

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1953 January-February

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.

Most of the information that make this supplement possible came from Robert Gribble, Murray Bott, George Fawcett, Les Treece-Sinclair, Barry Greenwood, Jan Aldrich, and the private papers of the late Dr. James McDonald. By sharing, all of UFOlogy benefits. There are going to be errors in this supplement, and others that follow, but there is much to cover and I am moving, as the Navy says, at "flank speed."

I would like to call the reader's attention to the section on the Robertson Panel. I believe I have finally made some sense out the confusion, but then, that's just my opinion.

—Loren E. Gross

New Years Day. 1953. Pasadena, California. (morning)

The Rose Parade. Saw more than she expected.

Esther Grass, a clerk that worked for the Chicago office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, traveled to Pasadena, California, to see the world-famous Rose Parade. It was a bright, cloudless New Year's morning—perfect weather for the event.

Aside from the parade, the one other thing making news in Southern California at the time was something of a UFO flap and Esther claims she was a witness to that too. It was the first time Esther had been in Pasadena, so she later couldn't recall the street location where she viewed the parade, but she remembered looking in the direction of two mountain peaks. During the parade, Esther noticed a strange object hanging motionless between the two peaks. The thing was not a plane or a blimp and appeared to be as solid as any conventional craft one usually sees in the skies. It was oval-shaped and silvery or pearly gray in color—like aluminum. Where the sun's rays hit it, it glittered. The thing remained stationary for five minutes. She was rather short and taller people in front of her were constantly moving their heads to watch the parade but she did see the object depart: "It started to make an upward sideways movement, and then it moved so fast it was out of sight in a matter of seconds." (xx.)

(xx.) NICAP UFO Report Form. Esther D. Grass. 5319 North Damen Ave., Chicago, IL.
Date of report: 11 August 62. CUFOS archives. Photocopy in author's files.

New Years Day. Wyndham, New Zealand. (daytime)

"Flying trees?" (See clipping) (xx.)

**'Flying Trees'
Seen
At Wyndham**

Not "flying saucers" but "flying trees" are reported to have been seen by two Gore residents who were at the Wyndham racecourse on New Year's Day. They are emphatic that the "trees" were no figment of the imagination.

While in the car park the men's attention was directed to the "trees" by others pointing toward the sky. To their amazement, they saw three

"trees" at an estimated height of 2000ft. Two of them were said to be six or eight feet long and about two feet across. The third was smaller. One of them, which was studied through field glasses, seemed to be a whole tree dragged out by the roots. At the time there was a light wind.

As the "trees" drifted, they began to fall gradually towards the ground less than a-quarter of a mile away and disappeared.

So certain were the men that they had not been deceived that they visited Wyndham again on Sunday to search for the spot where the "trees" appeared to have reached the ground. The search was without result.

The only explanation they can offer is that they saw a mirage.

(xx.) (No city), New Zealand. *The Southland Times*. 6 January 53. Unless otherwise designated, all New Zealand news clippings are from the files of Murray Bott.

3 January. Los Angeles, California. (between 10 and 11:00 p.m.)

"Looked the size of an orange."

Typed message in CUFOS files:

"Between 10 and 11 PM, a bright yellowish round light appeared from the south. It moved toward the observer—toward the north. (It grew larger as he watched until 'it looked about the size of an orange.') While under observation it vanished completely. It reappeared at a point very close to that of its disappearance. It now pursued a course toward the southeast—vanishing in that direction. This particular sighting was verified over the radio the following day when it was reported that several persons in the L.A. area had notified authorities. At a time shortly after—an object, similar in description, was reported over Palmdale." (xx.)

(xx.) Witness Nick Yellenti, Hollywood, California. (no street address) CUFOS archives. Photocopy in author's files.

Early January. UFO flap in the Holy Land.

"It looked like a flying house with smoke billowing from its windows." (See clipping on page 3) (xx.)

(xx.) (No city), New Zealand. *The Timaru Herald*. 8? January? 52.

6 January. Dallas, Texas.

"If I ever see him,
I'll apologize for
thinking he was
imagining things."

More details on the
Love Field case.

(See clipping) (xx.)

(xx.) Santa Fe, New Mexico.
New Mexican.
7 January 53. p.14.

Airport Traffic Man Believes In Saucers

By R. H. S. P. NEW MEXICAN 1-7-53
DALLAS, Texas (UP)—Wyle V. (Pop) Moore, who directs traffic at Love Field here, said today that he never again would laugh at people who say they saw a flying saucer.

Moore, in control tower at the Dallas airport for the last 14 years, watched a mysterious object glide across the heavens for more than an hour early Tuesday, 1-6-53.

Moore drew a sketch of the baffling phenomenon as he sat in the control tower. If words could not describe the thing, he hoped, at least, that the picture would help.

"It was fantastic," he said. "I only wish I had the vocabulary to describe what it actually looked like."

Moore said M. F. Fetchenback, another traffic controller, first noticed the object shortly after 1 a.m. Tuesday. "Come here, Pop," Fetchenback said. "Have you ever seen anything like this?"

Moore said Fetchenback pointed out the object high in the dark sky and northeast of the field. "I would estimate that it was about 50 miles away and about 2,000 feet high when we first saw it," Moore said.

Moore described the object as shaped like a triangle with "delta-type (swept-back) wings. He said the tip was green, the swept-back sides a brilliant white and the rear was jagged and had a less definite shape. He said the center was a brilliant circle of red with a white center that flashed on and off.

The veteran observer, in trying to estimate the speed, said "I'd say it was going from 100 to 600 or 700 miles per hour."

He said they watched it with the naked eye for four or five minutes as it hovered on a line running northeastward across the sky. "Then, it turned and started going straight up," Moore said, "and we started watching it with binoculars as it got further away."

Moore said they kept track of it with the glasses for a long time and that the saucer did all sorts of maneuvers. "It dived, ran sideways and went straight at various times," he added.

"I laughed at a fellow in South Texas who was one of the first to report that he had seen a flying saucer," Moore said. "If I ever see him, I'll apologize for thinking he was imagining things."

THE TIMARU HERALD

Date:

Flying Saucers of all Shapes and Sizes Invade Israel's Skies

(By Airmail)

JERUSALEM.

Although flying saucers of many shapes invaded the skies of the Holy Land during October, no one claims to have seen a Martian, or even a grounded machine. A physicist, police and army officers, officials of aviation companies and a journalist were among the people who witnessed the visits of the flying saucers over Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee and along the coast. Simultaneous reports about the saucers came on two successive evenings and there was one daylight "flight" in between reported from Safad, in Galilee.

Two men, one an army officer, walking towards a bus stop in a Jerusalem suburb, saw a broad band of very bright light overhead, travelling rapidly from east to west. "It was something like a rocket, but much faster and brighter," they said. Four seconds later the light faded and smoke could be seen against the low clouds. The light looked yellowish to the army officer, but bluish to his friend.

Mr A. Kabli, a Jerusalem physicist, reported that he saw, at the same time, in the centre of the city, "a brilliant object which zig-zagged above, lighting up the sky for a few seconds and then disappearing. It was not a meteor," he insisted. Another witness, in yet another part of the city, reported the same evening that he had seen a "circular object" flying at great speed from north to south at an altitude of about 300ft.

The previous night, a brilliant object, flying at great speed, was reported to the Jerusalem police. Witnesses described it as disc-shape, light brown

colour. Smoke was seen, escaping through two holes in the disc. One witness said that it looked "like a flying house floating above and smoke billowing from its windows."

From Bethlehem, came reports of a "flying saucer" shrouded in powerful blue light leaving behind a trail of smoke as it disappeared in a southerly direction towards the Judean Desert. On the coast, cigar-shaped objects were seen by a crowd leaving the local cinema in a suburb of Haifa. Mr Shimon Schwartz, a reporter on a local daily newspaper, said that the cigar was covered with red and blue light and flying in a northerly direction.

Further south on the coast, people in Tel Aviv bombarded newspaper offices with reports about flying cigars. One couple from a suburb near Tel Aviv reported: "We saw a queer lighted object appear in the east, flying westwards at great speed. As it came nearer, the light grew and we could see clearly two tails of fire emitted behind it, until it suddenly made a sharp turn north and disappeared." The following evening,

an official of the Israeli National Aviation Company El Al, Mr A. Holland, said that he saw "an ellipsoid-shaped object" which appeared on the horizon in the north and travelled at great speed, leaving behind a shining white band resembling the tail of a meteor.

That same evening, flying saucers were reported from Migdal Ashkalon, the ancient Philistine city of Ascalon, further south on the Mediterranean coast. A report about an egg-shaped object travelling rapidly and shrouded in powerful, clear light, came that same evening from Ellath, Israel's southernmost village, on the shores of the Red Sea.

A green "aura" surrounded a saucer which was seen by several witnesses at Tiberias, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. There, a crowd saw a round object shining with a blinding green light and flying at great speed from east to west. Witnesses said that it remained in sight for about 15 seconds.

The only daylight flight was reported residents, including an engineer, saw a from Safad, in Galilee, where several flying cigar.

6 January. Ngunguru, New Zealand. (9:30 p.m.)

"Flying porthole?" (See clipping)

9 January. Christchurch, New Zealand.
(about 9:00 p.m.)

Yellow/orange disc. (See clipping)

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SEEN

OBSERVATION WITH TELESCOPE

COMMENT BY WELLINGTON ASTRONOMER

What appeared to be an unidentified object in space, comparatively close to the earth and moving at great speed, was seen on Friday evening by two Christchurch residents and two reporters from "The Press." The director of the Carter Observatory in Wellington (Mr I. L. Thomsen) said last evening that taking all the evidence into account, there seemed to be no simple explanation of the object.

The observation was first made by Mr D. Langley, of Fendalton, when he was looking at Venus about 9 p.m. through a 3in astronomical telescope. He saw a dull disc of light, between yellow and orange in colour, travelling approximately vertically down the lens and curving slightly in a clockwise direction. When first seen the object, though not visible to the naked eye, was bright enough to be defined as almost circular in shape with a little flattening over about a third of its circumference. No tail was seen.

Mr Langley said that from the time it was first observed the object lost gradually in brightness and in speed. At first it moved across the lens so comparatively swiftly that the telescope had to be moved every 10 seconds or so to keep it in the field of view, but at 9:30 p.m. the object took about 15 seconds to move two-thirds of the way across the field. At no time was there any noticeable alteration in the object's course or colour.

Two reporters from "The Press" went to Mr Langley's home after a telephone message from his wife and observed the object for about a quarter of an hour, until it and Venus set behind trees. On Saturday evening the reporters returned to Mr Langley's home and the sky in the immediate neighbourhood of Venus was carefully scanned, without result.

That the object could always be seen in the same field as Venus suggests the possibility of the optical illusion known as a ghost image, which would simply mean that the image seen was Venus reflected from inner lens surfaces of the telescope. The differences in size, colour, and movement between the object and Venus could be accounted for by repeated reflections and absorption by the lens components. But the object could at any time be viewed separately from Venus, and it was observed by Mr Langley to cut the edge of Venus.

Mr Thomsen's Comment

It seemed that Mr Langley and "The Press" had taken considerable care with their observations, said Mr Thomsen. It was possible that if an experienced astronomer had been present some explanation of the object could have been given, but it was also "extremely possible" that an unrecorded astronomical object had been seen.

Some most eminent astronomers had observed astronomical objects for which no explanations could be given, Mr Thomsen said. This did not mean that these objects were "flying saucers."

Whatever was seen on Friday evening was certainly not a meteor, but that was all that could be said, Mr Thomsen continued. The impression gained by one of the reporters that the object was between a tenth and a third of the distance between the earth and Venus seemed a reasonable one, but no opinion as to the object's true course could be given without accurate measurements.

When the skies cleared an attempt would be made to "recover" the object from the Carter Observatory, Mr Thomsen said. Unless it could be found again its nature might never be known.

Christchurch,
New Zealand.

The Press.

12 January 53.

6 January. Paparua,
New Zealand.
(9:28 p.m.)

"Orange meteor." (See
clipping) (xx.)

(xx.) Christchurch,
New Zealand.
Christchurch
Star-Sun.

7 January 53.

"Meteors Don't Have Lighted Portholes" -That Object Again!

WHANGAREI, Friday (P.A.). Unless a meteor first appears as a lighted porthole, suddenly emits a burst of rocket-like flame, accelerates to a higher altitude, makes a U-turn and disappears over the horizon, then a flying saucer was seen over Ngunguru at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday night, says Mr H. L. Pomery, of Whangarei.

At approximately the same time other people saw the object from different parts of the country.

That night while moving down the Ngunguru River in a dinghy Mr Pomery and Mr L. Speight, of Auckland, saw the thing.

Mr Pomery was facing the stern of the boat when from the black sky over Kiripaka he saw what appeared to be a lighted porthole approaching rapidly.

"You know what a lighted porthole in a distant ship looks like at night? Well that is just what this thing looked like," Mr Pomery said.

There was no tail of flame or light when he first saw the object. It seemed to be fairly high and gaining altitude as it travelled towards the sea.

Then, as Mr Pomery watched, the object emitted a tremendous burst of flame. It was just like the flame from a rocket, he said.

As soon as the flame appeared the speed increased and it seemed to rise. Then it made a U-turn, the flame went out and, still looking like a lighted porthole, it disappeared over the horizon towards Hikurangi.

THE AUCKLAND STAR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1953

Three Men Report Flying Saucer Over Paparua

P.A. DARGAVILLE, To-day. A flying saucer was reported over Paparua at 9:28 last night by three local residents—two farmers and a journalist. The driver of the car in which they were seated drew the attention of his companions to the phenomenon moving across the north-east sky from left to right and not a great height above the horizon.

It was an exceedingly bright spherical object, orange in colour and moving at considerable speed. All three observers watched it for about ten seconds before it disappeared behind some trees in the immediate foreground.

The three agreed that the object was unlike anything they had ever seen moving across the sky at night.

Some weeks ago a farm employee claimed that when setting off at 5 p.m. for the milking shed an unusual object passed overhead, travelling from south to north.

The CIA Panel
Nature and origin
and/or
National security

Any student of the CIA's interest in the UFO problem has to be cognizant of the fact that the agency's mindset was divided into distinct parts and the blocking of one of them had great importance. When UFO researchers talk about the 1953 UFO panel, we hear a lot about "impaired-ment of communications," "psychological warfare," "false alerts," "and "the need to improve identification." Such things came under the heading of national security and were legitimate concerns within the CIA's mission which was to guard against the Russian threat. Early on, the CIA, like a good portion of the public, strongly suspected "something was going on" in the sky. Furthermore, the CIA felt the Air Force's "three officers and two secretaries" were not doing an adequate job of investigating UFOs. (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Memorandum. For: Director of Central Intelligence. Thru: Deputy Director (Intelligence) Subject: Flying Saucers. From: H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. Date: 11 September 52. Photocopy in author's files.

Besides national security implications, the CIA felt it was just as important to determine the nature and origin of UFOs. The CIA: "...found that the ATIC study is probably valid if the purpose is limited to a case by case explanation, however, the study makes no attempt to solve the more fundamental aspect of the problem which is to determine definitely the nature of the various phenomena which are causing these sightings." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.2.

The CIA recommended a study that would:

"(1.) Analyze and systematize the factors of information which form the fundamental problem.

"(2.) Determine the fields of fundamental science which must be investigated in order to reach an understanding of the phenomena involved; and

"(3.) Make recommendations for the initiation of appropriate research." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

A draft memo addressed to the National Security Council was prepared on December 2, 1952, for the CIA director's signature. The draft included this statement: "A broader, coordinated effort should be initiated to develop a firm scientific understanding of the several phenomena which apparently are involved in these reports." (xx.)

*(xx.) (Draft) Memorandum. To: The Executive Secretary, National Security Council. Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects (Flying Saucers) From: Walter B. Smith, Director. Photocopy in author's files.

This "broader, coordinated effort" would even include non-IAC departments and agencies!

The day before the IAC meeting (December 3rd) the CIA's Dr. Chadwell discussed the UFO problem with Drs. Julius Stratton, Max Millikan, Lloyd Berkner, and Jerrold Zacharias. Afterward Dr. Chadwell wrote:

"My conclusion from these conversations is that it will probably be necessary to secure the full backing of DCI [Director Central Intelligence] in order that a scientific review of this problem may be laid on. Without this backing, it would probably be impossible to secure the Air Force cooperation which would be necessary, particularly in the matter of availability of reports, etc.

"Attached hereto is a draft memorandum to the NSC and a simple draft NSC Directive establishing this matter as a priority project throughout the intelligence and defense research and development community." (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Document. Memorandum for the Record. Subject: Flying Saucers. H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. 3 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

Here is everything the Air Force would want if it was serious about the UFO problem—the help of the whole Intelligence and defense community on a priority basis! Most importantly there was no need to prove UFOs even existed. UFO reports existed and the events of the summer of 1952 proved the need for action.

When the IAC met on December 4th Dr. Chadwell, the CIA representative, acknowledged that, "...most of the evidence is processed by [the Air Force's] ATIC." (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Document. "Security Information." (Secret) IAC-M-90. 4 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

General Samford, chief of Air Force Intelligence who attended the IAC meeting, "...offered his full cooperation." (xx.) Up to here things looked good, however...

(xx.) Ibid.

The military people at the meeting wanted an "informal discussion" of the issue (details of which are not known) and afterwards the CIA backed off: "It was recognized that the problem is best approached if directly related to specific problems of intelligence and defense." (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Document. Memorandum for the Record. Subject: Flying Saucers. H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. 3 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

Did that mean the fundamental science approach was to be abandoned? A proposed letter was drawn up addressed to the Secretary of Defense Lovett (this meant going over the heads of the military people) that conceded the fact that, "...the instigation of fundamental scientific research is the primary responsibility of the Defense Department." (xx.)

(xx.) IAC Document. "Draft Cover Sheet." Unidentified Flying Objects. (Flying Saucers) James Q. Reber, Assistant Director, Intelligence Coordination. (no date) Photocopy in author's files.

After that admission, the CIA people stated their case:

"While it is recognized that the implications of Flying Saucers are of primary concern to the Defense Department in carrying out its responsibility to defend the United States, it is also believed that intelligence must request of appropriate authority such assistance as it needs to carry out its responsibility. It is believed that the scientific research required and the intelligence research contingent thereon can be most fruitful if they go hand in hand." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

The draft letter may never have been sent because it seems there was a compromise. The CIA was authorized to: "Enlist the services of selected scientists to review and appraise the available evidence in light of pertinent theories." (xx.) (It would turn out to be a "Galileo trial.")

(xx.) CIA Document. "Security Information." (Secret) IAC-M-90. 4 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

Dr. Lloyd Berkner, one of the scientists eventually selected to be a member of the CIA UFO review panel, had lunch with CIA's Marshall Chadwell on December 2nd and at the time said he: "...felt strongly that the saucer problem should be thoroughly investigated from a scientific point of view." (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Document. Memorandum for the Record. Subject: Flying Saucers. H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. 3 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

By mid-January 1953 Berkner's position on a scientific investigation would be a 180 degrees from his December 1952 statement. Something seems to have happened.

There was a hint that the Air Force might not be too happy with developments although where Berkner fits in is not clear. On December 9th CIA agent Frederick Durant noted:

"Captain Ruppelt stated that he had put in a request to come to Washington last week but that he had been 'running into a snag' in getting away and he intimated that his intention to specifically visit the CIA may have been the difficulty. By oblique references it was determined that Colonel Donald L. Bower (Chief, Analysis Division) was blocking his trip. Note: If this is true, it is difficult to understand since Colonel Bower, in discussions with E. Tauss and myself on 25 November, indicated complete willingness for cooperation. Ruppelt stated that he would try again and hoped to be in Washington next week. I gave no indication of the agreements reached on this subject in the IAC meeting on 4 December." (xx.)

(xx.) CIA Document. Memorandum for the Record. To: The Director of Central Intelligence. Thru: Deputy Director (Intelligence). Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects. From: H. Marshall Chadwell, Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. 10 December 52. Photocopy in author's files.

On December 22th BLUE BOOK chief E. J. Ruppelt phoned Maj. Verne Sadowski, liaison between the Air Defense Command and BLUE BOOK, to discuss a planned series of UFO briefings to ADC units. Ruppelt mentioned that the briefings would be delayed until after a scientific panel review of UFO data (Maj. Sadowski once bluntly asked Lt. Ruppelt if he was "withholding information," a curious accusation considering the Major's apparent need to know). How Ruppelt explains the panel's goals is interesting. It could be the nature and origin of UFOs was not Sadowski's concern, but it also might indicate a decision had been made by someone, or group, to block a scientific inquiry. Ruppelt said that the CIA's interest had to do with: "...reports of unidentified flying objects being used as psychological warfare and to add confusion in possible attack. They believe a system for rapidly sorting out false reports or reports of known objects and phenomena should be established..." (xx.) Where is any mention of interest in the nature and origin of UFOs?

(xx.) Message: To: CG Air Defense Command ENT AFB Colorado. From: CG ATIC E.J. Ruppelt. 23 December 52. Air Force BLUE BOOK files.

It has been suggested the CIA panel did not turn out well because there was hurt feelings after the CIA criticized the quality and scope of the Air Force's UFO investigations. It has also been said there was bad blood, detrimental to the review, due to a battle over jurisdiction, the agency intruding on the Air Defense Command's responsibilities. But another theory is that the Air Force was trying hard to restrict access to basic questions because it had something to hide. Evidence of that can be found in the Air Force's decades-long effort to deny there is anything of scientific value that can be found by studying reports and the insistence the problem is its sole responsibility. The later Condon investigation is a good example.

It wasn't only the CIA that suffered. Maj. Fournet, Dr. Hynek, and the Battelle organization, all of whom were involved in origin and nature studies, faced problems.

After that introduction, we can now discuss some new data about the CIA meeting.

One question that needs answering is: Who were the panel members really working for?

H.P. Robertson was a CIA man, that much was clearly stated in documents. What is not generally known is that Robertson, a World War II military advisor, had recently been briefed on Air Force plans to revitalize the country's air defense network. That seems to be the reason he was picked to chair the meeting.

Dr. Thornton Page was a scientific advisor for the U.S. Army and seems to have been a sort of "last minute pick" by Robertson to fill a chair.

As for the others, were they CIA men, Air Force men, or objective scientists selected at random? Robertson wrote to CIA chief Chadwell on January 20, 1953, and remarked: "I'm glad that the members of the panel, with the possible exception of Thornton, were not hand-picked by me—I really had no idea of the opinions of the others." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Marshall Chadwell. From: H.P. Robertson. 20 January 53.

Perhaps due to the fact Page was an "Army man" was the reason he was the more willing to talk about the panel deliberations later.

Dr. James McDonald interviewed Dr. Page in the 1960s and left us some notes. It seems the "nature and origin" questions were dead in the water from the get-go. Moreover, for some reason Robertson did not seem sure the Air Force was telling him everything. (See pages 11-13)

McDonald also said the following to a civilian UFOlogist: "I don't know what to make of Page. No knowledge of UFOs, frank in admitting the Robertson panel had its mind rather well made up in advance, and frank in admitting they really didn't do much case-checking. Said Robertson dominated all actions and decisions of the group." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Isabel. From: Dr. James McDonald. 17 February 68.

Air Force advisor J. Allen Hynek.

After the Summer of 1952 incidents, Dr. Hynek had written a proposal for the Air Force suggesting an inquiry that would include a "nature and origin" approach. Now that a "scientific review" panel had been selected, Hynek: "...went to Washington thinking (oh so naively) that perhaps what would come of it would be the announcement that there would be a serious full-fledged scientific investigation of unidentified flying objects." (xx.)

(xx.) Zeidman, Jennie. "Investigating UFOs—Lessons From a Teacher and Mentor." *Ohio UFO Notebook*. Number 21. 2000. p.3.

This was Hynek's impression of the deliberations:

"It would seem that the panel's attention was directed largely to a defense and security problem rather than to a scientific one. This could have been expected in a sense since the meeting had been called by and they had been instructed by the CIA." (xx.)

(xx.) Hynek, Dr. J. Allen. *The UFO Experience*. Henry Regnery Company: Chicago, IL, 1972. p.168.

As we have seen, the CIA wanted a full-fledged investigation but was blocked before the panel convened. Jennie Zeidman tells us: "The morning he [Hynek] returned he was depressed. I believe he realized at that point that he was NOT in the inner circle. 'They made me sit in the hall,' he said, 'They made me sit in the hall.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Jennie Zeidman. Web site message. [SHG] 1953 CIA Panel 1/17/02 9:44:27 A.M. PST.

Panel member S.A. Goudsmit.

Panel members were contacted in later years to see if they would like to answer questions about the "UFO jury." Goudsmit's reply was so severe it deserves direct reproduction. The reference to NICAP may well have been intended as an insult. (See page 14)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS

December 29, 1969

Mr. Richard H. Hall
8206 Fenway Road
Bethesda, Maryland, 20034

Dear Dick:

In a telephone conversation with Thornton Page today, concerning plans for the upcoming AAAS UFO Symposium, I brought the discussion around to the Robertson Panel. Evidently Page plans to discuss his UFO college course at the Boston meetings and to say nothing about the Robertson Panel deliberations. I was trying to persuade him that it would be of great historical interest to have him put on the record some inside views on that Panel.

Although I don't think I persuaded him to do that, he did elaborate on some of the remarks that he had made to me about two years ago at George Earley's place. One or two of the points have bearing on our continuing exchanges concerning coverup vs. foulup, so I'll send you these remarks on our conversation.

Page again conceded that they really didn't look at any of the cases very carefully. He recalled that they had a big stack of file folders, and they would take turns carrying home a few of them at night to study and would come back with their remarks the next day. He agreed that it was not at all a thorough analysis of the ins and outs of the cases, a point he had made at George's.

There were no witnesses brought in for any of the cases. He recalled that they spent a fair amount of time on the Tremonton movies, although mainly in the sense of disputing the Navy analyses. He also recalled that they talked a bit about the Washington National Airport sighting, and he was left with the impression that there was no correspondence between any of the radar and the visual sightings.

Page told me that, at the time, it all seemed quite ridiculous to him. He said that he was very much "anti-UFO" at that time (shades of Alvarez and Goudsmit, as well as Berkner!). At George's, he had mentioned that everybody on the Panel regarded the UFO problem as

Mr. Richard H. Hall
 December 29, 1969
 Page Two

mainly nonsense. He emphasized that there was a lot of briefing by the Air Force, but none of it was done in a scientific way.

A facet of the Panel's deliberations which came out in my 12/20/69 phone conversation that had not emerged over dinner at George's was the following: Robertson, who in Page's opinion was the one on that Panel most seriously concerned to get some "answers", was primarily concerned with cutting through any possible military secrecy that might be concealing advanced Air Force or other technological devices which the scientific community didn't yet know about. That is, Robertson was trying energetically to make sure that the Air Force was not holding back any classified data that the Panel should know about, in confidence. Page said that the end-item result of all of Robertson's querying, questioning, and checking on that score was negative, in the sense that there was no evidence of any advanced technologies under Air Force wraps that could explain any sightings of aerial objects.

I find that rather interesting. I can understand the spirit in which Robertson might have gone at that point, wanting to make sure that there wasn't an information-gap between the military and his group of scientists. And I can imagine that it might have consumed a fair amount of the cross-questioning of Air Force briefers, in order that Robertson could become satisfied that the Air Force wasn't holding anything back.

And, the net effect of that emphasis and the time spent in trying to clarify that point would be to play down detailed checking of case-materials themselves.

Page, of course, emphasized that they talked a good bit about the "hostility" question and were fully satisfied among themselves that there was no evidence of a foreign government's flying the things overhead. That finding is a matter of open record by this time, of course.

What one seems to have, then, is a panel of five rather outstanding scientists meeting for about four days and really concerned with settling the question of whether the UFOs could be advanced flying craft of either Russia or the United States. Their findings

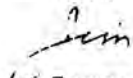
Mr. Richard H. Hall
December 29, 1969
Page Three

were negative on both scores. Relatively little serious attention was given to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and no truly independent checking of original case-materials, as I see the picture that emerges from Page's remarks.

Hence, this added insight into the inner workings of that Panel, plus what I already knew before, reinforces my own suspicions that there was no grand coverup engineered at that time, and that the Robertson Panel addressed itself to the question in such a way that they were most unlikely to develop any real critique of the extraterrestrial hypothesis. To me, that is of historical interest.

By the time you get this, the AAAS Symposium will be over, and perhaps I will have seen you there at Boston. I hope so.

Best regards,


James E. McDonald

JEM/msr

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

DEPARTMENT OF
PHYSICS

JUL 26 1967

25 February 1965

Mr. J. A. Hennessey
10 Manson Place
South Kensington
London, S.W. 7
England

Dear Mr. Hennessey:

I am sorry to disappoint you. I cannot give you any additional information about flying saucers because I have forgotten the details. According to your letter, you seem to have all the information you need.

In my opinion the subject is a complete waste of time and should be investigated by psychiatrists rather than physicists. Anyway, I have more interesting things to keep me busy.

May I know what the National Investigations Committee is? Is it similar to the organization founded by Professor Adamski in California?

Sincerely yours,

S. A. Goudsmit

S. A. Goudsmit

SAG:poh

Panel member Berkner.

Over a decade later Berkner hadn't changed either. (See letter)

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

POST OFFICE BOX 30365
DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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CABLES: GRADRESCEN

January 25, 1965

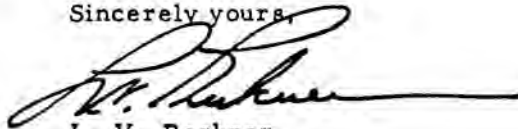
JUL 26 1967

Mr. J. A. Hennessey
10, Manson Place
South Kensington,
London, S. W. 7

Dear Mr. Hennessey:

In response to the question raised in your letter of January 12 may I reply that in the case of all so called unidentified objects brought to my attention to date there are none which cannot be explained as definable physical phenomena.

Sincerely yours,



L. V. Berkner
President

More on Berkner.

In 1967 McDonald managed to interview Berkner. In McDonald's files there are some hard-to-read notes on the interview in long hand. With McDonald and Berkner at the time was a "Frank S. Johnson," who is otherwise unidentified. The notes say:

"4/15/67 L.V. Berkner—Dallas.

"FS Johnson..[?].one hour with Berkner at his room in North Park Inn.

"Berkner seems to be pretty well convinced that UFOs are misinterpretations natural phenomena. Each time I'd bring up another case, he'd start out (almost with no comment about my remarks) with some new Menzelian phenomena (cottonwood seed floating and glistening in air, mirages)

"He said they [Robertson panel] looked at a lot of cases, but when I cited about what I found in [panel's] report (8 in detail +15 briefly) he did not disagree. He mentioned that 'Bob' (Robertson presumably) and Thornton Page had gone over more cases and they briefed the rest [of panel] on them. But how, as in all of the rest of Berkner's comments, I had feeling his recollections were very fuzzy. (Recall that he came on Friday, but he didn't remark one way or another to that.)

"We discussed radar sightings a good bit. Here again, it was clear that he was predisposed to explain all [unusual? unknown?] sightings in terms of met.[Meteorological?] effects or malfunctions. I cited such cases as Haneda AFB, Port Huron, Hamilton AFB, and Washington National, discussing a bit of detail in each. But he tended to gloss over each of them. Asked me no penetrating questions, made no following comments other than Menzelian. I don't think he knows a great deal about AP [anomalous propagation].

"He brought up the point that in WWII, they had a lot of trouble with unidentified (2,000 mph) moving blips on radars of aircraft on anti-sub patrol. Fran[k] asked him if ever had [compatible?] echoes on two sets at distance locations and he said yes. Were 200 MC (=1.5 meter), using a pair of [Yagi?] antennas. Said it caused a lot of concern, and was never adequately explained. But latter came out only as I pressed him on it. He was strangely predisposed to think it was some met.[?] effect. He gave a very poor explanation, talking first about how a [phase?] velocity of high speed can come from two intersecting 'waves' at small angle moving at modest speeds, etc., etc. Som [?] had them as shock waves, then spoke of 'warm and cold air masses,' but obvious that the thing had not been explained at all! I couldn't pin him down on this. But it is interesting that he was emphatic that they had very high speed targets repeatedly. He asserted that when they got microwave radar they didn't have it anymore. I pointed out AP is more, not less, of a problem at short...[? McDonald uses a symbol here λ_s] than at long...[same symbol λ_s], but he ignored this. (But note that back-scatter echoes from [given ?] index-[anomaly ?] [lump?] will tend to be more intense at short than at long...[same symbol λ_s])

"He claimed Robertson panel had two sessions, but when I pressed him, said he couldn't be expected to recall 14 years later. Wonder if it was the fall session in which the plan for Robertson panel was laid? He was vague.

"Said he'd just been contacted by USAF to get his permission to declassify

Robertson report. He said OK with him. Said when they met in 1953 were assured they'd not release the report.

"At one point he said you have to remember that 10% of people are 'drunk' and 13% have mental problems. Revealing. Frank gently corrected him that 10% sometimes in life have to get attention for mental problems [Where did these two men get these statistics? Was it from a briefing?]. When he first said it, it was 13% have hallucinations and I called him on that. Changed to 'mental problems.'

"Both he and Fran[k] earlier at lunch, made comments indicating that with Ed Condon in the saddle, things ought to get sorted out [This is a reference to University of Colorado UFO study that had Dr. Condon as its director]. I told Fran[k] in detail and Berkner more briefly, that Colorado U. [UFO study] is under-manned and Condon putting very little of [his] time in project. Fran[k] made a good point at lunch at North Park Inn that the very fact that Condon has let it be undermanned and left it to Bob Low is revealing. Suggests he's really prejudging the case [?McDonald probably means UFOs] as unimportant. I ...[said] this is good point and is compatible with some of Condon's scoffing statements.

"When Berkner [said] you have to be careful of what you think you see and proceeded to tell about a gull or some bird he saw in an Arctic whiteout and mistook it for a huge bird, because it was really only a few feet away and he mistook it for [a] much greater distance, I told him that reminded me of (Green-Clemete) sighting at NOTS and I told him about that. No reply from him.

"FSJ said Berkner does change his mind. He agreed at end of session, as we drove back to airport, that Berkner responded as if his mind all made up, but could change. I left AMJ and wildest reports with Berkner." (xx.)

(xx.) Papers of Dr. James McDonald, University of Arizona Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division. Robertson file.

Condon's view of the Robertson panel

With the mention of Ed Condon and his University of Colorado UFO study, one can't resist a comment that should make people wonder. For over a decade, authorities referred to the conclusions of the 1953 panel as proof there was nothing mysterious about the "nature and origin" of UFOs, but when pro-UFO civilian UFO researchers Coral Lorenzen and her husband were doing research for a book, they got an unexpected response from the famous physicist:

"Dr. Condon, cited elsewhere in this book, of the University of Colorado, has commented privately to the authors that the Robertson Report is meaningless since it is not based on any scientific study as such." (xx.)

(xx.) Lorenzen, Jim & Coral. *UFOs Over The Americas*. The New American Library, Inc.: New York, N.Y., 1968. p.225.

As researcher Richard Heiden tells us, such an opinion by Condon was not made publicly in the book which published the results of the Colorado study, so unless the Lorenzens were prevaricators, Condon had some explaining to do. Then again, that's what the critics were trying

to prove all along—the “nature and origin” questions were not really addressed.

This “nature and origin” subject might have a bearing on something Hynek said when he was interviewed by Jacques Vallee:

“ ‘In 1953 I was nothing, a negligible quantity for the Air Force [He was BLUE BOOK’s scientific advisor!],’ replied Hynek.

“ ‘[BLUE BOOK chief] Ruppelt regarded me with considerable misgivings, as a first-class bother. He didn’t like to have a scientist looking over his shoulder.’

“ ‘Yet he says some nice things about you in his book [Vallee here is referring to Ruppelt’s *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*].’

“ ‘That didn’t stop him from playing very close to the vest whenever I was around. He didn’t let me see his cards.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Vallee, Jacques. *Forbidden Science*. North Atlantic Books: Berkeley, California, p.1992. p.187.

Hynek, Dr. Page’s remarks.

On January 26, 1968, Dr. McDonald spent the evening discussing the UFO problem with Robertson panel member Thornton Page. McDonald wrote in his notes:

“I pointed out that I had previously reproached Hynek for failing to speak out before the Robertson Panel on the basis of his being the only scientist present with any appreciable knowledge of UFO matters at that time. Page, almost heatedly, interjected that they didn’t call Hynek into most of their sessions and that Hynek was, therefore, really not involved in any of their deliberations. He even went so far as to say that ‘Hynek was a nobody then.’

“He recalled the movies from somewhere out in the West (but did not properly identify them as the Tremonton movies). He was under the impression that they were briefed by Hynek on those movies. I reminded him of the names of the two people came from the Navy Photo Interpretation Lab, but they rang no bell with him.” (xx.)

(xx.) “Notes on January 26, 1968, conversations with Dr. Thornton Page, Harford.” Papers of Dr. James McDonald, University of Arizona Library, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Special Collections Division.

Page teaches “science.”

During that same evening Page discussed his UFO course at Wesleyan University. Dr. McDonald took these notes:

“It was evidently a science credit for students unable to handle regular science course. After looking over the quizzes and rough outline which he passed around, one of those present, Dr. David Morgan of Yale, asked the pertinent question: ‘Did the students actually get credit for this?’

"We asked him what books he used, and he mentioned Menzel's and Frank Edwards' and that was all. He was not aware of Hall's book [NICAP's *UFO Evidence*] and was not using it as a reference. I urged that he get that one immediately. From the nature of the questions and the type of reference listed, it appears to be primarily a watered-down course in astronomy, with a certain amount of attention to UFOs on a rather negative basis." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.2.

"Take me to your leader—well maybe not."

You read about Page and you have doubts about how competent those in charge really are. Its no wonder the public questions their decisions. Another case in point can be found in a report entitled: "A Summary of the Third Commanders' Conference, 13-16 January 1954," issued exactly a year after the CIA panel, by the Headquarters of the 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs (The 4602d was to take over field investigations of UFOs from BLUE BOOK). The author of an article in the report, Capt. Joseph A. Cybulski, wrote: "Now that the 4602d has entered the picture, we are assuming quite a serious role. The feeling is, both at Wright-Patterson and Washington, that we could be very instrumental in bringing this thing to a head once and for all." (xx.) After that boast, Capt. Cybulski had a lot to say about the many files at ATIC that were listed "insufficient information." The 4602d,

(xx.) Cybulski, Capt. Joseph. "How the Air Force Investigated UFQs." *International UFO Reporter*. Winter 1995. p.11.

it was supposed, was to remedy that difficulty. Well its one thing to get enough data, but you also have to get your facts straight or you will look like a fool. Cybulski wrote: "...there are cases, like that near Great Falls, Montana where a Warrant Officer shot 40 feet of film. After you blow it up and look at it, you see it's a formation of high-flying geese." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.30.

Frederick Durant interview in 2001.

Here are excerpts from an article in a Washington D.C. newspaper:

"According to Fred Durant, a retired Navy test pilot who was on assignment with the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence in 1952, the CIA queried the White House about any secret military activities that could be causing the UFO sightings. [President] Truman said he had no information on any such covert operations [In spite assurances from the President himself, Robertson was still pursuing the U.S. secret weapon idea right up to mid January. Apparently Robertson was convinced "something" was being seen].

"'No one seemed to have a handle on these UFO reports,' Durant, 85, says over the phone from his retirement home in Raleigh, N.C. 'The feeling was, if we don't find out what [UFOS] are, they may be something that the Russians could use

as a weapon against us. That may sound silly today, but nobody knew what these things were.” (xx.)

(xx.) Washington, D.C. *City Paper*. 14 December 2001. p.7.

Durant quotes panel member Luis Alvarez:

“The panel wasn’t much impressed by what the Air Force considered its most baffling sighting reports [The most baffling? See my UFO monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 January-February*, p.27-A]. Luis Alvarez (the panel’s radar and electronics expert) said, ‘These (ground controllers) chaps don’t know how to handle the equipment,’ recalls Durant [None were fired that I know of—L.E. Gross]. He threw up his hands after scanning half the reports, and said, ‘There’s no data. There’s no facts. These are all personal reactions of people with all sorts of backgrounds, and the great majority have no knowledge of science or technology.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Durant’s final word:

“Durant still adheres to the Robertson Panel’s findings. ‘After nearly 50 years I wouldn’t change a single bit of its conclusions,’ he says. ‘You can’t prove a negative. There’s no proof that some of these sightings were extraterrestrial visitors.

“‘But,’ he adds, ‘there’s no proof that they weren’t.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.8.

Battelle.

Jennie Zeidman has something to say about Battelle:

“As far as the Battelle staff was concerned, the UFO work was time-wasting busy-work which detracted from the real problem at hand: what was the Soviet Union’s technological warfare capability?

“Did ALL the Battelle UFO workers think this? NO. Art Westerman, very high up in the Battelle staff, told me in the late 80’s that with regard to the significance of UFOs, the top Battelle people were ‘concerned, very concerned.’ And that’s all he would say.” (xx.)

(xx.) Zeidman, Jennie. “Investigating UFOs—Lessons From a Teacher and Mentor.” *Ohio UFO Notebook*. Number 21. 2000. p.5.

By the late 1980s the Russian origin theory to explain UFOs was covered with cobwebs and dust so what Westerman’s remarks could mean is a matter of speculation.

A last word about Berkner.

Berkner comes across in McDonald's interview as ignorant and closed-minded. We would like to believe otherwise since the care of the nation is in hands of men like him. In 1957 (and maybe before that since I have not researched it—L.E. Gross) Berkner was a member of the Presidents' Scientific Advisory Committee, which is probably highest position a scientist can hope to achieve in this country.

9 January. Wellington, New Zealand. (9:00 p.m.)

Disc of yellow and orange. (See clipping)

13 January. Winslow, Arizona. (daytime?)

Jet interceptor or what?

According to a press account:

"A Winslow contractor, Angel Gomez and his two sons, Angel Jr., and Frank, are the latest to be added to the list of those who have seen 'flying saucers' or some other unexplained object in the sky.

"Gomez says he and the two sons were working on the Jack Kaufman ranch January 13 when they spotted the 'thing.'

"He said a big six-engined airplane [a SAC B-36?] passed just to the south of the ranch and that while he and his sons were looking at it, they saw a round thing, shining like a star, some 20,000 or 30,000 feet above the plane.

"After a few seconds it moved fast in the direction of the plane and stopped again. Then it flew with a circular motion and after a half minute it moved again in the direction of the big plane. We saw it move four or five times and each time it stopped it looked like it was 'watching' the big plane,' Gomez related.

"It was like nothing we had even seen before, round and very bright. After we lost sight of it we saw another one later, just above us but just as high as the other,' he continued." (xx.)

(xx.) Flagstaff, Arizona. *Daily Sun*. 10? February 53.

14 January. Otago, New Zealand. (11:30 p.m.)

"In the sky." (See clipping) (xx.)

(xx.) Otago, New Zealand.
Otago Daily Times.
15 January 53.



Observatory To 'Sweep' Sky For Object

When the clouds clear, the Carter Observatory in Wellington will "sweep" the heavens about Venus in an attempt to sight an unidentified object observed in space on Friday night by Mr D. Langley, of Fendalton. Mr Langley was looking at Venus through a 3in astronomical telescope about 9 p.m. when a dull circular disc of light, yellow and orange in colour, appeared in his lens. He followed it for some time until it and Venus set behind trees.

Mr Langley believes the object was not a "ghost" image of Venus itself because it could be viewed separately from Venus and once it cut the edge of Venus.

Commenting that there seemed no simple explanation of the object, the director of the Carter Observatory (Mr I. L. Thomsen) said last night that the observatory would try to "recover" the object when conditions permitted. The object, he said, was certainly not a meteor. Unless it could be found again, its nature might never be known.

In The Sky

A blue object with a reddish gold rim around it was seen in the sky by a High street resident about 11.30 last night. It was moving towards the south-west at about 500 miles an hour on a level plane when it suddenly seemed to shoot upwards and disappear. It was visible for nearly 10 seconds, and was the size of a half-crown held at arm's length.

18 January. Near Monroe, Louisiana. (night)

"Flying Barber pole?"

A news story says:

"The flying barber-pole was added to night to the saga of the flying saucers. Ten motorists reported they stopped to watch a strange object in the sky near Monroe Sunday night.

"The object was described as a 'flying peppermint stick,' and as 'cigar-shaped' and flying 'about 100 feet off the ground. It disappeared suddenly, leaving a vapor trail.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Monroe, La., Jan. 19—(INS)

20 January. Gore, New Zealand. (3:30 a.m.)

Orange "meteor?"

The Southland Times printed:

"A luminous orange object was seen by a Gore resident passing over the town about 3:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Describing it to a reporter of *The Southland Times*, the resident, who is a baker, said it was about the size of a football. The object, traveling at the speed of a fast aeroplane, appeared from the west. It appeared to be travelling in the direction of Clinton, but suddenly, when over the town, turned north and was quickly out of sight. The resident did not have time to call a fellow worker.

"I am certain it was not a meteor," he remarked. "I have seen them before. In any case, a meteor does not turn sharply in another direction like this object.'" (xx.)

(xx.) ?, New Zealand. *The Southland Times*. 23 January

21 January. Galveston, Texas. (night)

"Luminous yellow, green and red-colored thing hovers over Galveston." (See clipping)

21 January. Regina area, Saskatchewan, Canada.

"Appear to indicate some unknown objects are landing and taking off."

Author Palmiro Campagna wrote:

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

**'LUMINOUS' OBJECT
REPORTED HOVERING
OVER GALVESTON**

1953

GALVESTON, Tex., Jan. 22
(UP)—A "fiery" object, variously described as "luminous yellow, green and red," hovered over Galveston Island last night and hundreds of residents rushed into the streets, blocking downtown traffic, to see it.

Observers said the bright object first appeared over Galveston bay, then moved slowly until it was directly over the city.

Paul Morina, a compress worker, called radio station KLUF with the news and a bulletin was put on the air, asking persons who saw the object to call. "Literally hundreds" of calls were received, the station said.

Downtown streets were blocked by persons who ran out of office buildings to gaze at the object, which appeared at sunset.

Mrs. Lloyd Marion said she thought she could see "something moving in or out of the thing." Other persons described it as a glowing, luminous yellow, bright green and red.

"The Regina area was rife with such reports, prompting a letter from the controller at the Department of Transport to the Aviation Forecast Office in Regina, dated January 21, 1953. The letter noted that reports submitted by the Forecast Office had been substantiated by other witnesses: 'These reports would appear to indicate that some unknown objects are landing and taking off and that the activities seem to be concentrated in the Regina-Moose Jaw general area.'

"The letter went on to state that all weather observers in Regina give special attention to the reporting of any sightings and that airport control officers and others working outdoors to likewise. The matter was to be treated as confidential, with no newspaper involvement. All pilots operating through Regina, as well as the weather observers working for Canadian Pacific Airlines, were to be apprised of the situation." (xx.)

(xx.) Campagna, Palmiro. *The UFO Files, The Canadian Connection Exposed*. Soddart: Toronto, Buffalo, 1997. p.82.

23 January. Northern Honshu, Japan.

"Supersonic lights are Russian?."

Comment from Washington. (See clipping)

"Almost as if they were standing still."

Comment from American pilots. (See clipping)

AIR FORCE UNCONVINCED

Has No Evidence Lights Over Japan Were Soviet Missiles

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (UPI)—The Air Force described as "pure conjecture" today published reports that supersonic lights spotted over Japan by United States airmen were caused by Russian guided missile experiments in Korea and Manchuria.

A spokesman said there was nothing in preliminary reports to indicate that the "flying saucers" were any different from those reported from time to time in the last six years over the United States.

Pilots Insist Flying Objects Over Japan Not an Illusion

By A. E. CULLISON

Staff Correspondent (UPI) News Service

TOKYO, Jan. 23 (Friday).—(final days of December they saw "mysterious flying objects with rotating clusters of red, white and green lights."

GREAT SPEED.

American pilots insisted Thursday, despite official poo-pooos that they saw mysterious objects flying over northern Japan so fast that they passed American jet fighters "almost as if they were standing still."

American Air Force intelligence officers, investigating the reports, said a number of American bomber and jet fighter pilots reported that during the

The strange flying objects were reported "flying faster than the swiftest American jets."

The pilots insisted the strange sightings were "definitely not an illusion" and pointed out they were picked up and tracked on Air Force radar plotting boards.

REFLECTIONS.

The Air Force, however, attempted to write off the reports. At Far East Air Force headquarters, it was pointed out that sometimes electrical phenomenon will appear on radar screens almost as a solid object and move at excessive speeds when tracked on the plotting board. The famous Aleutian naval "Battle of the Pips" was recalled. In that battle, American warships plotted moving objects by radar and fired a heavy bombardment. Later investigation indicated the radar pips were reflections of some atmospheric phenomenon.

San Francisco,
California.

Examiner.

23 January 53.

27 January. Pozo del Molle, Argentina.

"Invaders from Mars." (See clipping) .

27 January. Waipu, New Zealand. 9:25 p.m.)

Traveled on an oval course. (See clipping)

28 January. Terryville, Long Island, New York.

Major Geyer's visit.

The sighting in this case is of little importance. If true, the Major's visit is of more interest:

"...on the evening of Jan. 28th, about 9:35, I saw "mine." Nothing can ever equal that experience for me. I do not believe that anyone who has ever seen a UFO can ever forget it, and I doubt if they would ever be convinced they had merely seen some natural phenomena.

"I knew I shouldn't, and was not, in spite of the very subtle and convincing arguments given me by one of the most charming and attentive men I have ever met—a Major Geyer, of Mitchel Field [New York], who came galumping out in his car armed with the same sheaf of papers you [Donald Keyhoe] reproduce in the back [The appendix of Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* has reproductions of the Air Force's UFO report forms], to query me.

"As sightings go, I feel mine was very tame in view of the aerial sightings you have listed, so shall not bother you with it unless you have any reason for wanting details.

"Major Geyer told me on the phone before he came out that mine was one of seven reports on the same saucer. He said they did not bother with reports from children or obvious odd fish [cranks], and that they did not pay attention as a rule to a single unconfirmed sighting. He told me that two noncoms from Mitchel Field saw the same UFO, and reported, also several others, including an astronomer in Lake Renkenkeme out here, who, said the Major, told him that it 'definitely was NOT a meteor.' I have not made any study of meteors but I have seen them and so say I.

"Major Geyer came out, and most properly refused me details [of other sightings] until I had completed the questionnaire. Then he told me of the Mitchel Field sighting (he had not visited the astronomer yet), and said emphatically, 'What you saw was a meteor.' He then went into about 15 minutes of what I recognized as a well rehearsed statement, explaining why people who saw UFOs often claimed they turned or changed directions, that, he said, was because the meteor would bust open or apart and one piece



'Saucer' Seen Over Waipu

Two Auckland men have reported to the police that they saw a flying saucer over Waipu at 9.25 p.m. on Tuesday.

The men were Mr J. J. C. Campman, 26, serial top-dresser, of Onehunga, and Mr H. G. Buswell, also an aerial top-dresser, of Grey Lynn.

According to their report to the police, they were driving through Waipu towards Auckland on Tuesday night in a truck.

They saw the phenomenon in the sky for 10 minutes, timed by an Air Force clock.

It appeared to them like a very large street lamp travelling on an oval course.

In the distance it showed a reddish light, but as it came over their truck it showed a white light, with lights flashing on and off around its circumference.

They estimated its height at from 15deg. to 20deg., but they could not give any indication of its distance or speed.

It travelled mostly in the sky south-west of Waipu and, after 10 minutes, disappeared over the horizon in a south-westerly direction, still moving in a slight curve.

Mr Buswell told the police that, up to that time, he had been sceptical of reports of flying saucers.

He was sceptical no longer.

be hurled off at an angle) and so on and on. He succeeded in making me feel a little silly. I am something of a shy person anyway until I get to thinking things over then I get mad.

"We broke out the Christmas Whiskey, and gave him (and ourselves) some drinks. After several the Major mellowed perceptively. I give him credit—he never once backed down on his prepared statement—but he said some things that gave both of us the conviction that he had other ideas in his own mind. It was a most illuminating experience...

"Major Geyer assured me they had hundreds of reports a week, most of which they paid no attention to as either known aircraft were responsible, or they came from 'unreliable' people...and he said it was the policy of reassuring the public only (that swell big hearted Air Force!) that made them go to all this trouble. He advanced the inversion theory and a few others. In short, he did all he could to convince me I was all wrong. He didn't." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: Donald Keyhoe. Henry Holt and Company, 383 Madison Ave., New York 17, N.Y. From: Mrs. Dmitry Essipoff, (no street address) Terryville, L.I., New York. Date: 17 December 53.

29 January. Conway, South Carolina.

The Lloyd Booth shooting incident. (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953: January-February*, pp.69-70,75,77,90.)

Dr. James McDonald interviews Mr. Booth. (See pages 26-28)

Booth in the old-fashioned country store. Photographs by Ervine Melton of *The State*, South Carolina's largest newspaper. (See page 29)

30 January. Near Flagstaff, Arizona. (9:00 a.m.)

According to the local paper:

"Robert Bishop, area Boy Scout executive, today was still wondering whether there was any connection between what he saw Friday night and a radio broadcast that said a jet airplane at Long Beach, Cal., had taken up the chase of a flying saucer but was out-raced.

"Driving from Flagstaff about 9 a.m. Bishop said he perceived a brilliant white light in the sky as traveled on highway 89-A toward his home in Sedona. The light appeared to be coming straight toward him. At the observation point at the top of Oak Creek Canyon Bishop stopped his automobile to observe the phenomena closer. As it came to the rim, the elliptical white light seemed to break into two pieces, one trailing off toward Camp Verde and the other heading towards Jerome.

"Bishop drove home and told his wife of the of the sight. She then told of the California jet plane taking off after what was presumed to be a flying saucer.

"Bishop was willing to stand on the Boy Scout oath of reliability and truthfulness in recalling the incident." (xx.)

October 9, 1967

Miss Isabel Davis
NICAP
1536 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20036

Dear Isabel:

Today I contacted Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, South Carolina, and interviewed him concerning his January 29, 1953, observations. I'll put a concise summary down in this letter, for filing along with the CSI press information which you had copied for me last week.

Briefly, in about thirty minutes of telephone conversation with him at his store in the Poplar community (in between customers whom he had to wait on while I held the telephone), I obtained confirmation on all of the details that were reported in the account you gave me. It appears that the reporting was much better than average in that particular account.

Because of the general accuracy of the story in the *State*, it will be simpler to merely point out a few features and implications that were corrected by my interview. I had presumed that the animal-poisoning episode was what led him to go outside, gun in hand. He said that was not the case, that it was merely the fact that the mule was acting up so and making so much noise out in the barn that he thought some animal must be around disturbing it. He did not go out with the poisoning in mind. Secondly, he pointed out that, though there was never any clear explanation of the large number of animal-poisoning cases at that time, a veterinarian who examined two cows came up with a verdict of arsenic-poisoning. Booth said that the hog-poisoning was not taking place right around his area, but about twelve miles north.

The press account indicates that only a single shot was fired, but Booth told me that he shot twice and heard the impact (metallic ping) of both shots. It was a Harrison & Richards 0.22 revolver.

He emphasized that much of the roughly twenty to thirty minutes of observation was consumed in his efforts to run

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around from one side to another and fore and aft, looking for any markings or identifications. He saw none, and realized from his World War II antiaircraft experience that all aircraft, including experimental aircraft, must carry identification marks. When he saw none, he decided to shoot at it to "see what it was made of." I asked him if he thought that was very dangerous, and he said that he thought the pistol was so low-powered a thing that he couldn't do much damage to it. He said that, almost as soon as he shot, the object tilted up at an estimated 60-degree angle and sped off at a great speed, faster than any jet, disappearing from sight without changing course in a time duration which he roughly estimated as 10 to 15 seconds at the most. No one at his home heard the shots. By that time, it was about twelve o'clock midnight. He had left the store at 11 p.m., had driven home, and was waiting for a pot of coffee to heat up when he heard the mule making the noise.

He said he reported it to the Air Force at Myrtle Beach. An Army Intelligence man came, not a USAF man. He said the man interviewed him very carefully, but never came back, and he never heard again from any military authorities. He answered my question concerning prior or subsequent sightings by remarking that he had never seen anything like it before or since. He said he is still curious about it and asked me to let him know if I ever find out what the cause of it was!

The description of the object that he gave matched quite closely what appeared in the press accounts. It was oblong and had a glass-like cockpit in front, through which he could see only lights, no operators or structural or instrumentation details. He described the "glass" on the back end as "smoky," and could see nothing through it. At no time did any light shine down on the ground. The object was just above tree-top height in a grove of trees that he estimates to be 70 to 80 ft tall.

The bottom protuberance (extending about 6 or 7 ft below the otherwise flat base) was what he shot at, as stated in the paper. Only sound was a hum like a motor, which rose in volume but not in pitch as the object took off.

I asked him for available references, and began by mentioning Reverend Jones. Booth said Jones has now gone to Alaska. He gave me the names of two persons in his community who could speak for his reputation. I shall not, at the moment, check them, but may at some later time.

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Booth's account was given to me in a seemingly quite straightforward manner, no evident embarrassments or visible dramatization. He sounded like a person of limited education but of entirely honest manner. An interesting case, all. Thanks for telling me of it.

Best regards,

James E. McDonald

JEM/msr

(xx.)

Says He Observed and Shot 'Flying Saucer'



Lloyd C. Booth, Horry County storekeeper who says he observed a "flying saucer" for 20 minutes the night of January 29 and watched it zoom away after he shot it with his .22 pistol is shown here in his old-fashioned country store eight miles north of Conway. With him around the stove in the picture are, left to right, Bruce Martin, Sherwood Mishoe, J. C. Lilly (boy on floor), Mr. Booth, L. J. Hardee (standing) and J. A. Hardwick. He is telling the group about a feature of the strange phenomenon he says he observed by the light of a full moon at midnight after disturbed animals had attracted his attention and he went outside to investigate. A closeup of Mr. Booth is shown in the lower picture. Both pictures were snapped by The State's photographer yesterday. (Photos by Ervine Melton).



be hurled off at an angle) and so on and on. He succeeded in making me feel a little silly. I am something of a shy person anyway until I get to thinking things over then I get mad.

"We broke out the Christmas Whiskey, and gave him (and ourselves) some drinks. After several the Major mellowed perceptively. I give him credit—he never once backed down on his prepared statement—but he said some things that gave both of us the conviction that he had other ideas in his own mind. It was a most illuminating experience...

"Major Geyer assured me they had hundreds of reports a week, most of which they paid no attention to as either known aircraft were responsible, or they came from 'unreliable' people...and he said it was the policy of reassuring the public only (that swell big hearted Air Force!) that made them go to all this trouble. He advanced the inversion theory and a few others. In short, he did all he could to convince me I was all wrong. He didn't." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To:Donald Keyhoe. Henry Holt and Company, 383 Madison Ave., New York 17, N.Y. From: Mrs. Dmitry Essipoff, (no street address) Terryville, L.I., New York. Date: 17 December 53.

29 January. Conway, South Carolina.

The Lloyd Booth shooting incident. (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953: January-February*, pp.69-70,75,77,90.)

Dr. James McDonald interviews Mr. Booth. (See pages 26-28)

Booth in the old-fashioned country store. Photographs by Ervine Melton of *The State*, South Carolina's largest newspaper. (See page 29)

30 January. Near Flagstaff, Arizona. (9:00 a.m.)

According to the local paper:

"Robert Bishop, area Boy Scout executive, today was still wondering whether there was any connection between what he saw Friday night and a radio broadcast that said a jet airplane at Long Beach, Cal., had taken up the chase of a flying saucer but was out-raced.

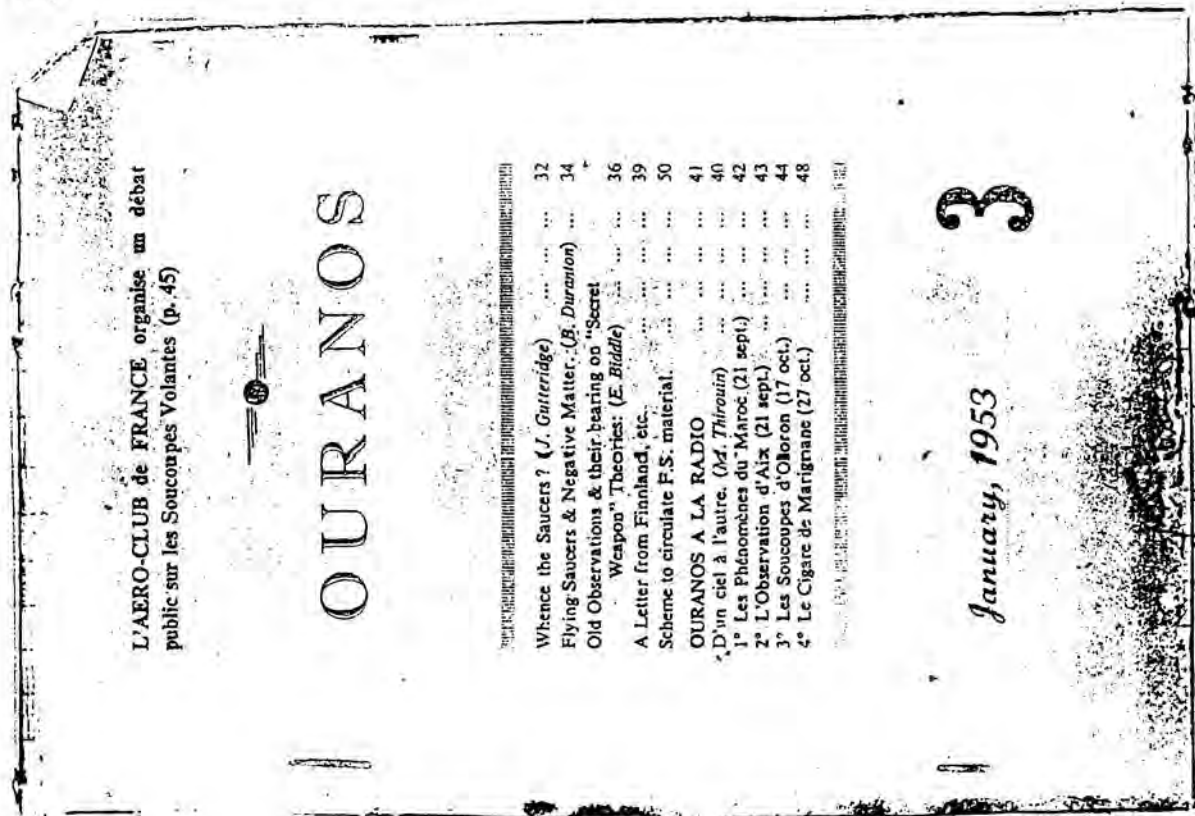
"Driving from Flagstaff about 9 a.m. Bishop said he perceived a brilliant white light in the sky as traveled on highway 89-A toward his home in Sedona. The light appeared to be coming straight toward him. At the observation point at the top of Oak Creek Canyon Bishop stopped his automobile to observe the phenomena closer. As it came to the rim, the elliptical white light seemed to break into two pieces, one trailing off toward Camp Verde and the other heading towards Jerome.

"Bishop drove home and told his wife of the of the sight. She then told of the California jet plane taking off after what was presumed to be a flying saucer.

"Bishop was willing to stand on the Boy Scout oath of reliability and truthfulness in recalling the incident." (xx.)

(xx.) Flagstaff, Arizona. *Daily Sun*. 2 February 53.

Ouranos organization. (See my monograph *UFOs: A History 1953 January-February*, pp.74-75.)



1-7? February. New Milford, Connecticut. (no time)

"Flying pancake." Circled him for 25 to 30 seconds:

"The 'flying saucer's second cousin, the 'flying pancake' created a multi-colored sensation in New Milford today.

"A mechanic who vowed he is 'not a drinking man,' told how he was visited by a six-eyed, slow-moving 'something from out of this world' last week while on the job in the boiler room of the Nestle Co. factory. Alfred Anderson, 61, said the flying what-was-it circled around him for 25 to 30 seconds and frightened him into immobility. The mechanic told INS he was afraid to tell of the incident because people would 'say I am crazy.'

"Anderson described the 'flying pancake' as about six inches in diameter and about an inch thick and said it circled until it suddenly disappeared in a 'blinding flash.' The former Norwegian sailor, who has been employed at the plant for ten years, shook his head and said he could offer no explanation for the 'phenomenon.' Neither could scientists." (xx.)

(xx.) New Milford, Feb. 13 (INS)

4 February. Yuma, Arizona. (1:50 p.m. MST)

First person account of Stanley Brown's experience.

This is a slightly different version of the famous event:

"The location, Yuma County Airport, February 4, 1953, time 1350 M.S.T. I was using a theodolite to follow a pilot balloon, which was at 6,000 feet Mean Sea Level. I took my eyes away from the eye piece for a few seconds, returned my eye to the eye piece, and the balloon was out of the field. The readings were 53 degrees elevation, and direction from me 157 degrees, time 1350 M.S.T. I then saw one object going upward, and curving to the West. I had a clear sky background, and although it moved through the field rapidly was able to see it clearly, and follow the flight. About 20 seconds after sighting the first object a second object came into the field, and swooped upward and across the path of the first object. The first object flew toward the West, while the second object swooped across or near the path of the first object three to four times, going out of the field about two times for a moment. The two objects passed near the lower portion of the sun, and were traveling westward, the second object below and behind the first object, when a Cirrus cloud came into the theodolite field, I lost sight of the two objects. The exact position at that time, elevation angle 29.1 degrees, and direction from the instrument 204.1 degrees. The time 1355 M.S.T. after having followed the two objects through the 32-power theodolite for a period of 5 minutes with a clear sky background.

"The objects were both the same size, as nearly as I can figure, one minute of arc in size. The objects were almost round, a solid, dull, pure white color, with a thin white mist completely edging each object.

"I am a Meteorological Aid employed with the United Weather Bureau, having followed balloons through a theodolite for the past ten years. I also hold a private pilots license, and having flown in military and civilian aircraft frequently in the past ten years.

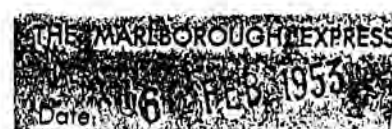
"I am absolutely certain of what I have seen through the theodolite as described in the foregoing paragraphs.

/S/ Stanley H. Brown." (xx.)

(xx.) Statement found in Dr. James McDonald files.

5 February. Near Blenheim, New Zealand. (9:10 p.m.)

9 o'clock "visitor" was an orange sphere. (See clipping)



NINE O'CLOCK "VISITOR"

UNUSUAL OBJECT IN SKY

SEEN FOR THREE MINUTES

"Flying saucers" and allied phenomena have been on vacation for the past few weeks, as far as Blenheim has been concerned, but last night there was something in the sky to the north-west of the Wairau Plain which might indicate a renewal of activity.

At 9.10 p.m. a more or less spherical object, of an orange colour, was seen from High Street over the hills in the direction of Picton. It was kept in view for three minutes, and in that time it moved, relatively slowly to the observer, above the hills at something like the same altitude, and disappeared in the west at a point in the proximity of Mt. Richmond.

The sky was clear and at no time during the three minutes was the object lost to view. There was no variation in the strength of the light for the first minute or so, but it seemed to lose strength as it moved around to the west. A faint glow seemed to follow the main head of light.

A meteor, it is considered would have travelled the same distance in a fraction of the time taken by last night's "visitor."

To the observer the object seemed to roll along above the hills in a somewhat leisurely fashion.

For the information of the sceptical the observer rules out shooting stars, meteors, planets, aircraft, hallucinations and anything savouring of things seen after "one over the eight."

7 February. ?, Korea. (no time)

Radar/visual of an orange "thing."

A brief note states: "An F-94 pilot sighted a bright orange object both visually and on radar. It changed altitude and then accelerated away from the jet airplane at high speed." (xx.)

(xx.) *The UFO Evidence*. ed.: Richard Hall. Privately published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington D.C., 1964. p.21.

13 February. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (6:30 p.m.)

"Look, Daddy, Look!" Newspaper reporter & family sees something

Mark Garner, who wrote a daily column titled, "Driftwood," for *The Myrtle Beach Sun*, told his readers about an experience his family had on the 13th:

"The Garners, all four of us have now joined the rapidly growing association of saucer sighters.

"We saw one of the confounded things whirling through space over Myrtle Beach.

"Last Friday night, the 13th naturally, we were returning home and had just pulled the car into the driveway and turned the switch. Immediately daughter Jeanne, six, began yelling excitedly, 'Look, daddy, look!' On previous occasions we've responded to such summons with utmost speed only to find a black cat strolling across the lawn or a bird sitting on the clothesline. So we ignored the plea until son Craig, four, joined in with the same call.

"They both pointed skyward and sure enough, there it was, an object like nothing we've ever seen before, seemingly round with a brilliant light visible in front of a grayish or silver oval. To our eyes the object appeared to roll slightly causing the light to have a blinking effect. My wife, who ran through the yard to a better vantage point, saw the same silvery outline but the light appeared constant.

"When first seen, the light appeared as a falling star. It's path, however, was momentarily level. Then it swooped down in a huge arc, climbed slightly and leveled off, disappearing from our vision behind nearby houses and trees.

"To the four of us it seemed to be traveling from northeast to southwest, and its distance from us can only be pure speculation. At its closest point it appeared to be approximately a mile northwest of our house on 25th Avenue.

"I glanced at my watch. It was exactly 6:20 p.m.

"We heard no sound above the noise of cars on the nearby highway. There were no vapor trails, though at twilight these would be hard to distinguish. A few stars were beginning to appear, though the sky was still relatively light from the last rays of the setting sun. But the lighted object outshone stars by far and was sufficiently bright to attract our attention. It traveled with the approximate speed of a fast plane as it swooped low and leveled off. We saw it probably no more than 15 seconds but the four of us certainly got more than a glimpse of the strange object.

"Jeanne sticks to her story that it looked like 'a silver ball' somebody threw up in the sky." (xx.)

(xx.) Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. *The Myrtle Beach Sun*. 20 February 53.

13 February. Marion, South Carolina. (6:30/9:30 p.m.)

Flurry of "Saucer" reports puzzle coastal South Carolina residents:

"Mysterious flying lights, sighted three times within 15 days in coastal Carolina skies, had Marion residents puzzled today.

"They were the last witnesses to see the lights as they hovered strangely overhead last night.

"Were the lights real, or just an optical illusion? Were they natural phenomena, meteors streaking through the sky or vapor trails of highflying aircraft? And was there a logical, connected pattern to the three incidents?

"Many in this rich tobacco growing country were inclined to dismiss them without too much thought when the first report of their sighting was made in neighboring Horry County. But the Marine Corps reported at Cherry Point N.C., Wednesday that one of its jet planes had chased—and then lost—a redlighted object flying at an astonishing speed. That made people compare stories. And then last night the lights popped up here.

"At least six Marion residents saw the lights during a three-hour period. They were Horace W. Hennecy, a line foreman for the Marion Electric Coop; Grady Lewis, John Lewis Sr., his son, John Lewis Jr., a newspaper correspondent; Elwyn Paige and Mrs. Bobbie Smith, a housewife.

"Mrs. Smith was the first to report seeing the object—whatever it is—last night [Feb. 13th]. She said she saw what she thought was an airplane or a meteor heading northward about 6:30 p.m. She reported the incident because, she said, it made her think that a plane was crashing in the area. She was riding in a car at the time and said the object had a bright white light on it.

"About the same time newspapers received reports that a meteor had been sighted by an Air Force plane near Wilmington, N.C., about 100 miles east of Marion." (xx.)

(xx.) Marion, S.C. Feb. 14 (UP).

Diamond-shaped craft? Hovered over a house?

The news story continued:

"But sometime later, Hennecy, the electric co-op foreman, heard that a plane or meteor had fallen near the co-op's substation so he, accompanied by Grady Lewis, went to check the area to see if any of the REA's property had been damaged.

"Hennecy gave this account:

"While he and Lewis were driving through the area, they saw an object at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. They lost it. But later, when on the Mullins Highway, they saw the object hovering over a house near the highway. They drove about two miles and got directly under it.

"The object, when first sighted, was distinguished by a bright yellow light [a "headlight?"] but when they got under it the light went out and they then saw a group

of at least 12 red, green and yellow lights arranged in a diamond shape. After they were under it, the object began to move, first slowly and then with a burst of speed. It disappeared in the northeast after they had chased it along the highway at 70 miles an hour.

"John O. Lewis Jr., the newspaper correspondent, said he, his father and Paige had seen the lights about 9:30 p.m. near the spot where Hennecy and Mrs. Smith had reported seeing them. Hennecy discounted the Lewis' belief that the object was a blimp or a jet plane because, he said, it cruised too slowly at times and then too fast." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

14 February. Loris, South Carolina. (night)

Dog barked and horse brayed. Get the dynamite!

According to a story in the Loris *Sentinel*, Lloyd Booth wasn't the only one claiming a close encounter. An original clipping isn't handy but Coral Lorenzen tells the story in her UFO publication the *APRO Bulletin*:

"On February 14th, Arthur Marlowe of rte. 4, Loris, South Carolina was awakened by dog-barking and horse braying. From his window he said, he saw so much light he thought his barn was on fire. Outside he said he saw light from an object 70 feet above the ground. This is what he reported:

"Three cylindrical beams of light were coming from the object, so bright he said he could read fine print 100 yards from the 'thing.' He had his gun and started to shoot the object. The Loris *Sentinel* reports: 'He decided not to, hoping that it might settle to the ground. If it did land he planned to get some dynamite out of his barn, slip up to it and perhaps damage the object so that he could have some proof of what he saw.

" 'The object was about as long as a boxcar and was oval-shaped, he said, and he watched it for 25 minutes, then it moved gradually to the west, the noise getting louder and louder.'

"Marlowe said he found one of his hogs dead on the spot over which the object had hovered 14 hours earlier. He said the sow was lying down with her legs folded underneath so that at first he thought she was resting or asleep. There was no sign of a struggle, the sow's nose was pushed slightly into the dirt and pieces of the rye from the pasture were in her mouth. He said the sow had apparently been in good health up to that time.

"Marlowe also said that another man had lost a horse two days earlier without signs of a death struggle, with grass in it's mouth." (xx.)

(xx.) *APRO Bulletin*. Vol. I, Issue No. V. March 15, 1953. p.5.

\$1,000 reward.

Coral Lorenzen also included this in the *APRO Bulletin*:

"The Columbia *State* daily carried the following news item underneath the story of Marlowe and Booth's reports of sightings of flying discs:

"A \$1,000 reward for the capture of a flying saucer 'undamaged' and 'intact' was proposed in the General Assembly yesterday.

"Rep. Buck of Horry and others introduced a resolution to pay the reward. Members of the General Assembly would not be eligible for it.

"In a preamble, the resolution said:

"Citizens have been aroused and plagued by the presence of a certain ghost-like and unconventional type of aircraft commonly known as a flying saucer, which has been sneakily hovering over this state. Many individuals have claimed to have seen and in some instances, have been attacked by these monstrosities and have described them minutely and have elaborated on their design in detail. The vast majority of the citizens of this state have doubted the authenticity of the presence of these monsters over the state. The General Assembly desires to remove all doubts and inconsistencies relating to this unusual aircraft." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

15 February. St. Matthews, South Carolina. (9:00-10:15 p.m.)

Peculiar light/object?

The CAA offered no explanation for "what-it-was" that was moving about in the sky over St. Matthews:

"A St. Matthews policeman said that Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Owings came into the police station Sunday and reported an object that looked like a street lamp, only much brighter, in the sky north of the town.

"The Owings said the object looked as if it were 10 or 15 miles away and about 2,000 feet high. They said it would drop rapidly and then rise up again just as rapidly and then hover for awhile.

"It kept moving slowly southward until it disappeared. About a half hour later it reappeared in the same place they first saw it. They told Policeman Troy Crider they had reported it to Shaw Air Force Base, where authorities said they would investigate.

"It was the third time the Owings had seen their 'saucer.' On one occasion a week before they followed it in their automobile for ten miles. They said they seemed to be gaining when the object slowed down and dived toward them. They turned around and left.

"Officer Crider said a number of people gathered around the police station and watched the object appear and disappear over a period of several hours.

"The object appeared to be a bright white light, which now and then would turn reddish. Hugh Robinson and Policeman John Wactor were among those who saw it. They said it dove and moved faster than a plane.

"Officer Crider said the object would remain motionless for about ten minutes and then drop a 1,000 feet in a second and then climb back very slowly. While climbing it seemed to move around. The light was too bright to see the

shape or tell whether it had an exhaust.

"The St. Matthews object was sighted about 9 o'clock Sunday night and stayed in view until about 10:15, then dropped behind the skyline and appeared again farther south and kept moving slowly until it disappeared." (xx.)

(xx.) Columbus, South Carolina. *The State*. 17 February 53.

15 February. Marion, South Carolina. (night)

The thing returns. Hennecy sees it again.

According to *The State*:

"The Marion objects also showed up Sunday night. Marion has been plagued with the peculiar lights for several nights. Heyward Taylor of Fork sighted one in the sky near his store. Several persons who had seen an object in the sky Friday night went in search of Mr. Taylor's 'saucer' and found that this time it appeared to have been a star, but while they were checking it 'Bud' Hennecy, following in his own car on the Zion highway, sighted a moving object in the direction of Latta and turned around to try to get closer.

"Mr. Hennecy said by the time he got back to Marion the object had moved over the A.C.L. tracks and was moving west over the railroad. He went toward Laughlin and stopped at the road intersection where he watched the object about an hour. He was accompanied by his son, Bobby, and 'Hop' Owens who verified his statements.

"Mr. Hennecy radioed [Like many vehicles used to repair public utilities the truck evidently had a radio] back for John O. Lewis Jr., who had gone to Fork. Mr. Lewis had been accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. George Macon, who returned to their car to go home and on the way back for Mrs. Lewis, but by the time they returned the object had disappeared.

"The Marion object was described as a bright light with red lights underneath and is believed to be the same object Mr. Hennecy saw Friday night." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

15 February. The CAA Navy blimp explanation. (See clipping)

16 February. Columbia, South Carolina. (about 6:00 p.m.)

"Look, there's another moon."

The State reported further:

CAA Man Says Booth Saw Navy Blimp

STATE 2-16-53
WILMINGTON, N. C., Feb. 15 (AP) — If anyone doubts the word of Horry County farmer Lloyd Booth when he says he saw strange lights in a strange object in the sky last Jan. 29, they can quit questioning, says C. W. Hall.

Hall, an employee at the Civil Aeronautics Administration, control tower at Blumenthal Field here, says he's positive Booth saw just what he says he saw but just didn't know what it was.

Booth said he left his house that night when he heard his mules braying, chickens cackling and ducks quacking. It was about 11:15 p. m., he said, and he took a .22 pistol along.

By the light of a full moon he saw a strange object hovering above the tops of nearby pine trees.

Booth said the overall streamlined effect was something like half an egg cut from end to end.

"I heard a bullet hit the object. It made a metallic sound and just bounced off. I fired again but did not hear the bullet hit. A bare instant later, the object began making considerably more noise and took off at a high rate of speed at about a 65 degree angle. It kept that same course until it was completely out of sight."

Hall chuckles when he thinks about Booth shooting at the "object."

"There's no question in my mind but that Booth saw a Navy blimp. I came on duty that night at midnight and about 2 a. m. saw two blimps northbound from Glynn Co. Ga., to Weeksville, N. C. A third was about 30 minutes behind them. That would make the time just about right for Booth to have seen one about 11:15 p. m.

"The Columbia object sighted last night was the only one with a definite shape. Frederick Foster of 3008 Duncan St. said a neighbor, C.B. Mullis, and his three boys, aged 12, 10 and 8, were picking up pecans in the back yard about 6 o'clock.

" 'We were commenting on the new moon when the youngest boy said, 'Look, there's another moon.' We looked and saw what looked like a small moon due south, traveling very fast and several miles away.'

"Mr. Foster said the round object headed due north and when it appeared to be over Eau Claire or beyond veered northwest, flew through a cloud and then dwindled in the distance.

"About the same time an unidentified Cayce boy called in the same information.

"A few minutes later Hirma Mosley of 815 'L' Ave., Cayce, called in another report, saying the object was triangular [Co-op foreman Hennecy reported lights arranged in a 'diamond shape' back on the 13th] and about a half mile off the ground.

" 'It came straight at us and looked like it had a headlight.' Also watching from Cayce were Harold Shull and Franklin Rogers. They said it made no noise and left no trail." (xx.)

(xx.) Columbia, South Carolina. *The State*. 17 February 53.

16 February. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (10:00 p.m.)

"Orange full moon."

The newspaper *The State* published:

"The most recent local sighting of the weird glow was on Monday night when three men followed a low-flying light from the outskirts of Myrtle Beach to Socastee.

"E.B. Bellamy and son Junior Bellamy, employed at Crystal Ice Company, gave this account of the incident. At approximately 10 p.m. Monday night the two left the ice plant by car for their home on the Socastee road near the airport. As they approached the old Myrtle Beach dairy property they both glimpsed a bright light in the sky, just to the right of the highway. It seemed to be suspended above the trees, less than a quarter mile from the road, and moved westward, the direction they were headed. As it drifted they easily kept pace while doing 40 miles an hour. It was so low that trees intermittently hid it from view. No shape was visible but the light, resembling an 'orange full moon,' appeared to be on the top side of some surface.

"Intent upon getting a better view, Mr. Bellamy instructed his son to continue down the highway past their house. At the home of Cecil Patrick they turned off the highway and stopped before the Patrick house. They aroused Mr. and Mrs. Patrick who came out in the yard to see the light floating westward. Mr. Patrick got in the Bellamy car and the three men then followed the light, keeping slightly behind it all the while, until they got to Socastee. They lost sight of the object as it continued a straight path westward and became hidden by a forest.

"Mr. Bellamy, a well-known native of this section and formerly employed at the Myrtle Beach Air Base for five years, stated emphatically the light was no plane or blimp. And the others agreed that, though they could not identify the object, it was no known type of aircraft. Altogether they watched it for nearly 30 minutes, they

reported." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

16 February. Anchorage, Alaska. (11:30 p.m.)

Mysterious red flying light hovers for five minutes?.

According to BLUE BOOK chief E.J. Ruppelt:

"On February 16, 1953, at 11:30 p.m., a pilot and an instructor in a C-47 over Turnagain Arm—a bay near Anchorage, Alaska—saw a red light that they judged to be a jet aircraft, five miles away. But as they watched it, it got bigger and brighter, as if headed toward them. Unable to see any green navigation light, they asked the tower at Elmendorf AFB if any other craft were in the area. The tower said there was none, and then made a radar check, with negative results. The object was first seen low and definitely below the horizon. The C-47 was flying at 2,000 feet. The object continued to close on the C-47, increasing in brilliance and size until it was two or three times the original size. Then it seemed to stop and hang suspended for five minutes. The pilots, still thinking it might be another aircraft, headed toward Elmendorf, where the tower asked them if they still could see the light. It was still visible, and the tower asked them to try to intercept it. As the C-47 took up the chase, the light appeared to accelerate and shortly vanished." (xx.)

(xx.) Ruppelt, Edward J. "What the Air Force Has Found Out About Flying Saucers." Incident No.7. *True Magazine*. May 1954.

17 February. Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. (about 8:00 p.m.)

The red light returns?

Ruppelt continues:

"The following night, about 8 p.m., five Air Police on patrol spotted the same—or another—red light near the end of one of the Elmendorf runways. But comparing it with known lights at the base, they judged it to be similar to a 36-inch light seen from 3/8 mile away. It was in a gradual climb, at about jet speed, heading for Anchorage. The Air Police called the tower. It had nothing on radar, but ordered up a jet to intercept. As the jet became airborne, the object showed a noticeable increase in speed, and when the jet came around to get on an intercept course, the light climbed vertically into the overcast at 5,500 feet.

"The Air Police did not know of the original sighting when they made their report. A careful check showed no balloons in the area. Stars and planets were eliminated because the first night the object was below the horizon, and the second night there was a solid overcast. If it had been a conventional craft, the radar should have picked it up. If it had been a stray balloon that wandered in from some distance, on the first night the C-47 should easily have closed on it and passed it. On the second

night, its sudden vertical rise disposed of the drifting balloon theory.” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

? February. Near Thule Greenland. (no time)

Orange-colored object over icy wastelands.

Robert Ripley, a factory radar representative who regularly flew on WV-2 Super Constellation airborne radar picket planes, told the press that:

“...he and more than a dozen other persons, in February 1953, saw a strange, orange-colored object floating over the icy wastelands during a flight out of Thule.

“ ‘I know there isn’t any human habitation out there in those ice fields, but we all saw that strange light and followed it for some time before it disappeared, he said.’ ” (xx.)

(xx.) Los Angeles, California. *News*. 3 November 54

18 February. Black Creek, Wisconsin. (between 9:00 & 10:00 p.m.)

According to a report in the *APRO Bulletin*:

“Otto Papke and F.E. Lindgren of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, told of seeing odd lights standing motionless in the sky near Black Creek. Papke and Lindgren were driving to Sturgeon Bay on highway 54 just west of Black Creek when Lindgren noticed the lights in the sky. Papke, who then looked at the lights, described them as being ‘a bank of lights which resembled radio beacons. They were red, green, and white, but they couldn’t recall exact number—5 or 6. Kept constantly blinking, two at a time, had round shape, were very bright. Condition of sky and weather: Very clear, starry sky and no wind. Made no noise, hovered without any motion. Time: between 9 and 10 p.m. Said Papke: ‘I’m very familiar with planes and balloons but this was unlike anything I had ever seen. We had it in sight for five minutes, passed directly under while we drove along highway at 60 mph., heading east.’ ” (xx.)

(xx.) *APRO Bulletin*. Volume I, Issue V. March 15, 1953. p.11.

* 23 February. Sado Island, Japan (Sado lies off shore west of the city of Niigata) (8:55-9:05 p.m.)

Six Japanese Coastguardsmen observe “saucer.”

According to news dispatches:

“...members of the Hajikizaki Lighthouse on Sado Island spotted this strange phenomena around 8:55 p.m...The flying saucer was elliptical in shape, flat, and

slightly larger at one end. Its luminosity approximated that of a 60-watt bulb seen at the distance of about 500 meters. It at first appeared red in the center and emitted a blue glow. It later turned completely red, losing its brilliance. At 9:05 the disc vanished, reappearing for about two minutes and then dimming out. No noise was heard; as high clouds existed at the time, it could not have been caused by a meteor.” (xx.)

(xx.) Tokyo, Feb. 25 (KYODO) A much briefer story was carried by Reuters.

25 February. Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. (7:30-8:30 p.m.)

Brilliantly-lit “egg” —stands on end. Where did it come from?

Note in APRO files:

“Patricia Neuville, 14, freshman in high school, saw an object in the field of a neighbor which she reported to the Director of APRO. She was home alone on the night of February 25th, and while sitting in the living room, happened to glance out outside about 7:30 p.m. and saw what appeared to be a fire burning in the field about two blocks from her house.

“She went into her bedroom which was dark, in order to get a better view, and said that the object was clearer from there. It did not appear like a fire, for there were no flames, just more or less an egg-shaped object standing on end. During the time she watched it, it ‘went out’ twice. She did not watch it constantly, but had it under observation from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m., watching it most of the time.

“Patricia said, after being asked about it, that she did notice that the second time it went out, there was a car going by. She said she noticed it because she thought it odd that the car didn’t stop. Describing the thing ‘going out,’ she said it just diminished in size and brilliance, was out between 5 and 10 seconds, then started glowing again, growing in size until it was the original size and intensity. It did not move at all—no wobbling at all despite a high ground wind. The thing was on or close to the ground and silhouetted against the trees of an orchard. Patricia says she honestly cannot say whether a car was going by when the light first went out because she didn’t notice since she was too startled by the light,” (xx.)

(xx.) APRO files. “USA Sturgeon Bay, Wis. 53-2-25.” Photocopy in author’s files. This report can also be found in the *APRO bulletin*. The *Bulletin* mentions some additional details. See below.

• Additional details:

“The thing would have been hidden from approaching cars by two very large advertising signs, until they became even with it. N.D. [APRO investigator?] went down, paced off the distance, found no tracks, no melted snow, and no burned debris or ashes. What was it? Incidentally, the Neuville family does not believe in the supernatural, flying saucers, etc., and only reported it because Patricia’s science teacher told her to report it to someone who deals in those things.” (xx.)

(xx.) *APRO Bulletin*. Volume I, Issue V. March 15, 1953. p.12.

? February. St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. (12:35 a.m.?)

Harbor, city, base, lit up.

The witness does not recall the exact day it happened but other details remained in his memory about what he called an "unusual aerial phenomena":

"During the period of July 1951 to June 1955, I was a 1st Lt. in the USAF; stationed at Hqs. Northeast Air Command; Peppermill AFB, Newfoundland. Shortly after midnight—while driving toward the city of St. John with a companion—and at a point about five to seven miles from town—we stopped the car to observe and wonder about a most unusual light which seemed to be suspended over the distant city—at a height of about 1,500 feet? It was huge, bright white, and appeared to blanket the harbor, city, and base in the diffused light. No movement, nor definite outlines, were apparent.

"We continued toward town, watching it as we traveled. However, we could not keep it in view constantly because of terrain features; and, after losing sight of it temporarily, it was abruptly gone. It had been there for a period of about five minutes or less. The weather was clear. It did not seem to be reflected city lights, nor anything of an explainable nature. It was somehow 'different' and awesome.

"The next morning, I reported this incident to AF Intelligence officers. However, they then called in my companion for an interview which was apparently intended to confirm my story. They offered no explanation, and I have none." (xx.)

(xx.) Letter: To: APRO. From: Theodore N. Wells, RR#2, Box 277K, Crown Point, Indiana. Date: 21 October 67. APRO files. Photocopy in author's Files.

25 February. Rock Hill, South Carolina. (night)

"Buddy, did you see what I saw?"

A press report states:

"Another mysterious flying object has been seen in York County, fertile field for saucer sightings recently.

"Taxicab driver Frank Cox, on his way to pick up a fare at a tavern near here last night, said he slammed on the brakes when he saw 'a rocket-looking thing, some-like a torpedo.'

"It had six or eight windows, was about five feet long, trailed a blue flame and traveled faster than a jet plane, Cox related.

"He said a car and a truck also stopped as the object whizzed by a height of

about 75 feet. The truck driver walked back to the taxi and inquired, 'Buddy, did you see what I saw?' Cox continued, 'and I was so scared I couldn't say a word.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Rock Hill, Feb. 26 (AP)

26? February. Near Alamogordo, New Mexico. (night)

Why would these guys tell stories?

A press account says:

"Two officers of a scientific instrument company reported sighting an unidentified disc-shaped object ringed with colored spots near Alamogordo, N.M.

"T.B. Holliday, president of Land-Air, Inc., which handles instrumentation at Holoman Air Development Center, and John Proctor, vice president of the firm, issued a prepared statement last night describing the phenomena.

" 'The night was clear and the object stood out against the star-lit sky as a brilliant orange-yellow disc, appearing to rotate slowly.'

"The statement described the colored spots around the rim.

" 'There was no indication that it (the object) formed part of an airplane or other object as there was no silhouette of such configuration against the sky.'

"Proctor said the light moved from west to east at an upward angle of about 10 degrees for about 2 1/2 minutes, then shot upward and disappeared within four seconds.

" 'It was of appreciable size. It's velocity when last seen must greatly have exceeded the maximum velocity of a V-2 rocket,' the statement concluded." (xx.)

(xx.) El Paso Feb. 26? (AP)

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