been prepared and made available. This report has been widely reviewed and quoted in magazines and newspapers of the country, and is said to show that these flying saucers are not a joke.

"I am a member of the research missile engineering group at the Langley Lab of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and I and other group members are quite interested in the general subject. I have been following 'disk' stories for some time, and very much want the report prepared by your offices which summarizes them.

"Therefore, if you can tell me how to obtain a copy of it, and want the price is if any, I should very greatly appreciate it. Thanking you in advance for any assistance you might be able to give me, I remain

Very truly yours,
John H. Hoffnagle, Jr. (xx.)

(xx.) Record Group 341. Director of Intelligence. HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9
1948/1949 (31 August 49) Copy in author's files.

1 September. "TENTATIVELY" accepted.

A carefully worded letter was finally authorized and sent to the U.S. Army by the Air Force on September 1st. Note that it is "less than firm" about the natural phenomena solution. In two places in the second paragraph the word "tentative" is used.

The role of the Geophysical Science Branch is that of an advisor, and the "final conclusion and subsequent disposition of the problem" was kept in limbo instead of being made the responsibility of the GSB.

Additional facilities requested by the 2nd Armored Division (See paragraph three) was denied since an air research station in New Mexico was deemed adequate to study the mystery (which does not make much sense since the light phenomena that was alarming the 2nd Armored was in a highly localized area 500 miles east of the air research station!) (See page 31)

1 September. Two reports of investigations.

On the 1st of September, investigation reports of aerial phenomena seen in New Mexico, submitted by the 17th DO at Kirtland AFB, arrived at HQ USAF. The same day investigation reports from Camp Hood, submitted by HQ Strategic Air Command, also arrived at HQ USAF. (See pages 32-33)

1 September. AMC and Directorate of R&D officially informed of Kaplan's conclusion.

The data that arrived at HQ USAF on September 1st apparently was too late to have an impact. Letters from HQ USAF to AMC (project GRUDGE) and the Directorate of Research and Development stated that a natural phenomena solution was tentatively accepted. (See pages 34-35) Would that put an end to it?

14 September. The Geophysical people take action.

Now that the "light phenomena" problem had been officially dropped into their lap, the Geophysical research people took action. The Air Material Command did not totally escape, since the Geophysical research people asked for help from organizations under AMC contract. Moreover, it was suggested that that an observational program be established. Since the suggested program is mentioned in the same letter to AMC, it is supposed the Geophysical people expected assistance from project GRUDGE. Finally, the Geophysical people were interested in what was being received through intelligence channels so a meeting was scheduled for the middle of October to "continue discussions of the light phenomena." (Both Dr. Kaplan and Dr. LaPaz were to attend the meeting and each man represented a different opinion about the problem.) (See page 36)

63

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Basic ltr fr Hq. 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas, AG 452.1 AXDCB,
15 Jun 49, subject, "Aerial Phenomena"

AFQAI-DA

4th Ind

Department of the Air Force, Hq. USAF, Washington 25, D. C. 11 SEP 1949

TO: Director of Intelligence, General Staff, United States Army,
Washington 25, D. C.

1. An evaluation of the light phenomena incidents in the southwestern area of the United States, particularly those described as "green fireballs", has been made by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, a member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. From interrogations of observers in that area and from inferences obtained in laboratory experiments, Dr. Kaplan has concluded that natural phenomena were observed.

2. The Directorate of Intelligence, Hq. USAF, has tentatively accepted these incidents as natural phenomena. "Fireball" reports are being considered by the Geophysical Sciences Branch of the Directorate of Research and Development, Hq. USAF, as a matter of possible interest in upper atmosphere research. If the findings of the Geophysical Sciences Branch substantiate this tentative conclusion, reports that fall in the "fireball" category will no longer be included in Hq. Air Materiel Command and Directorate of Intelligence, Hq. USAF, investigative activity on unidentified aerial incidents. The Department of the Army will be advised as to the final conclusion and subsequent disposition of such reports.

3. It is believed that the USAF upper air research station in the Sacramento mountains near Almagordo, New Mexico, has adequate facilities for the observation and study of celestial phenomena in the southwestern United States. Therefore, the USAF has no requirement for the establishment of additional facilities as requested by the 2d Armored Division, United States Army, in basic letter.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

1 Incl
n/c

JOHN W. SCHWARTZ, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Executive
Directorate of Intelligence

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

SECRET
Auth. CS, USAF

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
17TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

DR/MEN/web

1 September 1949

File No: 24-8

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomena)

TO: Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: Director of Intelligence

AF 1 02139

1. Reference is made to previous reports of investigation from this district regarding unidentified aerial objects, the last of which was dated 19 August 1949.
2. Attached is one copy of Report of Investigations, this district, dated 30 August 1949, subject as above.
3. This district will continue to forward reports of sightings of this nature to your headquarters.

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv

DOYLE REES
Lt Col, USAF
District Commander

SEP 15 1949

SECRET

47180

600.9 Flying Files

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND DIA
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

SAC 350 (1 Sep 49)

1 September 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Sighting

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

The inclosed reports of unidentified aerial sighting in the vicinity of Camp Killeen, Texas are for information and disposition. Copies have been furnished the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

13 Incls ✓
1-12 Reports of
Sighting
13 Map of Camp
Hood, Texas

Earl C. Miller
EARL C. MILLER
Major, USAF.
Asst Adj Gen

AF 102102

*Incls m/c in your dd
N. A. Adams, Maj, USAF
15 Sept 49*

RESTRICTED

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Filing
Discs

EX

CONFIDENTIAL

AFOAI-DA 1 Aug
 Maj Boggs/st/5867
 Wrtn 24 Aug 49
 Rvtn 29 Aug 49

AFOAI-DA

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Light Phenomena

TO: Commanding General
 Air Materiel Command
 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
 Dayton, Ohio
 ATTENTION: Project Grudge

1. Inclosed for your information are copies of a letter from Dr. Joseph Kaplan, Member of USAF Scientific Advisory Board, relative to "green fireball" observations in New Mexico, and reply sent to Dr. Kaplan by the Director of Intelligence.
2. In view of Dr. Kaplan's conclusion that "green fireballs" are natural phenomena, the entire matter has been referred to the Geophysical Sciences Branch, Directorate of Research and Development, DCS/M, Hq. USAF.
3. Correspondence is also inclosed relative to request from 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas, for scientific investigation of light phenomena. This matter has likewise been referred to the Directorate of Research and Development since it cites some of the same incidents that Dr. Kaplan has adjudged to be natural phenomena.

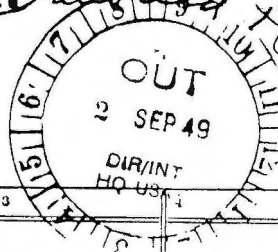
BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

3 Incls

1. 4th Ind to OSUSA
 w/basic ltr & inds (Cy) to Dir of Intelligence
2. Cy ltr to Dr. Kaplan
3. Cy ltr fm Dr. Kaplan
 dtd 13 Jul 49 w/incls

JOHN A. SCHWARTZ, JR.
 Colonel, USAF
 Executive

Directorate of Intelligence



TO 95: Kaplan,
 Joseph

OFFICE SYMBOL # 1	AFOAI	2	AFOAI	3		5	6
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>					
INTERNAL OFFICE COORDINATION		<i>[Signature]</i>					

CONFIDENTIAL

D/I OFFICIAL FILE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

(Unclassified) Light Phenomena

Director of Research and Development, DCS/M

Director of Intelligence

1 SEP 1949

Maj Boggs/st/5867
AFOAI-DA

1. Since the establishment of the special project at Hq. AMC, (Project Grudge), to investigate and analyze reports on so-called "flying saucers" and unidentified aerial phenomena, many reports have been received through intelligence channels from persons who have observed what they considered to be unusual light phenomena. Foremost in this category have been those which are described as "green fireballs".

2. Analysis by various specialists has indicated that many of the incidents involving light phenomena were undoubtedly observations of natural phenomena. Particular attention was given to the "green fireball" variety by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Kaplan has concluded that the "green fireballs" are natural phenomena.

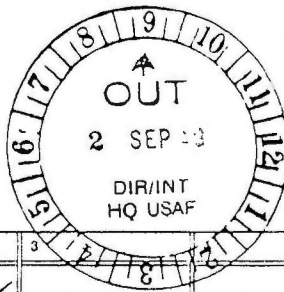
3. The Directorate of Intelligence has tentatively accepted this conclusion. In accordance with conversations between Colonel Benjamin G. Holzman of your Directorate and Major A. J. Boggs of this office, correspondence relative to Dr. Kaplan's conclusion on the phenomena and correspondence relative to a request from 2d Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas, for scientific investigation of similar phenomena, are forwarded herewith for consideration by your Directorate.

4. It is requested that the Directorate of Intelligence be furnished any information which may confirm or deny that this category of incidents are natural phenomena.

3 Incls

1. 4th Ind to GSUSA
w/basic ltr and inds
2. Cy ltr to Dr. Kaplan
3. Cy ltr fm Dr. Kaplan
dtd 13 Jul 49 w/incls

JOHN M. SCHWEIZER, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Executive
Directorate of Intelligence



3

OFFICE SYMBOL	1 AFOAI	2 AFOIN	3	5	6
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>			
INTERNAL OFFICE COORDINATION	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>			

CONFIDENTIAL

10-2424-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

AFMRS-4

SUBJECT: Light Phenomena

14 September 1949

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio

1. Since the establishment of the special project at Hq AMC, (Project GRUDGE), to investigate and analyze reports on so-called "Flying saucers" and unidentified aerial phenomena, many reports have been received through intelligence channels from persons who have observed what they considered to be unusual light phenomena. Foremost in this category have been those which are described as "green fireballs".
2. Analysis by various specialists has indicated that many of the incidents involving light phenomena were undoubtedly observations of natural phenomena. Particular attention was given to the "green fireball" variety by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Kaplan has concluded that the "green fireballs" are natural phenomena.
3. Correspondence relative to Dr. Kaplan's conclusions on the phenomena and correspondence relative to a request from the Second Armored Division, Camp Hood, Texas, for scientific investigation of similar phenomena, are forwarded for your information.
4. The Air Materiel Command has under contract several organizations in the Boston area that are specialists in observing techniques and the interpretation of celestial phenomena. It is desired that these organizations be consulted regarding the "green fireball" phenomena. If necessary, consideration should be given to the establishment of an observational program designed to obtain additional information necessary to an explanation of the phenomena.
5. A meeting at Sandia in the New Mexico area is scheduled for the middle of October to continue discussions of the light phenomena. It is requested that representatives from Air Force Research Laboratories, Base Directorate for Geophysical Research attend.
6. This Headquarters should be apprised of the progress of the evaluation and the results of the Sandia meeting as soon as possible.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

UNCLASSIFIED

3 Incls:

1-4th Ind to GSUSA w/bltr
& Inds (cy) dtd 9/1/49

2-Cy ltr to Dr Kaplan
dtd 8/9/49

3-Cy ltr fm Dr Kaplan
dtd 7/31/49 w/incls

/s/ JOHN McK. TUCKER

Lt Col, USAF

Actg Chief, Geophysical Science
Directorate of AFOSI
Office, DPA

19 September. Discouraging news for the Fourth Army.

The Fourth Army found that Washington HQ (Intelligence Division, General Staff) did not share the concern of its personnel at Camp Hood. It seems Army HQ agreed with Air Force HQ that "aerial phenomena," "fire-balls," etc., were the results of natural phenomena. Moreover, the Intelligence Division was convinced such phenomena was "not the result of hostile action or that it could cause any damage." The Army Intelligence Division (I.D.) had determined this "long ago." "Long ago" must have referred to the first outbreak of light phenomena in December of 1948 in New Mexico. (See document below)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Sci/Maj Gen Stein/75121/b1

CSGID ITSci 42-000-32
SUBJECT: Aerial Phenomena

5th Ind

Intelligence Division, General Staff, United States Army, Washington 25, D. C.

19 SEP 1949

TO: Commanding General, Fourth Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas ATTN: G-2

The Intelligence Division, GSUSA, concurs in the findings of the Air Force in their 4th Indorsement.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE:

1 Incl
n/c

copy of Int. already filed in Record Section

GEORGE S. SMITH

Colonel, GSC

Chief, Intelligence Group

Intelligence Division, GSUSA

MEMO FOR RECORD: This appeared to be the first series of unexplained aerial phenomena that were persistent enough for scientific study and evaluation, thus I.E. 2nd Ind, which concurred with Fourth Army for a scientific study. However, the I.E. has always held that these "Aerial Phenomena," "Fire-balls", etc., were the results of natural phenomena, and not of hostile action or that they could cause any damage. The 4th Ind, of the Air Force substantiates I.D. findings of long ago. Thus the I.D. concurrence back to the Fourth Army in the Air Force's 4th Ind.

*Int. No. 9630
1509*

REGISTERED

1135557

MAILED I.D. GSUSA SEP 19 1949

*45211T
25-2-49*

154-200-4491

26 September. Lexington, Nebraska. (6:30-7:00 p.m.)

"Missing" USAF case. Found in J. Allen Hynek's file at CUFO. This report reminds one of the Circleville, Utah, case of mid-August.

Six men were threshing grain in an open field behind a farmhouse when they spotted the objects. Five other witnesses viewed the same objects from residence at Lexington about eight miles from the farm. The terrain in the area is flat with the exception of a line of hills with the maximum height of 65 feet. The weather was good. The sky was clear except for some thin scattered clouds in the east at 25,000 feet. Visibility was over 30 miles and the temperature at a comfortable 74 degrees. The principle witnesses were the men working in the field. The farmers names were: Lester Wolfe, Dean Wolfe, Derald Wolfe, Gus Hall, George Blevins, and Gordon Blevins. All the farmers were from the town of Bertrand, Nebraska. The Air Force interrogator who questioned the men felt they all were of better than average integrity, at least average intelligence, and of excellent character. The sighting was first reported in the September 30, 1949, issue of the Eustis, Nebraska, *Eustis Weekly*. A newspaper clipping was sent to Offutt AFB, and an investigation was initiated by the 13th OSI District Office. The official report filed by the OSI agent quotes only Dean Wolfe of all the farmers, no doubt because of Dean's special training. The report reads:

"The men were threshing grain in an open field. [Dean] Wolfe first noted objects coming from southwest and called his helpers' attention to the airplanes. As objects came closer, it was noted that they were not of conventional airplane design. Dean Wolfe, a recent graduate of a two year course of aeronautical design, stated he first thought objects were F-80 aircraft, but as objects moved, realized that the objects had performance of an F-80 but did not have the design. Dean Wolfe executed a free hand drawing of what he believed the object would look like, although he had a 45 degree view of the front, rather than 90 degree view. Dean Wolfe said objects appeared to be drifting towards them over a low line of hills, seemed to pick up speed, at which time two of the objects left a trail of sparks. As objects approached them, the lead and No. 2 object criss-crossed positions, with No. 3 maintaining its position in the formation. At position opposite observers towards NW and at 80 degree angle from earth, objects executed 90 degree turn away from earth and climbed straight up, disappearing from view. A dazzling brightness was noted from objects and was believed to be a reflection until it was realized that the sun was almost on the horizon and the objects were going away from the sun. The great intensity of light was noted around the center of the objects.

"Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballheim, Lexington, Nebraska, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ballheim and their daughter, Janet Ballheim, Eustis, Nebraska, were at the Ballheim residence in Lexington. They were standing in the front yard and noticed two objects southeast of Lexington. Objects appeared to be traveling very fast at approximately one mile altitude. They could not sketch objects but indicated they appeared to be bulkier than conventional aircraft.

"Objects maintained straight and level flight until they turned away from the earth and went straight up, disappearing from view. While in level flight, two of the objects appeared to leave a trail of sparks. None of the aforementioned Ball-

heim's are acquainted with the six people previously mentioned.

"Objects seemed to have a dazzling brilliance although sun was setting behind and below objects." (xx.)

(xx.) Report of Investigation. Unconventional Aircraft Sighted in Sky Near Lexington, Nebraska. File No. 24-58. Date: 30 November 1949. Report made by William R. Costing. Report made at DO #13, Offutt AFB. Period 18 Oct; 15,16,17 Nov 1949. Office of Origin DO #13, Offutt AFB. Report discovered in CUFOS archives by Jan Aldrich. Copy in author's files. Dr. Hynek must have thought highly of this case to keep it in his own files.

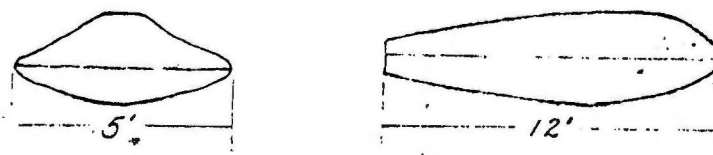
Other data obtained from a check sheet and not in the narrative, includes an estimated altitude which is given as "unknown - estimated over one mile," and time in sight as an estimated "2-3 minutes." The color of the objects was "silver" and apparent construction was of "metal and a luminous material." No sound was heard. No props or fins were seen. Objects' bodies sloped to each side to give impression of a type of wing. Climbing straight up, the objects disappeared from view in 30 to 40 seconds.

The witnesses were questioned closely about the "fiery trail." The OSI agent put down these remarks: "Two of three objects left trail of apparently fiery sparks while in level flight. Trail disappeared when objects started climbing. No apparent trail immediately behind ships. About 1 length behind ships, sparks became apparent; at 2 lengths trail widened to twice width of object; at 10 lengths, disappeared." Also: "No opening noticed but trail of sparks left impression of opening in rear of object."

Local flight schedules for commercial, private and military aircraft were consulted. No aircraft were known to be in the area at the time. A check was made to see if there had been any releases of test devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Service, Research organizations, or any other groups. It was determined there was no evidence of such activity. (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Drawing of one of the objects by Dean Wolfe shown below. Map of area on page 40.



The objects were approaching observer at 35° to 45° angle but the above frontal view (left) and side view (right) are his impression of size and shape of objects.

Dark line indicates greatest intensity of reflected light from object, and shaded areas, decreasing intensity.

① Lester Wolfe Farm

② George Blevins Farm

③ Don Ballheim Residence

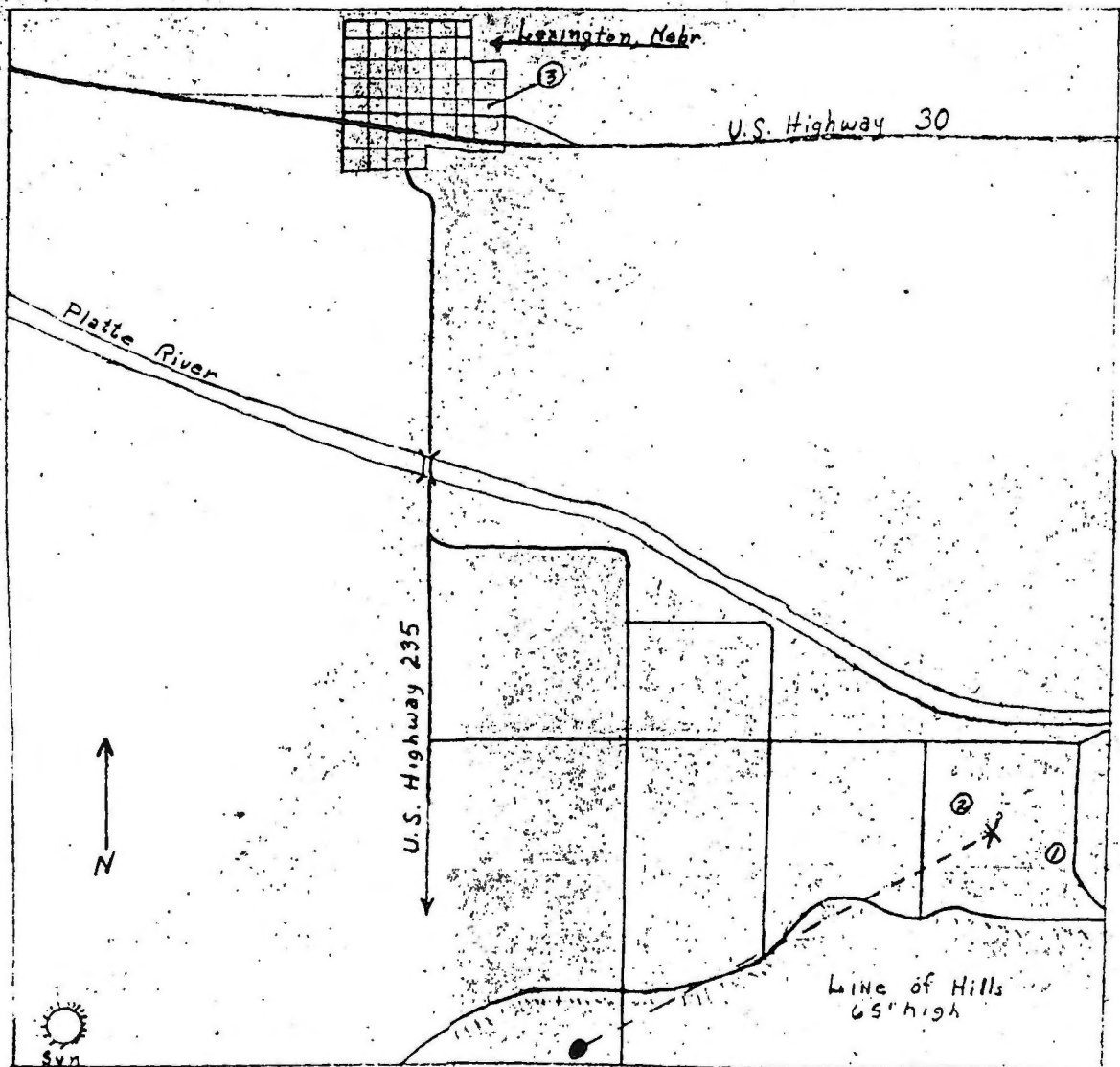
● Position of Objects when first sighted

--- Path of Objects.

X Position where Objects made turn in Sky

General Terrain - Flat and level with exception of indicated row of hills

DO 13 3125 No. 24-58



INCLOSURE #3

1" = 1 MILE

9 October. The O'Neill "Space object" observation. Full details. (See clipping on page 42)

12 October. Scully's Scrapbook. (See clipping on page 43)

14 October. Joint Meeting, Aerial Phenomena.

Under attack, Dr. Kaplan backs off.

Dr. Kaplan's natural phenomena theory was sailing along unhindered, the idea not being subjected to scientific review. It was still an acceptable solution to the High Command in Washington, even though, as Kaplan himself confessed, the phenomena being reported appeared "aurora-like" and was not necessarily aurora in actuality. The colors displayed and transitory manifestations of the phenomena were two bits of data that indicated aurora lights but they were circumstantial evidence. By October 14th Kaplan's theory and his recommendations to the Air Force had become known. When the October 14th meeting was convened, Kaplan came under fire. The subject to be discussed was the question of two premises: "Was the phenomena being observed of a natural source or man made." Sidney Newburger, AEC, Los Alamos, tells us:

"Kaplan's arguments were not accepted by the people involved in view of the fact that it is only in this particular locality, i.e., the Southwest, that these observations have been made, whereas normally observations of the aurora are made much farther north. Furthermore, the almost horizontal path of the observations weakened Kaplan's theory. In view of the fact that this could not be explained to be of natural sources, it was the consensus of those present and qualified to make such observations that until more definite proof of natural sources could be set forth, it would be necessary to continue investigations."

In face of such opposition, Kaplan capitulated to his critics and said he would recommend to the Air Force that: "...that a project be set up at the earliest date in order to make photographic, sound, and mathematical observations on a continuing basis." (xx.)

(xx.) Office Memorandum, United States Government. To: Carroll L. Tyler (THRU: W. J. McElwreath, Acting Director of Security). From: Sidney Newburger, Jr., Chief, Security Operations Branch, AEC, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Subject: Joint Meeting, Aerial Phenomena, October 14, 1949. Date: 25 October 1949. Copy in author's files.

George Adamski and the U.S. Navy.

George Adamski was a crackpot but his supporters were stubborn. Dr. James McDonald encountered the problem of the Californian when he was checking into reports of unusual radiation counts concurrent with observations of unusual airborne objects in the vicinity of Mt. Palomar in October 1949 (See my *UFOs: A History 1949: July - December* pp. 50-52). Dr. McDonald found Adamski's claims patently absurd and contrived. One point McDonald was keen on disproving was Adamski's alleged "connection" with the U.S. Navy. To support Adamski's credibility, one of the man's followers suggested that McDonald contact the Navy men involved, G.L. Bloom and J.P. Maxfield. McDonald did just that.

New York Herald
Tribune
Oct. 9, 1949

SCIENCE

A New Mystery in the Sky

Moon Reveals Unidentified Dark Object Flashing By

By John J. O'Neill

A DARK body moved across the face of the moon at 9:30 last Sunday night. It crossed the lighted surface of the moon from east to west in about one and a half seconds. What was it?

By rare good fortune the writer had his telescope pointed at the moon and his eye glued to the eyepiece at that moment in a preparatory study for observing the eclipse that was due Thursday night.

The dark object, approximately oval and with an angular dimension of between six and ten seconds of arc, was in sharp focus and cut a straight, sharply defined path. It was small but could have been seen by the naked eye. It was obviously a celestial object and not a night-flying bird, dark airplane or other such terrestrial object.

It was obviously moving in space between the earth and the moon, but how close was it to either body? Three possibilities suggest themselves: 1. It was a free body in space moving toward or away from the sun. 2. It was a satellite of the moon. 3. It is a hitherto unknown satellite moving around the earth.

IS THERE any way of making a choice among these possibilities? It is impossible to calculate an orbit for a body from a single or even two observations. At least three positions are essential and more are desirable. All that can be done is to make hypotheses and test each to see which is most reasonable.

The hypothesis that the object is a satellite of the moon, that the moon has a small moon revolving around it, can be disposed of first. The high velocity with which the object was moving would require that it be very close to the moon, and in that case it would complete its trip around the moon in a few minutes. Under any such conditions the object would have been discovered long ago, as it would cross the disk of the moon scores of times in an evening. It was not a satellite of the moon.

Was it a satellite of the earth, a tiny moon, which because of its small size and rapid motion heretofore escaped detection? This is more reasonable. If it is assumed to be an earth satellite a rough calculation of its distance might be made under Kepler's third law, which states there is a relationship between the squares of the periods in which planets complete a revolution and the cubes of their distances from the parent body.

Under this formula, the time in which the object traversed the

image of the moon indicates that if it were traveling in a nearly circular orbit around the earth it would traverse its complete orbit in 21.5 minutes. In this case the equation would put the distance of the object at less than 4,000 miles from the earth's surface.

However, if its distance were as much as 4,000 miles the object would be moving with a velocity of about twelve miles a second and have a diameter of about 500 feet. From the viewpoint of celestial mechanics this velocity is too high and the period in which it would complete a revolution around the earth, 21.5 minutes, is too short. The period should not be less than 80 minutes. There are some objections, therefore, to considering the object a satellite of the earth, but the possibility is far from being ruled out.

THE remaining alternative is that the body was moving in free space and was either an asteroid penetrating the earth's orbit, of which a few have recently been discovered, or was a gigantic meteorite. The possibilities involved in either case are disturbing, for they would mean that the earth

had a narrow escape from being hit by a body that could do more damage than an atomic bomb.

If it was a meteorite the calculated velocity of twelve miles a second would be reasonable and so would the 4,000-mile distance from the earth. If these figures are substantially correct then the earth missed a devastating bombardment from the heavens, a collision with a celestial wanderer, by an extremely narrow margin. The dark body would have missed the earth by less than half the earth's diameter.

The problem arises: How many such bodies may there be in space speeding past the earth but not passing in front of the moon where they can be seen? Similar objects crossing both the sun and moon have been observed frequently by astronomers, but as far as is known no calculations concerning them have been made. Nearly all who have seen them are very reticent about reporting their observations.

It has been suggested that the dark body might have been an atomic-energy-powered space ship launched by some one unknown, but that possibility must be discussed in the field of fiction.

Variety

Oct. 12, 1949

SCULLY'S SCRAPBOOK

By Frank Scully

Magnetic Springs, O. Oct. 8.

Some Hollywood characters manufacturing a picture presuming to give the inside story of flying saucers have closed the set to all visitors, including members of the press. I presume, in one category or another, that would include muggs like me.

Others are rushing to Hollywood with legends that they have already photographed saucers swirling around the Alaskan icecaps, and have had to sit on the footage for reasons of security up to now. A publication called *Plastics* has even claimed seeing the occupants of such a saucer in Oregon.

Instead of tearing my hair out at being scooped on these items, I feel terribly sorry for the poor wights who are depriving themselves of my vastly superior knowledge in the field of their endeavors.

I presume these producers are attempting to dramatize saucers which have had the origin of their flight from this earth. I have just spent a weekend with scientists who know all there is to know about flying saucers, not only from this planet but from others. In one afternoon these men convinced me they knew more about flying saucers than the surviving members of Mack Sennett's crockery that once functioned for entertainment and profit at Edendale, Cal.

Weeks ago these sages informed me they had checked on two of the disks which had landed here from another planet and even told where the platters had landed. The Mojave Desert got one and the Sahara got the other. The one that landed in Africa was more cracked than a psychiatrist, but the other pancaked gently to earth like a slow motion of Sonja Henie imitating a dying swan. All the saucer showed on inspection was a tiny hole in its side about the size of a 6B pencil.

The word "pencil" made the scientists think of Venus, a planet well within the cruising limits of our solar system. If the disk traveled on magnetic waves, the scientists assured me the round trip from Venus and back could be made in 42 minutes. This one obviously had come down on a one-way pass.

They Ever Find the Cup?

The saucer was 100 feet across and the cabin itself was about 18 feet in diameter. Its center remained at rest, but it had an outer edge that revolved at terrific speed. It operated, in other words, like a magnetically-controlled helicopter. It was not propelled by jet or other power such as we have been using to date.

Magnetic waves, the scientists explained, emanating from the sun, go around the earth and the moon like millions of fine-spun belt lines. Each planet has its moon and operates in a similar way. The trick in getting from one planet to another is to get from a positive to a negative, which those in control of these flying disks managed to do.

The structure which had withstood the trip from one planet to another had two metals completely unknown on this earth of ours, but the rest, in the main, was of recognizable materials.

What, No Women?

Inside the saucer were 18 men. They were intact but charred black, due either to gases which had been siphoned into that pencil-hole which developed in the outer structure or in being caught between the positive and negative magnetic waves en route from one planet to another.

The men were about the size of Singer midgits. They weren't Singer midgits because all these have been accounted for. Neither were they pigmies from the African jungle. Something about their bone and skull structure was different, the scientists said.

Though the saucer was loaded with pushbuttons and control instruments, none of the American scientists present dared to push any of the buttons for fear of being blown to wherever the charred bodies had come from. Our scientists bombed the ship with cosmic rays and gelger devices to make sure no lethal dangers were present before they opened the cabin door.

There was some water in containers in the saucer. When tested it turned out to be heavier than ours, much like the water found in Norway, which the Nazis figured would help them to be the first to make an atomic bomb.

Food, Clothing, Heavy Drinks

Tiny capsules containing food were also found in the turret cabin. None of the scientists felt very hungry at the time and so the capsules were fed to guinea pigs, which seemingly are always hungry. The guinea pigs thrived on the concentrates.

Examination of the clothes of the Saucerians revealed that though they were far ahead of us in the sciences, they were away behind in styles. Their styles were similar to ours of 1890, but their cloth was of a material unknown to us. It had not been damaged in flight either. The clothes had metal buttons and buttonholes, but no zippers.

In other matters these faraway people seemed far ahead of us. While we are still playing around in the kindergarten of atomic energy, they are dealing in magnetic energy. Currently, the scientists said, we can direct missiles to Hawaii via magnetic waves in 15 minutes, but in the magnetic field 1,000,000 miles a second is supposed to be standard speed. Nobody talks of m.p.h. but m.p.s.

Indeed, one of the scientists showed me a gamma ray magnetron, a little box about the size of a portable radio, which he said can make something like 38,000,000 answers in a minute, tell you how deep you'll have to dig for ore, bodies, liquids, oil and so forth, and how much volume you'll find when you get there.

Something New in Radio

The Saucerians, they said, are familiar with radio, too, but not as we know it. One extracted from their ill-starred platter had no tubes, no aerials, no plug-ins. It was operated magnetically and gave off sounds similar to the noises our scientists heard when checking on enemy planes and submarines in the last war.

Also in the saucer was found an indestructible parchment with writings as yet uncoded. The scientists believe, however, that the Saucerians must be using a system of mathematics similar to ours and based on numbers from 1 to 9 to have got where they have in the sciences. They have passed us, but seemingly along the same route.

Whether we can soon return the compliment and visit the Saucerians, even with nothing more than the charred body of Orson Welles, depends, our scientists say, on how fast we step up our knowledge of magnetics.

His watch band, one scientist informed me, is a magnetic key. He can find out where a fellow scientist is anywhere in town by tuning in on his friend's watchband. Things got a little Buck Rogersish at this point.

I asked him if all this were tied with the magnetic pole. He wanted to know if I thought there were only one. No, I said, I kind of thought there were two but that only one was in the public domain on account Meiro had a claim on the other through the Admiral Byrd pictures.

"There are four magnetic poles," he said.

One, he said, was in Little America but the other was in a place I had never heard of before. The two northern magnetic poles were in parts of Canada, which he named but which I'm afraid I'll have to treat as top secret until Drew Pearson breaks it as an inside story involving the low character of General Vaughan.

According to Adamski the two gentlemen from the Navy Electronics Lab asked him: "...to assist them in photographing the saucers they had all seen." Investigation this incident in 1969, McDonald contacted the Navy men involved. This is what he learned:

"As they recalled it, they stopped at Adamski's lunch place near the foot of the mountain. Evidently the subject of flying saucers was discussed across the lunch counter, and Maxfield thinks that there was probably some allusion to photographing flying saucers. He cannot recall the details precisely, but suggested to me that he may have said something to Adamski as they left the place, something to the effect that if he should get any photographs they would be interested in having a look at them, or something like that. That surely emphasizes that they never made any requests, as NEL scientists, that Adamski take photographs for them on any 'cooperative' basis." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: William Sherwood. From: Dr. James McDonald. 6 February 69.
p. 2. Dr. James McDonald papers. University of Arizona Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division.

Bloom was not amused with the results of his brief encounter with Adamski. McDonald learned that Gene Bloom had: "... received so many crank letters from Adamski followers over the years that he had long since adopted a policy of not answering a single one of them. To be sure that he doesn't depart from that reasonable policy, he did not even want to initiate a call to me to discuss the matter. He said he would be quite happy if I initiated a call and spoke to him at NEL but he didn't want to be in the position of treating my query any differently from that of anybody else." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid. p.3.

George Adamski and the "New Age."

By himself, George Adamski was not an impressive individual, but he was a part of the mix of two powerful forces at work. One force was the UFO mystery. The other force was the social/philosophical phenomena of the "New Age." Trying to define "New Age" is a difficult task and the one attempt that is impressive is Randall Baers', a former leader in the New Age movement, who has written a book called *Inside the New Age Nightmare*, a volume that explains how men like Adamski can generate a following composed of fanatics. Even in contemporary times, there are swarms of New Agers at every UFO convention, annoying data-driven attendees. Baer writes:

"The New Age is an extremely difficult movement to define with anything other than generalized statements. There are no centralized organizations controlling all doctrines, activities, or agendas. No single committee, council or organization dictates the doctrines or agenda, or controls all activities. The landmark manifesto, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, terms it 'a leaderless but powerful network.' This characteristic has allowed room for an immense variety of philosophies and phenomena to flourish via all manner of diverse individuals and organizations.

"Furthermore the New Age has so many faces and directions to its overall agenda that it has infiltrated into every facet of American society in both obvious and very subtle, deeply underlying ways. From religion, business, and politics to music, education, and science the New Age has wormed its way in the very cornerstones of Western civilization --- more so than many people realize. New Age thought encompasses all aspects of human experience. It is an attempt to revolutionize every aspect of life on the personal, interpersonal, societal, and global scale." (xx.)

(xx.) Baer, Randall. *Inside the New Age Nightmare*. Huntington House, Inc.: Lafayette, La., 1989. pp.85-87.

Moreover:

"There's a basic credo that says 'create your own reality according to what feels right for you.' For example, whether a person chooses to be homosexual, bisexual, monogamous, polygamous or whatever is OK as long as 'It's right for me' or 'It's done with love and no one's hurt.' It is all relativistic." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.88.

"Consciousness Renaissance."

Furthermore, according to Baer:

"There are two overlapping but different major schools of New Age thought: the first viewpoint of New Age thought is 'Consciousness Renaissance.'

" 'Consciousness Renaissance sees humankind currently experiencing the beginning of a new spiritual and socio-political awakening, a modern-day super-Renaissance destined to lead man into a new era of enlightened spiritual humanism. Spurning the thought of man needing divine intervention to assist in the creation of 'unlimited human god-potential' as the means by which 'Heaven on earth' will become manifest. In essence, as man achieves higher states of 'god-consciousness' through New Age practices, Heaven will dawn on Earth only through the dawning of man's enlightened 'higher consciousness.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.89.

"Quantum Leap of Consciousness."

Baer explains the second school of thought:

"The second major branch of New Age thought can be termed 'Quantum Leap of Consciousness.' This says we are on the brink of a new age, a whole new world. In the twinkling of an eye, mankind's awareness, our collective consciousness, is going to make an instantaneous quantum leap into the heavens. Everything will change in a flash of divine Light. Get ready. Your heavenly heritage awaits.

Come on in; the water's fine. He who hesitates is lost. He who chooses life is found.

"When sufficient momentum is generated by enough people having developed 'higher consciousness,' then the entire world will be ready to make a collective quantum leap into a higher dimension of the heavenly realm. Earth and humanity will literally leap in a flash of light into the heavens above. This Quantum Leap of Consciousness model is directly tied to some form of divine intervention. Furthermore, this school of thought maintains that some other 'World Teacher' or 'Council of Ascended Masters' will have divine authority in the New Age, not Christ.

"Another variation of this skewed theme is that it is not the personal and visible Jesus who returns, but rather 'Christ consciousness' that descends into the minds of all earthly inhabitants. Some New Age fundamentalists do predict that a literal apocalypse is imminent and that it will be brought about by mystical, extraterrestrial, or cosmic forces.

"Many of the Consciousness Renaissance camp tend to focus on integrating increasingly socially acceptable New Age values into personal and societal life. This is the side of the New Age that has made especially strong inroads into areas such as the corporate business world, psychology, entertainment media, education, health care, and science. In terms of value-system and practical-level infiltration into mainstream American culture, this aspect of the New Age has proven the more successful of the two school of thought due to its subtler humanistic approach.

"The Quantum Leap of Consciousness viewpoint is much more predisposed to the metaphysical-occult end of the spectrum. In particular, the predominant themes lie much towards mediumship, spiritism, witchcraft, psychic powers, and sorceries in myriad shapes and forms. One of the primary dangers from this branch of the New Age is its major contribution to the historically unprecedented unleashing of demonic forces into the world today..." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.91.

Finally, Baer mentions other "New Age" activity:

"Channeling, crystal power, contacting your 'Higher Self,' going to geographical 'vortexes' (occult 'power spots'), goddess worship, world peace meditations, psychic readings, self-empowerment seminars, occult-based success and prosperity seminars, interpersonal development and sex workshops, and telepathically contacting UFOs..." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.94.

October. Norwood, Ohio.

Letter to Dr. James McDonald from Len Stringfield:

"The UFO, in the Norwood Searchlight Incident, had involved many reliable witnesses. Oddly, most names in Sgt. Berger's log, or used in my report, are now [1968] dead, including Father Gregory Miller. Father Miller, at one time, possessed

numerous photos of the object, plus a movie, which I had occasion to see with photo experts, at Radio-TV Station WCPO. I borrowed one photo which reproduced poorly in my book [*Inside Saucer Post 3-0 Blue*], but I am certain the photos (taken by police Sgt. Davidson) show a real object, even though it may appear as the moon, or a balloon. Although there are no photos to support it, on one occasion when the large object was in view, two groups of small objects were observed leaving the 'parent' object.

"I have always been bothered by the analysis of the object's estimated size. I wonder if the 10,000 foot diameter figure was given out by Dr. Wells to certain associates on a whim much like that which prompted Dr. Hynek's 'swamp gas' explanation. Talking nonsense, gets people off your back. Incidentally, the 10,000 foot figure was given to me by a confidante of Dr. Wells, which prior to my book had not been published. Dr. Wells is one of very few people I never interviewed on this case. He was always unavailable, and told my confidante that he would deny making any such statements if his information were made public. Dr. Wells and Dr. Herget also said some things in confidence to Father Miller, which in turn was entrusted to me. I am still not at liberty to disclose this information, but it does support existence of something mighty big over Norwood.

"After many years, I remain convinced that the Norwood Incident, based on Sgt. Berger's log, Father Miller's entrusted testimony, the photos and movies, etc., etc., is one of the best early reports on record." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Dr. James E. McDonald. From: Len Stringfield, 4410 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. 45227. 30 October 68. Photocopy in author's files.

28 October. Norwood, Ohio.

Letter to General Vandenberg from an unidentified person. (See page 48) Letter found in military Intelligence files: "Record Group 341, Director of Intelligence, HQ USAF. Decimal File 000.9 1948-1949."

3 November. Dr. Kaplan meets with the Scientific Advisory Board to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

Pentagon conference on November 3, 1949. Chairman: Dr. Theodore von Karman.

Those in attendance:

Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, Deputy Chairman.
 Dr. Allen V. Astin.
 Dr. Walter Bartky.
 Dr. William Bollay.
 Mr. Allen F. Donovan.
 Dr. Charles S. Draper.
 Dr. Ross Gunn.
 Dr. Nicholas J. Hoff.
 Dr. Andrew Kalitinsky.
 Mr. Robert H. Kent.

Maj. General D.L. Putt, Military Director
 Dr. Edward J. Baldes
 Mr. Don R. Berlin
 Dr. Norris E. Bradbury
 Dr. James H. Doolittle
 Dr. Ralph E. Gibson
 Dr. William R. Hawthorne
 Dr. Henry G. Houghton
 Prof. Joseph Kaplan
 Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace, II

by W. L. Lewis 11/1/49 1000 1000 1000

Cincinnati 10, Ohio

Phone,

Oct 28, 1949

General Vandenberg

Army Air Corps

Dear Sir:

We have been using one of your army surplus searchlights here for advertising purposes. At different times recently we have picked up an object at altitudes over 30,000 feet which we speak of as a flying saucer - it is not a flying saucer or anything like it - according to the popular conception.

I have been trying to obtain an interview with Wright-Patterson officials but they are not interested - which leads me to believe you are aware of its identity.

On Sunday Oct 23 certain objects appeared close to this large disc under circumstances which I consider alarming and serious.

I have been very careful to keep a record of all weather conditions and have made sketches on the spot in order to keep all details fresh in mind.

If by any chance the Air Corps does not have knowledge of the character of this object you may be sure someone has quite a jump on us in the development of aircraft, air craft basing and launching or possibly radar extension.

I would appreciate an interview with a responsible officer with advanced scientific background and a knowledge of recent aircraft development.

There have been local members of FBI, one or two antiquated colonels and amateur scientists blustering around confusing the issue and offering ridiculous solutions, but this is too serious in my mind to stop your investigation on such advice.

Please acknowledge,

Please forgive this henscratching letter. My secretary has gone for the day.

Respectfully,

/s/
Pres.



"Space platform" illuminated by a eight million candlepower searchlight operated by Sgt. Donald Berger. Photo courtesy of the Cincinnati *Post*.

Prof. John R. Markham
 Dr. James B. Macelwane, S.J.
 Dr. George A. Morton
 Dr. Carl F. J. Overhage
 Dr. Richard W. Porter
 Dr. Norman F. Ramsey
 Dr. Louis N. Ridenour
 Dr. Howard P. Robertson
 Mr. L. Eugene Root
 Dean Ralph A. Sawyer
 Dr. William R. Sears
 Prof. C. Richard Soderberg
 Dr. Hans Speier
 Dr. H. Guyford Stever

Dr. Homer J. Stewart
 Dr. William J. Sweeney
 Dr. Louis T.E. Thompson
 Dr. George E. Valley, Jr.
 Dr. Shields Warren
 Prof. Raymond J. Woodrow
 Dr. Lloyd A. Young

 Colonel R.R. Barden
 Colonel Frank R. Cook
 Colonel Benjamin G. Holzman
 Major Carl Arnold

 Major T.F. Walkowicz, Secretary

Page 55 of secretary Major Walkowicz' notes:

"It is the hope of the Panel that this development of the security attachment for the IFF be very vigorously pressed and the highest priority, in the hopes of meeting that date; with a system which, in the technical opinion of the Committee, is adequate for the preliminary needs of the Air Force. This will not be the final answer aimed at improved cryptographic security for IFF, which very definitely should be carried on.

"But up until this time no one has yet taken the step of saying, 'We must have this and fast.' And the deadline being so close, 1 January 1952, we should like to see all possible effort put into implementing this recommendation.

"DR. VON KARMAN: Thank you very much, Dr. Ridenour. Are there any questions or remarks concerning this subject? Well then, we will proceed to the next point. The next point is a special report by Professor Joseph Kaplan. I hope it is full of surprise, and tension.

"PROF. KAPLAN: I think it is full of surprise, but I hope that it isn't full of tension. I hesitate, in fact, to take too much of the time of the Board, after the very important briefing of yesterday, and the Ridenour report, to call your attention to this problem in which I have been involved for the last year and one-half or so.

"I might go to the heart of the problem immediately. It all has to do with a series of incidents that I first heard of in February 1948—incidents that are laid essentially, or reportedly almost entirely, in the West Texas or New Mexico area.

"For this reason, and because of the sensitivity of that area—the presence there of much of our atomic energy activities at the Air Base, etc.,—the material has been classified SECRET. I think it is the only reason that perhaps it should be classified SECRET. It has to do with the observation of some 46 incidents which have been picked out as real—the observation of what we are referring to as 'green fireballs.'

"I should apologize to Dr. Valley, who I think is the Committee's expert in the field of flying discs and things of that sort, but I got into this entirely accidentally and sometimes I have been very sorry that I ever did.

"A brief history of the affair is this: I was at the University of New Mexico to give their annual Sigma Psi lecture when Professor Lincoln LaPaz, Director, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, told me about these observations. Like every-

one else, he hears about flying discs and things of that sort. I was skeptical, and, as I mentioned, sorry that I ever showed up at the University of New Mexico at that time. But after talking to the people involved, I realized there was a real problem there.

"I called Dr. von Karman's attention to it. He, in turn, called General Cabell's attention to the problem, the Director of Intelligence, and he requested I continue looking into the problem.

"As far as the Board is concerned, and the Office of Air Intelligence, our part of this problem has been completed in that the situation is now under control. At least proposed studies of these things have been delegated to the Geophysical Research Directorate, a group that studies upper atmospheric and other atmospheric phenomena. They are taking steps to really make some scientific studies of these things.

"I think I should acknowledge help from a great many people. Much of this has been done voluntarily. Dr. Bradbury has been extremely kind in participating in this and making available many of his people, such as Dr. Gamow, Dr. Teller, Dr. Reines, and others have been concerned with this and are as puzzled as I am.

"I might mention the way we got it into the hands of the Geophysical Directorate. I think essentially I finally stuck my neck out and proposed an explanation for these so-called 'green fireballs'—an explanation which sounded reasonable enough to pass it on to the Geophysical people.

"Dr. LaPaz has been working on this informally; he has had no research contract or appointment involved in this.

"The possibilities of rumor and panic that might develop in that area if loose talk about these green fireballs develops, I think, are great. I think it is to the credit of Dr. LaPaz and Colonel Reese of the Office of Security Investigation at Kirtland, who has been doing a lot of this work on his own time, that the security has been beautifully kept. As far as I know, there are absolutely no incidents or too much talk about this entire affair [?].

"Now, the first question that I can answer is: is this a real phenomena, these green fireballs?

"I shall describe some of their characteristics shortly, but I would like to answer that first question first. That is: I think it is generally agreed by competent observers that it is real. I might mention some of the people who have seen some of these things themselves: Dr. LaPaz, who is one of the best meteoriticists in the country, who is able to take, let us say, several hundred reports and observations of fireballs and put them together and then actually find the fallen meteorite—he did this when he found the Norton County stone some year or so ago, the [biggest?] stone meteor ever recovered—is one of the people who has seen this. His competence in the field, I think, is unquestioned. Although I might say for the record, he still does not believe that this is a real phenomena (laughter). His feeling, I think, is that this is man-made; and from yesterday's meeting, you can guess as to what nationality the men are who are supposed to have created these phenomena. He has observed it; he has seen these personally.

"The general character of other people who have seen these has been high. I mean their ability to observe these fireballs has been much higher than the average group which has.

"Others who have observed them, people on the professional level, are: a professor of geology at the University of New Mexico, accustomed to field work; a professor of

civil engineering, who is quite experienced in the field of meteoritics; someone who has been interviewed, as far as I know, that Professor Deams of the University of Virginia told me last night—I saw him at the hotel—that one of the group leaders at Los Alamos, perhaps he should be interviewed, an able observer, has seen these phenomena; and I have here a report from a no less competent observer than Dr. Donald Menzel, who has seen some aerial phenomena and has described them completely and is somewhat puzzled about the whole affair. So I think the reality of these things is certainly [not?] out of question.

“Some of the reactions to my proposed explanation may be in order, but I will give those to you later. I have a letter here from Dr. Menzel, who was asked by Colonel Dame [? Eain? Not clear], the Commanding Officer of Holloman Air Force Base, to read all of the information including my proposed explanation that I passed on to the Board, through the Secretariat to General Cabell, that took the problem out of our hands and landed it, first, into Research and Development in here and then to the Geophysical Research Directorate.

“Colonel Rees has prepared two reports, one dated 19 April 1949, and the other dated 12 October 1949, each of which cover about 23 incidents. I might mention that I detect in these reports a very slight secular trend that indicates that, if you wait long enough, these will turn out to be fireballs.

“I also have a report of a fireball observation and its resultant analysis, for anyone who is interested, in which that particular fireball is not entirely different from some of these that have been observed.

“The summary of the observations up to around the middle of April 1949, the common characteristics of the incidents are essentially these—and this also applies to Menzel’s observation:

“ ‘a. Green color, sometimes described as greenish-white, bright green, yellow-green, or blue green.’

“The second, which is quite surprising:

“ ‘b. Horizontal path, sometimes with minor variations.’

“The third is:

“ ‘c. Speed less than that of a meteor, but more than any known type of aircraft.’

“The fourth here, and the one which definitely different than observations made on practically all fireballs that have ever been reported is:

“ ‘d. No sound associated with observations.’

“The next one is:

“ ‘e. No persistent trail or dust cloud.’

"The final one is:

" 'f. Period of visibility from one to five seconds.'

"I think it would be interesting at this point to quote from the report that Dr. LaPaz made—the one that I first saw—and to indicate his conclusions about this particular incident:

" 'December 14 [date of report?]

" 'Among the numerous observations so far made, there is only one pair of corresponding observations, i.e., those made simultaneously by different groups of observers at widely separated stations. The only such observations are those obtained on the night of December 12 by one group of observers near Starvation Peak (Bernal, New Mexico). The time was dated December 12, 1948, 9 hours, two minutes, plus or minus 30 seconds and a second pair of observers stationed within the Los Alamos reservation. By graphic reduction of the simultaneously made observations, the following facts have been determined: the green fireball of December 12, 9h 2m plus or minus 30s appeared very near a point with the coordinates latitude 35 degrees 50 minutes, longitude 106 degrees 40 minutes and disappeared near a point with the coordinates latitude 35 degrees 45 minutes, longitude 107 degrees some minutes, traversing a nearly or exactly horizontal path with a length of very nearly 25 miles at an altitude above the surface of the earth of approximately 8 to 10 miles, depending on the estimate of angular altitude employed in the reduction; the velocity with respect to the earth works out at between 8 and 12 miles a second, depending on the duration estimate used. It should be observed that the above results are obtained under the assumption that the points of appearance and disappearance of the fireball were seen simultaneously by both the Bernal and Los Alamos groups. In case this assumption is not fulfilled, the real path could very easily be no more than 10 to 12 miles long, the velocity with respect to the earth then working out at between 3 and six miles a second, while there is thus considerable uncertainty because of the lack of confirming azimuth observations from a third station, concordance in the 5 different estimates of angular elevation make it most unlikely that the linear height of the fireball was much less than 8 miles and much more than 10 miles. It is interesting to observe that the extension of the 25-mile path first given passes almost centrally across the Los Alamos reservation.'

"It points out here the significant differences between the fireballs observed in the interval December 5-13 and typical meteors.

" 'The horizontal nature of the paths of most of the December fireballs is most unusual. Genuine meteors are rarely observed to move in horizontal paths.'

"I might say that in the next report, dated August 17, 1949, he states:

" 'Many of the green fireballs now appearing descend on nearly vertical paths, whereas, in earlier months almost all of the green fireballs observed moved almost horizontally.'

"There is a rather amusing statement after that:

" 'There appears to be a concentration of New Mexico incidents near weekends, especially on Sunday and near the hour of 8:00 (in the interval from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.).'

"DR. BRADBURY: This should not be discredited because it is the post-cocktail hour. (laughter)

"(Extract from report submitted by Dr. LaPaz on 20 Dec. 1948)

"(Professor Kaplan continues reading)

" 'Again the very low height of the December fireball discussed in section 2 above sets it off in sharp contrast from the genuine meteors for which heights of the order of 40 or more miles are normally observed.'

" 'The velocity determined for the fireball of December 12 is much less than the velocities determined from typical meteors (and yet is considerably greater than the speeds of the V-2 Rockets or jet planes or of conventional flares).'

" 'In the case of meteorites that penetrate to as low levels as that determined for the fireball of December 12, the observed luminous phenomena are always accompanied by very violent noises. No noises whatever have been observed in connection with the various December fireballs so far investigated.'

" 'In most of these cases, observers were near enough that they should have heard the noises.'

" 'Genuine meteors normally show remarkable variations in brightness beginning as fine thin hair lines, which are scarcely visible to the observer and then brightening up to flash out near the end of their paths. In the case of the December fireballs most of the observers have reported that the green balls appeared almost instantly at their full brightness.'

"Here I might just quote from the report of the Canadians of April 3, 1949, which has been pretty completely analyzed, where it states:

" 'That the fireball seems to have appeared almost instantaneously with nearly its maximum brightness. Relatively few of the observers are sure that they saw it from beginning, but those who did so describe it as suddenly appearing rather than appearing first as an ordinary shooting star. The speed was distinctly slow. Nearly all observers who estimated the time of the flight placed it between 3 and 5 seconds. The words which were most commonly used to describe the color were: greenish-blue, greenish-white, bluish-white at the beginning of the path and orange at the end of the path.'

"One of the most sensational incidents in the New Mexico area is one which lasted much longer than this and which was green at the beginning of the path and orange at the end of the path.

"Another difference:

" 'The three groups of anomalous greenish luminous phenomena shows a curious association with well known meteor showers, although none of these meteor showers normally produce extremely bright green fireballs, such as those recently observed.'

"Of course, since they have been observed fairly often for around two years now, this is not a very important point.

" 'As noted in an earlier communication, the remarkably green vivid color reported for most of the December fireballs is rarely observed in the case of genuine meteors.'

"By laboratory tests described it as artificial to color, wave length around 5,218 Angstrom Units. And after one of these incidents, Dr. Crozier, who is an expert in atmospheric particles, actually tried to collect some material and observe some copper; but those results are not very trustworthy.

" 'The duration estimates of between 2 and 3 seconds reported for the green fireballs are considerably longer than those (0.4 – 0.5 seconds) for the ordinary visual meteors, but shorter than the duration estimates invariably reported in the case of a genuine meteorite fall (5 to 30 seconds or even longer).'

"You will notice in this one of Canada the times were just about the same as those reported for New Mexico and West Texas fireballs.

" 'For none of the green fireballs has a train of sparks or a dust cloud been reported. This contrasts sharply with the behavior noted in case of meteoric fireballs—particularly those that penetrate to the very low levels where the green fireball of December 12 was observed.

" 'On the basis of the various differences to which attention is called'...it is concluded...' [gaps in the original] 'that the fireball of December 12 was definitely non—meteoric and that in all probability the same is true of most, if not all, the other bright green fireballs, which the OSI had had under investigation.'

"Since time runs short, I would like to just quote from one more observation of LaPaz's—one of January 30, which was observed by a great many people, and the pertinent quote here that its horizontal path was 143 miles long at a velocity of from seven to fourteen miles per second. It is among the brightest observed in the last quarter-century. Again, no detonations were observed. In this case, differences of color were reported. Some observers in Texas—this was seen over a large territory—reported its color as blue, orange, red and even purple instead of green.

"In conclusion I don't think I'll bother to read Menzel's report. Anyone who wishes to see it can read it; it is dated 16 May 1949. He concludes that the whole

phenomena is puzzling. He saw the greenish tinge. His comments on my proposal and on the reports that he read were this:

“‘Circumstances force me to conclude that the phenomena described are actually real. With regard to Dr. Kaplan’s explanation, which deserves very serious consideration, I merely raise the question as to why the phenomenon seems confined to the Alamogordo region. Or, perhaps, you may have further reports.’

“He feels that further consideration should be given.

“I think the most puzzling aspects of the entire phenomena, the description of this January 30 phenomena, which is reported by Dr. LaPaz as having been the most sensational fireball recorded in 25 years, again, indicates the magnitude of this apparition. I think the absence of sound is really a puzzling thing. I personally am not too concerned about the horizontal path. The consistent green color perhaps is another puzzling thing. The absence of persistent trails or dust clouds, many attempts have been made to find the end path of the meteorite and pick up meteoritic materials. None of those have succeeded. So there are still many puzzling things associated with this.

“A number of us, including Dr. Teller at Los Alamos now, myself, and others have attempted to come up with ideas about the origin and nature of this thing. I have discussed it with one or two people. The general impression—it seems to be Dr. Teller’s and Dr. Holt’s, who used to be at the University of New Mexico and is an experienced observer in the field of atmospheric phenomena—is this: perhaps the frequency of these reports is based on the extra-ordinary fine visibility in that region and on the fact that a greater number of people than ever before are looking at the skies in that area. Dr. Teller seems to agree that, at least, is a start in explaining these things.

“Two things are needed. Of course, no one has obtained a spectrum of the phenomenon. One reporter was one of the professors of New Mexico who said he saw one of these objects for approximately five minutes just shortly after sunset, went into to telephone to Dr. LaPaz, came out and it was still there, but no pictures were obtained. The plan now is to set up 180 degree cameras with filters to find out what the wave length is, whether the radiation is multidynamic or not, what the wave length of the radiation is, and at least get a picture of these objects.

“I think unless there are questions, or anyone is curious as to my proposed explanation, I would rather not discuss it now. I am perfectly willing to talk about it, and this carries us at least part of the way.

“I feel that it is perhaps a kind of meteor that has been observed, or a new atmospheric phenomena, but there are difficulties associated with it. At least, I am convinced that it is real and will be shortly in good hands. As far as our participation is concerned officially, we have answered General Cabell’s questions by saying that it is a real phenomena and should be photographed.

“Dr. Bradbury is familiar with this as well as I am and perhaps would make a comment or two.

“DR. VON KARMAN: Thank you very much, Professor Kaplan. Who continues this work?

"PROF. KAPLAN: The continuation of this work? My report was sent to General Cabell through Colonel Holzman. He, in turn, sent it to the Geophysical Directorate at the Cambridge Research Laboratory, and they are now setting up the necessary observational program to obtain pictures and spectra. Dr. Bradbury has agreed to cooperate with that program.

"DR. VON KARMAN: Thank you very much. Dr. Bradbury, do you wish to say something?

"DR. BRADBURY: I have only one comment that I would like to add to what Dr. Kaplan has just said. The absence of sound is puzzling, but it is in a sense comforting; in that, if at these speeds and these altitudes, there is no sound, the mass of the object, if it is a material object, must be quite small. I think it can be said, undoubtedly, it is a real phenomenon. Whether or not it is a new phenomenon, and whether or not the confirmation [concentration?] in New Mexico is something which has simply arisen out of the large number of—well, to be quite frank—security guards see these things at night because it is their business to be out at night on guard duty, sentry duty, etc., and the number of these people has increased greatly in New Mexico in the last couple of years. This, I think, is the most likely explanation for the increased observation of frequency of these things at this time.

"DR. GUNN: Mr. Chairman, I would hate to upset any claim of Arizona, Texas, or anything like this, but I have never heard of these things before Dr. Kaplan brought it up. It is all new to me. But I saw what I thought was a green meteorite over Cumberland, Maryland, on August 20, I think it was, about 11:00 o'clock. I thought it was a Very pistol. I checked with my pilot, and we were about 8,000 feet. He saw it, too. It reads along directly with this description as has been given here. All that I can say is that it is a long ways from Texas.

"DR. BRADBURY: We are very pleased (laughter).

"DR. GUNN: The pilot saw it. He could be reached if there is any interest in it. I was interested enough to make a note of it in my notebook, but I thought it was a meteorite. It looked to me like a typical meteorite, more or less. It was green; that was the outstanding characteristic. It was green, and I looked it up in the Encyclopedia to see what it said about green meteorites. I couldn't find any reference to it, but it struck me as interesting. I can give you the exact details.

"PROF. KAPLAN: This Canadian green fireball is one of the first ones of its kind. I think Dr. Bradbury is probably on the right track—that the object is small. It is unusual to observe small objects of that kind. Small meteorites that usually come in showers are very small objects.

"DR. BRADBURY: This becomes quite puzzling, because the reverse of these things we have talked about the radiation energy business before—radiation. This becomes puzzling in another way. So much light is given off.

"PROF. KAPLAN: If you use my hypothesis, the only green radiation that I know of that one can get from the air is my favorite spectrum line, the green aurora.

"DR. VON KARMAN: The horizontal path.

"PROF. KAPLAN: That is also quite unusual. Most of the meteorites come in at random. The nonshire meteorites come in at random. Others come in directly from a radiant. But we calculated at the last conference at Los Alamos that if my proposal is correct, that this is radiation due to the air itself excited by the meteorite, then the efficiency of the source would really be quite remarkable. It would be a very high source for interfer-metric work, Dr. Dryden.

"DR. BRADBURY: I think there is one other thing to note in this—apparently, the frequency of observation as well as the target accuracy is apparently not increasing with time.

"DR. THOMPSON: Professor Kaplan, how reliable are the altitude observations? That is, could these be occurring at much higher altitudes than the source?

"PROF. KAPLAN: I think the altitude observations are nearly as reliable as altitude observations are for other reported meteoritic incidents.

"DR. THOMPSON: The absence of sound and perhaps some other phenomena is related to altitude.

"PROF. KAPLAN: I think it is the same as observations on the fireball that has been so nicely analyzed in Canada, perhaps even better, because of the high selectivity of the personnel. Out of perhaps 100 reports on this fireball they will select 15 or 20 observers. It is the same kind of data. LaPaz is quite able. Of course, he knows the field very well. In the case of this observation, for example, the altitude is varied from 8 to 30 miles. That is the usual altitude range that you get. He consistently gets low altitudes. Professor Snoddy at Virginia is an experienced aurora observer, and he criticizes the altitude observation. He feels that is the weakest part of this.

"DR. THOMPSON: You might also offer the possibility of explaining the apparent parallel trajectory, i.e., as distinguished from the ordinary meteorite. Assuming that there is a lot of aerodynamic—I mean they go higher than you really think.

"PROF. KAPLAN: Probably. I am inclined to believe that the altitude observations are not as good as they should be.

"DR. BRADBURY: I wouldn't think the horizontal path is a precise thing.

"PROF. KAPLAN: Yes, but the difference between these, ordinary meteorites, fireballs, usually come out fairly close to vertical. The absolute horizontal is certainly not to be trusted.

"DR. BRADBURY: There is also a curious thing which I think was probably more true then it is now, is the projectories seem to seem to follow more and more south direction than they did in a random study. I think that was rather disappearing, [?] was it not? Do you recall?

"PROF. KAPLAN: Yes. Well, as I indicated, I didn't want to take too much time of the Board, but this high selectivity of direction seems to indicate that some group was trying to pinpoint Los Alamos with a new sort of weapon for that general area. That disappeared and the horizontal path. There are more of them coming in more nearly to the vertical. I think the problem should be studied, and that is now under way. It may, after our knowledge of meteorities, increase our security in that area—I mean the whole problem of search, etc.

"DR. WARREN: Have the exposed photographic plates of any of the astro-nomic observatories indicated anything similar to this?

"PROF. KAPLAN: No. No. They almost got a spectrum. They removed the spectograph from a favorable location two or three days, I think, before one of these appeared. But so much of this work has been carried on in a somewhat informal and slightly confused way that there has been no organized program. There will be one now.

"DR. VON KARMAN: Well, gentlemen, I consider this question as an extra curricula [sic] activity for the Board. At first I wasn't quite sure whether we should call on the physicists or the psychologists, especially since these different phenomena were observed so close to an atomic establishment. I argued with myself whether or not the psychologists might first enter this subject. However, I am glad to say I was wrong. I believe your (Dr. Kaplan's) explanation was on the basis of normal physics. As Professor LaPaz said, based on his familiarity for long decades, the problems of meteorites are certainly not of heavenly origin, so I owe it to General Cabell to base it on my familiarity with rockets and state that it is not of man-made origin. (laughter) I think the two arguments are equivalent. So I think it has some interest, not from a military point of view but from a general science point of view. So I think we appreciate very much the time and th...[not clear] that our member, Professor Kaplan, devoted to this problem, and we hope he will carry on.

"MR. KENT: Maybe we ought to hear the explanation of this.

"PROF. KAPLAN: I didn't feel I should take the time. I'll be glad to present my explanation to anyone who is interested.

"DR. VON KARMAN: It may be that as something comes out, Colonel Holzman will let us know.

"COL. HOLZMAN: Yes, sir.

"DR. VON KARMAN: I believe it is perhaps time to go to lunch, so we will continue at 2:30. At that time we have three points: 1. The report of Professor Houghton on the meeting of the Geophysical Research Panel. 2. Colonel Barden will talk on the Research and Development Master Plan for 1952 Budget. 3. Organization questions of Panels and Committees. The meeting is adjourned. (Adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m.)" (xx.)

(xx.) THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. CONFERENCE. 3 November 1949. At the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Classification: SECRET. Photocopy in author's files. The original document was double spaced. It was retyped to fit more words on a page. The document is a rough draft. This accounts for the awkward language. Just where in government files this paperwork was located is not known to me -L.E. Gross. Document obtained by W.P. Laparl.

Comments on the conference:

A lot of things come to mind as one scans the transcript of the November 3rd meeting. Dr. George E. Valley, for example, the Board's "flying saucer" expert, never lets out a peep. He could have reminded everyone more than just lights were being reported in the skies. Likewise, James Doolittle of ghost rocket fame could have said something about eyewitness reports of strange phenomena back in 1946. Dr. Howard P. Robertson of the later 1953 CIA UFO panel seems to have gotten an early education in aerial phenomena since he also attended the meeting. Dr. Hugh Dryden, Deputy Chairman, was present. He crossed swords with Donald Keyhoe years later over the reality of UFOs. Dr. Dryden acquired a strong case of "anti-UFO fever" in the 50s for some reason. Perhaps it came out of the 1949 deliberations. General Donald Putt, Director of Research and Development, is a familiar name on the list of those in attendance. He worked with the RAND corporation in the Fall of 1948 when the Air Force think tank evaluated UFO reports to see if they represented alien visitations. RAND didn't feel extraterrestrial visitors was a viable option so it is assumed General Putt would challenge any such notion if Kaplan had made the suggestion.

A big surprise is the mention of Dr. Donald Menzel. Although he is not listed as a Board member in attendance (he may or may have been a member to my limited knowledge—L. E. Gross), the Harvard professor seems to have been known and respected by those at the meeting. The surprise is that Menzel is in the role of an advocate of the phenomena being very puzzling, a position 180 degrees from his behavior years later when he became very quick to pronounce any UFO report as something mundane.

Some significant facts about the conference:

- 1.) It was agreed something real was being seen.
- 2.) The meteor theory, although having some merit, was not completely acceptable.
- 3.) Kaplan clearly favored his aurora hypothesis.

It is also significant that Kaplan's aurora, or "natural," explanation did not escape criticism.

Menzel, lacking the knee-jerk skepticism of later years, wondered why a "natural" phenomena would cluster around Los Alamos. And then there was professor Snoddy of Virginia, an experienced aurora observer, who had trouble with the low altitude estimates of the "lights." Kaplan mentioned 30 miles and even 8 miles (The lowest aurora displays are found in the region of weak ionized gases of the Mesosphere 30-250 miles altitude).

Why didn't Kaplan say more about the "West Texas" reports?

If these two points were weaknesses in Kaplan's arguments, then its understandable why he says little about the "West Texas" manifestations. The "West Texas," or Camp Hood, reports varied from green fireball sightings by a ridiculous margin. Luminous phenomena was being reported six feet from the ground! Also the pattern of sightings showed that the "lights" were bracketing the "Q" area, which is pretty localized activity!

Dr. Kaplan admits the "softness" of his solution. He thanked Dr. Bradbury for making available Los Alamos scientists like Teller, Gamow, Reines, and others, but nonetheless he said they were as puzzled as he was. Kaplan's described his arrival at an explanation as "finally sticking his neck out" by proposing an answer that "sounded reasonable." (See page 51) Kaplan also provides a reason for caution in the handling of the problem: "The possibilities of rumor and panic that might develop in that area [Los Alamos] if loose talk about these green fireballs develops, I think, are great." (See page 51)

14 November. The AEC Security Division wants assurance. (See letter on page 62)

23 November. Reply to AEC. "Undoubtedly."

A first draft of a letter to AEC says the Director of Air Force Intelligence (D/I) "tentatively" accepted the natural phenomena answer but also made the highly questionable assertion that "various specialists" had determined that the light phenomena were "undoubtedly" observations of natural phenomena. The final draft of the letter to AEC written on November 23rd mentions only Kaplan, instead of "various specialists," and states: "From interrogations of observers in that area and from inferences obtained in laboratory experiments, Dr. Kaplan has concluded that natural phenomena were observed." (See pages 63-64)

30 November. Civilians show how its done.

If anything strange was occurring in the vicinity of sensitive installations, one would think it would cause immediate and intense interest by the High Command. In fact this only happened among the local authorities. Kaplan took months to decide whether or not to recommend official scrutiny and it took many more months for official action (Project TWINKLE) to get up and going. Contrast that with a civilian effort.

Some scientific personnel at Los Alamos were not about to wait for Air Force's Geophysical Science Division to investigate. It didn't take them long to do something. (See page 65-66)

November/December. Ust Urt, Russia.

Unidentified planes or what?

SECRET

This document contains information of a classified nature.

**UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

IN REPLY REFER TO
SPH:EBB

NOV 14 1949

Director of Intelligence
Headquarters
United States Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: LUMINOUS AERIAL PHENOMENA

Gentlemen:

As you know, there have been a number of reports of the observance of luminous aerial phenomena in the vicinity of installations in which the AEC is interested in New Mexico and elsewhere in the Southwest. As you also know, a number of meetings have taken place at which representatives of the Air Force, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, the Atomic Energy Commission, and other interested agencies have discussed the significance of such phenomena.

Inasmuch as we understand that the United States Air Force has the primary responsibility for investigation and evaluation of this matter, we should very much appreciate receiving your present evaluation of these phenomena in terms of any actual or potential hazard they may be considered to offer to our installations.

OPTION

Noting the
contents in
this letter
under


Francis Hammack
Acting Director
Division of Security

SECRET

93367

SECRET

AFOAI-DA
Lt Col Hearn/st/5865
Wrtn 23 Nov 49

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORDPROBLEM:

1. To answer a letter from Division of Security, Atomic Energy Commission, requesting present evaluation of luminous aerial phenomena in the southwestern area of the United States.

FACTS & DISCUSSION:

2. Highly luminous "fireballs" usually greenish-white but sometimes orange-red in color have been observed over the past nine months in the air throughout the southwest. Specifically, such phenomena have been observed in the vicinity of Camp Hood, Texas, at Sandia Air Force Base, and at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

3. Analysis by various specialists has indicated that many of the incidents involving light phenomena were undoubtedly observations of natural phenomena. Particular attention was given to the "green fireball" variety by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Kaplan has concluded that the "green fireballs" are natural phenomena.

4. The D/I has tentatively accepted this conclusion, and with AFOAI R&R, dtd 1 Sep 49, "fireball" reports were forwarded to Director of Research and Development as a matter of possible interest in upper atmosphere research. Director of Research and Development was asked to furnish any information which may confirm or deny that this category of incidents are natural phenomena. To date no specific reply has been received.

5. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission requests D/I present evaluation of these phenomena in terms of any actual or potential hazard they may be considered to offer to AEC installations.

6. AEC has been informed in a letter that the investigative activities of USAF have divulged nothing that would indicate that the luminous aerial phenomena offers any actual or potential hazard to AEC installations. Further, that the D/I has tentatively accepted these incidents as natural phenomena and that AEC will be advised as to the final conclusion.

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Auth CS, USAF

AFOAI-DA

Lt Col Hearn/

st/5865

Wrtm 25 Nov 49

25 Nov 49

30 NOV 1949

AFOAI-DA

Mr. Francis Hamack, Acting Director
Division of Security
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hamack:

I have received your letter of 14 November 1949, concerning
luminous aerial phenomena.

The investigative activities of the Department of the Air Force
have revealed nothing that would indicate that the luminous aerial
phenomena observed in New Mexico and elsewhere in the southwest,
represent an actual or potential hazard to Atomic Energy Commission
installations.

An evaluation of the light phenomena incidents in the southwestern
area of the United States, particularly those described as "green fire-
balls", has been made by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, a member of the USAF Scien-
tific Advisory Board. From interrogations of observers in that area and
from inferences obtained in laboratory experiments, Dr. Kaplan has con-
cluded that natural phenomena were observed. The Directorate of
Intelligence has tentatively accepted these incidents as natural
phenomena.

"Fireball" reports are being considered by the Geophysical Sciences
Branch of the Directorate of Research and Development, HQ, USAF, as a
matter of possible interest in upper atmosphere research. If the findings
of that Branch substantiate the tentative conclusions, reports that fall
in the "fireball" category will no longer be considered in Directorate of
Intelligence investigative activity on unidentified aerial incidents.

The Atomic Energy Commission will be advised as to the final
conclusion concerning these phenomena.

REGISTERED

OIN 1201.

NO. 1176281...

Sincerely,

JOHN M. SCHWEITZER, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Executive
Directorate of Intelligence

SECRET

OFFICE SYMBOL	1. AFOAI	2. AFMDD	3. AFNN		
GRADE AND SURNAME OF COORDINATING OFFICERS	Col. Stirling	Col. Hoffman	Schweitzer		

SECRET

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

000-9 Hearn's file

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

NOV 30 1949

TO : Carroll L. Tyler, Manager, SFOO
 THRU: W. J. McElwreath, Acting Director, Security Division
 FROM : Sidney Newburger, Jr., Chief, Security Operations Branch
 SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

REFER TO
 SYMBOL: DO

A group of scientists and technicians from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory have become extremely interested in the observations of the aerial phenomena observed at various times in this vicinity, on which reports have been rendered periodically. This group is headed by Richard Taschek and is composed of the following additional personnel:

Homer T. Gittings, Jr.
 George A. Jarvis
 J. Fred Kalbach
 Stan H. Simmons
 Jud Nicholas
 Harold Agnew
 W. J. Masilun
 Howard Parsons
 Robert Potter

All of the foregoing have been appropriately cleared under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and therefore would have access to any and all information on this subject which might be developed by the National Military establishments, principally the U. S. Air Forces.

This group, working entirely independently and outside of their regularly assigned tasks with the Laboratory, will conduct observations from vantage points of this project through the use of equipment made available to them, such as personally owned cameras and home-made electronics instruments, augmented by additional equipment they might be able to obtain from the Laboratory, this latter type of equipment will consist mainly of Fastex movie camera. The operations of the group will be conducted in the evenings when they will set up various observation points and spend considerable time in observations and gathering of data. The first observations were conducted November 25 and have continued each night up to the present date. So far, several observations have already been made and data recorded.

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(4)

#15

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

-2-

TO : Carroll L. Tyler
 THRU: W. J. McElwrenth
 FROM : Sidney Newburger, Jr.
 SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

DATE: NOV 30 1949

REFER TO
 SYMBOL: DO

In the group are trained personnel who have an interest in Astronomy, Meteoritics, and Physics, and other natural phenomena. It will be their purpose to approach this problem from a scientific standpoint and attempt to prove or disprove the following two points:

- a. If the phenomena is of natural sources.
- b. If the phenomena is of man-made origin.

They hope to be able to establish either one or the other of the foregoing and then proceed to establish the why's and wherefor's of the phenomena.

It is believed that such people, working independently and utilizing their spare time, may obtain more satisfactory answers to the question which has been bothering the National Military Establishment for some time. Some of the personnel so engaged hold reserve commissions in either Army, Navy, or Air Force and we believe this will be of great benefit in this problem.

The Commanding Officer of the 17th District OSI, Kirtland Field Air Force Base, has been verbally advised of this situation, as well as the FBI, and a similar letter to this will be directed to the Commanding Officer of the 17th District OSI in order that he might inform his higher headquarters.

It is believed that within the next ten to fourteen days sufficient data will have been gathered that those people so engaged might be able to talk in an intelligent manner to Air Force personnel on this subject.

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(5)

Col. Conrad H. Lanza, Ret., a prominent military scholar, wrote an article for the U.S. Army *Field Artillery Journal*. He reported that his sources had informed him Russian deserters were saying their military had an atomic weapon proving ground in Ust Urt, a desert region between the Caspian and Aral Seas. Furthermore: "Planes known not to be Russian, but unidentified, have been frequently observed flying over the area at great heights. Russians have assumed that these are American planes on photographic reconnaissance, and probably based on either Iran or Arabia." (xx.)

(xx.) Lanza, Ret. Col. Conrad H. "Perimeters in Paragraphs." *Field Artillery Journal*. November/December 1949. Vol. 39 #6. p.269.

If the rumors of unidentified planes over Ust Urt had some substance, the "planes" in question may, or may not, have been "true UFOs of a mysterious kind." If they were, then it indicated someone, or something, was also interested in Russian nuclear activity like they were of American efforts. If the "planes" were planes, then they were most likely Americans spying on Moscow's atomic tests. That would still be of interest to us. One would think that if the U.S. aircraft were flying over Ust Urt on a regular basis, why wouldn't the Russians be trying to do the same in New Mexico and Texas. Granted, it's hard imagine where a Russian spy base could be located in the Western Hemisphere, but could that possibility be so easily ruled out. Why was the High Command taking so long to investigate?

8 December. On behalf of Howard Hughes, let me say we are not interested.

Some woman in New Jersey wired the Air Force on December 8, 1949 to pass along the news that RKO studios was not interested in making a film about flying saucers (I guess she felt the military needed to know -L.E. Gross). The message from the woman was faithfully copied in long hand by an Intelligence officer and made part of the military record. The woman had addressed a letter to the head of RKO, Howard Hughes, apparently suggesting that a flying saucer movie be made. She received a reply from Gordon E. Youngman, Vice President of RKO, who mentioned that another studio was already filming a flying saucer picture (No doubt he was referring to Mikel Conrad's saucer flick later released by Film Classics in 1950), so his studio had no plans to do the same.

There may be a chance the Air Force was concerned with the psychological effect Hollywood could have on it UFO investigations, therefore that was why the woman's information was kept on file. Mikel Conrad's movie never left much of an impression, but when RKO finally did come up with a script in 1951, *The Thing From Another World*, it turned out to be prototype creature-runs-amok feature. One film critic's favorite moment: "When the recovery team joins hands to figure out the shape of the spacecraft beneath the ice."

27 December. The power of the "airmen from Mars" idea.

If one wanted to cause a stir, the articles in *Argosy* and the *Saturday Evening Post* fell far short of matching Donald Keyhoe's visitors from space claim in *True* magazine. The press ate it up.

Flying Saucers Reported to Carry Observers From Another Planet in Visits Going On for Last 175 Years

Magazine True Declares Study Reveals Disks as Actual Airships of Inter-Planetary Explorers Who Are From Far-Advanced Civilization

10A Tues., Dec. 27, 1949
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

'DISCS' CALLED CRAFT OF ANOTHER PLANET

Former U.S. Official Says
Saucers From Elsewhere
Looking Earth Over

three identifiable types of aircraft. Hejho by a leading aircraft designer lists them as:

- Types
1. A small non-shaped aircraft of form of television mitter.
 2. A very large (diameter) metallic craft operating on principle.
 3. A dirigible craft.
- Keyhoe, who has experience in aviation

Flying Disks Interplanetary, Magazine Story Theorizes

New York, Dec. 26 (AP) — A monthly magazine says it called flying saucers, are used by visitors from other planet, but the Air says it does not support

Published by Fawcett Publications.

SAYS FLYING DISKS NOT OF OUR WORLD

studies of no support y come from said an Air ay. hat the sauc

Boston Post
Dec. 28, 1949

Reaction to Saucer Story Bewilders Radio Staff

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 29 (AP) — Personnel of radio station WRVA here were a little bewildered today at the reaction from distant points to a broadcast "of just another flying saucer story going the rounds."

A station spokesman said today the story, given on a noon news broadcast Tuesday, "was thoroughly and completely qualified as a huge joke," both at the beginning and end of the story.

The newscaster told his audience that along with the other flying saucer stories going around was one about a metal saucer being found with a dozen small people inside, all dead, and dressed in 16th century costumes. The metal, he related, would not heat, would not cut, and defied analysis. The newscaster did not say where the saucer was supposed to have landed.

The broadcast, or reports of it, brought telephone calls for more details to newspaper offices in Oakland, Calif., and New Haven, Conn. No calls have been received by the station here, however.

I-See by the Papers

By Dugan



alls Them Sent by Planet

c. 26 (AP) — A ys the so-called al and are used ther planet, but does not sup-

ies of "flying port to the view from another force spokes-

INQUIRY

g on the report re vehicles for on of the earth or planets. re contained in E. Keyhoe in True, published ons, Inc. Key-ormation chief branch, U. S. nt.

December. "Knock down a UFO by any means."

A curious statement:

"In December, 1949, Major Jere Boggs, AF Intelligence, publicly stated that in 1947 AF pilots had been ordered to down a UFO by any means for examination. He admitted one case of shooting at a UFO in New Jersey; this admission to the present Director of NICAP [Donald Keyhoe] was in the presence of Brig. General Sory Smith, Director of AF Information." (xx.)

(xx.) *UFO Investigator*. Vol. I, #8. June 1959. p.8.

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