

The Official Guide To UFOs

(Compiled by the Editors of Science and Mechanics)

Contents:

Book Cover ([Front](#)) ([Back](#))

[Scan / Edit Notes](#)

- 1 - [UFO: Theories Of Flight](#)
- 2 - [The Mysterious 12](#)
- 3 - [The Scientist And The UFO](#)
- 4 - [Ithaca's Terrifying Flying Saucer Epidemic!](#)
- 5 - [What Happened At Wanaque, N.J.?](#)
- 6 - [UFOs In History And Myth](#)
- 7 - [Complete Directory Of UFOs](#)



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INCLUDING:

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- *The Scientist and the UFO*
- *UFOs in History and Myth*

PLUS

- An Illustrated Directory of UFO Sightings — taken directly from "Project Blue Book"—U.S. Air Force

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The most unusual sightings in a decade.

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Scan / Edit Notes

The book paper was fairly spotted and yellow so there may be a few more than the usual errors. It has been cleaned up; though some OCR errors may have gotten past me. Quite an interesting little book despite some of the spelling errors and difficulty to scan (the words were too close to the edge). A later release (v 1.5) will be posted in the future.

Versions available and duly posted:

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Format: v1.0 (PDB - open format)

Format: v1.0 (HTML)

Format: v1.0 (PDF - no security)

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## 1 - UFO: Theories Of Flight

There are two extraordinary theoretical concepts that could explain the amazing speed and maneuverability of "flying saucers."

Gordon Evans

You have only to read or hear a few flying saucer reports to realize that aerodynamically something very interesting is involved. In both speed and maneuverability the UFO is remarkable. If it is a machine - and I think it is - it is surely a terrific one. It represents a level of scientific development far beyond anything dreamed by terrestrial science.

This can best be demonstrated by quoting a few instances. When, for example, UFOs first came to public attention in the late 1940s, their superior performance was immediately apparent. The report of Kenneth Arnold, the Washington state businessman who saw, if not the first flying saucer in history, certainly the first one in which the world took an interest, illustrates the point.

On June 24, 1947, Arnold was flying his private plane near the Cascade Mountains. To his astonishment, he observed a string of nine disc-shaped objects weaving in and out of the peaks. He estimated their speed at 1700 miles per hour. Four days after the famous Arnold sighting, four Air Force officers from Maxwell Air Force Base at Montgomery, Ala., noticed a bright light moving in the sky. Its performance was decidedly unusual. It zigzagged and suddenly accelerated to a high speed. At one point, it made a 90° turn and disappeared.

Both the very high speeds of the UFOs, and their ability to maneuver in terms incomprehensible to conventional engineering, have been heavily documented. They have been reported to fly at 9000 miles per hour and more. Accelerations to very high speeds and decelerations from very high speeds to very low speeds or zero have been recorded. The right angle turn in flight at a high velocity is a typical feature of UFO reports. They have been observed by hundreds, if not thousands or tens of thousands, of people.

A physicist knows that these stories "cannot be true." To him such velocities, and especially such maneuvers, are patently impossible. They violate, in an oft-used phrase, "the fundamental laws of nature." He would put it like this: "A solid object moving through the atmosphere strikes molecules of air, water vapor, and particles of dust. In doing so, friction, and hence heat, is produced. At very high speeds heat increases rapidly. If it is going fast enough, the solid object will burn up. This is why, in our very fast jets, cooling systems are necessary; it is why meteors, traveling at very high speeds, incandesce and usually disintegrate when they enter the atmosphere. They are literally burned up by friction."

The conventional physicist continues along these lines: "Now, these so-called UFOs are frequently reported at speeds of thousands of miles per hour. If so, they would certainly be destroyed by heat." So much for velocity. The unimaginative scientist would then clinch his point on the matter of maneuver: "These so-called objects are said to put on almost instantaneous bursts of speed ranging up to several thousand miles per hour and to stop dead after going just as fast. They are said to make right-angle

turns without any observable reduction of speed. The laws of inertia tell us that all of this is simply impossible.

What happens when you take a fast turn in your auto, or the airplane you are flying in suddenly banks? You are thrown sideways in your seat. Similarly, if you stop your auto too quickly or push down the accelerator, you are either thrown forward in your seat or forced back against it. Now multiply these effects many times. The pilots of a so-called UFO would certainly be mashed to a pulp by the maneuvers reported for their alleged craft.

They would be squashed against the inside of the vehicle or torn to pieces by their restraining equipment - seat belts, for example. The material of the objects themselves, no matter what alloy it might be, would be torn to pieces by such violent maneuvers. No molecular binding forces known in nature could hold together, no crystal structure could stand such strains. Inertia implies an ultimate limit to the speed of travel within the Earth's atmosphere, and to changes of direction at high speeds anywhere in the universe."

This is conventional theory. It is right as far as it goes. Everything that our imaginary physicist has said is true, given his assumptions. Yet there is an enormous body of evidence that machines with just the performance characteristics held to be impossible in theory may exist in fact

The task for physics set by the extraterrestrials - to discover the secret of their remarkable craft - may not be impossibly hard. Already two theories have been put forward which attempt to explain the mystery. Both of them have certain difficulties, and both have certain advantages. In a sense they are competing theories. If one is wrong, the other is right. Which is which the public does not yet know, though secret government science may already have the answer.

The first theory was offered by a certain Lt. Plantier of the French Air Force; it was published in a French military journal in September 1953 and was later enlarged in book form. A similar theory was also offered in the early 1950s by Hermann Oberth, one of the founders of astronautics. Oberth's version, presented in lecture form, has not yet been adequately developed in detail, though a book that he is writing may well contain a definitive statement of it. As it is somewhat more straightforward than Plantier's, I will use it here instead of the Frenchman's.

Both Plantier and Oberth postulate an artificial field which simulates gravity. Oberth's theory has been nicknamed the "G-Field." It suggests creation of artificial gravity, not, strictly speaking, anti-gravity. The distinction is important. According to Oberth, extraterrestrials generate a gravitational field similar to that of the Earth or any celestial body. They have accomplished this by some as yet unspecified method.

A mechanism is able to produce a gravitational potential both within and without the saucer which is purely artificial and, presumably, not associated with the natural gravitational field of the Earth. The effect of this artificial gravity is to pull everything in the vicinity of\* the saucer, as well as the structure and contents of the vehicle, toward an artificial center of gravity. As the field affects surrounding molecules of air, it will cause compression of the ambient atmosphere. This will lessen with distance from the center of gravity.

Here is how the object is able to escape burning up: It takes some of the atmosphere along with it as it goes. The air molecules surrounding the saucer are pulled by the "G-Field" along with the craft. It will slide through the atmosphere protected from the direct effect of friction upon its metallic skin. There will indeed be friction in flight, but this will be between air molecules carried along on the outer fringe of the gravitational field and the surrounding air.

Similarly, Oberth's (and Plantier's) theory can explain why the structure of the vehicle as well as its presumed occupants are able to survive the enormous inertial forces generated by drastic changes of direction at high speeds, or equally drastic linear acceleration and deceleration. Each molecule of the vehicle occupants or contents is locked in the artificial field which has been created. This field is strong enough to overcome all relevant inertial forces. Thus the structure and its occupants remain unaffected during any maneuverings.

One way to visualize this is to imagine a man sitting in an easy chair in his house on the surface of the Earth. From the viewpoint of an observer in space, the man and house are in very rapid motion, and further motion is not rectilinear. From a vantage point on one of the "fixed stars" the path traced out by the man in the easy chair is an involved corkscrew or helix.

Yet, because of the gravity of the earth, the man in his chair is quite unaware of being twirled against inertia. Within the four walls of his house he is, in his view, at rest. The situation of a saucer occupant would be, according to Oberth, exactly the same. He could sit reading or playing dominoes totally encompassed by the artificial gravity field and unaware of violent gyrations being performed by his craft. Its artificial gravity field would overcome both the gravity field of Earth and inertia.

Oberth's G-Field theory is admirably able to explain the inertial problem. The astonishing kinematical behavior of the extraterrestrial craft is thus solved. However, any theory which attempts to account completely for UFO propulsion must also surmount other hurdles. These relate to suspension and translational force.

While some UFOs appear to use reaction motors (i.e., rocket thrust), others employ no visible method of suspension or translational movement. Nothing in the G-Field theory seems to account for the ability of the craft to hover or fly horizontally. G-Field theory supplies an answer only as to how the craft overcomes inertia, it does not tell us how it flies. If the saucers generate an artificial gravity field, there is nothing in the analogy of natural gravity to explain why they do not fall to Earth. Rather, one would expect mutual attraction between the Earth and the gravitationally enhanced saucer.

In order to surmount these difficulties, an exponent of the G-Field theory must suppose field characteristics different from natural gravity, or postulate an entirely different, unrelated field which accounts for the suspension and level flight of the object. It should be said that Lt. Plantier's theory, which postulates a cosmic flux of an unknown nature, may succeed in explaining the lifting and translational power of the craft.

The cosmic radiation is accumulated by an engine, and powers the vehicle. According to Plantier, a field very similar to Oberth's G-Field results; however the relationship between these two aspects of his propulsion model is nuclear. This may be the fault of the summary of his work which I have seen;

his original publications are hard to obtain in this country.

Oberth's version of this G-Field theory - insofar as he has made it available - is less comprehensive than Plantier's. Oberth seems not to have incorporated either a separate hypothetical factor into his artificial gravity field, or supposed the existence of an entirely separate field to complete his model. Perhaps such an explanation will be forthcoming.

There is a quite different theoretical concept which seems to satisfy the three major requirements mentioned: first, control over inertia; second, control over terrestrial gravity; and third, translational capability, the capacity for level flight. This theory (we might tag it the "space valve" theory) makes use of the relationship between gravity and inertia. In order to explain it, we must define inertia closely.

According to Newton's famous first two laws of motion, a mass at rest, or moving at a constant speed, will continue at rest or at its same speed, unless a force is applied to it. Further, a mass will move in the direction of an applied force with an acceleration proportional to that force. The world is a world of inertia. It is the curse and condition of our being. We can hardly conceive of existence without it. All our experience with our own bodies and things external to us reflects it. We swim in an inertial sea, almost unaware of it because it is so commonplace.

It was once assumed that gravity and inertia were different and unrelated. The Austrian physicist Ernst Mach first hinted at a relationship. Newton seemed to regard inertia as a kind of given property of the universe, something of an ultimate, ill-defined category he called absolute space. Mach, in criticizing Newton's view, suggested that the final reference of physics was not absolute space but the fixed stars - we would say the nebulae. Here was the germ of an idea about inertia. It remained, however, for Einstein to formulate it.

Einstein noted that it would be impossible for a person in an elevator to be sure whether he was resting securely on the surface of the Earth, or actually deep in space, away from any large masses, and accelerating at a value equal to the Earth's "g." In other words, both gravity and inertia can produce the same effect, with no detectable difference. Gravity and inertia are thus observationally equivalent

But General Relativity and the Principle of Equivalence at its heart went a step further: inertia and gravity might be identical also in their origins. The inertia we know may merely be the gravitational resultant of the entire mass of the universe. Thus, to go back to our man sitting in his easy chair, imagine that the forces of inertia and gravity playing upon him can be represented by rubber bands.

One very large rubber band pulls him and his chair down toward the surface of the Earth. But around him is a vast multitude of little rubber bands connecting him with the millions of stars throughout the universe. The large rubber band we call gravity, the great multitude of other "star bands" account for inertia. The man and the chair have a tendency to remain in a given piece, or proceed in straight line motion at a constant rate, because of a multitude of distant gravitational sources.

Inertia is therefore, the General Theory of Relativity suggests, only the physical influence of the rest of matter in the universe. Since, as we have noticed, gravity and inertia are numerically equal, the man



will never be aware of the contrary forces at work on him. He will, think he is at rest; but this is only his illusion.

What would happen if it was possible to propagate a field which could weaken or eliminate gravity? Consider a mass placed within such a field. Obviously, if the object was on Earth, one effect would be weightlessness or, at least, weight reduction.

The big rubber band pulling it toward the Earth would be cut or weakened. But by the Principle of (physical) Equivalence, something else would occur. If inertia is the gravitational influence of the universe, the billions of other links connecting the object with the rest of the universe would also be cut or weakened. Thus, in addition to losing weight, the object would lose its inertial properties, or as the physicist would say, its inertial mass.

It is very difficult to speculate a priori on how mass will behave under such circumstances. Until the late 1940s, we had no observational data on the point. Then came the flying saucers, and they behave as if they were without inertia, or at least as if their inertial mass has been substantially reduced. They must be ponderous, but on many occasions people have reported aerodynamic qualities indicating they are very light. Typical behavior is the so-called "falling leaf descent.

As anyone knows who has flown a kite, or watched a leaf fall or a flat stone sink in water, the kinematic of a light, flat dropping mass is a side-to-side oscillation. The key word is light, yet the extraterrestrial craft presumably contain heavy equipment. It is thus likely that their mass has been artificially reduced, and this accounts for their aerodynamic performance. Again, saucers are frequently seen to rotate on axis while hovering. This is just what would be expected of a very light craft, or a craft whose weight is subjected to artificial reduction. There is in such circumstances a stabilization problem.

A light, or weight-reduced, mass would be subject to tumbling. Even the slightest breeze would cause it. In order to stabilize such a controlled mass, gyroscopic motion might be introduced. Such motion - while still inertial in origin - has the effect of maintaining the plane of rotation against outside forces, such as air currents.

While "inertialessness" is hypothetical in a way weightlessness has not been since the astronauts, we may still try to deduce some of its characteristics. These speculations fit well the actual performance of the extraterrestrial craft. For example, the reason an object disintegrates if forced from its direction of movement is because its inertial tendency to go in a straight line had been violently counteracted.

A craft might be torn apart by such an opposition of powerful forces. However, in a world where inertia does not apply, and thus where there is no tendency to go in a straight line, 90° turns, dead stops, and instantaneous starts would very likely be possible without any appreciable strain upon the structure of the aircraft or damage to its occupants and contents.

Similarly, the very high speed attained and the absence of any conventional propulsion system may be explained.

As any tendency to remain in a place disappears in the hypothetical world of inertialessness, the slightest application of pressure would cause a mass, even a very large mass, to move in the direction of the pressure, perhaps at a very high speed. A small jet engine, perhaps even a tiny fan jet of air, may be all that is necessary to accelerate a large and weighty craft to a great velocity.

Or, the riding lights which often ring saucers may act as combination engines and stabilizers. A light source creates a slight force, opposite to the direction of beam. It could be that the force needed to propel a craft in "a Space Valve" or to support it against terrestrial gravity is so slight that even a light source would suffice. Similarly, there may be difficult problems of stabilizing and balancing an object with mass reduction, problems which may have been solved by placement of lights integrated in intensity and reaction force, by a computer.

The Space Valve theory can explain the fact that saucers do not burn up as they pass through the atmosphere. We have considered the G-Field hypothesis of the atmosphere being compressed close to the craft, but not producing heat at the surface of the craft. The Space Valve theory results in the same effect, but in a different way. Consider a craft moving rapidly through the atmosphere surrounded by a field which negates or reduces inertia; as a molecule of air enters the field, it loses its kinetic, that is its inertial, properties.

It may bounce off the object without causing any impact, even the tiny impact of the gas molecule. Thus, the Space Valve may be frictionless because it is inertialess. The friction caused by something passing through the atmosphere is due to the grip of inertia upon gas molecules. Remove this grip and the molecules may behave - as indeed may the vehicle - in an incredibly free fashion.

As the Space Valve theory is able to explain all three requirements of a UFO propulsion system, would not economy of explanation give it preference over the G-Field theory which is able to explain only one requirement? This would surely be the case were it not for one serious difficulty of the Space Valve theory.

As Professor Oberth pointed out to me in a letter of November 9, 1964: "Almost all biological processes are the result of forces that act against the inertia of molecules and atoms. If, e.g., men (were) in such an inertia-screen, their blood would run (at a) horrid velocity. Likewise, their metabolism would be too fast for survival."

The objection is a serious one, and would apply to any living form which had evolved in the inertial world. Barring some special techniques unknown to us at present, it would rule out transporting of life.

It could be that the UFOs which employ a Space Valve principle are indeed unmanned craft; real aliens are visiting this planet, they may be the occupants of the rocket-type devices which have been seen. These may not employ inertialess flight. Again, it could be that if living occupants are present, that inertia and gravity are reduced only to a tolerable point, and not eliminated altogether. Many of the UFOs appear to have reduced gravitational-inertial mass, but not to be totally free of inertia and gravity. Life under such circumstances may be possible.

Again, it may be that total or substantial inertialessness is achieved only directionally. If the action and

reaction law is found not to apply in an inertialess environment, then rocket or ionic propulsion will be unable to supply translational motion. Some other principle must be found; it might be possible to position the anti-gravity-inertia field, making it more intense in one direction than in another. The object could move horizontally and/or vertically by using an artificially produced directional difference in the strength of the gravitational field of the universe. Hence, although Oberth's objection is serious, it is not insurmountable.

UFOs are not beyond modern physical theory. Two concepts have been put forward which would explain, in whole or in part, the flight characteristics of these vehicles. However, are there any clues as to their technological, as opposed to their theoretical, basis? Is there any prospect of terrestrial engineering producing a comparable craft? I think we do in fact have such a clue and that it lies in electricity.

It seems that the UFOs employed electromagnetic or electrostatic fields. For example, a Russian lineman working on a "dead" telephone line received a shock as a fireball passed over. Clearly this was a case of magnetic induction. A natural bolide could hardly generate sufficient energy to produce induction; we may infer an artificial magnetic field. In many cases, compasses have acted abnormally in the presence of UFOs.

Similarly, people have felt their hair stand on end. Again, it is very frequent that you hear reports of interference with automobiles' ignitions in the presence of UFOs. Typically, as the object approaches a car, its ignition system will fail completely. As the object recedes, the auto's motor will start itself.

It appears in such cases that the electromagnetic field surrounding the UFO damps the ignition system, but as the object recedes and the field gradient decreases, an induction takes place which starts the motor automatically if the switch has been left on.

Finally, at least one case has been reported by the California chemist W. A. Web of the so-called Faraday affect: watching a UFO alternately with the naked eye and through polaroid glasses, Web noticed that concentric rings appeared about the vehicle when he looked through the glasses. It is well known that light passing through a strong electromagnetic field will have its plane of polarization rotated. This seems to have been what was observed.

An interesting experiment conducted several years ago by Dr. E.O. Saxl of Tensitron, Inc., Harvard, Mass., suggests an unsuspected relationship between electricity and gravity, and hence inertia. Saxl's experiment, reported first at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in the spring of 1964 and published in the British journal *Nature* of July 11, 1964, disclosed the fact that a torque pendulum slowed down in the presence of a high voltage charge.

When Saxl's pendulum was placed in an electrified cage, the gravitational constant it measured decreased in value; furthermore, when the charge was increased from 0 to 5000 volts, the pendulum slowed systematically.

While Saxl is cautious in interpreting his observations (which are not credited by orthodox theory) they seem to indicate a significant relationship between electricity and gravity. It may be that the

control over gravity and inertia revealed by the UFO is no more complex than an ability to generate very strong electrostatic or electromagnetic fields. Extrapolating Saxl's data to hundreds of thousands or millions of volts, the gravitational influence on a mass might disappear altogether.

Why has not such an effect been noticed before in high voltage experimentation? Perhaps because no one was looking for it. Apparatus in the presence of high voltages and strong magnetic fields may not have been watched for changes in the gravitational constant. Similarly, experiments conducted after the appearance of the UFO may have been kept secret, aside from a few experiments outside secret science.

Is it possible that super-conductors, which at low temperatures allow an unimpeded flow of electricity, may be able to generate electromagnetic fields of an intensity which will allow the artificial reduction of gravity and inertia? This super-conductivity research is of great current interest to physicists. Similarly, the persistent efforts to develop controlled release of thermonuclear power, the problem of sustained fusion, may be undertaken with the knowledge that such a feat is possible - and has been accomplished elsewhere.

Much current basic research may have been stimulated and inspired by the appearance of the extraterrestrials. If an electromagnetic or electrostatic field reduces the forces of gravity and inertia, rather than increasing them, the balance of evidence tips toward the Space Valve as opposed to the G-Field theory of UFO propulsion.

## 2 - The Mysterious 12

*By*

*Lloyd Mallan*

Here are the most unusual UFO sightings of this decade - selected from the files of the Air Force's "Project Blue Book." All are by reliable observers and all are complete with specific details. None can be explained by what we know today.

As we enter the second half of this decade - a decade that has thus far seen almost unbelievably rapid progress in the space sciences - one aspect of atmospheric and space research remains a mystery. Unidentified Flying Objects, commonly called UFOs, continue to be reported ever more frequently even as they continue to defy scientific analysis. Of course the largest number of these sightings have been pinned down and explained as natural phenomena or man-made objects with which the observers were not familiar.

A fairly large number of those sightings that cannot be explained would, no doubt, be explainable - if the observers had been able to supply more detailed information about what they actually saw. Of nearly 700 "unknowns," as they are dubbed by the U.S. Air Force people investigating UFOs, the "good unknowns" to date number less than 100 - and I am being very conservative in this estimate. A good unknown is one that has been sighted by a reliable observer who unemotionally notes details that can be used to describe the UFO.

Ever since UFO sightings began on June 24, 1947, when a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold saw an unexplainable formation of nine saucer-shaped objects flying near Mt. Rainier, Wash., the subject of UFOs has fired the public imagination. It has also been a headache for the personnel of Project Blue Book, the Air Force agency that investigates and tries to explain these enigmatic objects.

The Air Force has two main interests in the subject: (1) Are these objects seen in the skies, and occasionally on the ground, hostile in their intent and thereby a threat to the security of the United States? And (2) What new scientific knowledge, if any, may be gained from them? So far, no UFO has demonstrated the faintest threat to national security - and equally no UFO has revealed information that would be of concrete value to science. UFOs remain only as a weird challenge to the scientific imagination.

Yet each time a new UFO is sighted, the Air Force is accused of hiding the facts about that UFO from the American people. The accusations come in the form of newspaper and magazine articles, books and editorials. The pressure of these accusations has stirred up both Congress and the Department of Defense. The people on Project Blue Book wish that they had never heard of a UFO, for they bear the brunt of the accusations.

Because they wanted to prove that they are not hiding anything, they allowed Science if Mechanics to examine their files. Some of the cases in those files were mighty unusual. These pictured an amazing range of objects, varying widely in characteristics and shapes. Not all of them are good unknowns in

the strict sense of that definition, but all are unquestionably unknowns in the sense that there is nothing suspicious about them that would suggest they could be explained if only more information had been supplied by their observers.

All of this type of UFOs appear in the "Complete Directory of UFOs" beginning elsewhere in this book. Here I would like to cover the most unusual sightings from 1960 to the present writing. Space limitations prohibit my going back any farther into past history. In fact, the same limitations have caused me to eliminate two spectacular cases that occurred in September 1965 and March 1966.

These were the sightings of strange red lights at Exeter, N.H., and the famous "marsh-gas" incident near Ann Arbor, Mich. Although they are listed in the UFO Directory, they were purposely not included here because of the widespread national publicity they received in the press and big-circulation magazines - Look, Life and the Reader's Digest. The Exeter case, in fact, has also appeared in book form. Thus S&M assumes that any of its readers interested in UFO phenomena will already have considerable information about these two cases.

But the cases we are about to present in this article are equally spectacular. A few of them are even more spectacular. As a point of format, we'll start with the most recent case first and work backward to 1960.

On March 24, 1966, Dr. H. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University, received a letter from a schoolteacher in Salisbury, N.C. She and her husband had observed an exceedingly strange UFO, and she had gone to considerable trouble to write a detailed report of what they saw.

The report was attached to the letter, which said, in part: "It is immaterial to me as to whether this report will be considered valid or not; I have done what I feel I should be done by reporting it (the UFO). However, if you care to use any of the information in the report you may do so, but I cannot give you permission to use our names."

Their names, of course, were in the Project Bluebook files since Dr. Hynek is Scientific Consultant on UFOs to the Air Force. Nevertheless, S&M respects her request for anonymity. Here's her report - without her name:

"On the night of February 2, 1966, I saw an unidentified flying object. I turned out the lights and went to bed shortly after 11:15 P.M. A couple of minutes after retiring, I heard a dog barking loudly behind our house. Upon opening the curtain to look out, I saw a strange object hovering over the trees in the yard of a house behind us.

"The object is difficult to describe, for it was in a tremendous state of activity, while hovering in the same place. It never remained absolutely still, but kept moving gently back and forth, yet hovering in the same spot. It seemed to be of a silver-colored material, but there were small objects, resembling balls, in constant motion around it, circling around it at a tremendous speed, as if in orbit around the object.

The object emitted a great deal of light, which changed colors about five times as quickly as an ordinary light can be switched on and off. The predominant colors that I could distinguish were red, green and white, but it was never just one single color; it was a mixture of these colors constantly flashing. The colors seemed to be coming from the objects whirling around the central, silver-colored object. The main object seemed to be of a diamond shape, with the ball-shaped objects whirling in an orbit around it.

The balls were not all whirling in the same path; they each had a different path from the others. I would estimate that there were approximately a dozen of these round objects. There also seemed to be little explosions shooting out from the (main) object. These also produced a great deal of light and color. I was fascinated by the tremendous amount of activity going on around the object. ...

The object hovered in the same position for approximately three or four minutes. Then suddenly it moved in the direction away from me (to the Northeast). The speed with which it moved was so rapid that I could not begin to estimate it. Nor could I estimate the size of the object, since I do not know how far up in the sky it was, although the area over which it hovered is only about 300 feet from our bedroom window.

The object began to get farther and farther away. About this time (11:50 P.M.), my husband came home from work. He located the binoculars and we used them to watch the object, which had, by this time, gradually swerved to the East, making a large, sweeping curve. It was too late for my husband to see the shape of the object, but he did see the explosions and the changes in lights and colors. We watched the object until 1 A.M.

"I do not know what the object was, but I hereby swear that I saw the object as described, and I have described it to the best of my ability."

The letter was signed by both the schoolteacher and her husband, who wrote "Confirmed" before his name. Total time of the sighting had been almost an hour and 45 minutes.

Another peculiar sighting occurred at Urbana, Ohio, on August 30, 1965. Since basic details of it are given in Part I of the UFO Directory that appears in this issue, an interesting human-interest sidelight here would be the sheriff's interrogation of the observers. Roger D. Sailings, Sheriff of Champaign County, was the interrogator. Excerpts from the type transcript of his conversation follow:

Q: What is your name, address, age?

A: Michael Allen Lily, 602 Boyce Street, Urbana. I am 16 years old.

Q: Was there anybody with you when you saw this object?

A: Yes. Nelson Smith, Route 3, Urbana, and Thomas Nastoff, 234 Lafayette Avenue, Urbana.

Q: Where were you when you spotted this object?

A: We were out on that road near the Fair Grounds in a buddy's car. We were going down towards (Route) 54.

Q: You mean Powell Avenue?

A: Yes.

Q: What time was it when you spotted this object?

A: About 10:15 or 10:30 (P.M.), I guess.

Q: Describe to me what you saw.

A: Well, we were driving down the road and all at once I saw this white round ball coming down in the road ahead of us. I slammed on the brakes of the car and stopped. I think we might have hit it if I hadn't stopped.

Q: Did this object come straight down out of the sky, or come down the road towards you?

A: It came straight down out of the sky in front of us and then it hit the road and bounced right back up.

Q: Did it hit the road?

A: It came awfully near if it didn't

Q: What did this object look like to you?

A: It was a round white ball, about the same color as a star only brighter.

Q: How big was this object?

A: It looked like it was about five feet in diameter, but it was hard to tell.

Q: Were there any projections such as wings on the object?

A: No.

Q: Did this object give off any light? Did it light up anything around it?

A: No, but it was awfully bright

Q: Did the object appear to be transparent?

A: No, it appeared solid, but it was difficult to tell.

Q: How close were you to this object when you stopped the car?

A: About a city block.

Q: How long did you have this object in view?

A: Not very long. I'd say three or four seconds. It just came down and then went right back up. I stopped the car and opened the door to look at the object a little closer, but couldn't see it after it had gone back up. I was really scared.

Q: Did the object appear to revolve?

A: No.



Q: Did the object change color?

A: No.

Q: How fast did the object appear to be going?

A: Sort of fast, but not too fast.

Q: What did you do then?

A: I got back in the car and we left fast.

Q: Did you see the object anymore?

A: Yes, it was going south above and following 54.

Q: How close was it to you then?

A: Not very far away.

Q: How high up was it?

A: About a hundred feet.

Q: How big around did it look then?

A: About as big as a basketball.

Q: Did the object at any time make any noise?

A: No.

Q: Did the object leave a vapor trail or emit any vapor?

A: There was no vapor trail but there was a streak of light about one-and-a-half or two feet long following it.

Q: When this object hit the road were there any sparks or anything else left on the road?

A: No.

Q: Did you see any lightning anytime tonight while you were riding around?

A: No.

Q: What do you think this object might have been?

A: I don't know. It was just a big white ball of light. It really shook me up.

The next group of questions were directed to Nelson Smith, who had been a passenger in Mike Lilly's car:

Q: How long did you have this object in sight?

A: About 30 seconds or maybe a minute. It was a long time.

Q: Did you see the object hit the road?

A: No, it was on the way back up when I saw it.

Q: When the object was going south, how fast was it going?

A: It wasn't going too fast. I saw it for a good while.

Q: Fast as an airplane?

A: About that fast.

Q (directed to the driver): Mike, did the object change directions or seem to move up and down while you were watching it, when it was going south along 54?

A: No.

Q: Was there anything unusual you noticed about the rest of the sky?

A: No.

Q: Were there any other cars on the road at the time you saw this object?

A: No.

Q: Is there anything further you would like to add?

A: I can't think of anything.

Q: Are you telling the truth about this flying object?

A: Yes.

Q: Would you take a Polygraph examination to verify your statements?

A: Yes. I'm telling the truth.

Q: Have you ever read anything about flying objects?

A: Yes.

Q: Recently?

A: Yes. There was something in the paper about a flying object up around Lake Erie.

Q: Do you think it was the same one?

A: I don't know.

Q: Have any of you boys ever seen an object like this before?

A (by Nelson Smith): My sister saw something last week.

Q: Did you at any time notice any particular odor in the area where you spotted this flying object? (Sheriff Stillings was obviously, from this and a few previous questions, trying to connect the phenomenon with ball-lightning.)

A: No.

Q: Nelson, what did this object look like to you?

A: It looked more like a disc-shaped object to me.

Q: Nelson, how large did the object appear to you?

A: About half as big as this room.

Q: About eight feet in diameter?

A: Something like that.

Q: Boys, there seems to be some conflict in your stories about the length of time that you had the object in sight. What about this?

A (by Mike Lilly): Well, I was driving and after the object had gone up in the air I didn't see it anymore.

A (by Nelson Smith): Yes, we turned and went down 54 (north) and Mike couldn't see it, but Tom and I could. Tom didn't have his glasses and kept borrowing mine to look at the object as it was going south along 54.

Q: Mike, then you were going in an opposite direction from the object and that's the reason you didn't see the object as long as the other boys?

A: Yes. Man, I was scared and wanted to get out of there.

Q: Now boys, you know if this story gets around that you may possibly be endangering the reputations of yourselves, your family and your friends, especially if you are not giving me the complete truth about this matter?

A: Yes, we know. But we are telling you the truth.

That's how the case now rests, concerning the sighting at Urbana, Ohio.

Probably the most tantalizing and mysterious sighting that was recorded during the first half of the 1960s was the one reported at Socorro, N.M., on April 24, 1964. The lone observer was a reliable police officer, a Sergeant in the Socorro Police Department, named Lonnie Zamora.

Dr. Allen Hynek in his report to Project Blue Book, after investigating the case, wrote that he considered "this one of the major UFO sightings in the history of the Air Force's consideration of this subject."

About the observer, Dr. Hynek wrote that: "Zamora, although not overly articulate, is basically sincere, honest, and reliable. He would not be capable of contriving a complex hoax, nor would his temperament indicate that he would have the slightest interest in such.

He was simply a cop on duty, relinquished one discharge of that duty (chasing a speeding car) for another which he thought was of more immediate importance (investigating the possible explosion of a dynamite shack). His fright was genuine, and his feeling that he had seen something truly unusual is attested by the fact that he asked whether he should speak to the priest first before saying anything about it.

"Any question of hallucination seems clearly out. He is a non-drinking man, and is a solid, well-built, physically healthy individual. He is a cop who looks as though he could be pretty gruff with his customers, and in fact, his complaint about the UFO sighting was that it did not allow him time to give out his full quota of tickets for the day."

Now in his own words, listen to Police Officer Zamora's description of the strange UFO he sighted:

"About 5-45 P.M., 4-24-64, while in Socorro 2 Police Car ('64 white Pontiac), I started to chase a car due south from west side of the Court House. Car was apparently speeding and was about three blocks in front of my police car. At a point on Old Rodeo Street (extension of Park Street south) near the George Morillo residence (about a half-mile south of Spring Street) the chased car was going straight ahead toward the rodeo grounds. Car chased was a new black Chevrolet. Chased car was still about three blocks ahead and I was alone.

"At this time I heard a roar and saw a flame in the sky to the southwest, some distance away - possibly a half-mile or a mile. Came to my mind that a dynamite shack in that area had blown up. Decided to leave chased car go. "Flame was bluish and sort of orange, too. Could not tell size of the flame. Sort of a motionless flame, slowly descending. I was still driving the car and couldn't pay too much attention to the flame. It was a narrow type of flame. It was like a 'stream down' - a funnel type - narrower at the top than at the bottom. Flame was possibly three degrees in width - not wide.

"Flame was about twice as wide at bottom as at top and about four times as high, as top was wide. I did not notice if top of flame was level. Sun was to the west and did not help my vision. Had on green sunglasses over my prescription glasses. Could not see bottom of the flame because it was behind a hill. No smoke noted. Noted some 'commotion' at bottom - dust? Possibly from windy day - wind was blowing hard. Clear sunny sky otherwise - just a few clouds scattered over area.

"Noise I heard was a roar, not a blast, not like a jet. It changed from high frequency to low frequency and then stopped. The roar lasted possibly 10 seconds - was going towards it at that time on the rough gravel road. Saw flame for about as long as I heard the sound. Flame was same color, as best as I recall. The sound was distinctly from high to low until it disappeared. My car windows were both down. No other spectators noted - no traffic except the car in front - and the car in front might have heard it, but possibly did not see it because car in front was too close to a hill in front to see the flame.

"After the roar and the flame, I did not note anything while going up the somewhat steep rough hill - had to back up and try again, two more times. Got up about halfway the first time, then the wheels started skidding. The roar was still going on. Had to back down and try again before making the hill. Hill about 60 feet long, fairly steep and with loose gravel and rock. While beginning third time (to climb the hill), the noise and flame were not noted.

"After I got to the top, I traveled slowly on the gravel road westward. Noted nothing for awhile ... for possibly 15 or 20 seconds, went slowly, looking around for the (dynamite-storage) shack - did not recall exactly where the dynamite shack was.

"Suddenly I noted a shiny-type object to the south about 150 to 200 yards. It was off the road. At first glance, I stopped. It looked, at first, like a car turned upside down. Thought some lads might have turned it over. Saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at my car and seemed startled - seemed to quickly jump somewhat.

"At this time I started moving my car towards them quickly, with the idea to help. I had stopped about only a couple seconds. The object was like aluminum - it was whitish against the moss background, but not chrome. Seemed like it was oblong in shape and I, at first glance, took it to be an overturned white car. The 'car' appeared turned up like it was standing on the radiator or trunk.

"The only time I saw these two persons was when I had stopped, for possibly two seconds or so, to glance at the object. I don't recall noting any particular shape or possibly any hats or headgear. These persons appeared normal in shape - but possibly they were small adults or large kids.

"Then I paid attention to the road while I drove towards the scene. Radioed to the Sheriff's Office 'Socorro 2, possibly 10-44 (accident). I'll be 10-6 (busy) out of the car, checking the car down in the arroyo.'

"Stopped my car, was still talking on the radio, and started to get out when the mike fell down. I reached back to pick up the mike and then replaced the radio mike in its slot, got out of the car and started to go down to where I knew the object was.

"Hardly turned around from my car when I heard a roar, a very loud roar. It was not like a jet, not exactly a blast. It started at low frequency quickly, then it rose in frequency to a higher tone and rose in loudness - from loud to very loud. At the same time as I heard the roar, I saw the flame. The flame was under the object. The object was starting to go straight up - slowly up. Flame was light blue and at the bottom it was sort of an orange color. From this angle, I saw what might be the side of the object (not end, as first noted). From the flame and roar, I thought that it might blow up. The flame might have come from the underside of the object at its middle, possibly a four-foot area there - this is a very rough guess. There was no smoke, only dust in the immediate area.

"The object was smooth - no windows or doors (visible). As roar started, it was still on or near the ground. I noted red lettering of some type, like an insignia, about 2 1/4 inches high and about 2 inches wide. Insignia was in the middle of the object.

"Noted object to rise to about level of my car, about 20 to 25 feet. I guess - and it appeared about directly over the place where it rose from."

Police Officer Zamora had started to run in great fear. He stumbled, bumped himself and lost his glasses. He jumped over the hill, intending to run down the other side. Just then the roaring sound ceased and he heard a sharp-toned whine, which started at a high pitch and fell to a lower pitch. As he describes it: "At the end of this roar was this whine and the whine lasted maybe a second. Then there was complete silence about the object. That's when I lifted my head and saw the object going away from me. It appeared to go in a straight line and at the same height - possibly 10 to 15 feet from the ground, and it cleared the dynamite shack by about three feet.

The shack is about eight feet high. The object was traveling very fast. It seemed to rise up and take off immediately across country. The object seemed to lift up slowly and to get small in the distance very fast. It disappeared as it went over Mile Canyon Mountain. It had no flame whatsoever as it was traveling over the ground - and no smoke or noise.

"Noted no odors. Noted no sounds other than (those) described. At that time I heard Sergeant Chavez (of the New Mexico State Police) calling me on the radio for my location. And I returned to my car and told him he was looking at me. Then Sergeant Chavez came up and asked me what the trouble was because I was sweating and he told me that I was white, very pale. I asked the Sergeant to see what I saw and that was the burning brush (in the area where the object had been). The brush was burning in several places. Then Sergeant Chavez and I went to the spot and Sergeant Chavez pointed out the tracks."

The UFO had left strong physical impressions in the ground where it had rested. Police Officer Zamora had an explanation for this: "When I first saw the object (when I thought it might be a car), I saw what appeared to be two legs of some type from the object to the ground. At the time, I didn't pay much attention to what it was - I thought it was an accident - (when) I saw the two persons.

"I didn't pay much attention to the two 'legs.' The two legs' were at the bottom of the object, slanted outwards to the ground. The object might have been about three-and-a-half feet from the ground at that time. I just glanced at it. "As my (radio) mike fell, when I got out of the car, I heard about two or three loud thumps, like someone possibly opening or shutting a door hard. These thumps were possibly a second or less apart. This was just before the roar. The persons were not seen by me when I got up to the scene area."

Officer Zamora is suggesting that the "thumps" were caused by the "two persons" entering a vehicle and slamming the hatches closed after them - although no doors or windows were observed. The case is not closed in the Project Blue Book files, but neither is it explained. After an intensive survey of all aircraft, research and conventional, that operate out of Holloman Air Force Base and the White Sands Missile Range, both nearby to the Socorro UFO sighting, nothing was turned up that even remotely resembled the vehicle described by Zamora. The sighting must be categorized as a highly mysterious "good unknown."

From St. Gallen, Switzerland, came word of another mysterious sighting on August 13 and 14, 1963. Alfred Schelling, a businessman, addressed a letter two days later to "NASA, Pentagon, Washington, USA." His letter was routinely forwarded to Project Blue Book, since it concerned a UFO sighting. In it, Mr. Schelling asked for an explanation of what he thought was "some kind of missile or satellite" flying on two successive evenings.

"It was glowing and looked like a small fireball," he wrote. "Speed and height have been constantly the same and we wondered what this could be." The object was first observed in the evening (no time given) on August 13, as mentioned. A second observation showed the UFO to be identical with that of the first sighting: "The next evening, Wednesday 14th August, we waited and at exactly the same time as the evening before this glowing ball raised again exactly at the same point over the mountains and flew with exactly the same speed but slightly lower in the same direction (the italics are mine - LM.).

The sky was slightly clouded but this flying object did not disappear behind the clouds. We estimated the flying height at approximately 7,500 to 10,000 feet. After about four minutes it suddenly stopped glowing and we thought that it disappeared behind a cloudbank first, but after observing exactly with binoculars we would see a dark-looking flying object and after about one minute we could see the glow again. After about 30 seconds, then, this small glow turned into a fairly big fireball - about five times as big as before. It glowed (sic) for some seconds and suddenly fell apart (sic) so that it looked as fireworks on festivals.

The explosion took place at approximately 20:04 (8:04 P.M.), and we estimated that the glowing parts have fallen to Earth in the area of Toggenburg (western part, County St. Gall). This flying object did not appear in the sky on Thursday (the next day) and we wonder whether you have some knowledge of a low-flying satellite. In case that you can give us some information we would thank you in advance because there is already some silly talk about flying saucers in our newspapers."

Naturally, the U.S. Air Force could not supply Mr. Schelling with information about "low-flying" satellites - for the simple reason that no satellite ever could fly at the altitudes he mentioned. Their velocity would have to be so great for them to stay in orbit at those low altitudes that atmospheric friction would almost immediately vaporize them.

But neither a missile nor (especially) a satellite would appear in exactly the same place in the sky at exactly the same time on two nights in a row. The satellite's westward drift (due to the Earth's easterly rotational direction) would effectively prevent this from happening. And a single missile once fired is expended. For two missiles to be launched with such precision that they each appear in exactly the same place at the same time on two separate evenings is all but impossible.

Furthermore, fireballs, which are exploding meteors, might well resemble the second sighting by Mr. Schelling and his friends - but they certainly wouldn't behave in the specific way described by the Swiss businessman. No fireball, once it has entered the atmosphere and streaked across the sky, can return for a second exhibition 24 hours later. Nor does a fireball extinguish itself to darkness and then glow brightly again just before it explodes.

What was the object seen in Switzerland? Nobody knows.

In the Project Blue Book files, it is listed tersely as "Unidentified."

Washington, D.C., was the scene of a weird UFO sighting at 5:05 EST in the afternoon of December 13, 1961. Three men, one of them an experienced ex-Navy pilot and flight instructor, sighted the UFO from two different locations in the nation's capital. Their descriptions of the object were identical, except that the Navy pilot went into more technical detail than the others.

Obviously what they saw was the strangest aircraft ever to come from any engineering drawing board. Nothing like it was being experimented with by the U.S. Air Force, Navy or Army - otherwise the report would have been classified at least Secret. Instead, its classification is: "Unidentified."

The three observers were William John Meyer, Jr., the ex-Navy pilot; Gerald E. Weber of Arlington, Va., and a guard at George Washington University, who directed Mr. Weber's attention to the UFO as he was crossing the University parking lot to his car. All three saw a noiseless, dark gray, diamond-shaped object about the size of a Piper Cub, or roughly 20 feet long. Mr. Weber described the UFO as: "Dark gray with a light at the bottom of it." Mr. Meyer, the most observant of the three, was more detailed: "Dark navy gray with pulsating orange-brown glow in approximately one-third of the center area."

In Mr. Meyer's case, the object had flown directly overhead as he was watching it. In his own words: "The object approached me head-on - passed directly overhead - and did not change course while in sight." He had been sitting in his car, parked for a traffic light to change, at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and "E" Street, North West, when he sighted the strange shape in the sky. He stepped out of his car for a better look and had it in sight for one minute. (The two other observers watched it for three minutes.) But I'll let the ex-Navy pilot tell his own story:

"In the meantime, the traffic light had changed to 'Go' and the automobiles behind me were so busy blowing horns and trying to get around me that no one took the time to look up. As the object approached, I could see no wings, protrusions of any type, or vapor or exhaust trail. As the object passed directly over my head I saw that it was diamond-shaped - absolutely no noise could be heard above the traffic noise.

I estimated the object to be between 1200 and 1500 feet above me. As the object passed over me I turned to watch it - it appeared to have thickness in proportion to its size, which I judged would be approximately the size of Piper Cub aircraft if it were 'squared off.' I watched the object until it disappeared behind the building-horizon, approximately 30°. The object was very clear against the sky at all times-darker than the sky, which was cloudless. Edges were sharp.

"At no time while I had the object in view did it change course or altitude, or move behind or in front of something and reappear, or change in color. The motion was smooth and speed seemed constant. I saw no portholes or other openings. The orange-brown glow in the center portion seemed to pulse at rather a rapid rate. I have stopped at the same place several times since the sighting and moved my hand across the same flight path, at what I estimated the speed to be, and I end up with just about one minute for time in sight.

"I am convinced that the object I saw was as I have described it and could not have been any conventional heavier- or lighter-than-air craft, any phenomenon caused by temperature-inversion mirage, or sun reflection.

"I think that the object was exactly what it appeared to be: a type of aircraft capable of moving through the air without the use of conventional wings, rotors, vanes, propelling devices, or noise. I have not been able to reconcile what I saw with any known object which would give any similar likeness if put in the air."

To this day, nobody working in Project Blue Book has been able to find a reasonable explanation for the strange diamond-shaped UFO. And it certainly can be classed as a "good unknown." -



Less of a good unknown, but still an unknown, was a sighting made by two senior college students at Kansas City, Kansas, on August 12, 1961, at 9:00 P.M. local time. The students were Tom Phipps and James B. Furkenhoff, both then age 21 and both in their last year at Drake University. They had been driving in a convertible with the top down when they sighted a large unusual object in the sky about three city blocks in front of them. At first they thought it was a low-flying aircraft, possibly in danger of crashing.

As they approached closer, they saw that the UFO was hovering in a stationary position. It was oval-shaped, slightly less than half the size of a football field and resembled a huge bob-sled with running boards (automobile-type) along the sides. The "running boards" seemed to have lights, for they glowed a whitish yellow. A high vertical tail appeared to run from the back edge to the center of the object, which the students felt was solid and metallic. They were too nervous to notice its color. They could not see through the object, hovering about 50 feet in the air, but the clear night sky and stars could be seen around it.

As they drove abreast of it, they stopped the car directly beneath it and looked up at it. Then they became frightened and started to drive away in a hurry. At this point the UFO shot straight up and moved sharply to the east as it rose. It disappeared within five seconds. Total time of the sighting was an estimated three to five minutes, during which it remained stationary except for the last five seconds.

The Air Force Project 10073 (Blue Book) Record Card under "Comments" states: "Classed Unknown. Description of object would indicate possible balloon except for altitude of 50 feet off ground and sudden rising. Completeness of description and details given by two observers gives little information upon which to classify object into known categories and explain sighting."

Another enigmatic sighting made from an automobile occurred near Beulah, Mich., just over a month earlier on July 8, 1961. The UFO was observed by six persons over a period of more than 38 minutes. The first observers were Terry Gregory, age 17, a motion-picture projectionist, and his friend, Nannette Hillay. They were parked approximately five miles east of Beulah when a bluish white light appeared overhead at about 11 P.M., local time.

It was traveling from the southeast toward the northwest at a speed similar to that of a jet aircraft. About one minute after it was sighted, the object appeared to stop and descend to what seemed to be tree-top level. Then it rose again to an elevation of about 20°. Shortly afterward, it descended again to the tree tops and disappeared. Approximately one second later there was a bright glow behind the trees.

After watching this odd sight for some two minutes, Terry and Nannette drove to Beulah, Mich., to pick up two friends and show them the UFO. They drove back to the sighting area with Walt Paynor, also 17, a fruit farmer, and Ronald Shoebridge, age 20, a plumber. It was now 11:15 P.M. The object was still in the vicinity. Although it was still hidden, ostensibly behind the trees, its light illuminated the back of a nearby house with the intensity of a full moon.

But the light brightened and faded intermittently. The four young people watched this phenomenon

for around 15 minutes, then they left for Zimmerman Road, roughly three miles to the northwest. They arrived there at 11:45 P.M.

Enroute they were able to observe "a faint rotating beacon inside of the glowing object." When they parked on Zimmerman Road, they could still see the glow in the trees southeast of their position. Somewhere around five minutes later, one red object about the size of a grapefruit came out of the woods moving very smoothly about two feet above the ground. Its speed was about the same as that of a bicycle being pedaled by an average boy or man. Suddenly, a white object appeared about three feet away from the red one. The red and white objects merged into a single object and split again into two. After a few seconds the red object disappeared.

Abruptly, four objects appeared behind the parked automobile some three miles away. Two of them were red and two were white, one of each was moving along each side of the road toward the back of the automobile. These objects were at a height above the road that was level with the height of the four persons watching as they sat in the car. The observers were immediately horrified and, starting the car, they headed swiftly for the town of Beulah. Enroute they were able to observe the same rotating beacon that was described earlier. The time was now 12:20 A.M.

At Beulah they urged Terry's parents to drive back with them and watch the extremely unusual phenomena. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory agreed. They arrived on Zimmerman Road about 1:00 A.M. The red and white objects had vanished, but the beacon was still present inside the bluish white object behind the trees.

After taking Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and Nannette home, the three young men returned once more to the scene at about 2:00 A.M. The UFO was nowhere in sight.

There was no sound of any type at any time associated with the strange objects. According to the Air Force investigator who questioned the observers: "Witnesses appeared to be sincere in their observation. The Coast Guard at Traverse City, Michigan, stated that there was no air-sea rescue mission in the area at time of UFO sighting." So the objects could not have been flares or searchlights. They remain: "Unidentified" in the Blue Book files.

Twelve days later, on July 20, 1961, an oddly comparable UFO was sighted from the air in daylight by an airline captain and his first officer at Beaumont, Texas. Captain A. V. Beatherd and First Officer Cazzell were aboard Trans Texas Airlines Flight 110 in the landing pattern at Jefferson County Airport near Port Arthur when they sighted the UFO, or UFOs, since there were two in trail formation.

The DC-3 airplane (Number N33654) was flying at an altitude of 5,500 feet on a heading of 65° at a speed of 160 knots out of Houston when the first UFO was observed hovering straight ahead of the aircraft at an altitude between 6000 and 7000 feet. The object appeared to be hovering over Baytown and looked like an extremely bright light as Trans Texas Flight 110 took off from Houston. The bright light later turned out to be two bright lights that were following an erratic flight path: hovering, dashing and changing altitudes at high speed from 10,000 down to 6000 feet. They finally disappeared on a heading between 65° and 70° at 10,000 feet, approximately over the high bridge between Orange

and Port Arthur.

When Captain Beatherd made radio contact with Beaumont Approach Control, he and the controller had the following conversation:

C: (for "controller"): Runway 11R2, winds calm, indicating northeast, over.

B: (for Beatherd): "Okay and do you have some kind of fast maneuvering airplane flying over Orange this morning? A couple of them? They are real shiny.

C: I have none reported in the vicinity of Orange.

B: Look out over the bay and just southeast of you some 6000 feet. Something real bright and shiny. It looks like it hovers for awhile, then maneuvers real fast. It gets real, real bright, then it gets dull. It doesn't look like an aircraft.

C: Roger, I will take a look and see what I can see.

B: Just look down there toward the high bridge and up about 6000.

C (after a long pause): I don't have any aircraft in sight. I have low cumulus (clouds) between the airport and the high bridge. Possibly the target or aircraft could be behind the cumulus where I couldn't see it.

B: It is just south of Orange. You probably can't see it. It is just as bright as a diamond. Looks like it hovers for awhile, then it maneuvers for about 5-6,000 feet, just within a second or two.

C: Tell you what. I'll see if I can see it and if I do, I'll tell you. I'll let you know.

B: You got radar down there? I'll see if I can pick up something (on his own radar).

C: (after another long pause): We are picking up two targets. One is south of Orange in the station here. It's not part of the ground clutter and it doesn't appear to be any weather.

B: That is, roger, we got it sighted. It is not weather. It is almost hovering and it is the brightest thing we have ever seen. It is very maneuverable. We saw it once up about 5,500 and it disappeared and about a minute later we saw it at least 10,000 ...

After Flight 110 landed at Jefferson County Airport, Captain Beatherd reported that the UFOs were too bright to distinguish their shape. They had no discernible features, except they did not appear to be aircraft. No sound was heard from them and no vapor trail or exhaust were seen. No unusual astronomical or meteorological conditions were reported in the area at time of the sighting, nor were any other kinds of unusual conditions reported. The sighting is classed as unknown - by reliable observers.

Much farther north, near Bark River, Mich., at 10:15 on the night of February 28, 1961, Mrs. Alex Lapalm and her 16-year-old daughter were startled when their dog barked and then began to howl. They lived in a rural area alongside Escanaba Route Number One. Mrs. Lapalm went to the window of her house to see what was wrong. Immediately she sighted the UFO, a fiery red ball projecting rays of light ahead of it against the dark blue, star-filled sky.

She called her daughter Darlene to confirm the strange spectacle and tell her that she was not having hallucinations. Both watched the UFO for awhile, thinking it was stationary. No sound was heard from it and there was no tail or exhaust. It appeared to be a flame-colored ball about the size of a grapefruit from where the two observers were standing. It was in the western sky, but could not possibly have been a refracted image of the sun at that late hour. Besides, the dog was howling, a fact which indicated he was sensing something strange.

Mrs. Lapalm and Darlene watched the weird object for a total of 10 minutes, but after the first few minutes they realized that it was not stationary - it was moving very slowly northward, at a height of about 20° above the horizon. As it headed toward the north, it also descended lower and lower. Finally it disappeared behind some trees.

The Air Force investigator checked with the local Air Defense fighter-interceptor squadrons and also with the radar bombing site at Ironwood, Mich., to determine whether any aircraft were in the air at the time of the sighting. No aircraft were in the same area at that given time, he reported. He added that anyway: "It was unlikely that this could have been an aircraft from the description given, as it was moving very slowly. Furthermore, jet exhausts are "visible from short distances only. Also the noise (of a jet engine) would have been heard even though the observers were inside a building. Possible identity (of the UFO) is unknown."

Unknown also was the observational reliability, but sincerity was unquestioned.

An even more unusual sighting of a red ball was made at Chula Vista, Calif., on the evening of November 27, 1960, at 7:30 PST. Seven persons, all living at the Caravan Trailer Court, saw the UFO and confirmed the sighting. They were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cameron, managers of the trailer court; Mr. Alex Koff; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Carter; and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Hart. The last are experienced amateur astronomers. Olive Hart sent a two-page single-spaced typewritten letter to the Air Force with a description of the sighting. Here is her letter:

"I wish to report a very strange sighting in the sky over Chula Vista and San Diego and Mexico about a month ago. There was an exceptionally clear sky that evening, and seven of us viewed the object for 20 minutes, and two for 30 minutes.

"First, I wish to make it clear to you that we are competent observers. We have been amateur astronomers for many years and are well acquainted with all the constellations and planets. We are also able to recognize a meteor when we see one. During meteor showers we often watch the sky all night and we have seen many varieties and many spectacular meteors. And we knew them for what they were, of course. We are also very used to jet plane sighting, weather and observation balloons, satellites, helicopters and all the other things, including inversions, that are often mistaken for UFOs.

We have watched all the sputniks and Echo.

"On the evening we saw this strange object we were sitting watching television when the manager of this trailer court knocked on the door and asked us to please come out and see if we could identify the strange thing they were watching in the sky. So we seized our binoculars and rushed out to see a staggering sight. It was an object a bit redder than Mars (orange-red) and was describing huge circles in the air.

Then it would come to a sudden stop and hover. Through the binoculars it closely resembled a planet, but it had something connected with it a planet does not have. The best way I can describe it is to say it looked like a 4th of July sparkler connected to the side of the object and appeared to go in and out. Then the red-orange glow went out and the sparkler part kept right on making dashes at terrific speeds.

It went way down into Mexico and then circled some more and then returned and from where we were viewing, it went out over North Island and hovered some more. Kindly remember that seven people (three with binoculars) were viewing this object for a long time. Then it vanished. And did not reappear.

"There was no noise connected with it. And there was not a plane of any description in the air that night. (It was a Sunday evening.) That is very unusual here, especially on clear night.

"I felt I should report this sighting to someone so I called up Mr. Johnson, who is head of Project Moonwatch here, and described the sighting to him. He was interested and gave me his residence phone number so we could call him if we ever saw it again and perhaps manage to triangulate it.

(Note: Project Moonwatch was a nationwide group of satellite observers organized by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory to help determine the precise orbits of man-made satellites.)

"None of the usual Air Force explanations could explain this sighting. We have not seen it again, but we look every night.

"It seems to me it should be reported to the Air Force. If you agree with me, then you can insist that they send someone out here to take testimony from all or any of us who saw it. My husband would be the best one to interrogate. He and Mr. Cameron (manager of this trailer court) never took their binoculars off it. And my husband has a theory about the sparkle bar and rocketry that he could tell them about.

"We could not resolve the white light that seemed to go in and out from the red-orange light. It seemed to be very, very far away, especially when directly overhead. The definition of the orange-red light was much smaller than we expected it to be. The sparkling white light seemed to move in and out a great distance, possibly as much as a hundred diameters. It left the impression of a very bright light fastened on a long pole that could only be seen on one side and every time the pole would go around you could see the bright white light go in and out on one side of the main body only. The whole thing maneuvered so much in circles and going to and from us that we must have viewed it

from all sides.

"This was the most mysterious, unexplainable and spectacular sighting we have ever made and we will appreciate any explanation you can make of it.

"My husband says I should state that the one hundred diameters means diameters of the main body."

The letter was signed "O. Hart." Lt. Colonel Lawrence Tacker, to whom the letter was addressed, answered it with promptness and attached the nine-page U.S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet to be answered. The questionnaire contains 42 pertinent questions regarding the sighting of a UFO. Mrs. Hart answered the questions, in collaboration with her husband, with obvious care.

She made three points that were not included in her letter. One was that the planet Mars was in the sky, often near the strange UFO, so an accurate comparison could be made of the UFO's size and color. Another was that when the object sped down past San Diego over Mexico, its size and magnitude resembled those of the planet Mercury. The third point was in answer to question 38: "In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?"

The Hart's answer: "It was unquestionably some kind of intelligently controlled air or space vehicle."

Whether or not this opinion of Lewis and Olive Hart is "unquestionably" valid, there can be no question about their sharpness as observers. What they saw must definitely be called a "good unknown."

In fact, about three and a half months later, on March 13, 1961, two Naval officers sighted what could be only an identical object. The sighting was made at San Diego by Lieutenant William Friel and Ensign James Jacanin, both of the All-Weather Fighter-Interceptor Squadron based on North Island. It is the only Navy squadron of its kind in the Air Force's Air Defense Command. The two fighter pilots described the object they sighted like this:

Said Lieutenant Friel: "We are just going home from a routine alert when I saw this unusual light in the sky. We were three blocks from our house at 311 First Street. When we got there, the light was still visible. At first I thought it must be a satellite, but it wasn't moving as a satellite would. We then got binoculars and watched it."

Said Ensign Jacanin: "At first it was almost due east. It seemed to be moving east to west. Then it made a 90-degree turn toward the north. A minute or so later, it turned another 90 degrees and went back east."

Both men watched the UFO for between eight and 10 minutes. As pilots of the Air Defense Command, they are trained to be acutely observant and objective in their decisions. Lieutenant Friel summed up the sighting as follows:

"What intrigued us was the light from the object. It wasn't the kind of light you see from a reciprocating engine exhaust at night or from a jet afterburner. The nearest you can describe it is to

say it looked like a steady stream of electric sparks. Something like a sparkler on the 4th of July."

The coincidences between the Hart sighting and this one are too close to be casually dismissed. The object appeared over the same area - San Diego and North Island - and generally performed the same erratic maneuvers. Except for the orange-red ball in front, this UFO looked exactly like the one observed by seven persons at Chula Vista. And that one occasionally "turned off" its orange-red glow. Finally, the UFO observed by the Navy fliers followed the same pattern of movement from east to west as had the UFO seen at Chula Vista.

The Project Blue Book Record Card concludes that: "Object has many characteristics of a refracted astronomical object, but the movement from east to west and the high elevation angle tends to rule out this possibility. Witnesses (at Chula Vista) indicated they were watching object through binoculars; therefore a balloon or aircraft should have been recognized, and 30 minutes is a long time for an aircraft to be in sight if flying in any one direction for any length of time. This case is classed as an 'Unidentified.'"

Another puzzler in the same category was reported by a farmer, Mr. Monroe Arnold, in the area of LaCamp, La., on the night of April '18, 1960, at nine o'clock. Mr. Arnold was the only person who saw the UFO but many others in the neighborhood heard it.

According to Mr. Arnold, what he saw was a round disc or sphere that was fiery red and appeared to be the size of a nickel held at arm's length. The object approached him from a height of about 10° above the horizon and was seen for approximately three seconds. Its heading was 15° toward the east from due South. As it approached the farmer from that distance, it grew in size until it seemed to be about eight feet thick, eight feet wide and 12 feet long.

It either landed or plowed into the ground some 300 yards from where Mr. Arnold was standing. There was a loud explosion heard for several miles. An "exhaust trail" or something flame-like about a foot long streamed from the object's rear. As it bounced on the ground, three or four additional explosions were heard. After bouncing in an easterly direction for roughly 1000 feet, it rose toward the sky, turned west and disappeared immediately.

Inspection of the impact area after the UFO vanished disclosed that the ground was scarred and scraped at nine different points, where something like paint and metal were found in the furrows, and that a tree and the grass were scorched but not burned. Later analysis of the paint and metallic samples carefully removed from the ground showed that they were not from armament rockets or JATO units. The samples were analyzed by X-ray spectography and compared with other samples scraped from 2.75-inch folding fin armament rockets and JATO bottles. The conclusions reached by Sam Tour & Company, Inc., a New York City scientific laboratory, follows:

"It must be concluded from these studies that the dark material rubbed into the surface of the ground apparently did not come from any source coated from paint represented by #1, #2, or #3 (samples from the rockets and JATO unit). Although this material (from the UFO) contained a major amount of zinc, there was no evidence of chromium as there was in Sample #3."

After a thorough investigation of all possible conventional explanations of this UFO sighting, the Project Blue Book investigator reported: "No aircraft from England Air Force Base (nearby), or the surrounding bases, was aloft on the night of the sighting, and the witness (Monroe Arnold) is familiar with the sound of aircraft. England AFB does have a firing range, but it is 25-30 miles from the area of the sighting and is not used at night. The aircraft of the 401st (Tactical Fighter Wing) and the ADC (Air Defense Command) were checked for inadvertent firing of a rocket with negative results. The sheriff's office was checked and one eyewitness was determined to be very reliable."

The first "most unusual UFO sighting" of this decade and the last one to be described in this article occurred in the early morning hours of March 23, 1960, at Indianapolis, Ind. The wife of a metallurgist, Mrs. Earl I. Larsen, was first to sight the object. She'll tell you about it in her own words:

"This happened about 3:35 in the morning of 23 March 1960. I awakened with a sore throat and got out of bed to gargle when I saw this thing out of my window. It would have been in the west-northwest section of the sky. It flew in quite an arc. First saw it, it was going in a westerly direction and thought it was a star going under a cloud. A light would blink on and off. It was approximately 50 degrees above the horizon.

It was as brilliant as a star, but not a glittery brilliance. It looked like a lot of things metallated together. It flew back and forth. After it went west, it turned and went east. It would go up and down. There were no clouds, clear sky and stars were bright. I got my husband out of bed and we both watched it for approximately one minute. It was kind of like a comet shape." Her husband, a technical man, gave a much more detailed description of the UFO:

"My wife is quite a believer in these flying objects and I have been quite a pessimist until I saw this. Description of the object: the closest I could come to the description, it was like an old-fashioned kite. It looked like it had bars instead of being solid, more like a series of balls. It was more of the size of a lima bean. It appeared to be quite a distance away.

The color was about the same as a star, more gold than blue. Appeared to be just one (object). It had somewhat the contour of an old-fashioned kite (as mentioned), but I saw nothing like an exhaust or tail. Description of course: as I looked out the window, looking north, it swung through an arc about 90 degrees from just above the horizon in a matter of a few seconds.

There was no reflection on the (window) glass. It moved in a horizontal line and then it went up vertically. It reversed through an angle of about 30 degrees. As I stood and looked out the window I could look straight at it. It tracked straight across from right to left through an arc of about 90 degrees and suddenly stopped. It disappeared for a few seconds and then went back into the direction that it had come. It eventually disappeared. It just blanked out. I saw it for about three-quarters of a minute. The time was a quarter of four in the morning, the sky was clear and the weather cold."

From the time given by Mr. Larsen, the UFO must have been visible for at least 10 minutes. His wife first sighted it shortly after 3:35 A.M. He estimated its speed at 1000 miles an hour. He also estimated that it was 75 feet long at maximum. His wife thought that it appeared to be "a little larger than the morning star."



Although their description of the UFO's shape differed somewhat, Mr. and Mrs. Larsen were in general agreement on its other aspects. Their differences about its shape are the differences between the cross sticks of an old-fashioned kite and a comet.

The Air Force conclusion was: "Satellite ruled out because of direction of motion. Motion also rules out aircraft - light source could possibly have been balloon. It is quite probable that the witnesses observed a reflected or refracted light which was further distorted by a window screen. However, in the absence of more positive information, this case is categorized 'Unidentified.' "

From my own point of view, a balloon is ruled out because of the high speed of the object and its sharp changes of direction. Reflected or refracted light could be a possible explanation, since the window has a double glass with an air space between. Still, what could the light-source itself have been? Neither stars nor street-lamps could duplicate the rapid motion of the object. Diffraction effects through a window screen can produce many odd visual effects: but who uses a window screen over a storm window that early in the year? My conclusion is that Mr. Larsen, at least, was a good enough observer to know that he was seeing something real - and strange.

What do you think?

### 3 - The Scientist And The UFO

*By*

*Frank B. Salisbury*

(Editor's Note: The following article, by Frank B. Salisbury, Head of the Plant Science Department, Utah State University, first appeared in the January 1967 issue of Bio-Science, published by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. We are indebted to Mr. Salisbury and to Bio-Science for permission to reprint this article here. While some of the material included in Mr. Salisbury's text is also covered in other articles in this book, we felt it important to repeat it now to give our readers this complete and authoritative summing-up of the present status of the UFO problem.)

A phenomenon is abroad in the land. Since shortly after the beginning of recorded history, but particularly during the past two decades, many people have reported visual observations of phenomena which they interpret as objects so intricate in their structure and proficient in their maneuvers that they far surpass the current human technology. The apparent objects are usually in the sky, but in a few cases they are on the ground or landing or taking off from the ground. Although they may not be flying and they may not be objects, they are called unidentified flying objects: UFOs for short.

What is the significance of these strange, typically aerial phenomena? There are many extremely important implications in the area of psychology. Perhaps the most obvious is the possibility that the UFOs may be purely psychological phenomenon such as hallucinations. Of much greater importance, however, could be the psychological questions of interpretation. These are valid regardless of what elicits the response in the witness - a real spaceship from Mars or a spotlight shining on a gossamer cloud.

The number of witnesses to these phenomena has increased tremendously in recent years (probably a sizable fraction of 1% of the world's population has been involved in "good" sightings), therefore the phenomenon is of obvious sociological importance. It could influence the relationships between nations or programs of space exploration. It might even, given the proper circumstances, develop into a panic of severe proportions. There is ample justification from the sociological standpoint for a detailed study of the UFO phenomenon.

My interest developed from the field of exobiology. If the UFOs are extraterrestrial spaceships guided by intelligent beings (as many of their witnesses insist), then they are of the most pressing interest to the exobiologist. Current speculation about life on Mars (Jackson and Moore, 1965; Salisbury, 1962, 1966) would be naive indeed if such were the case. Although they would have virtually no significance to exobiology if they are not extraterrestrial, the possibility that they might be seems great enough to merit at least a preliminary investigation.

We might well consider the UFOs from the standpoint of the philosophy of scientific method. Even if the scientific community at large were sincerely interested in the study of the phenomena, it would encounter many difficulties in knowing what approach to take. UFO sightings are events which

usually cannot be repeated. The astronomer may also witness such events, e.g., the flares on Mars (Salisbury, 1962; Ley, Willy, and Wernher Von Braun, 1960), but at least he is a trained observer, and none of his colleagues are likely to doubt his word.

In the case of the UFOs, although many observers may be highly trained in certain aspects of contemporary modern life, few, if any, could claim much competence as carefully schooled UFO observers! Frequently, they are not trained to differentiate between observation and interpretation, and often there is a strong tendency for all but close friends to doubt their word.

Here, then, is a phenomenon of nature which could, and should, be of extreme interest to the scientist. But it is a difficult one for even him to study. How do we study events which cannot be repeated and which are recorded only through the minds of observers who can scarcely resist the temptation to enlarge their stories and to intermingle the facts with their own interpretations and psychological responses?

About all we can do at present is to evaluate the reports, although sufficient desire might make more than this possible (in the Exeter sighting described below, observers could have actually waited, fully equipped with high-speed camera and other devices, for the return of the objects). Professor J. Allen Hynek (1966), the Director of the Observatory at Northwestern University, and for the past 18 years consultant to the Air Force in their study of UFO sightings, has often stated that to make progress we must accept the fact that the UFOs do exist - as reports.

The Air Force and several private groups have accumulated bulging files of these reports, containing everything from detailed interviews to the remnants of pancakes submitted by a witness who claimed he had received them from a space man! These reports and the many which will be obtained in the future (using hopefully better means of information gathering) are the data with which we must work, and the only data so far available. What can we do with them?

One obvious approach is to propose as many possible interpretations as can be devised and then to evaluate the data in terms of these hypotheses. The process will be a circular one, in which hypotheses are formulated on the basis of the data, and the data are then re-examined in terms of the hypotheses. In the following paragraphs, five hypotheses are discussed and then a few representative sightings are considered. The subject has been reviewed by several authors in book form, often competently, but virtually always with some degree of prejudice (for: Hall, 1964; Keyhoe, 1960; Lorenzen, 1962, 1966; Michel, 1958; Vallee 1965; Vallee and Vallee, 1966-against: Menzel and Boyd, 1963).

## **I. Extraterrestrial Spaceships Or Other Machines**

Although earlier observers usually interpreted the UFOs in terms of miraculous religious events, most UFO observers during the past 19 years have suggested that the objects which they observed were extraterrestrial spaceships.

Can we eliminate the spaceship hypotheses in any rigorous scientific manner? Logically one might think of two approaches: either we must show in each and every instance ever reported that the object was not an extraterrestrial spaceship, or we must show by some sort of scientific logic that it is

impossible for extraterrestrial beings to visit us.

Obviously, we cannot show in every case that a purported UFO was not an extraterrestrial spaceship. The data may not be available, and the events cannot be repeated. Furthermore, in several instances, very detailed data do exist in relation to a sighting, and yet it cannot be rigorously stated that the UFO was not an extraterrestrial machine.

Nevertheless, this approach has been followed in an attempt to eliminate this hypothesis, notably by Professor Donald Menzel, Director of the Harvard Observatory (Menzel and Boyd, 1963) and by the United States Air Force. Menzel is aware of the logical limitations, but he takes a statistical approach. He reasons that since many sightings can be positively eliminated as extraterrestrial spaceships, those which cannot could be if only more data were available.

This is an excellent example of the inductive form of reasoning which has been so productive in science. Can we confidently apply it in relation to the UFO phenomena? To do so, the cases for which ample data exist and which prove not to be spaceships must be representative of the class as a whole. To many of us this seems unlikely, since other cases fortified with considerable data cannot be eliminated as extraterrestrial machines, and in many ways they appear to have little in common with the cases which can. On purely formal grounds, then, we cannot be absolutely convinced by Menzel's approach.

It is also logically unreasonable to say with absolute certainty that it is impossible for extraterrestrial beings to visit us. Although we know a great deal about the universe, we do not yet know enough to make such an all-inclusive negative statement. Nevertheless, many of the arguments are highly compelling, and two are especially worthy of our attention.

The first argument is that the UFOs contravene the laws of nature, or more properly, that they are contrary to our experience. It is first assumed that they could not originate within our solar system because only the Earth harbors intelligent life, and then it is reasoned that because of the extreme distances between stars they could not be visitors from some other planetary system. My initial contact with the UFO problem came because of my doubts in relation to the first assumption (Salisbury, 1962; 1964; 1966).

Certainly we have no conclusive or even compelling evidence that Mars might support an intelligent civilization. We do, however, have a number of observations which seem to be in agreement with this assumption. The network of lines referred to as the canals still defies explanation in terms of non-intelligent phenomena, although such an explanation may well be apparent when we obtain more data about Mars.

The satellites of Mars, with their almost perfectly circular, equatorial orbits and their small size have certain of the characteristics of artificial satellites. Brilliant flares of light occasionally seen on the surface of Mars are too short in duration and too bluish-white in spectral quality to be similar to our volcanoes, yet they are too long in duration to be readily explainable as meteorite impacts. An occasional associated white cloud would seem to eliminate them as reflections. It is even possible, if one is willing to stretch the imagination a bit, to find evidences for intelligence in the Mariner

photographs of Mars. These ideas have recently been discussed in considerably more detail elsewhere (Salisbury, 1966).

There was an interesting correlation from 1948 to 1957 in the number of UFO sightings per unit time and the closeness to the planet Mars. This was shown by Vallee and Vallee (1962; 1966) to be expected on statistical grounds less than one time in a thousand. Both Venus and Jupiter are far more prominent in the skies than Mars (both have often been misinterpreted as UFOs), and yet no such correlation exists with their apparent brightness in the skies and the number of UFO sightings.

Assuming that there is no intelligence on Mars and that the UFOs would have to cross interstellar space, can we really state with confidence that this is an impossibility? Do we know so much? Of course we do not. We are even searching for possible solutions to the problem of interstellar travel.

Perhaps the most compelling "impossibility" argument is the reported physical activity of certain UFOs (Menzel and Boyd, 1963). In several "good" sightings (those which, for reasons discussed below, do not readily fit any of the remaining four hypotheses), UFOs have appeared to accelerate at tremendous rates or even make right-angle turns while traveling at speeds of several hundred or thousand miles per hour. Although they move in the atmosphere at velocities which surely exceed that of sound, no sonic booms are heard (they are often essentially silent) nor do they appear to burn up with frictional heat. The skeptic says: "Granted that we have a lot left to learn about our universe, we surely don't expect the fundamental laws to be rejected. That we may refine them as Einstein did, it is true, but inertia is inertia, and a right-angle turn at several thousand miles per hour is a simple physical impossibility."

This may be the most compelling argument against the spaceship hypothesis, but there are two counter-arguments. First, one can simply reject the above statement. I do not see how Newton's laws could be so flagrantly violated, but others (Lorenzen, 1962; Michel, 1958; Vallee and Vallee, 1966) have come up with various suggestions. Perhaps inertia is the gravitational interaction between an object and all other objects in the universe. If this gravitational attraction could some way be severed (some mysterious antigravity shield surrounding the spacecraft, for example!), then right-angle turns at high speeds might be feasible. Would the surrounding antigravity field also nullify the sound barrier problem? Some think so. I haven't the faintest idea, but we could be wrong about what is impossible. Second, one might remember that not all UFOs perform "impossible" feats. The topic is sufficiently interesting if only one UFO proves to be a spaceship from Mars!

Another argument against the spaceship idea concerns the lack of formal contact with the UFO occupants. Since visiting spaceships ought to be piloted by some sort of intelligent beings, wouldn't it be reasonable to expect that they would desire contact with other intelligent beings, namely us? Or why hasn't a flying saucer landed on the United Nations Building to establish formal diplomatic relations?

This argument assumes that we can understand the motives of an extraterrestrial being. Of course we cannot. How could we know the minds of such beings? To inductively extrapolate from our own current sociological approaches to those of other intelligent entities would be to commit the logical sin of extrapolation in a most flagrant manner.

It is easy to imagine several reasons why the extraterrestrials might not want to contact us. Did they plant us here as a colony many thousands of years ago and are carefully observing our evolutionary development? Do they envy us for our natural resources and want to conquer us, although present logistic problems make such an effort impossible? Are they waiting for us to straighten out our wars and race problems? Are they simply uninterested in us as contemporaries, preferring to observe us as specimens? Entomologists study the honeybees very carefully but make no diplomatic contact with the queen!

Imagine the Aborigines of Central Australia, who are still in the stone age and who have not even developed the bow and arrow. They have had no contact at all with modern civilization. What happens when a jet plane flies overhead and one of them observes it? When he tells of the huge, shiny bird that didn't flap its wings, had no feet, made an ear-splitting roar, and even had smoke coming out of its tail, surely his fellows assume that he is crazy. Or if the phenomenon becomes so common that it must be accepted as real, they could hardly be expected to deduce from it the conditions of our modern civilization, let alone our motives. "Why," they might ask, "don't the intelligent beings who guide this mighty bird land and trade bone nose-pieces with us?" Actually, many of the Aborigines, even those who have come in contact with civilized men, still interpret the airplane in a religious context, as witness the establishment of the cargo cults among these peoples (Worsley, 1959).

We cannot, then, eliminate the spaceship hypothesis, although some of the arguments against it are quite impressive. We should, in deference to the scientific method, examine with a completely open mind any evidence which might be marshalled in favor of the hypothesis. Let us consider the four alternatives to it.

## **II. Conventional Phenomena Misinterpreted**

Given certain special circumstances, nearly anyone can be confused and amazed by the appearance of some conventional object which under other circumstances might cause no bewilderment whatsoever. What psychological factors lead to such misinterpretations? In various instances, reported UFOs have clearly been demonstrated to be balloons, kites, birds, conventional aircraft, artificial satellites, planets and stars, meteors, clouds, natural electrical effects such as ball lightning (Klass 1966), and optical effects such as reflections, mirages, sundogs, and defractions caused by inversion layers in the atmosphere (see Menzel and Boyd, 1963, and Air Force files). Let us consider the level of certainty in classifying a given sighting here.

Often, the sighting may be placed here with absolute certainty. A balloon reported as a UFO was never out of sight of its launchers. A perplexing light in the sky takes form as an airplane as it gets closer.

My children woke me at 6:00 A.M. in Tübingen, Germany, saying that they were watching a hovering UFO over the city. I grabbed my binoculars and watched the brilliant light move rather rapidly both toward us and away from us and even from side to side. After about a minute, I decided to make my observations more precise, backed up against a doorway, and aligned the object with a spot on the window frame. Upon doing this, it stopped moving, and we were soon able to identify it as Venus, then the morning star. Its lateral motions were apparently illusions due to our own movements, and, its

rapid approach and retreat were due to a thin, rapidly moving layer of mists which caused it to change intensity.

Within the last year I have positively identified UFOs over Fort Collins, Colorado (pointed out to me usually by phone) as a weather kite, the planet Venus, and the stars Vega, Capella, Betelgeuse, and Sirius. Some of the stars close to the horizon flashed red, green, and white, and only a star chart and much discussion could convince the viewer that he was not observing a spaceship.

In many other cases, data are not quite complete enough to be positive, but one can state with a high degree of certainty that a given UFO was quite likely such and such a conventional object or phenomenon.

In the most interesting cases, the sighting seems absolutely to defy explanation in these terms.

One important conclusion becomes apparent: There is a very high noise level in UFO observations. This is exactly what one might expect. People do become excited by news stories and thereby predisposed to such experiences themselves. We cannot, however, from this high noise level write off the entire phenomenon as belonging to this category of conventional objects misinterpreted. Sagan (1963) attempted to do this by pointing out the great diversity which occurs within the sightings. This might well be only the noise. Even if spaceships are visiting us, many people are still seeing conventional objects and interpreting them as spaceships.

The sightings which do not fit well into the conventional-objects-misinterpreted category have certain characteristics concerned primarily with the detail which is observed and with the nature and reliability of the witnesses. Sometimes other evidence is also available.

If only a moving light is seen at a great distance, one can hardly be tempted to run out and meet our big brothers from Mars. Even a disc or a globe with fairly sharp-appearing edges might well be an optical effect of some sort. A report is more impressive when the object is seen at close hand, especially landed on the ground. A very distinct shape with highly distinct edges, and a solid, often metallic-appearing surface is described.

Windows or other markings may be apparent. Lights are frequently an associated part of the observation, and sometimes (both day and night) the brilliance was said to be so high that the observer found it difficult to continue looking at the UFO. Occasionally, one part of the UFO is described as being in motion relative to other parts (the rim of a disc may be rotating around the disc.) "Occupants," both humanoid and otherwise, have been reported in conjunction with UFOs, landed and flying.

The quality of a sighting is always enhanced when the time of observation is long enough for the observer to consciously consider what he is observing while he is observing it. A light that moves by in less than 5 seconds can hardly produce a very impressive account. In some other cases UFOs have been observed for 1 or 2 hours or even longer.

We are primarily concerned with witnesses. Their background and training are especially important,

and it is valuable when a single sighting is described by more than one witness. The likelihood of hoax is decreased if the witnesses were unknown to each other before the sighting.

In some cases an account may be supported by various forms of supplementary evidence. There are many cases in which photographs have been taken while a UFO was witnessed by several apparently competent observers. Holes have been left in the ground where a UFO had supposedly landed or vegetation has been damaged or on fire. Occasionally (rarely), radioactivity has been detected. In one case a fence was magnetized where a UFO had passed over it.

Many strange samples have been left, such as liquid residues, "angel's hair," and other materials. In no case, of course are these things by themselves conclusive, since virtually any sort of evidence could be fraudulently produced. We remain dependent upon the reliability of the witnesses, but sometimes these secondary evidences can contribute to an evaluation of the sighting.

Many radar sightings of UFOs are on file. In a few cases, a UFO has been simultaneously observed by radar and by witnesses, both on the ground and in an aircraft. Menzel and Boyd (1963) have clearly pointed out, however, that radar evidence is far from positive proof. There are many natural atmospheric and other phenomena as well as imperfections in radar instruments which can produce so-called radar angels. We must consider the argument from both sides, however.

Just because radar angels are not necessarily UFOs, we are still not entitled to conclude that any unusual blip on the screen is a radar angel: We should certainly not conclude that UFOs cannot be extraterrestrial spaceships, because if they were, our radar net would pick them up. The fact of the matter is, our radar net does pick up many returns which are not identifiable in terms of known aircraft (e.g. apparent objects moving several thousand miles per hour through the atmosphere). Many of these are undoubtedly radar angels, in the true sense of the word, but we can't say that some are not spaceships from Mars!

A secondary form of supporting evidence is that of pattern. While Sagan (1963) fails to see any pattern because of the noise, other investigators feel that many patterns can be established from the reports. Michel studied the sightings in France in 1954 and found that occasionally they appeared to fall upon great circle arcs of the Earth's surface (Michel, 1958). It is extremely difficult (Menzel, 1964; Vallee, 1964) to evaluate the significance of such a pattern. In many cases, the lines could be due purely to chance.

If all of these criteria are met for a given UFO report, then it is highly likely that we are not dealing with a conventional object misinterpreted. The detail usually precludes this. In such a case, the UFO could be an extraterrestrial spaceship or it could fit into one of the categories discussed below.

### **III. Psychological Phenomena**

Can the UFOs be pure figments of the mind - hallucinations, dreams, and the like? Probably there are cases in which this is the proper explanation, but it is a difficult one to apply to situations in which many witnesses describe with reasonable uniformity a single UFO. In such cases, the psychological explanation would have to fall back on areas such as extrasensory perception, which are really not



much more respectable in modern science than spaceships from Mars. In cases in which radar observes the object at the same time that it is observed visually or it is photographed, we would have to postulate that one mind can project an object into the heaven in such a way that instruments such as radar and the camera detect it. This would be as exciting as spaceships!

Certainly we do not know all there is to know about the operation of the human mind, so this hypothesis cannot be completely eliminated. And even if the UFOs are spaceships, psychological factors play an important part in the phenomenon. Nevertheless, this hypothesis is not really satisfying. Probably the most detailed study of the UFOs by a psychologist was carried out by Jung (1959). He was able to document a great many extremely fascinating psychological implications of the UFO. In his final conclusion, however, he could only state that psychological explanations were not sufficient for the phenomenon as a whole.

Thus another possible explanation for the great rash of UFO reports must be judged as falling short of the answer.

#### **IV. Hoaxes Or Lies**

An obvious and straightforward explanation of the UFOs is that the witnesses are lying or that the object is a hoax. Yet the Air Force, always acutely aware of this possibility, explained only a very small percentage of the cases which they investigated in this way. Often it is very difficult to imagine that a hoax is involved. The witnesses give all of the outward signs of being extremely sincere; often they are emotionally upset by their recent experience. Frequently, their background and general competence seem to argue strongly against which hundreds and even thousands of witnesses are involved (and a few such sightings are on record), one must reject the idea that all the witnesses were lying. If a hoax were involved, it would have to be the object itself.

Before completely eliminating this explanation, we must remember that a hoax can be amazingly effective. I saw the great Blackstone on a stage apparently pass a rapidly moving handsaw blade directly through the neck of an assistant in a trance. A block of wood below the neck was sawed in half amidst much noise and flying sawdust. Yet this was admittedly a hoax. Would it be possible to some way cause an illusion in the sky which could completely fool hundreds of witnesses? I cannot absolutely say that it would not. On the other hand, in many cases producing such an illusion would appear to be almost as great a feat as building a flying saucer itself.

One aspect of the UFO story does seem to be deeply involved in hoax. This is the so-called contactee cult. Many people now located over much of the world claim to have had direct contact with the flying-saucer people. (Adamski and Leslie, 1958; UFO International).

Perhaps the contactee is informed by mental telepathy that he should report promptly to a certain lonely spot in the desert. Upon obeying, he is met by a flying saucer whose occupants are, as a rule, beautifully humanoid and who frequently take him into their confidence by allowing him to photograph themselves and their craft, inviting him in for a look at the control panels, and perhaps taking him for a spin, sometimes to Mars or Venus but best of all to the mysterious planet on the other side of the sun, unobservable from mother Earth.

Everything about these stories seems to cry hoax. The proof is typically a series of photographs (which could easily be fraudulent) and copious quantities of pseudoscience. Someone who had really contacted visitors from another world should surely be able to do better than that. Why should visitors from another world bother with such obscure representatives of the human race, anyway? Their message is always that man must cease his wars or be destroyed, but why should such an important message be given to someone who is bound to be considered a liar when he delivers it?

It is interesting to consider the possibility that the contactees are genuine. When considering the UFO phenomenon, all sorts of wild alternatives come to mind. If the extraterrestrials wanted to be ignored by the scientific community on Earth, they could hardly choose a better and more effective way than the delivering of profound messages to the souls who presently claim contact!

## **V. Secret Weapons**

It is possible that secret devices being tested by earthly governments are misinterpreted as extraterrestrial machines. That this explanation might account for the phenomenon as a whole is, however, quite unreasonable. To begin with, the performances of the UFOs makes our present rockets appear puny indeed. Could any modern government suppress such a capability for nearly 20 years (since 1947)?

Most convincing is the fact that the UFO phenomenon goes way back into history. UFO enthusiasts, for example, often cite the first two chapters of the Book of Ezekiel in the Old Testament as an excellent example of a flying saucer sighting (Menzel and Boyd, 1963, indicate that it was probably a sundog, but this is a far-fetched explanation for the details reported by Ezekiel).

Vallee (1965) documents the sightings previous to 1947. He states that he has on file more than 300 UFO sightings prior to the 20th century, although he apologizes because he has never had time to make a thorough search. He considers his cases to be only a small sample of those which might be available. They were carefully chosen for their high quality, roughly conforming to the criteria of good sightings described above.

Some 60 of these 300 accounts occurred previous to 1800, and the remainder were recorded during the 19th century. The great majority of these more recent accounts were recorded in the scientific literature, particularly that of astronomy (often in the annals of the various astronomical observatories). It is important to emphasize that these are accounts which are not readily explainable - as natural phenomena. Classic, for example, are the observations in Nuremberg (April 14, 1561) and in Basle (August 7, 1566) which have been analyzed in some detail by Jung (1959).

Both of these sightings involved large inclined tubes in the sky from which spheres originated, an event occurring sometimes in more recent times (Vallee 1965, cites 13 examples between 1959 and 1964). Spheres and discs appeared to fight each other in aerial dances. The inhabitants of these two relatively large cities observed this strange phenomenon for a long interval of time on each of the dates given.

A great attempt was made to consider the scientific accounts of the 19th century in terms of the

natural universe. They were referred to as interesting cases of ball lightning or bolide meteors. Nevertheless, the descriptions are of discs and wheels and the like, and the behavior follows very closely that of the modern UFO. These "meteors" would move slowly, appear to hover, change directions, accelerate at great speeds, have an apparent diameter two or three times that of the full moon, etc. In one instance, called ball lightning, an object slowly emerged from the ocean, moved against the wind, hovered close to the ship from which it was observed, and then rushed away in the sky and disappeared in the southeast (for details, see Vallee's book, 1965).

Sightings during the early part of this century were relatively few. The so-called Miracle of Fatima (Vallee 1965; Walsh, 1947), which took place on October 13, 1917, in a field at Fatima, a small village some 62 miles north of Lisbon, Portugal, is a fascinating tale, to say the least. Today it would be considered a contactee story, since three children were supposedly contacted at monthly intervals (always on the 13th of the month), beginning in May, by a beautiful, "transparent" woman dressed in white, who arrived in a globe of light.

Following the first visit, other witnesses besides the children observed strange events (a buzzing noise, etc.), but only the children saw the "vision." At the time of the miracle itself, some 70,000 people were gathered in the field by Fatima to wait for the promised sign. It had been raining when suddenly the "sun" appeared through the dense cloud cover. It was a strange sun, however, looking like a flattened disc with a very definite contour, not appearing as a dazzling object, but rather having a clear, changing brightness which one could compare to a pearl. The disc began turning, rotating with increasing speed as the crowd began to cry with anguish.

It then began falling toward the Earth "reddish and bloody, threatening to crush everybody under its fiery wake." After an interval of dancing before the crowd, it retreated back through the clouds and disappeared forever. It would be difficult to imagine a sighting which fits the above criteria better than this one. It is also difficult to imagine that the Fatima "sun" was a secret weapon being developed by Russia or the United States! (It is interesting to note in this regard that the message supposedly given to the children at Fatima dealt with world peace and the "conversion" of Russia.)

### **Some Representative Sightings**

Since the study of the UFOs must be based on the reports, let us consider a few sightings exemplifying various points.

**1. The Arnold Sighting, Mt. Rainier, Washington, June 24, 1947.** Although Vallee (1965) calls our attention to a fascinating wave of sightings in Scandinavia during the summer of 1946, it did not occur to anyone at that time to consider these as extraterrestrial spaceships, but only as secret rockets being developed by Russia or the United States. The current sightings date back to that of Kenneth Arnold. Other better sightings exist for the same period, and even for several days before (as early as April), but Arnold turned his story to the newspapers, the term "flying saucer" was coined, and the world's attention was focused on the phenomenon.

Arnold saw a formation of silvery discs flying from one peak or ridge to another around Mount Rainier in the state of Washington. By timing the elapsed period from one landmark to another, he

was able to estimate their speed at not less than 1,200 miles per hour. Menzel and Boyd (1963) "explain" Arnold's sightings as a mirage brought about by inversion layers in the atmosphere which made the peaks appear to be separated from the mountains below them. Presumably, their apparent motion would be due to the motion of Arnold's airplane.

A second explanation proposed by these authors is that Arnold saw the lens-shaped clouds which sometimes occur in the area. They present pictures of such clouds (which look exactly like lens-shaped clouds and not at all like the objects described by Arnold). They further cast aspersions upon Arnold's reliability as a witness by describing in some detail his subsequent actions in attempts to get publicity, etc.

Arnold is supported in his story, however, by the fact that it fits perfectly into the pattern of sightings during that period. Various authors (Hall, 1964; Lorenzen, 1962) have summarized these events, and among them a recurring theme is that of formations of silvery discs. Such sightings are rare, or essentially absent, from the reports of more recent years. It is interesting to wonder about how many apparitions of this type were observed and not reported.

My wife's uncle, Mr. Earl Page, then a resident of Kennewick, Washington, had observed on July 12, 1947, a formation of six or eight silvery discs pass by his small airplane at fantastic speed. Mrs. Page and their son were present and saw the objects, which "fluttered as a group for a second or two, and then stabilized ... alternating between these two modes." The Pages were flying north over Utah Lake. Mr. Page told his story to a few friends who laughed at him, and from then on he mentioned it to no one.

Any one of the sightings of formations of saucer-like objects during the summer of 1947 could perhaps be dismissed from the mind. A large number of independent sightings, however, produces a pattern which is quite impressive.

**2. The Chesapeake Bay Case, July 14, 1952.** This is one of the best documented sightings on record, involving extremely high speeds and a sharp change of direction. First Officer William B. Nash and 2nd Officer William H. Fortenberry were flying a commercial plane from New York to Miami, approaching Newport News, Virginia. At 8:12 (just after dark) a brilliant red glow suddenly appeared in the west.

It was soon resolved as six coin-shaped objects flying in line formation. They glowed with a brilliant orange-red color on top, were estimated to be 100 feet in diameter and 15 feet thick. They moved rapidly toward the plane, at one point breaking slightly in their perfect formation as the second and third objects wavered slightly and almost overran the leader. They turned in unison on edge and reversed position in the formation, the last object moving up to the front position with the others following. They then abruptly reversed direction, moving off somewhat to the right with the original leader again in the lead position.

The turn was executed almost like balls bouncing off a wall with no wavering or arc apparent. Two other objects raced out from beneath the plane and took up positions seven and eight in the formation. They decreased in brilliance just before making the turn; objects seven and eight were by far the

brightest as they approached the formation; and for a brief interval or two all eight blinked out and then came back on again. They sped off, climbing to an altitude above that of the airplane, and then one by one but at random their lights blinked off and the sighting was finished. In repeating mentally their observations, the pilots estimated that it had lasted only about 12 to 15 seconds.

Menzel and Boyd (1963), after considering many possible explanations for the sighting, concluded that the pilots must have seen the illuminated discs produced by a red searchlight shining through nearly transparent thin layers of haze. Charles Maney (1965) corresponded with Menzel for several months, considering all of the possible explanations that might come to mind. Apparently Menzel would have really accepted several explanations if Maney had not one by one clearly demonstrated their implausibility.

The pilots themselves thoroughly rejected Menzel's searchlight hypothesis, saying that they were familiar with such phenomena, and this was simply not what they observed. The details described above are certainly difficult to reconcile with a searchlight hypothesis. The extremely short duration of the sighting, however, makes one question the absolute accuracy of the account. Did some points develop a bit with discussion and remembering? Furthermore, the velocities of the UFOs calculated at between 6,000 and 12,000 mph through a dense atmosphere at 2,000 feet and including an instantaneous reversal in direction, are, to say the least, extremely difficult to fit into our present concepts of the universe. Light images could perform these maneuvers, but how could they perform some of the other maneuvers reported by the two pilots?

This case is presented as an example of the problems met by a UFO researcher. To solve a sighting such as this to everyone's satisfaction would require turning the clock back.

**3. Trindade Island, January 16, 1958.** Several UFOs had been seen in the vicinity of Trindade Island (a Brazilian possession off the coast of Africa) during its reactivation as a naval base in connection with the International Geophysical Year. In the instance reported here, several sailors at opposite ends of the ship, the *Almirante Saldanha*, a Brazilian Navy vessel, spotted the approaching object simultaneously and began to shout the news to everyone else. Soon the approximately 100 sailors on board, including various officers, were watching the object.

Mr. Almiro Barauna, a professional photographer was preparing to take some photographs and had his camera ready. He shot six frames, of which two failed to show the object. He explained that due to the excitement he was bumped during these two and that they showed only the deck of the ship and the ocean. A dark-room was improvised below deck, the film was developed, and the minute object on it was identified by the sailors (Lorenzen, 1962).

This is an excellent sighting because of the number of witnesses involved and the excellent quality of the pictures. Conventional objects can hardly explain the sighting.

Menzel and Boyd (1963) and apparently the United States Air Force consider the sighting to be a hoax. Of the available hypotheses, only this one and that of extraterrestrial machines seem to apply. The hoax explanation must also probably fail if the object was really witnessed by 100 sailors. Menzel and Boyd tell the story differently (their version is based on a report from astronomer friends of

Menzel in Rio de Janeiro who did not personally investigate the incident), saying that only Barauna and two or three of his close friends claim to have seen the object. Yet newspaper reporters interviewed the sailors after the Almirante Saldanha landed several weeks later.

I have received several reports on the sighting, including a personal conversation with Dr. Alvio Fontes, a medical doctor in Rio de Janeiro who investigated the case exclusively. These reports fully support the version that virtually all the sailors witnessed the object.

Obviously, our evaluation of the story must hinge upon this aspect. The photographs, although extremely convincing, could be fraudulent. To prove this I spent several days in an attempt to duplicate them and succeeded fairly well. We are still left with the question of the veracity of witnesses.

**4. Si. George, Minnesota, October 21, 1965.** Driving home from a hunting trip Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Strauch and their son Gary (age 16), and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grew, all of Gibbon, Minnesota, sighted a hovering object and got out to observe it. Binoculars were used, and Mr. Strauch took one photograph on an 804 Instamatic Kodak camera using Ektachrome X film. The object moved toward the witnesses almost directly overhead, making a high-pitched whining sound and traveling at very high speed. It disappeared in the southeast within seconds.

Much detail was observed, several witnesses were present, ample time was available, a photograph was taken, and hence this instance meets the criteria nicely.

**5. Socorro, New Mexico, April 24, 1964.** Patrolman Lonnie Zamora was following a speeder when he saw a blue flame to the southwest. He recognized the area as one which contained a dynamite shack and where teenagers sometimes tried to accelerate their cars up the steep slopes. He decided to investigate. Driving over a mesa, he caught sight of something which he interpreted as an automobile standing on end with two children or small adults dressed in white clothing and standing by it. He radioed Patrolman Sam Chavez, asking for assistance, and continued down through a gully where he lost sight of the object. Coming up across the next mesa, he parked and got out of his car, moving toward the gully to see the object.

It was immediately apparent that he was not observing an automobile wreck. There was a hemispherical object standing on four legs and suddenly an ear-splitting roar. Thoroughly frightened, he turned and ran, collided with the hood of his car, and then threw himself on the ground, noticing again that the object was rising in a slanting trajectory toward the southwest. As it rose, it displayed a blue flame.

Upon investigation of the site, four distinct, rather deep impressions were found in the ground where Zamora claims to have seen the landing gear. Two smaller round depressions were in the place where a ladder was placed, leading to a marking on the object which could have been a door. Bushes below where the object had been were burning. Detailed investigations were carried out by the Air Force and by several private flying saucer investigating groups.

The sighting is a good one in terms of detail and primary evidence. A landing with observed

humanoid "occupants" is also of interest. It is bad in only one respect; namely, that Zamora was the sole witness (one or two leads appeared, but other witnesses could never be located) but his apparent sincerity was impressive. Investigators studied the surrounding area for tracks of possible perpetrators of a hoax but could find none, although the ground was soft. The sighting is typical of many similar reports, particularly in France and Brazil, but occasionally also in the United States.

**6.** Boiani, New Guinea, June 26, 27, 1959. Sightings were similar on both evenings. On the evening of the 27th, Father W.B. Gill, a teacher and missionary of the Anglican Church in New Guinea, came out of the dining hall at 6:45 P.M., looked up and saw Venus and then the large sparkling object. While he watched, some 39 others joined him (five were teachers, two were medical assistants, the rest were natives; 28 adult witnesses signed a statement). The object and two others that hovered at a greater distance are shown in an artist's conception (the witnesses had no camera but made pencil sketches during the observation).

As the UFO hovered nearby man-shaped forms appeared on the "top deck" and seemed to be working on something. Occasionally, there was a bright blue, thin beam of light which projected toward the sky. The object itself had an orangish cast, and the "men" appeared to be dressed in silver suits of some kind. The most seen at one time were four. When one of the figures appeared to glance over the crowd, Gill waved his arm and the figure returned the gesture. Gill and some of the natives then raised both arms, and two of the figures on the object did the same. The object came lower but did not land. The sighting lasted until 7:20 when the blue spotlight went out and the object moved into a cloud.

The witnesses, the time, and the detail make this an exceptionally good sighting, one of the best on record. The only available explanation other than the spaceship one would seem to be a complex hoax perpetrated by Gill and all of his associates.

**7.** Exeter, New Hampshire, September 3, 1965. A remarkable sighting occurred rather recently in New Hampshire and was studied and documented by several UFO investigators but particularly by Mr. John G. Fuller, a columnist for the Saturday Review. He has assembled his results into book form (Fuller, 1966), and a preliminary account was published in Look Magazine (February 22, 1966). The sightings are remarkable not only because of their nature but in a very real sense because of Mr. Fuller's investigation.

The basic sightings occurred in the early morning hours (about 2:00 A.M. to 4:00 A.M.). Patrolman Eugene Bertrand of Exeter had checked on a parked car and found a woman who told him that a huge and silent airborne object had trailed her from the town of Epping 9 miles away. The object had brilliant flashing red lights and kept within a few feet of her car. Developing tremendous speed, it had disappeared among the stars. The patrolman could not believe the story and had not even taken the woman's name.

When Bertrand checked into the police station, Norman Muscarello had just arrived and told his story. He had also seen a large dark object with brilliantly flashing lights hover above a field through which he had been walking on his way home. Patrolman Bertrand accompanied him back to the scene. Although nothing could be seen at first, horses on a nearby farm and dogs in nearby houses began making a great deal of noise, and then Muscarello screamed, "I see it, I see it!" Patrolman Bertrand

turned and observed the brilliant roundish object moving toward them like a leaf fluttering from a tree.

Its red lights along the sides were so brilliant that the entire area was bathed in light. It came within about 100 feet of the two witnesses, hovering with a rocking motion, absolutely silent. The lights seemed to be dimming or pulsating from left to right and then from right to left, taking about 2 seconds for each cycle. The lights were so brilliant that it was difficult to make out the shape of the object itself. It darted, turned rapidly, slowed down, and performed other such maneuvers. Patrolman David Hunt had heard the radio conversation between Bertrand and the station in Exeter and drove to the site, witnessing the object for a few minutes before it disappeared. A B-47 flew over shortly after, providing an extreme contrast to the object which they had previously witnessed.

In Fuller's study of the case, he was able to find some 60 different people who had witnessed similar objects over a period of several days or weeks in the fall of 1965. Muscarello was so impressed by his sighting that he and his mother waited on a mountainside nearly every evening for 3 weeks following the event. On one of these evenings, they again witnessed the object. Other people in the area would park by high tension lines (in the Exeter sightings, the objects were frequently associated with power lines) and watch for the objects, occasionally being rewarded with the sight of one.

This sighting is not only a good one because of the detail, the number of witnesses, and the several occasions involving comfortable intervals of time, but it adds one other extremely encouraging note. If Muscarello and other New Hampshire residents could go out and watch for the objects, occasionally being able to see them, why couldn't properly equipped scientific investigators do the same? Except for, the Fatima incident, none of the other sightings have had much element of predictability. This may be simply because we have not taken the time or trouble to really look for it. Yet, it is not uncommon to find cases in which an object seen at one time returned on a later occasion (e.g., the New Guinea instance).

Serious scientific investigation of the phenomenon might be possible if it were desired by the scientific community. If a project could be set up by a number of scientists, it might be feasible to have everything in readiness for another wave of sightings such as that at Exeter or the subsequent one in the Michigan swamps. When such a wave appeared (and the proper kind of publicity might help in detecting it - although it could also contribute to the generation of a wave of fraudulent sightings!), the team of researchers might converge immediately upon the area and carry out some sort of previously planned program of investigation. If the investigators themselves were too busy to remain for periods of weeks to months, local people could be hired and trained in the proper techniques. Such a procedure might eventually reward us with the kind of tangible data with which science is used to dealing.

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## 4 - Ithaca's Terrifying Flying Saucer Epidemics

By

*Lloyd Mallan*

More than 800 UFOs have been seen in this middle-New York State community since October. Here's the story of one of them.

One bleak evening last winter a lonely highway in upper New York State became the scene of what is probably the most terrible flying saucer encounter that any human being has yet reported. It was the peak point of an extended "flap" (a word used by saucer buffs to indicate an unusually large number of sightings in any specific area of the country or world) that began in October and was still going on when I visited Ithaca, N.Y., last February to interview personally the people involved. More than 800 sightings of flying saucers were reported by the time I arrived there. The local citizenry had begun to call this unusual situation "The Great Ithaca Flap."

Whether the situation was real or imaginary is a moot question. I myself am a skeptic when it comes to flying saucers. But I also witnessed a weird phenomenon in the sky during my stay at Ithaca, which lasted a week. I certainly will not call what I saw a flying saucer, but I cannot explain it despite an extensive background in astronomy and other aerospace sciences. It was not a frightening phenomenon but it was puzzling and provoking. I will go into the details later.

The incident of terror on a lonely road was another matter. When I first heard about it from William D. Donovan, president of Aerial Investigations & Research, Inc., a nonprofit flying saucer research organization incorporated under the laws of New York State, I thought he was inventing a science-fiction story. It simply could not be true, I reasoned.

The victim, or heroine, of the story is a slim attractive young blonde, the mother of two and a part-time beautician. She had had no intention of revealing her story to the public until she happened to watch a television show on a Syracuse station. The show was a panel discussion about flying saucers. Among the panel members were Donovan and one of his investigators, who lived in Ithaca, Stanley James Orr. She later phoned Orr and told him her fantastic story. Orr and Donovan persuaded me that it would be worthwhile at least to talk with her. So I took along my tape-recorder and cameras and we drove out to her place in the country.

Her name is Rita Malley. She had reached her twenty-fifth birthday about three weeks before I met her. I was fully determined to study her every little gesture and facial expression as she talked. I wanted to be sure that she wasn't fabricating, exaggerating or being victimized by delusions that may have derived from an hallucination. She spoke calmly, almost matter-of-factly, while sitting on a high stool in her pleasant kitchen, holding her five-year-old son Dana on her lap, throughout the nearly hour-long interview. I set up my tape-recorder on a work-counter, pointed the micro-phone at her and let it go. Here, in her own words, is what was magnetically frozen on the tape:

"My husband's name is John. He works at Morris Chain as a foreman. This is Dana on my lap. He's in

kindergarten. I have a daughter, Rene, in the other room. She's six months old. We have a '62 red Ford convertible with a white top.

"I was driving home late from a visit with a friend in North Lansing. I was going to be late making John's dinner. Dana was in the back seat, right directly behind me. He was running his mouth a mile a minute. You know how kids do that at that age? It was on December 12th, in the evening, about seven o'clock. I was traveling on Route 34 going south, at a speed of about 60 miles an hour - or faster. This is the Auburn-Ithaca Road, where the speed-limit is 50.

"It was a dreary night that night, with slight flurries of snow blowing away. There was no traffic at all. I didn't meet any car. Nobody passed me. And it was a dark night. The clouds were real black, although the sky itself was kind of dark gray, so the clouds stood out against it. The wind was blowing and the clouds were moving - from east to west. The wind was so strong that when I had to make a turn, the car would kind of shift position. The wind was awful. It was coming from the left-hand side and it whistled through the spaces between the convertible top and the body. The roof was flapping against the bars.

I had on the high beams of my headlights. It was a straightaway part of the highway. There are no streetlights in that area. It's kind of a barren stretch - fields and hills on both sides. And there are some homes, but they're back into the woods - a good distance away. The fields are wide-open spaces between the road and the woods.

"Just when I was midway between North Lansing, where my friend lives, and South Lansing - I was closer to Ithaca than I was to Auburn, in other words - I noticed this brilliant red glow, like, on the inside of my car. As though it were coming from the rear. Ah, ah! I thought. It's a police car. I've been speeding. I looked in the rear-view mirror and saw - nothing.

"There was nothing but this red light covering everything. And I thought: what is it? And I just couldn't figure it out. And I was shaking like a leaf, you know, trying to figure a way out of this. I thought it was the cops, but I kept going, just waiting for the sound of their sirens to tell me to pull over off the road.

"I had just come up around a bend in the highway, and, as I said, was now on this straightaway. Well, anyway, I kept going and just a little bit further up the road I was suddenly panicked. This object, whatever it was, suddenly appeared at my left. It came into sight over a telephone pole. And I glanced up - I glanced out and saw brilliant red and green lights underneath an object that was airborne. It must have been 55 to 60 feet in diameter. It was round and had a little dome-like thing on the top. And it tilted once. I saw it once, tilted. You couldn't look right out and stare at it for long, because the lights were so bright from it."

Rita Malley was almost in tears as she described the object. There was fear in her voice as she continued:

"It was, I realized, awfully quiet in the back seat and I looked back to see what Dana was doing. He was sitting straight up. His eyes were just bugging right out of his head. And I yelled at him. I just

screamed at him: 'Dana, Dana! Are you all right?' I think that's what I yelled anyway.

"His response was-nothing. He didn't say a word to me.

He just sat there. He wasn't looking out at the object. His head wasn't turning. His eyelids weren't moving.

"The object was hovering at a height of probably three or four telephone-pole lengths. It extended a white beam of light from underneath - and it just completely took right over the controls of my car. My car stopped moving when it stopped.

"My first thought was to grab Dana and get out of the car and run. Then I thought: what good is to to run. This object, this thing has got complete control of me. I was shaking.

"I just didn't know what to do, what was happening. I became hysterical. I couldn't scream. My throat felt tight. And it was dry. The situation was weird. This was the first time I had ever been right-out scared. If you've ever been really scared, you'll know how I felt. My eyes started hurting, started burning. And I couldn't swallow. I think that was from being so scared - and shocked.

"And I turned away from the back seat because I just couldn't get any response at all out of Dana. My uppermost urge was to get him out of there as fast as I could. But even if I picked him up and got out of the car and ran like mad, there just wasn't anybody around to run to. I saw the small lights of a house way off in the woods, but to reach that house I would have to run more than a mile across a wide open field.

"While I was thinking these wild thoughts, I kept stamping on the accelerator - but the car wouldn't move forward. And the red and green lights on this object - it was disc-shaped - were going off in all different directions. Suddenly I realized that I was moving sideways. The thing was taking me off the road. I twisted and turned the steering wheel in the opposite direction, but no matter what I did - I even tried using the brakes to stop - my car gradually moved sideways and took me under the shoulder of the road. My front right wheel and my back right wheel were sitting in the alfalfa. The shoulder of the road must be 10 feet off the highway - and I must have been another five feet beyond that.

"On the other side of the road, my left side, the object was still hovering over the wires of the telephone pole. It was maybe 120 feet high and now about 180 feet away. The lights inside my car went right down to nothing. The headlights had slowly dimmed to where I could hardly see anything ahead of me. Only red and green flashes from the thing over the pole.

"I have an automatic gear-shift in my car. It was in drive. But the motor had stopped. It went down below an idle, which is hardly turning over. I was trying all the tricks I knew to get the car started. I even started pulling the light-switch back and forth - but I got nowhere.

"Meanwhile, I became aware of a strange noise from this thing, this object. It sounded almost exactly like a TV antenna vibrating in a wind. It was that same low humming noise. The hum at first sounded like a whole swarm of bees, a cluster of bees. Have you ever stumbled into a bees' nest? You know,

they start coming at you? It sounded like a big fast swarm of bumblebees coming at me. And then suddenly the hum stopped when the voices began to talk.

"These voices came out of the thing, this hovering object. I want to explain: my car windows were rolled up tight. And as I said, the wind was blowing. The voices sounded like a group of people, a chorus of voices. They were all talking at the same time, saying the same thing-only they spoke as if what they were saying was being translated into English. Because the words were broken. I mean like when they said the word 'Paul,' they said 'Paahl,' like that. But the last name of the person they were talking about was very distinct. I knew what the last name was." She paused. Her face had lost some color. She was obviously upset. She shook her head before continuing.

"Every time I start telling this, I feel nervous. Right now I feel terrible," she said. "I have chills. In fact, I'm on the verge of crying right now. I cried after I got home following the incident. It's not easy to relive something like this. It's more than even unpleasant."

Rita Malley paused again. After about a minute, she went on:

"These voices were not impressions in my mind. They were external, coming from that hovering thing. They sounded like maybe they were talking through a loudspeaker, but not quite. I couldn't tell whether they were male or female. I mean, there were so many of them all at once. They gave me a dreadful message:

" 'Paul Donalds, Moravia, killed in ... near or in Massena in a tractor-trailer owned by Joe Etinger, Moravia.'

"I did not know Paul Donalds, except by name. Because I knew his sister. Marian Donalds and I went to beauty school together.

"And then they said, these voices said: 'Your son will not remember the time stop the car from the time you left the highway.' I think that's what they said about Dana.

"Well, after about six or seven minutes of terror, my car gradually started to move back toward the road. I had no control over it at all. It moved itself right back onto the road. I was still holding onto the steering wheel and it actually turned like this" - she gestured as if she were turning a steering wheel to the left - "like as if there was somebody sitting there instead of me.

"And I gradually came right up onto the highway, to my proper position in the right-hand lane. My lights came back on. And this hovering object was staying directly opposite of me, to my left, facing the car. I still had no control of the car as we moved along the highway.

"About three miles down the road, we came around a bend, like so" - again she gestured to illustrate making a turn in her car - "and we're coming into South Lansing, onto another stretch of road. The object was still off to my left, at the same distance and height. The white beam of light from underneath it had gone off when it started to move. Just the blinking red and green lights all around the bottom rim of the thing were showing. They were so bright that it was hard to tell their shape, if

they were round or square. The red was most predominant, but they were intermingled so brightly that they blended together.

"As I said, we're now on a straightaway. I was still under control of that thing in the air. Then I noticed some cars coming toward me. At this point the thing suddenly ascended toward the south. I didn't look to see where it went because I was immediately in control of my car again. I was too busy driving against traffic and trying to relax.

"But I was not too busy to be concerned about Dana. I had the feeling that there might be something seriously wrong with him, the way he had acted, as if he was hypnotized. So I called to the back seat: 'Dana?' And he answered: 'Yes.' I said: 'Did you see anything, Dana? Did you see what Mommy saw?' And he said: 'No.'

"He was all right. With that off my mind, I scooted straight back home as fast as I could. We walked into the house, I was in a daze. John, my husband, asked me how come I had been away for so long. And I said: 'You wouldn't believe the reason. You wouldn't believe what I could tell you.' And I wasn't going to tell him.

" 'Why can't you tell me what happened?' he asked. I thought his voice seemed irritable.

"Then I broke down. I was hysterical all over again. And my head was just-aah!-throbbing. Throbbing? You can't imagine! Pain all the way down through the back of my neck. My eyes ached.

"Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer. John was trying to comfort me. And I blurted it out, the whole weird story. He didn't ask me any questions. We were just going to forget about the whole thing. At the time, I didn't know anything about flying saucers.

"That night I woke up screaming from a sound sleep. I had somehow heard a low moaning, maybe quivering hum. I thought the thing was coming back after me again. And of course my husband, John, checked through the house to find out what was really causing that strange hum. He discovered it was the TV antenna vibrating because of the strong blowing wind. In my sleep it had sounded almost exactly like the humming from that hovering thing, before the voices began talking.

"The next day - it was late in the afternoon - I received a phone call from my sister who works at Cornell University. She said: 'What do you think of Paul Donalds' getting killed in Massena?'

"I was shocked. I didn't know what to think. And I said: 'You're kidding!' She said, very seriously: 'No. I'm not.'

"The details were exactly as the voices said. Paul Donalds had been killed in a tractor-trailer owned by Joel Etinger. That was the first I had heard of the actual tragedy. We'd just moved out this way and were not having the newspaper delivered yet."

What about Rita Malley's husband?

"Well, she was upset when she came in the house that evening. I could tell just by looking at her that something was wrong. When she originally wouldn't tell me what was bothering her, my first thought was that she had done something with the car, cracked a cylinder head or something.

"But right after she told me what happened, I couldn't make up my mind whether it actually happened or whether it all happened as she said it did. I don't know. I had doubts about whether it was something psychological - or whether something actually did happen. And I still haven't made up my mind on that score. As long as I haven't seen anything myself, I still don't know."

Rita Malley responded with a nervous laugh. Then she said, quietly but firmly, "I hope he does see one."

Up to the time of my interview with her, she was still having headaches and nightmares. She refuses to drive along that same highway. Route 34 between Auburn and Ithaca, after dark. She shuns it whenever she can during the daytime.



## 5 - What Happened At Wanaque, N.J.? (An Objective Look At UFOs)

By

*Lloyd Mallan*

Over the lonely mountains surrounding the Wanaque Reservoir rose a strange and awesome sight, with a light that blinded observers.

### **Part 1**

On the night of October 11, 1966, Police Sergeant Robert (known to his friends as "Bobby") Gordon was off duty, relaxing in his comfortable house at Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. He had just settled down to watch television when his wife flung open the front door, greatly excited. She called to him, insisting that he immediately dash outdoors to view an Unidentified Flying Object.

Bobby Gordon is a cop in the best sense of the word. He had been trained to observe facts and not UFOs. Using his own words: "In my job I deal with facts - and facts alone. I go by what I see personally." He had been cynical about the many reports of UFO's that had been observed in his area during the previous January and March. His wife, he knew, was a UFO "buff." She was a member of NICAP, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena - an unofficial civilian organization that has been trying for some years to identify the Unidentified Flying Objects reported by many thousands of persons across the United States. So he waved her off for a few moments, until her excitement captivated his interest. Grudgingly he got up from the easy chair in which he'd been sitting and followed her outdoors.

It was precisely 9:15 P.M. when he reached the front yard and looked up at the sky in the direction his wife indicated. He noted, as a trained observer, that Mrs. Lorraine Varga, their neighbor who lived two doors away, was also out in her yard staring at the sky. Mrs. Varga seemed to be agitated - and quite frightened. He gazed above the high television antenna tower, about a block-and-a-half distant, toward which his wife was pointing. What he saw was to him interesting - but not frightening.

Sergeant Gordon is probably one of the youngest sergeants in any local police force in the State of New Jersey, if not of any state of the Union. He appears to be in his late 20s or very early 30s. He came up the hard way - by being a diligent worker, a dedicated police officer. He was not about to allow an unusual phenomenon in the sky to upset his capabilities of observation. Completely unselfconscious about his strikingly handsome appearance and obviously unaware of his earnestness, here's how he told me the story of the beginning of an evening that was probably unique in the history of UFO sightings:

"My wife had seen a very bright object up in the sky, above a nearby TV antenna. The antenna tower is five hundred and some feet in the air and this object was high above it. The object was very bright. It appeared to be the size of a softball, or a grapefruit. It was moving in a north-northeasterly direction. It came from my left and moved to my right. How can I describe its brightness? It wasn't like looking at a streetlight, or a strobe light, or anything like that. It looked just as though there were a hole punched in

the sky. There was no actual beam from it.

"Now when my wife first saw this object, it was hovering - it was still. I didn't see it hover. When I came out of the house it was moving.

"So I went back inside the house and phoned Headquarters. I didn't report the object. I just called them and asked them if they would send a patrol car over. Before I reported it, I wanted someone else to see it beside myself, my wife and Mrs. Varga.

"One of the police officers drove over and just as he got to our house, the thing disappeared from our view. It didn't go out like a light was shut off or anything like that. It just went beyond the horizon, beyond the mountains, in the direction of the Wanaque Reservoir, about four or five miles to our north. I asked the officer to call the Reservoir Police Headquarters by radio and see if any of their officers had a car out on patrol. I wanted to find out if they could possibly see this object, whatever it was."

It should be mentioned here that the Wanaque Reservoir is a 90-odd-billion-gallon stretch of water lying among some of the wildest and loneliest woodlands in New Jersey. Through that mountainous area prowl bobcats, foxes and wild dogs. As many as 100 venomous copperhead snakes have been killed in one day by a single Reservoir Police Officer. The Reservoir Administration maintains its own autonomous police force to patrol the vast water-storage lands. In fact, the area is so wild that a police officer (who doesn't want to be named) told me: "There's only one thing that would make me go into those woods, no matter how many guns I carried, and that's to find a lost child. Otherwise I'd stay close to the roads - in a car."

(An interesting aside: the natives pronounce Wanaque as "Wahn-a-cue." Those who were not born in Wanaque Borough, or who live in nearby communities, pronounce the name as "Wahn-a-kee." No matter how you may pronounce it, Wanaque, N.J., has been the scene of many UFO sightings. Among the responsible persons there who have reported UFOs have been the Borough Mayor, the Mother Superior of Mount Calvary Convent, several members of the Pompton Lakes Police Force, many members of the Reservoir Police Force (including its Chief), Borough Councilmen, a newspaper editor, an electrical engineering student and a mathematics teacher. What they saw and how they feel about the UFO situation was told in June 1967 issue of S6-M. But none of their sightings, although these were also unique, can compare in sheer strangeness with the sighting on the night of October 11, 1966.)

Sergeant Bobby Gordon of the Pompton Lakes Police Force had no idea of what he was starting when he asked his fellow officer in the patrol car to radio the Reservoir Police about that UFO. His story, tape-recorded by me, continues:

"So he (the fellow police officer) radioed up and got in touch with Sergeant Ben Thompson, who was then on patrol around the reservoir. And Sergeant Thompson immediately said: 'Yes, I see something. It's very bright.' We were looking in a northerly direction and at this time we saw three or four flashes - extremely bright flashes."

"From this object?" I asked Gordon.

He shook his head negatively. "The object at this time was out of my sight. But its reflection came off a mountain - or I assume these reflections were from this object. Because it was not three minutes after it left our view that we were in radio contact with Thompson. And it had gone in that same general direction. You see, to the north of my home are mountains which border the reservoir. And it apparently went beyond the mountains, just out of my line of vision. But I believe Sergeant Thompson said it came in from his northeast. That's when he first saw it. He just looked up - and there it was. But these flashes-there were three or four, I don't recall exactly."

I asked: "Oh, you mean they were like brilliant reflections of sunlight on water that you can see from an airplane when you're looking down at a river or the sea?"

"No," he answered. "They were more or less like reflections, say, from a gigantic flashbulb, something like that. They just went flash-flash-flash, about a second or so apart. Maybe two seconds apart, but no longer."

"Getting back to the position of the object when you first saw it," I said, "how did it compare with the antenna tower position? Could you get any estimate of its altitude or speed?"

"I don't know about altitude," Sergeant Gordon told me, "but I've been judging speed for 12 years now as a police officer, you know, and I would say it was moving no more than 20 miles an hour. It moved steadily. No deviations, whatsoever. No erratic turns or anything like that."

This statement I should point out, contradicts the actions of the UFO as Sergeant Ben Thompson of the Reservoir Police later saw them and reported them to me.

I then asked Sergeant Gordon: "Do you have any idea of what it was that you saw?"

He looked puzzled. "No, I don't. I really studied this thing. I saw it for about five to seven minutes and I was honestly looking very closely for wing-lights or tail-lights or the set-up of lights that you find on a helicopter. But I never saw any such lights. And I had this object in my vision first from an 80° angle to my left, and then right in front of me, and then all the way out as it moved away. So I think if there had been any other type of lighting on the object, I most probably would have seen this. The thing I saw was a very odd type of light."

"Did you hear any noise at all?" I asked.

"None whatsoever."

My next question was: "By 'Very odd type of light,' what do you mean? What would it compare with?"

"Well, that's just it," he said. "I've never before seen anything like this. A lot of aircraft fly over this area. And it wasn't, say, an airplane with a strobe light, which is very, very bright. It was mellow than that. Let me see. How can I put this? For example, when you look at a star there's sort of a twinkling effect, while with a planet there's even, to a degree, some kind of fuzziness. This object had none of these effects. It was just white, you know. Not brilliant white as with a strobe light. It was

more mellow. But it was bright."

"You mean that it looked sort of like the moon - if the moon were full?"

He answered me quickly. "No. It was much brighter than that. There was no diffusion whatsoever: no beam or ray or anything like that. Or any little aura around it. It was just neatly bright."

"Did you have the feeling that it was three-dimensional, or did it look flat?"

"I couldn't really say. It was just round - and that's as close as I can come to it. It was very high. I was sorry to see the thing leave my range of vision. It was that interesting. I had never seen anything like this before."

"What was your wife's reaction?"

"She was glad to see it." He laughed. "She's a member of NICAP. It was quite a thrill for her. In fact, she made me get out my own car and drive her and Mrs. Varga over to the reservoir. Of course, I first used the radio in the other officer's patrol car to ask Sergeant Thompson for his position at the time. And we drove over to where he was. But when we arrived, there was nothing in sight. The thing had disappeared. Up to that point I was very interested but not overly impressed with what I saw. Then I heard Ben Thompson's story. We drove up to him, oh, five to ten minutes after we first heard him on the patrol-car radio. I never saw him that excited before."

"Was he really shaken up?" I asked.

"Yeah. He was excited," answered Sergeant Bobby Gordon. "And Ben is not a flustery type of individual. He was shaken. Not to the point of panic or anything like that. But he was, you know, impressed with what he had seen."

"How could you tell he was that excited?"

"Well, actually, Ben is a distant cousin of mine - somewhere back there in the woodpile. And I've known Ben, well, I'd say 15 years. He's a humorous individual, with land of a rough country humor, I guess you'd call it. And he wasn't very humorous that night, you know. Normally, he's a kind of effervescent type of individual, full of jokes. But that night he was quiet. And if you knew him well, you would sense immediately that he was mighty impressed with something."

Another person who had known Sergeant Ben Thompson for years was Howard Ball, an experienced newsman, who is Suburban Editor of the Paterson Morning News, largest circulation daily in the area. Ball described the Reservoir Police Sergeant to me like this: "Ben is a Davy Crockett-type, a man of the woods. He's an outdoorsman, a hunter. I've never known him to exaggerate anything - except maybe the size of a fish. And of all the people in the world, I think that maybe he was one of the great pooh-poohers of UFOs before he first saw one."

Sergeant Ben Thompson certainly didn't appear to me as a man who would be capable of exaggeration,

yet the weird phenomenon that he described to me seemed more like the wildest fantasy of a science-fiction writer's imagination than it did as an actual object observed by an experienced police officer. In fact, Thompson didn't want to talk about the object at all. For three days he gave me quite a hard time, agreeing to an interview and then ducking out of it in one way or another. Originally I had phoned him from my home in New York City and convinced him that I wanted to write an honestly objective story about his sighting.

My purpose, I told him, was not to ridicule him but to report exactly what he had seen. "All right," he said. "Then there's no problem. I'll talk to you." But after I arrived at the Wanaque Reservoir Police Headquarters, he was somehow too busy to talk. He said that he would see me earlier the next day before he went on duty and we could discuss his sighting then. He was very reserved and did not seem too friendly.

The next day I softened him up a little bit by informing him that his Chief of Police had not only agreed to talk into my tape recorder but that the Chief had highly recommended that I interview a certain Sergeant named Ben Thompson. Still he found an excuse not to sit down and describe his experience. But he was becoming a little more friendly.

During my wait to interview Thompson I talked with several other members of the Reservoir Police Force who had seen UFOs in the past. They were all reluctant to talk about their sightings. When I asked them a question about UFOs they would invariably reply with the same phrase. Some said it with a smile, others with no change of expression. The phrase was: "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil." It was obvious that there was an unwritten policy among the Reservoir Police officers to remain silent about the UFOs that had "plagued" their area. I was puzzled by their reluctance to talk. Later I discovered the reason from a statement made to me by Sergeant Thompson.

"You know," he said, "I've personally been ridiculed right down to the end on this thing. Sometimes," he added bitterly, "I've almost come to blows with people who'd say to me, 'What were you drinking last night, Ben?' Or they'd say, 'You can see the funniest things when you have a snootful, Sergeant.' The boys over at Headquarters get the same treatment. It's aggravating."

Furthermore, the U.S. Government had apparently played a role in establishing their policy of silence about UFOs. This had occurred during the earlier sightings. In the words of Ben Thompson: "We notified said Government. And they sent an investigator to Lakeland High School where he interviewed us. He came right out and said we were 'seeing things.' Swamp gas, a star - things like that. He as much as told us that we didn't know what we were seeing. So we figured it would be a waste of breath to talk to anybody, official or not, from then on."

But I finally persuaded the police officers, including Thompson, to talk about their experiences at length. Before I left Wanaque, Sergeant Thompson was calling me "young man" and "buddy." His boss, the Chief of Police, said: "It was a real pleasure to meet you." And the others were all friendly and pleased that their story would be told without bias.

I finally pinned down Sergeant Ben Thompson to a tape-recorded interview. Prior to that moment I'd had the impression that he was a hardboiled, hard-working cop. I felt that he would brusquely go through a quick interview and then dismiss me. Instead I found him actually to be a warm person with

a sentimental streak. I interviewed him in his home, which he built himself with the help of a brother. In his backyard was a deer, a full-grown buck, that he had trained from babyhood. He had rescued the buck from a pack of wild dogs in the woods around the reservoir.

With a branch torn from a tree he had killed the vicious dogs, who were as fierce as timber wolves, and chased the little buck three miles in 94° heat to catch it and save it from starving. The dogs had killed the little deer's mother and another buck. Affectionately, he christened the little buck "Bambi." The State of New Jersey permitted him to keep it. Now it wags its tail wildly when it sees him, approach and eats coughdrops out of his hand.

Sergeant Thompson is a stern-looking, handsome man, with black wavy hair, thick eyebrows, a ruddy complexion and a lean, wiry figure. His stern appearance vanishes when he smiles. He does not drink hard liquor and only occasionally has a beer or two. His fellow police officers told me that he's like an Indian in the woods. He himself told me that: "If somebody took a tree anywhere in these woods and moved it within ten feet of where it was, I would know that tree was moved."

Thompson, when I interviewed him, had been with the Wanaque Reservoir Police Force for six years. Before that, for 20 years, he had been a Security Guard at the E.I. DuPont de Nemours plant at Pompton Lakes. "In other words," he said, "I've been trained to observe things carefully. Things and people. That's what we work with." During World War II he was in the infantry and fought on the islands of Guam and Iwo Jima.

He is thoroughly familiar with aircraft of all lands. He puts it this way: "Yes, sir! I watch that sky carefully at night when I'm coon hunting or fox trapping. And I do a lot of hunting. You see, I wait for the sound of an airplane because as it comes over, the noise of its engines drown out any noise I might make when I'm stalking. And I can get close to the animals that way, without their hearing my approach."

Also, he's very familiar with the appearance of landing lights on airplanes. "I've seen them many times," he said, "blinking their lights at each other, just like bus drivers do when they pass each other on the highway."

Certainly the weird light that he observed close-up on the night of October 11, 1966, was not flashed from an airplane - or he would have recognized it. It was so weird, in fact, that almost anybody would be hard-pressed to believe his story was not fictional if Sergeant Thompson were not such a straightforward, earnest and down-to-earth type of man.

Throughout a long interview plus several hours longer with the man in his own home, where he was casually dressed and relaxed, I was able to study Sergeant Thompson closely. I am convinced that his story is sincere. He is the type, as one of his friends described him, whose main interests are the commonplace things of life. "When he sees a squirrel over his rifle-sight," this friend said, "that he can understand."

Sergeant Thompson has a deep sandpapery voice. Rarely does he show emotion as he talks rapidly in a clipped but matter-of-fact manner. Here's the story he told me of what happened to him in those

minutes before Sergeant Bobby Gordon drove up to find him shaken and excited:

"It was somewhere around 9:15 in the evening and I was on patrol around the reservoir. I was in the gray patrol car, which is kind of a big Jeep. And I received a radio call from the Pompton Lakes Police, which is a kind of Central Radio Dispatch Headquarters for several communities in this area. They told me that there was some land of a flying object in the air. They asked me if I would check it out. So I was only about five minutes' drive away from the area where they thought this object was heading. I drove over there and I saw this very bright light as I approached. I would say it sat there in the sky for around two-and-a-half to three minutes when I first saw it. As I got closer, all of a sudden it started to move. I came to a spot in the road where I stopped. This light was real bright and I could see it was as big as a car. Yes, I'd say it was around eight feet in diameter. And then it made all these squared-off moves. It just kept going - to the right, left, up, down and making all these square turns, to the north, to the east ... Seemed like it was putting on a show or something."

"How high did it seem to be?" I asked.

"Well, I would judge it was about 250 up in the air from me and about 250 feet away from me."

"Was there any shape to it at all?"

"Well, if you took a basketball and cut a hole in it and then set a football in this hole-and then left the end of the football sticking out of the basketball - that's about what it looked like. From one position. It all depended on what way it was going. When this thing was going east and west, it would seem to be just a round disc. But then when it headed south that's when I could see this other shape to it.

"And this football-shaped dome, or whatever it was, seemed to stay in one spot. When this thing was traveling south, or coming north, from where I was standing, the dome-shape just stayed there on top in one position. I mean, you could see this bright light all around it ... And it seemed like this dome was working on maybe some kind of a bearing. Or the whole thing, the whole object, worked like a bearing - where the outside of the bearing, the bright light, would turn and the inside, the dome, would stay in one place. That's about what it would look like."

"Oh, I see," I said. "This always remained level?"

"The dome? Right! The disc seemed to work around it."

"Would you say," I asked, "that the whole thing appeared to be maneuvered at random or intelligently?"

"Oh, yes. Very intelligent. Yes."

"And you still don't know what it was?"

"No. I don't know what it was. The light was so bright, I couldn't tell what was behind it."

"Was it as bright as an arc light?"

"Well, you know, when you're welding they tell you not to look into the arc? Well, this thing was worse than an arc light. Because I know: I've worked in a welding shop and I've looked at arc lights. Naturally, a lot of times you'd be sitting around the shop and another guy'd be welding and you'd just happen to look over at him - right? - and his arc would bother your eyes for a little while after you turned away. But not as long as this thing bothered my eyes that night."

I asked: "Can you make a guess as to how long your eyes were affected?"

"I would say that I was totally blind for at least two minutes."

"What color was the light of this object you saw?"

"It was just a real, real bright white."

"You mentioned that it was moving. What sort of movement did it make?"

"Oh, this thing was moving at a very, very fast pace." (This is in sharp contrast to the estimate of 20 miles an hour given for the UFO's speed by Sergeant Bobby Gordon of the Pompton Lakes Police Force.) Sergeant Thompson was emphatic: "I would say that it went a mile in the short time it would take you to get into a car and out of it. In that length of time, it would make two trips across the reservoir at the place where I spotted it."

"In fact, I parked my patrol car in a very bad place along a narrow road. I started to get out of the car, but then thought better of it. So I sat there, just watching this thing for awhile. Because it really shook me up, you know. I finally got out of the car and walked over toward its front fender. I was afraid to step out into that narrow road, just in case another car would come scooting by. I finally edged back into this police car that we use as a Jeep and I switched on the red dome-light and flasher. This would be the rotating warning beacon. Then I got out of the car again and started walking toward this thing - and it took off."

"You mean," I said, "that the UFO took off after you turned on the beacon?"

"Right! After I switched on this red dome-light, it took off directly toward what we call Cooper Swamp Mountain. And it seemed just like it went right inside of the mountain. But to me, it looked like the light went out."

"You see, there was a funny mist all the way around this thing while it was in flight, as it went away from me. I could see this mist as it flew away from me."

"Oh," I said, "there was a kind of haze surrounding it?"

"Right. A very, very heavy haze."



"Was the haze the same color as the light itself?"

He shrugged. "You see, this thing was so bright that it lit up the whole area. I would say, for a half a mile wide."

Again, here is a sharp contradiction with what Sergeant Bobby Gordon observed about the UFO. Gordon saw neither haze nor mist and, in fact, described the object as being neatly bright" like a hole punched in the sky." However, Sergeant Gordon did not see the object at close-up range.

"Was the sky clear?" I asked Sergeant Thompson.

"It was a perfectly clear night, yes."

"Did you hear any sounds at all?"

"No sound at all," he answered. Then he added emphatically: "I never heard a sound from it!"

"So it couldn't have possibly been some kind of an aircraft?"

His tone was disdainful. "No. It was no aircraft. I've seen a lot of aircraft. In fact, there were aircraft all over the place after this thing had disappeared. But nobody knows where they came from. There were seven helicopters and, I would say, ten or twelve jets."

"Oh? These were U.S. Air Force aircraft?"

"I don't know," he answered.

"You don't know where they originated? They just came on the scene?"

"Right on the scene!" he stated with emphasis. "It was only 15 minutes from the time we had spotted the thing. And the Air Force claims that they didn't get any report on it. And that they didn't send any aircraft into our area. But I don't know. They seem to be holding something out on us. I just don't know. Now I've never seen seven helicopters at one time in this area in all my life - and I've lived here for 40 years."

"Were the airplanes jet-fighter types?"

Sergeant Thompson shrugged again. "They were very fast ail-craft - and they kept circling the whole area. Stewart Air Force Base, which is the closest to this area - it's in New York State at Newburgh - claims that they didn't send anybody down here. No planes or anybody. Nothing."

This was a puzzling situation, to say the least. If the Air Force had sent aircraft over the area within 15 minutes of the UFO sighting how had they learned about the UFO so swiftly? Maybe they were monitoring the Pompton Lakes Police Radio Central signals? On the other hand, Sergeant Bobby

Gordon told me that he did not believe this was so. As of this writing, there is no answer to the mystery of the sudden heavy traffic in helicopters and high-performance aircraft.

I next asked Sergeant Thompson: "How long did you observe the UFO?"

"I would say about three minutes," he answered.

He paused for a moment, then said: "Well, I'll tell you one thing. I could not find my patrol car after this thing disappeared." Again with strong emphasis: "I was totally blinded from that light. I had to stand there in the road quite a while before I could get my vision back to where I could find the car!"

"What kind of reflection did it cast on the reservoir?"

"Oh, it lit up the reservoir like you were two feet from the water pointing a very bright spotlight. You could see the whole water. I could see the treetops on both sides of the mountain - which would be anywhere from a half a mile to a mile of that area.

"And as it went over the trees - which would be on the mountains to the west - it would sort of pull the tops of the trees together. In other words, it had a suction effect. It didn't blow the trees apart. It pulled them together. And it also pulled the water - upward."

This sounded incredible to me. "Can you describe that effect in more detail?" I asked Sergeant Thompson.

If my incredulity was too obvious, it didn't seem to affect Thompson's earnest manner. He continued as if there had been no pause for a question. "And as this thing faded away, from an area like, say, to the west of the one mountain, as it went over the reservoir toward the east, I could see the water come up toward this flying object," he said matter-of-factly. "Then as the object moved away from that area, the water would settle back down to its natural level."

"You mean," I again interrupted him, "that the water would move like a wave, or a quick tide?"

"No. The water was pulled up. It was sucked upward. But not off its bed. The flying object would just raise a whole big area of water - I don't know - for maybe two-hundred and fifty feet. As far as I could see. The object would just pull at the water and I could plainly see the water rising. And when this thing flew away from the area, the water would just settle right down again."

Now he became somewhat excited. "And that object just pulled the trees right together. The tops of the trees came right together. Each tree just mingled in with the other one. They came together just as smoothly as could be. It wasn't a violent motion. It didn't break the trees or anything like that. It would be just like somebody took a big rope and circled around four or five hundred trees and then ran it through a chain-block and started pulling those trees together. And they'd come together nice and slow. Well, that's the way those trees acted when the flying object passed over them."

"How high would you estimate that it pulled up the water?"

"Oh, I would say that from where I was standing - while I was looking into this light - that it pulled the water up a good two or three feet. The reservoir was low at the time and I could see the water rise plainly. As long as I was looking into this light from the flying object, I was all right. But if I just moved my head away from the light for one minute, I couldn't see a thing. Not a single thing. Because I was blinded."

"Were there any other witnesses at the reservoir?" I asked Sergeant Thompson. "Were you the only one who saw this UFO that close up, from among all of the people who saw it in the sky?"

"Yes, I am." He paused for a moment. "But a certain lady, Mrs. John Oldman, I think saw it pretty close up, because she was driving along the road just as this flying thing was passing over that same road, descending toward the reservoir. Mrs. Oldman had left her house to go shopping-she lives up around that area of the reservoir - and this thing scared her so badly that she drove right back home before she ever got to the store. She just stepped on the gas and took off. She told her husband about it and her husband came over to Police Headquarters and he told me about her experience.

"In fact," said Sergeant Thompson, as an afterthought, "these same two people had seen the flying object one night before - with me."

Surprised, I asked: "You mean, you had seen it previously?"

His tone was absolutely matter-of-fact. "Oh, yes. This is the third time that I've seen this thing."

"What did it look like the other two times?"

"Well, it was much higher. And it looked just like the way the Pompton Lakes Police described it to me over the radio: a real bright light. But see, it was so high it looked like it was going slow. Yet it was still making these square turns. Even at that altitude."

"The first month several of us saw it was in January (1966). And then we spotted it again in March. That's when my Chief also saw it."

"And for how long did you see it the first and second times?"

"Well, the second time we watched it quite awhile. It stayed right there for, I would say, an hour-and-a-half."

"That long? And still making those squared off turns?"

"Right. Still making those square turns. In fact, I was in Johnny Oldman's house the second time. And we watched it from there. As it faded over the hills, the mountains-there are some pretty high mountains over there - well, I got in the police car and followed it down through the valley where I could watch it, you know, and still keep it in sight. Kept it in sight quite a long time - about an hour-and-a-half, as I mentioned. That was in March."

"The first time you saw it, in January, how long did it stay in sight?"

"Quite a long time. Quite a while.

"What did you think, personally, when you first saw it?"

"To tell the truth, I didn't know what to think. I mean, I knew that there was something there that I'd never seen before in the sky. Especially because of those square turns.

"You see, this thing could maneuver so fast. And it made no round turns, like an aircraft would as it started peeling off. You know, you can watch an airplane - I don't care how fast it's going - go into a turn. But with this thing, you couldn't see it make a turn. It would just go directly south, or north, or east, or whatever way it wanted to travel - and it would decide to go up. While it was going straight ahead at a very fast rate of speed - it would just shoot right straight up."

"Vertically? Just like that?"

"Vertical, right. And then it would set there for a few minutes, or seconds, and then all of a sudden come right back down. Then it would go to the right, to the left - making square turns. And I think if any aircraft did this, or anything else I've ever seen in the air, that kind of maneuver would bust it up. It would break apart."

Amazing as his story may seem, Sergeant Ben Thompson claims that he is willing to stand up to anyone, in any court and to any individual, and swear under oath that he has seen what he describes with such graphic clarity. "I would even appear before the President of the United States of America," he told me, "and defy him to call me a liar!"

He recounts a little personal anecdote to illustrate why people should not be so quick to scoff at what may appear to be unusual in nature - and yet be easily explainable if they sat back to think things out and try to find an explanation. Once while hunting in the woods he saw a ketchup bottle moving toward him along the ground. He was startled, but he knew that ketchup bottles cannot move by themselves.

So he went up close to the bottle and discovered that a copperhead snake had caught its head tightly in the bottle-opening. He grabbed the snake by its tail and carried it home, bottle and all, where he killed and burned it to prevent its venom from soaking into the ground and poisoning the land. Since he had no evidence of the snake in the bottle, nobody believed him later when he told of seeing a ketchup bottle "walking."

Sergeant Ben Thompson is especially bitter about what he calls the stupid tactics of Project Blue Book, the U.S. Air Force's official project to evaluate Unidentified Flying Objects. "They don't listen to what you saw," he says. "They tell you what you saw! I would never report anything to them. It's a waste of effort."

His attitude is firmly echoed by Sergeant Bobby Gordon of the Pompton Lakes Police Force, who refused to report his own UFO sighting to the Air Force. Why? "I have enough aggravation on my job, so that I don't have to go outside to get it," Gordon told me.

These were common attitudes among people in the Borough of Wanaque, N.J., as I discovered during my stay in the area. Are they valid attitudes? And how does the Air Force explain the abrupt, mysterious appearance of seven helicopters and 10 to 12 high-performance aircraft over the Wanaque Reservoir a mere 15 minutes after the sighting of the strangest UFO ever by Reservoir Police Sergeant Ben Thompson?

Were these unusual overflights a mere coincidence - or were they somehow related to the UFO sighting?

To find an answer, I checked with U.S. Air Force officers in the Pentagon and at Project Blue Book; with officers of the U. S. Navy at Lakehurst, N.J., Floyd Bennett, N.Y., and Willow Grove, Pa., Naval Air State Stations; with the Bureau of Safety of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), both at their Washington, D.C. Headquarters and their installation at JFK International Airport, N.Y.; with the General Aviation District Office of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) at the Teeterboro N.J. Airport; and with the U.S. Coast Guard. The results of all my inquiries were negative.

An example of how little the Air Force knows about the Wanaque UFO sightings was a statement made to me by Lt. Colonel George Freeman, Air Force Chief of Community Affairs and Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book. Colonel Freeman said: "We keep hearing about those Wanaque sightings and people keep writing to us about them - but we never received any report on them here in the Pentagon."

Project Blue Book has no record in their files of interviews with any police officer from the Wanaque Reservoir, the Wanaque Borough or the Pompton Lakes Police Forces. If any of these police officers had been interviewed by an Air Force investigator, he must send a report of the interview in to the Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. Lieutenant William Marley of Blue Book made an extensive search of the files for me while I waited on the long-distance telephone for more than a half-hour.

The only report he could find that referred to the Wanaque sightings was a copy of the standard UFO reporting form filled out by Howard Ball, who was then Suburban Editor of the Paterson Morning News. Ball had requested a copy of the form by telephone. He had never been interviewed in person by an Air Force investigator.

Newsman Ball himself told me: "I don't remember any Air Force investigators coming out to interview the police here. I hope they (the Wanaque police officers) aren't mixing up the Air Force with NICAP. The NICAP did send investigators.

"The Air Force," he continued, "interviewed me by telephone - because I called them. Except for throwing my own story back at me, they were very courteous."

## Part II

The mystery of these strange UFO sightings deepens as the author attempts to track down the source of the planes that witnesses saw on the scene.

On the same night that Sergeant Ben Thompson of the Wanaque, N.J., Reservoir Police Force was temporarily blinded by the brilliance of the strangest UFO thus far reported (see Wanaque Part I), a young student of electrical engineering was "fooling around" with a Geiger counter about a mile away from the reservoir where the UFO was sighted. What he and a college classmate discovered that night accentuates the mystery veiling the UFO seen by Sergeant Thompson.

The student is John de Giacomo, a Junior at Newark College of Engineering, Newark, N. J. Young Giacomo lives in Ringwood, N.J., a town adjacent to Wanaque Borough. He is also Chief Radio Operator for the Ringwood Borough Civil Defense organization. At the time that he and a friend were testing radiation levels near the Wanaque Reservoir, he hadn't the faintest idea that a UFO was about to be sighted. In fact, he joked about it. Here's how he told me the story:

"Well, it all started one night in October (1966). It was the 11th of October. One of my friends from school, Jim Bonney, and I were fooling around with some radiation equipment - mainly with a Geiger counter. This was at the northern end of the town. And we started getting some abnormal radiation readings. It was nothing to warrant any concern. But it was about four times above the background radiation that you would normally pick up in that area. This was about 8:30 in the evening.

"You know, there have been so many UFOs sighted around here that we started joking and I said: "Well, the UFO is going to be flying again tonight!" And this became my famous quote around school. Because sure enough, when Jim and I were driving back to school next morning, we turned on the car radio to WABC and heard a news announcement stating that a UFO had been spotted the night before over Wanaque Reservoir.

"That same night, back at Ringwood, I tested the identical area again at the northern end of town - and the Geiger counter read normal.

"The high radiation count that we had recorded previously seemed to occur only at the northern end of the town. This led us to the theory that possibly the latest UFO sighted at Wanaque Reservoir might be the result of a series of American nuclear experiments. Because we do have a nuclear research installation up here - Union Carbide Nuclear Research - in Sterling Forest. In a straight line, it's only about a mile-and-a-half to two miles from where we were located that night with the Geiger counter."

Not that I doubted this theory of John de Giacomo - he is a sharply intelligent young man with a deep interest in science and technology - but I felt that I ought to check it out with the people at Union Carbide's Sterling Forest installation. They have a big nuclear reactor there, built into the side of a mountain near Tarrytown, N.Y.

If John de Giacomo was correct in his theory, a radiation leakage from the reactor might cause an ionization of the air in pockets that could be blown by the wind and produce moving manifestations of

glowing electrified gases which might be mistaken for UFOs by scientifically untrained observers.

If, on the other hand, there had been no leakage of the reactor, the Giacomo theory would be invalid and the mystery of the strange UFO would remain unsolved.

So I tracked down the name and phone number of the Director of Union Carbide's Tarrytown Nuclear Laboratories. He is Dr. S.R. Aspinall, a patient and courteous gentleman who listened to my questions with some concern.

I asked him first: "Could any of your nuclear experiments on the night of October 11, 1966, have caused a rise in the radiation level by a factor of four in the vicinity of northern Ringwood, N.J.?"

His answer was: "I don't think so."

Next I asked: "On that night, or at any other time, was there a leakage of radiation detected from your reactor?"

His reply was simple: "Ours is an open reactor immersed in a great depth of water. As you know, water by itself is one of the most effective radiation filters. But apart from that, we have elaborate systems of filtering to assure that radiation does not escape into the air."

He suggested that a man more competent than he to give me precise information about the reactor would be Dean Holzgraf, Manager of Nuclear Operations for Union Carbide at Sterling Forest, N.Y. He gave me Holzgraf's switchboard and extension numbers. I asked Holzgraf the same questions.

In answer to both questions, the Manager of Nuclear Operations said: "We have an automatic shutdown system for the reactor. If there is any malfunction, the reactor cuts off itself. This has happened only once in our entire history of operation - and we work the reactor steadily five days a week. The one time we had a shutdown was caused by a freak condition that saturated our detection instruments. And that shutdown did not occur on October 11, 1966. It happened a much longer time ago."

Mr. Holzgraf added, as a possible explanation for the four-times increase in radiation level detected by John de Giacomo and Jim Bonney, that the hills around Sterling Forest, Ringwood and the Wanaque Reservoir are "loaded with radioactive rocks that contain some thorium and uranium. Uranium decays into radon, a radioactive gas with a half-life of 30 minutes." It was radon rolling off the hills that caused a saturation of the detection instruments and shutdown of the reactor on one special occasion when there was a clear, cold, still morning with a temperature inversion that prevented the gas from being dissipated into the atmosphere.

"However," explained Holzgraf, "the rocks are not so rich in radioactive materials that they could be hazardous to human Me. They are just rich enough to cause occasional odd conditions."

This left me almost exactly where I had started-except that the Union Carbide Company's nuclear reactor could not possibly have been a cause of the increased radiation level detected by the two young

college students. So the Giacomo theory about the origin of UFO wasn't strictly valid, yet special atmospheric conditions combined with the presence of radioactive radon in the air might explain the fourfold increase of radiation that night of October 11, 1966.

Or maybe the explanation lay in the UFO itself? Both John de Giacomo and his classmate Jim Bonney quit "fooling around" with their Geiger counter shortly after 8:30 that evening. They had homework to do for classes the next day. Yet 45 minutes later, Police Sergeant Ben Thompson sighted the strangest UFO of all. Was the increase in radiation level still present at that time? Nobody knows, because nobody was checking this.

All that can be stated with certainty is that the following evening about the same time, the radiation background had returned to normal. A four-times increase in background radiation is not a great amount, but it is enough to be puzzling. Could that increase have been the result of some strange propulsion system that powered the UFO, that enveloped the area even before the UFO was sighted? And that disappeared after the UFO had disappeared?

Still, a contradiction persists. Pompton Lakes Police Sergeant Bobby Gordon, his wife and a neighbor had first sighted the UFO moving at a high altitude. Their position was south of Ringwood and the Wanaque Reservoir. How could the increase in radiation have come from that - or even a greater - distance, assuming that the UFO was far away from the area at 8:30 P.M. Or was it? Maybe it was hovering there invisibly, or maybe it was there but simply was not sighted? In any case; the question mark to the mystery now has an exclamation point added to it.

Equally mysterious is the situation mentioned to me by Sergeant Ben Thompson: the unprecedented abrupt appearance of seven helicopters and 10 to 12 high-performance jet airplanes over the Wanaque Reservoir a mere 15 minutes after his sighting of the strangest UFO ever. A side-mystery involves his statement to me regarding a Government investigator, as was reported in Part I of this story: "We notified said Government. And they sent an investigator to Lakeland High School, where he interviewed us. He came right out and said we were 'seeing things.' " After exhaustive research that bordered on detective work, I could find no evidence whatever that any department of the U.S. Government had sent a UFO investigator to Wanaque, N.J. In fact, there was no record in existence that any military or civilian department of the Government had been responsible for the enigmatic appearance of seven helicopters and about a dozen jet airplanes which purportedly had been circling over the Wanaque Reservoir in the same area where Thompson had sighted his UFO on October 11, 1966.

Yet I must believe Sergeant Thompson's statement. He is not the hallucinatory type. Besides, Sergeant Bobby Gordon of the Pompton Lakes, N.J., Police Force independently told me that he had seen six helicopters in the area at the same hour that evening during which Thompson had seen them. Neither police officer had ever before observed that many aircraft flying over the area at one time.

Were these unusual overflights a mere coincidence - or were they somehow related to the UFO sighting?

To find an answer, I checked with U. S. Air Force officers in the Pentagon and at Project Blue Book; with officers of the U. S. Navy at Lakehurst, N.J., Floyd Bennett, N.Y., and Willow Grove, Pa., Naval



Air State Stations; with the Bureau of Safety of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), both at their Washington, D.C. Headquarters and their installation at JFK International Airport, N.Y.; with the General Aviation District Office of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) at the Teeterboro, N.J., Airport; and with the U. S. Coast Guard. The results of all my inquiries were negative.

Nor was the U. S. Army involved in any way with the overflights of the Wanaque Reservoir. There had been a number of Army helicopters based at Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, N.Y. But when I checked with a Lieutenant C. King of Base Operations there, he said: "We used to have a group of Army helicopters here - but they were all transferred out by the end of August 1966."

Major Lennis G. Harris, the Base UFO investigator at Stewart AFB, checked the flight-mission records and reported: "No USAF aircraft from this base were on a mission in the Wanaque area at 2100 to 2200 hours (9:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.) on 11 October 1966." Major Harris also added that neither he personally nor anyone under him had gone to Wanaque for an investigation of the UFO sighting on January 11, 1966. (This was the date of the first sighting of a UFO over the Wanaque Reservoir - the sighting which, according to Sergeant Ben Thompson, caused the Government to send an investigator to the Lakeland Regional High School for interrogation of those who had observed that first UFO.)

Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Chief of Project Blue Book, the Government's only official UFO investigating organization, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, told me: "If you put up that many jet fighters (assuming that the 10 or 12 jets seen by Police Sergeant Thompson were fighters), the Air Defense Command would certainly know about it! The aircraft would have to be vectored in by radar - and only the Ground Control Intercept operators of ADC could do this job."

McGuire AFB near Dover, N.J., is the Divisional Headquarters of the 21st Air Division and has complete control over the vectoring of Air-Defense fighter-interceptors from the various wings and detachments throughout Northern New York and New Jersey. Major Quintanilla checked for me with the Divisional headquarters and reported: "There is no record of any fighters out at the time and date you mentioned. That many planes out all together would mean a training exercise was in progress. No training exercises for that period and area are in the records." He added that Army helicopters are based much too far south of Wanaque to have been able to reach the reservoir area in 15 minutes after Sergeant Thompson saw his weird UFO in October.

At the Lakehurst Naval Air Station I spoke with Lieutenant Lee Norris, Public Affairs Officer. He said: "I can't remember ever having seen six helos in the air at one time at night. And I'm fairly well familiar with our operations here. Tell you what, I'll check it out - but I'm willing to bet my next month's paycheck that those helos were not ours!" The only jet aircraft at Lakehurst, according to Lieutenant Norris, are experimental types "and they wouldn't make a short-haul trip, like to Wanaque. They'd be flying down to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland for tests. And usually there would be no more than two in the air at a time."

It took Lieutenant Norris about an hour to check out the helicopter flight records for October 11, 1966. Here's what he found: "That day we had 11 helicopter flights-but none after 1900 hours (7:00 P.M.)."

"Were any of those eleven flights, regardless of the time, over the Wanaque area?" I asked him.

"Negative. These were all locals," he answered. "And when I say locals,' I mean our pilots stay in the local area on local missions. They don't go anywhere else."

He paused for a short laugh. "Maybe it's a security situation that nobody's telling us about? Or telling anyone else for that matter." He paused again to indulge in a laugh. "Either it's a top security deal - or somebody's fibbing about those helos!"

Next I talked with Commander Tom Williamson, Public Affairs Officer at the Floyd Bennett Naval Air Station. His response was: "Ten or 12 jet aircraft? That sounds silly. At night what would they expect to find - even if they were orbiting the area? They couldn't see enough of the terrain to make out anything. With the choppers, it's different. They can hover, use searchlights and so forth. But this base has never had seven choppers. And I've been here since October 1964. We have one squadron, about four or five choppers. But the Coast Guard also has a few based here separately."

So I checked with the Coast Guard's Office of Public Information in New York City and spoke with Seaman Tom Hester. "Well, we don't have that many helicopters in this area," he said. "But hold on and I'll check it out." He went to the Search and Rescue (SAR) Dairy and after five minutes told me: "Checked our SAR Diary from October 10th to the 13th for 1966, just to be sure, and there's no mention of anything for that area. No choppers were dispatched to the Wanaque area for any reason." The SAR Diary, it should be explained, is a running daily record of Coast Guard search and rescue operations. The daily records are not discarded each year, but are preserved over many years through the past.

At the Civil Aeronautics Board, I first checked with Ed Slattery, an old friend who is Public Affairs Officer for the Bureau of Safety in the CAB Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Ed searched through his voluminous files and could find nothing unusual for October 11, 1966, in the way of accidents or missing aircraft. "Of course," he said, "we don't keep a file on every little privately owned aircraft that's been involved in an accident. There were five thousand such accidents in 1966 alone. But to bring out that many search aircraft - 10 or 12 jets and seven helicopters - there would have to be a major aircraft disaster."

He added that so many search aircraft over the Wanaque Reservoir - if they were search aircraft - would have been ordered out by the New York City Regional CAB Office of the Bureau of Safety, since the Wanaque area was in its province. "And," he said, "that Regional Office sometimes takes much longer than the three months they're supposed to take to send in a report to me. You might try them when you're back in New York."

I tried them a few days later. The CAB Bureau of Safety New York Regional Office is located at the JFK Intel national Airport in Long Island. The girl who takes care of the files checked the records back from October 11 to October 1, 1966 - "to be absolutely certain," she said. Then she told me: "There's nothing. Just nothing. No accidents. And I'm sure the Board would be in on it if there was anything."

The General Aviation District Office of the Federal Aviation Agency at the Teeterboro Airport in New Jersey has the Wanaque area under its jurisdiction. I tried them too. There I spoke with Mr. A.T. Worth, FAA Operations Inspector. He said: "I don't remember any commotion around here on that

date. And there would have been quite a commotion if there had been a missing aircraft or an accident. As a matter of fact, I have no recollection of any missing aircraft in that area, this district, for a long, long time."

So from whence came all those jet airplanes and helicopters that were seen by Police Sergeants Ben Thompson and Bobby Gordon over the Wanaque Reservoir on the night of October 11, 1966? It seems doubtful that both police officers were suffering from illusions. Yet all of the basic sources of such aircraft have been checked carefully - and they all deny their helicopters and/or jets could possibly have been flying in the area at the time Thompson and Gordon reported them there. If any reader has a suggestion about where to check out this strange situation further, we would be extremely grateful for his or her ideas.

The same kind of enigma enshrouds the identity of the Government UFO investigator mentioned to me by both Sergeants Thompson and Gordon as well as by other police officers in the Wanaque and Pompton Lakes area. But after extensive research and interviews of Government personnel who would be most qualified for such an investigation, again no positive evidence was uncovered to indicate that anybody was sent on an official mission to investigate reports of that first UFO sighted above the Wanaque Reservoir on January 11, 1966.

Certainly no Air Force officer gathered the UFO observers into the auditorium of Lakeland Regional High School to deride them about their sighting. Nor was any officer of the Army or Navy responsible for this situation. Such a situation, by the way, is normally outside the province of the FBI. If CIA personnel are involved - and I personally doubt this very much - they are not in the habit of agreeing to be interviewed by reporters.

An example of how little the Air Force knows about the Wanaque UFO sightings was a statement made by Lt. Col. George Freeman, Chief, Civil Branch, Community Relations Div., and Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book. Colonel Freeman said: "We keep hearing about those Wanaque sightings and people keep writing to us about them - but we never received any report on them here in the Pentagon."

Project Blue Book has no record in their files of interviews with any police officer from the Wanaque Reservoir, the Wanaque Borough or the Pompton Lakes Police Forces. If any of these police officers had been interviewed by an Air Force investigator, he must send a report of the interview in to the Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. Lieutenant William Marley of Blue Book made an extensive search of the files for me while I waited on the long-distance telephone for more than a half-hour. The only report he could find that referred to the Wanaque sightings was a copy of the standard UFO reporting form filled out by Howard Ball, who was then Suburban Editor of the Paterson Morning News. Ball had requested a copy of the form by telephone. He had never been interviewed in person by an Air Force investigator.

Newsman Ball himself told me: "I don't remember any Air Force investigators coming out to interview the police here. I hope they (the Wanaque police officers) aren't mixing up the Air Force with NICAP. The NICAP did send investigators.

"The Air Force," he continued, "interviewed me by telephone - because I called them. Except for

throwing my own story back at me, they were very courteous."

Howard Ball's reference to "throwing my own story back at me," will be elaborated in detail later. It is an amusingly interesting story. Ball, as a newspaper editor in the area, was not only deeply involved with the Wanaque Reservoir UFO sighting of January 11, 1966, covering all possible angles of it, but he was among those who actually observed the UFO.

The Honorable Harry T. Wolfe, Mayor of Wanaque Borough, also sighted the UFO on that date. He told me that no one from the Air Force had interviewed him, and he was not aware of any Air Force investigator having been in the Wanaque area for the purpose of interviewing anybody. He was, however, interviewed by NICAP investigators - as were the Reservoir Police officers Ben Thompson and George Dykman, among others from the Wanaque Borough Police Force.

The reader already knows that no UFO investigator was sent to Wanaque from Stewart Air Force Base at New-burgh, N.Y. In terms of geography, a more logical base from which to dispatch a UFO investigator would be McGuire Air Force Base near Dover, N.J. At the time of the January 11 sighting, the Base UFO Investigator at McGuire was Major Harold O'Connell. Major O'Connell was quite firm in his denial that anybody had been sent from McGuire to interview people at Wanaque: "I know of nobody from this base that I or anybody else here dispatched to Wanaque to question those UFO observers. I wasn't there myself. And I would be the one guy who would have the authority to do the dispatching of others!"

Major O'Connell was also somewhat sarcastic. "Those Wanaque police officers must be pretty poor cops if they didn't get the name of the investigator who was interviewing them. Or especially ask for his I.D. Card - which is an absolute identification of his military service."

Actually, no Reservoir Police Officer that I spoke with at Wanaque could remember that name of the Air Force officer who they alleged had insulted them during an interview in the high school auditorium.

Whatever the identity of that mysterious UFO investigator may have been, he was not from the Navy. Mr. George Albert, Chief of Security/Air Police at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station just outside of Philadelphia, Pa., said: "No one from Willow Grove ever went to investigate those UFOs at Wanaque And I've been Chief of Security here for the past two years!"

When it comes right down to the hard facts, the only official UFO investigator's are those under the supervision of the Air Force Project Blue Book. There have been instances reported, however, where UFO observers - who claimed to have made photographs of their sighting - were approached by impostors. Dressed in civilian clothes, one of these fakers posed as an officer from the North American Air Defense Command and demanded a set of UFO photos made by a highway inspector in California during 1965. According to a story by Alex Faulkner in the London Sunday Telegraph of January 29, 1967: "More recently, a man claiming to represent 'a (U.S.) Government agency so secret that he couldn't give it's name' questioned two boys at a school in Norwalk, Connecticut, about the disc-shaped object they said had pursued them last year." There is no record in the files of Project Blue Book that an Air Force investigator had been sent to interview the boys.

One possible explanation for the identity of that mysterious investigator who held forth in the auditorium of a Wanaque high school was suggested innocently in a recent letter to me from Roger L. Gordon, a Wanaque-area native who is now studying medicine at a university in Massachusetts. The letter was inspired by young Gordon having heard me on Radio Station WMEX in Boston during an interview program about UFOs. He wrote:

"Later in the program you received a call from a young man who had seen photos taken from an I.G.Y. (International Geophysical Year) ship off the coast of Brazil in 1958. You stated that you had not seen these pictures. Last January 28 (1966), a meeting was held at Lakeland Regional High School in Wanaque, after the first rash of sightings appeared. Mr. Donald Berliner, a NICAP representative, was present and showed the audience this photograph, which I believe was taken in daylight."

So Newspaper Editor Howard Ball could have been right when he told me: "I hope they (the Wanaque police officers) aren't mixing up the Air Force with NICAP." The only hitch here is that the NICAP investigators are not apt to deride a person who has sighted a UFO. They are much more apt to be on his side of the fence. (In fact, Roger Gordon's letter to me continued thus: "At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Berliner stated that Wanaque's UFOs were (1) real, not imagined; (2) artificial, not natural; and (3) under intelligent control.")

I can offer no other explanation of this puzzle - unless an actual impostor came on the scene and gathered the police officers together in that same auditorium. Yet if this was so, what could his motive have been? For he apparently interviewed no one else but the police officers.

Within this confusing morass of contradictions, one man alone stands out as an individual UFO observer who was actually interviewed by an Air Force investigator. He is Howard L. Ball, Jr., of Pompton Lakes, N.J., formerly Suburban Editor of the Paterson Morning News and presently County Bureau Chief of the Paterson Morning Call. I know that Editor Ball was interviewed, not only because the Air Force told me so but also because he told me. Howard Ball is as straightforward a man as you'll ever want to meet. In addition, he's intelligent, perceptive and absolutely objective - three qualities usually not found all at once in the average newspaperman.

Ball, a round-faced but pleasantly featured, sensitive-appearing and husky man who seems to be in his late thirties, has been a newspaper editor since 1951. Before that, for five years, he was a news reporter for Radio Station WKMI in Kalamazoo, Mich., a 'reporter on the Kalamazoo Gazette for a brief period and a correspondent for both the Associated Press and the United Press-International in Michigan. He was once an Information Officer for the 107th Fighter-Bomber Wing of the Air National Guard at Kellogg Air Force Base, Battle Creek, Mich. College-educated at Western Michigan University, he holds a B.A. Degree in the Liberal Arts and teaches English in his spare time at the Wanaque Lakeland Regional High School. He is married and has three children, two girls and a boy. There is no question but that Howard Ball is a responsible citizen.

When he sighted his first (and only) UFO on January 11, 1966, in the Wanaque area, he was late for work. His shift on the Paterson Morning News was from six o'clock in the evening to two o'clock in the morning. He might never have seen the UFO if he had not been late in getting started to work. Here's how he described the UFO sighting to me: "On the night in question, I was late. I left the house

around 6:15-in order to get to work by 6:00!" He laughed at his own joke. "I drove to Paterson by way of the Hamburg Turnpike here. Hamburg Turnpike runs more or less in a north-south direction. I was proceeding south toward Paterson on the turnpike - and I would say I was about two hundred yards north of an intersection with a road called Colfax Road when I crested a hill. And that's when I saw what I saw.

"The object that I observed was in the south-southeast quadrant of the sky. It was above the horizon maybe 35 to 50 degrees. Pretty high. And it was traveling from the south-southeast toward the northwest, or maybe even toward the north-northwest. At that point of the road there's a traffic semaphore light. I caught the red light and stopped. And the thing (the UFO) took my eye because it was so brilliant. It was more brilliant than any of the heavenly objects in the sky."

I interrupted him: "It was a clear night, in other words?"

"A very clear night," he answered. "I could easily see the stars and planets."

Again I interrupted: "How much brighter was this object than, say, the planet Venus - which gets very bright?"

"Well," he said, "Venus was in the southwest at this time, almost behind a hill And I couldn't really compare them, the object and the planet. But I would say, from having observed Venus before and since, that this UFO may have been ten times more brilliant"

He said this casually, but as an amateur astronomer I was incredulous. "Ten times more brilliant?" I exclaimed.

"Yep," was his laconic reply. Then he elaborated. "The light I saw was a piercing light I described this to myself, the Air Force and various people who questioned me about it as being a brilliant blue-white-type light, similar to a strobe light - such as the high-intensity lighting on airplanes and in electronic flashguns used by photographers. But it didn't flash. It was steady and very brilliant, as I said. That's what caught my attention. I crested the hill - and wham! right into the windshield it came. I couldn't avoid seeing it.

"Since I was stopped by the red light, I had time to observe it. I had it in sight for maybe two minutes, maybe three minutes. After the traffic light changed to green I pulled my car over to the side of the road to watch it further. It continued from the south-southeast and then it abruptly stopped and made a direct transverse movement to the west. It was a very quick movement, right to the west. Then it stopped again and continued on what could be its original course, with the move counted in."

"You mean, it made almost a 180-degree turn?" I asked.

"No. A 90-degree turn, I would say. It came up and made a right-angle turn straight across and then made another right-angle turn and continued onward."

"These were square turns, in other words?" I said.

"Yes. Square turns. Completely square turns - which was another thing that brought my attention to it. What I didn't realize then was that the course this thing was taking, from where I was located, was directly toward the Wanaque Reservoir. I later plotted its course on a Geodetic Survey map and wound up with almost the exact position over the Wanaque Reservoir where the police officers saw the saucer, or whatever it was they saw.

"Anyway, I couldn't explain that transverse movement. I couldn't explain the brilliance of the thing. So I felt that when I got to work, I would keep quiet about it. Because I thought that maybe the guys on the paper would think I was flipping my lid.

"After I reached the paper, things began to develop this way: We started getting telephone calls, not from the cranks - but from the police. We got a call from the Pompton Lakes Police Headquarters, which acts as a sort of monitoring network for several communities in this part of Passaic County, New Jersey. And they said that Wanaque was having a series of UFO sightings. Their timing was about 6:40, which was within the realm of possibility from the time that I saw this thing. The time that I crested that hill would have been between 6:20 and 6:25.

"At any rate, after the police called was the point that I decided I was going to really nail this down. So I initiated some telephone calls. I first called McGuire Air Force Base."

"Who did you speak with there?"

"It was a Senior Colonel, a Colonel McCabe, I believe. He was in charge of what they call the 'New York Air Defense Command.'

"Anyway, I spoke with the commander and I asked him the simple question: 'Do you have any aircraft flying over Passaic County, New Jersey, on training missions, on any kind of missions? Do you have any helicopters flying in this area?'

"And his answer was: 'No. We have no aircraft operational at this time.' And he questioned me about my reason for asking. Then he said: 'I'll connect you with someone else.' And he connected me with a sergeant in Public Relations (Public Information) at McGuire, who recorded my name and so forth. The sergeant then suggested that I phone Stewart Air Force Base at Newburgh, New York.

"Well, I phoned Stewart and got another sergeant, this one with an unpronounceable name - Gousolwouskii, or something like that. At any rate, I told him what I had seen and he asked me some questions and then he said: 'We have no helicopters based here. We don't have any aircraft in that area. I don't know what you've seen.' And then he forwarded me to another officer, who was a major." "Was this at Base Operations?" I asked. "Yes. This was Base Operations - at Stewart Air Force Base. The Base Operations Officer, the major, asked me what I thought this object that I had seen might be. And I said: 'I don't know what the object might be. But if you fellows are trying out some kind of an experimental helicopter with a big strobe light on it - it could be that. And this is all I could say that it could ever be - a helicopter with a big strobe searchlight on it.'

"And he said: 'We have no idea what it was you saw. We have no airplanes or other aircraft

operational, but if you call us back in about an hour we'll give you the information - whatever information we can gather by then.' "In the meantime, I spoke by phone with the Mayor of Wanaque, Harry Wolfe, and I spoke with Sergeant Ben Thompson and Chief John Casazza, both of the Wanaque Reservoir Police, and two young boys who had observed this thing (the UFO) at the Wanaque Reservoir - and we started developing a story for the newspaper.

"And I'll interject here that newspaper people, reporters in particular, exaggerate these (UFO) reports. I think that sometimes reports of UFO sightings are pretty shoddily handled."

(A case in point was the widespread report in the press that the Wanaque UFO of January 11, 1966, the one seen by Howard Ball and others, had "drilled a nine-foot-wide hole in the reservoir's ice as policemen watched." Both the Chief of the Reservoir Police Force and Newsman Ball denied this to me.

(Chief Casazza told me: "No, that isn't true. That is out for a simple reason. We checked that whole area where this thing (the UFO) was supposed to be. And there was no such thing as a hole being burned in the ice by this powerful light. Where that story came from I don't know. Just at that time there happened to be from 12, to 14, to 16 inches of ice over the lake. And that's a lot of ice!"

(Howard Ball said: "That's poppycock! That's balderdash! If there were ice on the reservoir today and you went up there, that hole would be there in the same place-and that's because there's an intake pipe within 40 feet of the hole and it creates a turbulence in the water, which never freezes at that point but creates a black rim around the ice.")

There were other discrepancies carelessly reported as fact by both the press and magazine reporters, such as the size and speed of the object. But probably the most misleading of all the reports was the one sent out by the wire services about Howard Ball's own sighting. As Ball himself told me: 'I think that the wire services in particular don't do a very good job, sometimes, on these sightings. So the American public gets a wrong or exaggerated idea. And I'm going to bring this out now.

"I called Stewart Air Force Base back in about an hour. And I got the sergeant with the unpronounceable name and he put me through to the major and I asked that officer: 'Did you make any identification of the object that was seen over Passaic County, New Jersey?'

"And the major said: "We certainly have. It's been definitely identified as a helicopter carrying a big strobe light." Ball was smiling broadly now. "So I asked the major: "What is your authority for the identification? Who identified the object?"

"And he answered me: 'A newspaper editor from Paterson, New Jersey, named Howard Baft.'"

Ball paused to shake his head and laugh. "Now this is the story that was sent out on the AP and UPI wires. They just didn't bother to check with me. This is the story that Washington put out - that this UFO had been identified as a helicopter with a big strobe light on it"

"You mean," I asked, "that the Air Force Information Office released the same story?"



"Yes. They released that same story. And it came back to our newspaper by way of the AP and UPI wire services. "Now I want to emphasize that what I told the major at Stewart was pure conjecture. I didn't think the object that I saw even looked like a helicopter with a big strobe light on it. He, the major, asked me what it might be. And that was the only kind of a thing I could come up with. Because of the transverse movements, because of the brilliance of the light, the helicopter-strobe-light idea just popped into my mind as a possible explanation. So they flung right back at me what I call my own story.

"I'm glad it was I who received the story from the major. Because if some reporter on our staff had called the major and taken the story as gospel and quickly run it through the copy desk before I saw it - I would have had to chew the poor guy out, but roughly! But that major threw my own words right back into my mouth.

"Later that night, I called back once more and someone else at Stewart Air Force Base gave me the helicopter story all over again. And then at six o'clock the next morning, our Morning Editor called them - and they denied ever saying any such a thing about a helicopter." "Do you know why they denied it?" I asked. Ball shook his head. "I don't know why they denied it. But they did. They denied it in the morning.

"Our afternoon edition carried the story stating that they had denied saying the UFO had been a helicopter. You'll remember that they had made a point of telling me that there were no helicopters operational in the area and that they had none on the base. And McGuire said the same thing to me. In pursuing the story, I even phoned other people who I thought might have had helicopters in the area. I called the State Police of New Jersey. They had none operational at the time. I called the Radio Station WJRZ at Newark, but they had only a light plane and no copters. I also called a couple of New York City radio stations that have helicopters to survey traffic conditions - but they didn't have their copters operational at that time. So there wasn't anything in the sky of that type during the UFO sightings.

"Now I'm not saying the Air Force wasn't cooperative. They were a 100% cooperative with me. But I think things got to the point where they didn't want to say anything - or couldn't. A point was reached where some lid came down, and they didn't want to say anything."

Newspaper Editor Howard Ball summarized his experience with a UFO in this manner: "I didn't see little green men coming out of nowhere carrying needles to stick me with and find out what I'm made of - or anything like that. But I did see a big light in the sky that was moving strangely. To me, it was an unidentified object that I can't explain - and I would like to have it explained.

"I have a 13-year-old son and I wouldn't want him to think his father was a nut or a liar. I try to teach him not to be. And I try to teach him to be objective. So why all of a sudden should I not be objective myself?"

Certainly Howard L. Ball, Jr., newspaper editor and father, is neither a crackpot nor a liar. The same statement holds true, it seems to me, for every police officer that I interviewed in the Wanaque and Pompton Lakes area. Not only they but hundreds of others have been seeing strange phenomena in the sky above that area ever since January 11, 1966. Some even say that sightings of weird objects go back

before that time to the end of World War II, or a matter of more than 20 years. In a few cases, women have become hysterically frightened by what they saw. One of these, a housewife from West Milford, N.J., frantically phoned the Paterson Morning News and told Ball: "Look, I thought I was flipping my wig. Going crazy. Until I read that you and the Mayor had seen these things too. That made me feel better."

Pompton Lakes Police Sergeant Bobby Gordon told me: "Our Headquarters receives calls about UFO sightings from all over. One night I was on the desk during the midnight shift. It must have been about one-thirty or two o'clock in the morning when I received a phone call from the Mother Superior up at Mt. Calvary Convent in Ringwood. Ringwood borders the reservoir area. And she asked if we would send a police car over to the Convent because a bright object was flying around the Convent. So I radioed one of the Ringwood patrol cars to go over and take a look. I never heard anymore about it, however. That was in March, after the original January sighting."

Sergeant Gordon then turned to Howard Ball, who was present. "It was after your sighting and prior to mine," he said.

Ball looked at me and smiled. "That's kind of the way people date things around here," he quipped.

But he actually didn't mean this as a joke. His mathematics teacher when he was a boy in high school, Martha Dockery, still teaches at the same school where he now teaches English part-time. One day recently, after his classes were over and they were alone in the teachers' room, she confided to him that she had also seen a mysterious bright light in the sky. She described its actions to him. "It was the same kind of thing I had seen - exactly," he told me, "but she had sighted it at a different time."

The Mayor of Wanaque Borough, Harry T. Wolfe, his son and two of his Councilmen also saw a UFO on the same evening and shortly after Newsman Ball had made his sighting. But this object, although it was seen over the Wanaque Reservoir, did not impress the Mayor or his party. The Mayor himself considered it extremely unusual - but not spectacular.

His description of the object and what he thought of it will be detailed in Part III ... along with descriptions of really strange encounters with UFOs by the Chief of the Wanaque Reservoir Police Force, John Casazza, and the young electrical engineering student already mentioned, John de Giacomo. Also included in the next part will be a summary and surprising evaluation of the weird UFO phenomena that seem to have made the Wanaque, N.J., Reservoir area their home base of operations.

### **Part III**

A new theory may possibly explain the weird sightings at the reservoir.

Much fuss has been made in the public press about the fact that the Mayor of Wanaque Borough had also sighted one of the strange UFOs over the Wanaque Reservoir that supplies water to industry and homes in Northwestern New Jersey. The widespread implication was that if the Mayor himself, certainly a reliable man, saw it, the UFO had to be more than a natural phenomenon - and was probably a space ship of extraterrestrial origin.

This was hinted at in a number of ways. One magazine reported the incident thus: At 7:45 P.M. (on January 11, 1966), Patrolman (George) Dyckman notified Mayor Harry T. Wolfe that 'something strange' was happening near Raymond Dam. The Mayor decided to see for himself. With him were Councilmen Arthur Barton and Warren Hagstrom and the Mayor's 14-year-old son Billy.

"Billy sported the UFO at once. Flying low it glided 'oddly' above the reservoir '... like a huge star,' he said. ... The older observers estimated 'the oval' measured between two and nine feet in diameter."

His Honor the Mayor, however, does not know where the reporters for the magazine got their information. During my tape-recorded interview with Mayor Wolfe, he seemed somewhat less impressed with the UFO he had seen. In fact, he sharply contradicted most of the reports that described his sighting.

Regarding the size of the object as appearing to be from two to nine feet in diameter, he stated: "Of course, we saw nothing like that." His tone was emphatic.

"What was your son's reaction to all this?" I asked.

"Well, I don't think he was too much more impressed than I was actually. And the same thing was true for the Councilmen."

"Did any of you see the object move or glide low over the reservoir?" was my next question.

The Mayor shook his head negatively. "We had it in view maybe three, four or five minutes," he told me. "I'm not sure. Maybe it was even a little bit longer. And I thought that I noticed a very slight movement of the object, away from us toward the west. It was just a question of whether any of us saw it move slightly or not."

"Did your son Billy have the feeling that it moved slightly?"

"I don't believe so," said the Mayor. "And I don't believe the Councilmen had any sensation that it moved either."

"But was it low over the reservoir?" I insisted.

Again the Mayor shook his head. "A question was asked of me: 'How far away would you say this object was?' And my answer to that question was that it could have been ten miles, or ten million miles, or ten billion miles distant. There was no way to judge. However, it was low on the horizon. I would say it was just above the level of what you could see of the mountains or the treetops - the treetops actually."

"Would you mind describing the object for me?" I queried the Mayor.

"It looked a little bit bigger than a star," he said. "And it appeared to change colors from green to red

and then back to white."

"How did the colors change? Did they flicker, or twinkle?"

"No, I would say not. They just changed."

"In terms of direction, what position was it in the sky?"

"Oh, I would say it was in the westerly ... the northwesterly part of the sky. Or it was almost in the northwest, somewhere like that if my memory serves me right."

The reason that I was asking such questions of the Mayor was because his description of the object - except for the lack of twinkling - almost identically matched the appearance of the exceptionally bright star Sirius, which is especially prominent in the January evening and night skies. I persisted: "Are you sure that it wasn't like a star twinkling from one color to another? Because you know that the star Sirius changes colors as you described the changing colors of this object."

"Well, I'm not sure about the twinkling," was the way he put it, "but the object did seem to change color."

On the basis of his uncertainty about the twinkling effect, I went to the trouble of checking an astronomical almanac for the position of Sirius on the night of January 11, 1966, between the hours of 6:15 and 9:15 EST. For a moment I thought I had the UFO identified: at the time the Mayor and his party had observed the object, around 7:00 P.M., Sirius was very low on the horizon. But it was the east-southeast horizon - measuring the azimuth for Wanaque, N.J. - and not the northwest horizon as recalled by the Mayor. Furthermore, Sirius was just beginning to rise, and the way the Mayor pictured the disappearance of the UFO was as if that object had simply settled behind the horizon. He told me: "Actually we were up on top of that reservoir and I guess the temperature must have been about 10 or 20 degrees at that height."

The wind was blowing maybe 40, 50 miles an hour. So we turned the police car around as a shield against the wind. By the time we looked at the sky again, the object as such was gone. Whether or not it disappeared beyond the horizon, I don't know. I don't know even if it was something normal or man-made or whatever it was. It was just getting too cold to stay there and find out. And let me say this: it didn't look like anything spectacular to us. It just looked like something was there. What it was actually" - he shrugged - "who knows?"

"Would you say," I asked, "that it was at least spectacular enough to be noticed if you just happened to look up at the sky?"

"No. I would say not. Not to me, anyway. I wouldn't have thought a thing of it. Except that it was pointed out to me by Sergeant Joe Cisco of the Wanaque Borough Police - and except that calls were coming in to our car radio from members of the various police departments in the area saying that an object was being sighted."

Actually, Mayor Wolfe first heard about the UFO at home while he was preparing to leave for a dinner scheduled by the First Aid Squad of his Borough. He received a telephone call from Councilman Arthur Barton informing him that many persons were seeing a strange object in the sky and were flooding the police with reports about it. The Mayor then called his own Police Force and asked for a car to be sent over to pick him up, along with his son Billy. Sergeant Joe Cisco was driving the car and they stopped to pick up the two Councilmen before heading off to view the UFO.

I mention this in some detail, again to show how cavalier is the news reporting of UFO sightings. One magazine made a point of saying that Patrolman George Dyckman notified the Mayor about the UFO at 7:45 that evening. Dyckman at the time was a member of the Reservoir Police Force, which has no connection with the Mayor's Borough Police. And the time was much earlier than 7:45, nearly an hour earlier in fact.

At any rate, the UFO observed by Mayor Wolfe and his party was much different than the one seen by Newsman Howard Ball (see Part II of this article) on that same night.

But truly mystifying - and compounding the enigma of UFO sightings over the reservoir - was an object seen by Patrolman William Pastor of the Wanaque Reservoir Police Force during a "lull" period. Pastor's UFO combined the qualities and maneuvers of the objects observed by Howard Ball and the Mayor and his party. He saw it at a different time - about two weeks before the sighting made by Reservoir Police Sergeant Ben Thompson on October 11, 1966 (see S6-M for May 1967). There was no question in Officer Pastor's mind that he saw exactly what he saw: he was using 20x50 binoculars. These are binoculars with roughly two-inch-diameter lenses and a magnifying power of 20 times.

I trust Bill Pastor as an extremely honest man. Although he has a rough sense of humor, he was obviously telling a straight story to me - if I am any judge of character. He is a hefty man with a pink, almost cherubic face set off by innocent blue-gray eyes. He's the kind of a guy you automatically like and know right away whether he is kidding or being serious - because he "telegraphs his punches" by the way his eyes glitter or remain steady. They were steady when he was talking with me about the UFO he saw.

Frankly, I had to draw him out - because he didn't want to talk about it. "People think we're all nuts around here," he said. "But nobody can tell me that I didn't see what I saw. You get these reporters who want to laugh at you really. So I just won't talk to them."

We were sitting in the little shack-like building that passes as the control center for the Wanaque Reservoir Police. It's a sort of gate guard house where the police officers take telephone calls and monitor all automobile traffic moving into and out of Reservoir Police Headquarters. Officer Pastor had just reported for duty late in the afternoon and was buckling on his gun and cartridge belt when I was introduced to him. Of course the first thing I asked him was: "Were you one of those who've seen these UFOs?"

He smiled in a friendly way, but in a manner that said: "Go chase yourself."

"Look," I told him, "I'm really trying to be objective about this. I assure you I won't distort whatever

you tell me. I just think the public has a right to know the truth."

He cussed around jokingly for awhile, "insulting" his fellow officers, and then he became serious. He settled into a chair - one of those old-fashioned wooden office types that look very uncomfortable - and he said: "You're blankety-blank right I saw one. And I was using 20-power binoculars, so nobody can tell me I was seeing things. I was right here in this building looking out the window and I saw this thing just above that dam." He pointed at the sloping stone wall of the dam about 300 yards or so away. "It was moving so fast that it looked like someone zipping a piece of chalk across the sky. Then it would stop and hover. Then it would rise and descend and make sharp corner-turns. It was clearly visible to the naked eye. There was no trouble at all seeing it.

"But when I turned the binoculars on it - boy, how clear it became! It was egg-shaped and had a satiny finish, like dull anodized aluminum. Only there was something golden about its color too. It was rotating and changed color - from amber to red to green to blue. Sometimes it would drop down behind the dam wall and then it would rise straight up again. It kept making these square turns, very sharp corner-turns. And that's all I can tell you - because that's all I saw for as long as I watched it, and that was a pretty long time!"

"You can't think of anything else," I asked, "any other little details?"

Bill Pastor shrugged. "It was a geometrical performance, that's all I can say. It made sharp zigzags at a very high speed right over the wall of the dam. Its speed was away beyond the speed of any jet airplane. I don't know what it was. Do you?"

I would have been more than happy to answer his question - if I could. Both he and I knew that I couldn't. It was just a rhetorical question. Like the rhetorical statement made to me by his Chief, who had gotten an entirely different view of the UFO sighted by the Mayor over the reservoir earlier, on January 11, 1966. Reservoir Police Chief John Casazza said to me: "I wish you had seen it. You'd have to see this thing to really appreciate it."

I was interviewing the Chief in his spacious office, a part of the large old graystone building that nestles against the dam mentioned by Officer Pastor and is the administrative headquarters for the Wanaque Reservoir, which is under the jurisdiction of the North Jersey Water Supply Commission.

Chief Casazza described the reflection of the weird light that he saw in this manner: "The glare on the ice from that light was just like a path straight across. You'd think it was drawn there by an artist, it was that sharply defined."

Here's a verbatim transcript of the Chief's tape-recorded statement to me about his sighting: "On January 11th of 1966 at about 9:00 P.M. of this date, I was summoned to my office to investigate a strange object that was flying and circling around what is commonly known as the Raymond Dam - the head works of the Wanaque Reservoir.

"It happened to be a very cold night. And I and one of my officers went to the top of the dam. And when we reached the top of it. I noticed this very, very bright light that was shining across on the lake.

It had been standing there, as they told me, for about 20 minutes. This light was as powerful as a beam from the headlight on a locomotive - if not more powerful. It was so powerful that you could not gaze at the light too long because it would blind your vision.

"This thing, this light, had been seen, oh, several times at the reservoir that evening, but no one had paid too much attention to it at the beginning. But then as it stayed in the area and kept circling around the reservoir, it did finally draw the attention of one of my men at the office and also the attention of several police officers in the Wanaque Borough Police Department."

I asked: "At that time, was the sky clear - or was it cloudy?"

"It was a very clear night. Very clear." Chief Casazza is a broad-shouldered, square-chinned man with a kindly but determined bulldog-like expression. He is 61 years old, but is in good physical shape and looks much younger. His appearance is that of an ex-heavy-weight prizefighter and he gives the impression that he had learned long ago never to fool around in the ring - or anywhere else. He wasn't fooling now as he told me: "And the strangest part of it was that there was no noise attached to this object. None whatsoever. It was absolutely silent. A silent light." "What color was this light?" I wanted to know. "It was a bright white light. As I said: just like on a locomotive. It was funnel-shaped. It seemed to come out of some object, like a funnel. In other words, it spread out as if it were focused through a telescope. It was narrow at one end in the sky and spread out into a very wide beam as it approached our upper gate house at the dam."

"In other words," I said, "this wasn't just a flat light? It had a shape."

He nodded. "Just like a funnel." "Sort of like an upside down funnel?" I asked. He nodded again, this time with vigor. "That's just exactly what it looked like."

"What kind of motion did it make?"

"There was no motion," he said. "It seemed to stay stationary over one spot of the reservoir."

"From where you were watching it, how big would you say it was?"

He appeared to be puzzled. "You mean the object itself?" "No. The whole thing."

"Well, it's pretty hard to tell. Because this seemed to lay a half to three-quarters of a mile across the reservoir, and all that we could see was this beam of light that came out of the sky. It came out like it was being thrown by a telescope and the large end of the funnel of light was right into my face. The sensation was just about the same as looking at the sun too long. It would hazard your vision for a few minutes."

"How long did you observe this object?" "Well, I gave up after some minutes because - I'll tell you why: it was so cold." He paused to laugh. "And I wasn't dressed for that weather because I hopped into a vehicle fast and came right down here. But this thing had been around - as I'd been told at that time - for at least 20 minutes. Yet there seemed to be quite a length of time before the thing finally

disappeared - maybe another half hour or so."

"What was the name of the officer who accompanied you?" I asked Chief Casazza.

"Lieutenant George Vestito."

"What was his reaction to the object, or the light?"

"Well, he was dumbfounded, just like I was. We just didn't know what we were watching. We still don't know. You often see lights in the sky here. But you can see at once that it's a plane with big landing lights turned on. This was altogether different. There's no comparison with this thing and airplane landing lights."

"So you would recognize airplane landing lights - from any angle?"

"Oh, yes. There's no question about it. They could be easily recognized."

"Have you even a faint idea of what it was that you saw?"

The Chief looked me straight in the eye. "We know we saw something. But what it was, God only knows."

"And you wouldn't even make a guess at it?" I asked, hoping for some hint.

"I wouldn't attempt to guess. I just don't know."

Police Chief John Casazza has been with Reservoir Force for 36 years. He had seen many strange things happen, both on the ground and in the sky. But in his recollection, no one experience startled and mystified him as much as the funnel-shaped light he saw hanging over the frozen reservoir about two hours after Mayor Harry T. Wolfe observed an "unspectacular" light low on the horizon in the same general region of Wanaque Borough.

The Mayor's UFO sighting had been made from the very top of the reservoir, which is about 60 feet high above Ringwood Avenue. Young John de Giacomo, mentioned in Part II of this story as an electrical engineering student "fooling around" with a Geiger counter in the town of Ringwood, has also seen some strange flying objects over the Wanaque Reservoir. His first sighting - there were two separate sight-ings - occurred less than a week after Reservoir Police Sergeant Ben Thompson had been "shaken up" at the sight of the strangest UFO of all (see Wanaque/I). But let John tell his own story:

"I was with my friend Bob Dexter. This was on the Saturday after we had taken those radiation readings at the north end of Ringwood and discovered that four-times increase in radiation level. It was October 15th (Sergeant Thompson had sighted his UFO on October 11th). And we were walking along



the Wanaque Reservoir. We were talking about two-girls and we were looking out over the water.

"At about 10:40 that night we spotted a light behind some hills. We focused our attention on it. That was down in the direction of Raymond Dam (where Chief Casazza, Lieutenant Vestito and Officer Pastor had observed weird lights in the sky). And the light came up over the hills. It was shaped like an ellipse, but was flatter on the bottom and more roundish on the top. It stayed there, I'd say, for about ten seconds - in this one position. It appeared in length to be about three times larger than the full moon. And in height, it was about half the diameter of the moon. Its color, too, was about similar to the moon. In other words, it was giving off some kind of light. But there were no lights on it as such. I mean, it was just white. There was nothing of any other color on it and it wasn't flashing or blinking.

"Slowly it started moving towards the left, towards us. That would be a northeasterly heading. We were looking toward the south when we first saw it. All of a sudden it started moving very fast. And it disappeared behind some hills."

I queried young Giacomo: "How fast was it moving, would you say?"

"Well, it just like disappeared in about a second. It might have been a quarter-of-a-mile, a half-mile away from the hills when it started moving fast. That was it: it just stopped, started moving slowly and then moved very fast."

"How bright was it?"

"It was about the same intensity of light as that of a full moon."

"Altogether, how long did you have it in view?"

"About 20 seconds."

"Did you hear any noise?"

"No. No noise at all."

He groped for a descriptive phrase. "It was very distinguished. I mean there was no arguing that what I saw wasn't there. We all saw it at the same time. We asked each other what it did, and we all agreed where it went, how it looked, the size of it and the intensity of it. The girls were even strangers, other college students. It's a favorite pastime of college students to visit the reservoir nowadays. We were walking by, saw the girls and just started talking to them."

"So do you have any idea of what the thing was that you all saw?"

John de Giacomo wasn't about to go off the deep end. His interest in science is intense and he has a good working knowledge of meteorology. His good-looking relaxed features tightened into a very serious expression. "Well," he told me, "there was a large temperature inversion that night. It was after a high-pressure area had come down about two days before. And we were just about in the situation

where we were ready to get a reverse-flow, so it was absolutely still that night. The temperatures during the day were up to 60 degrees and had dropped to about the high 30s that night.

I mean, it was at the point where smoke was coming off the water of the reservoir. It was a fast inversion of temperature. And the UFO we saw could have been the result of some kind of an ionized jet, a pocket or whatnot that had formed in the atmosphere over the reservoir in just the right position to catch the beam from an automobile headlight on the other side of the hill. In other words, a headlight beam might have hit something in the atmosphere that either focused it or reflected it back toward us."

"You mean," I said, "that the atmosphere would be acting like a lens or a mirror under those temperature inversion conditions?"

"That's right," he told me. "This is one possible explanation of what we saw."

"Then you don't believe that what you saw was a spacecraft or some other extraterrestrial object?"

"Well, the thing that made me doubt that was its color. Looking at the moon, I saw it was the color of the moon. But I couldn't really say what it was - or what it might be."

"Have you been keeping up with all of these other UFO sightings around the Wanaque area?" I asked.

"Oh, I've heard about them. Most probably a lot of those UFO stories have been exaggerated. I know that my own story has been exaggerated about a hundred times over."

"Who exaggerated it?"

"Well, at school there's a big thing going around that I saw a flying saucer from about 20 feet away."

I asked: "Do you know Sergeant Ben Thompson of the Wanaque Police Force?"

"No, I don't."

I continued: "Sergeant Thompson, who seems to me to be a very straight type, told me that on October 11th-just four days before your own sighting - he saw an object which was about as big as an automobile and was only about 250 feet in altitude and about the same distance away from him. It was so brilliant that it blinded him temporarily."

Young Giacomo made a quick mental calculation. "Well, I estimate the distance of the thing we saw as being maybe a little less than a half-mile away from us. And considering its light-intensity at that distance, it would have been a pretty strong light if it had been much closer to us - say as close as Thompson's object was to him."

"Then, considering that factor, do you still feel that what you saw was the result of a temperature inversion?" I asked.

He nodded. "It could have been."

Next I mentioned that the object seen by Sergeant Thompson had one outstanding peculiarity: it had a suction effect upon the water and trees over which it passed. "So what do you feel that Thompson's UFO could have been?" I asked. "Certainly a reflection caused by a temperature inversion can't bend the treetops together or pull water up to a different level."

"Well, I have ideas," answered young Giacomo. "But I think everybody's biased about this UFO situation, no matter how much people try to be objective. Maybe what Thompson saw is an invention of this country? Something we're working on that's possibly anti-gravitational."

I told him that I know about a number of aerospace companies which are doing research in methods to control gravity as a possible propulsion system for spacecraft. I added: "But I am not aware of any such research that has yet produced necessary hardware to do the job. Almost all of the research is still in the mathematical-development stage."

"All right," said Giacomo. "Thousands of things pass through my mind as a possible cause. But I can think of no aerial phenomena that could cause that effect the Sergeant observed. That's all I can say about it."

John de Giacomo is not actually skeptical about UFOs. Rather he has trained himself to believe that all phenomena, no matter how strange, can be ultimately explained rationally - if all the scientific facts become known. His second UFO sighting was as mysterious to him as the first. He knows there is no absolute explanation for either. Again, he had a witness along with him at the time of sighting. Here's how he puts it:

"Well, the second time - we made another spotting about two weeks later - the weather conditions were completely opposite from those of the first spotting. This time I was up at the reservoir with Jim Bonney, the fellow I took the radiation readings with (at North Ringwood).

"It was overcast, starting to rain - the sky was just starting to be socked in. You couldn't see any stars in the sky or even the moon - if it was in the sky then. And we were looking south towards the spotting that I and my friends made two weeks before that date ... Suddenly, we saw what we thought to be a dim star - and we watched it and it grew brighter. It kept on growing brighter - until it grew in brightness to about four times the intensity of, say, a good bright star in the sky.

Then it started moving in the same direction that we saw the other, the first object, moving two weeks earlier. But this one seemed to fluctuate quite a bit in altitude. Every once in awhile, it would fluctuate very fast. And even though it was fluctuating, it seemed to be heading in a consistent direction. If you know what I mean? It would rise in altitude and drop in altitude without changing its forward course toward the northeast.

"And this was beneath the clouds?"

"It was at a greater distance than the first object we spotted two weeks earlier. This one was maybe a mile-and-a-half away."

I interrupted John. "Did it light up the clouds in any way?"

"No," he answered. "It didn't seem to light up the clouds. It didn't cast any light."

"But why," I asked, "why do all of these UFOs appear in the area of the Wanaque Reservoir?"

"Well, that's a question we ask ourselves," young Giacomo answered. "And the only thing we can think of is: it's a fairly unpopulated area."

I couldn't buy this. "It would seem to me," I said, "that a spacecraft coming from another solar system to keep the Earth under surveillance would want to cover some populated areas. Don't you think so?"

He smiled. "At school, at the Newark College of Engineering, we were just discussing something like that the other night. And the point we arrived at, the general consensus at school, was that if a UFO - or something you might see over Wanaque - were to appear over, say, Newark, New Jersey, nobody would ever know about it. Because at any time, in a big metropolitan area, you can look up at the sky at night and see hundreds of blinking lights from aircraft passing by. You might even see man-made satellites moving across the curve of the sky. How would you be able to distinguish the UFO wheat from the chaff of routine flight phenomena? It would be pretty tough - even if you were looking for UFOs.

"So at school we decided that UFOs become much more apparent when they appear over isolated areas. There they can't be confused with the normal clutter of light in the sky that are normal to big cities."

I thought that this was an interesting and even a profound observation - whatever UFOs may be or may not be. I told him so and he smiled.

"You know," he said, "flying-saucer watching has become a popular pastime at the Wanaque Reservoir. Not only do people clutter up our roads by driving down or up from such places as Connecticut or Philadelphia to park along the reservoir for a possible sighting - but saucer-watching is also a good excuse for males of all ages to take a girl for a ride and pull their cars off on the side of the road to wait for a UFO - if you know what I mean?" He laughed and added that some of the males were serious about UFOs, but all of them were definitely romantic.

Much more scientific in his approach than either the romantic males or the scientifically minded 20-year-old John de Giacomo is the veteral electronic specialist, engineer and Avionics Editor of Aviation Week 6 and Space Technology, Philip J. Klass. Mr. Klass, due to extensive research in the field, is an authority on the relationship between electrical gases and the UFO phenomena. He has written two brilliant articles on the subject for his trade journal, the most eminent and respected in its field. Because he was trying to be scientifically honest, he has been both criticized and praised for his efforts.

Naturally those who criticize him are the "true-believers" who accept any sighting report of a UFO, no matter how thin are the supporting facts, as absolute "evidence" that people on Earth are being constantly observed by a super-race from some distant star system. Those who praise him, on the other hand, are usually the "true non-believers," who start off with the equally biased assumption that UFOs are natural atmospheric phenomena that are misread by untrained, if imaginative, crackpots. In between, Mr. Klass enjoys the respect of trained electronic and nuclear scientists.

The Klass theory basically is that ball lightning and other kinds of nuclear plasmas can account for a majority of the weird UFOs reported. Their erratic movements and speed, their changing colors and spinning motions as well as their tendency to just "go out like a light switched off" are all explainable as plasma effects.

A plasma simply is an ionized gas - such as the glowing gases in neon, argon and mercury display signs or in fluorescent lighting fixtures - through which electrons and protons flow freely together without combining into atoms. In other words, plasmas are the result of a free intermingling of negative and positive charges of electricity that flow constantly in different directions without capturing each other, as opposite charges normally do. Nobody really knows what ball lightning is or how it is formed, but one scientific theory postulates it to be a cloud of electrons whirling around a core of protons.

According to Philip J. Klass: "Ball lightning has been reported as hanging motionless at times, yet able to move up, down and horizontally at extremely high speeds ... sometimes exhibiting a spinning motion and ... then appear to zoom off at great speed and disappear from sight

"Ball-lightning reports indicate that (it) can have a lifetime ranging from several seconds to many minutes ...

"Ball lightning has been reported in sizes up to 15 feet in diameter."

, Add to this the discovery of Dr. J. Rand McNally, Jr., who works at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories of the Atomic Energy Commission, that ball lightning is capable of originating at random in space and you have a perfect description of the average spectacular UFO. However, ball lightning usually originates in the vicinity of high-tension wires or electrically charged structures.

Ball lightning can also change color rapidly or slowly, depending upon what gases are present in the local atmosphere and the energy of the charged electrical particles in the plasma. For example, high-energy electrons - those moving at greater velocities than usual - can, as they collide with gas molecules in the air, break down the bonds that hold molecules together and even cause the release of invisible photons of high-energy light such as ultraviolet and X-radiation. Both of these unseen particles of radiation can damage the eyes or cause temporary blindness.

Again quoting Mr. Klass: "Persons viewing UFOs at very close range sometimes report physiological effects or aftereffects. Eyes that are bloodshot, swollen or otherwise irritated sometimes have been experienced.

"An intense dosage of ultraviolet light could produce these symptoms and plasmas often radiate in this part of the spectrum as well as the visible (part) ...

"Others have reported minor facial burns, a 'prickling sensation like electric shock' and intense heat, or combinations of these. These would be expected only for certain forms of high-energy plasmas. The same effects are sometimes reported for ball lightning encounters."

Plasmas and ball lightning also radiate visible light in the red, yellow, green, white and blue portions of the spectrum, I might add.

Altogether, the foregoing descriptions of ball lightning and other atmospheric plasmas almost uniquely describe the terrifying UFO seen by Sergeant Ben Thompson of the Wanaque Reservoir Police Force. They also could describe the mysterious UFOs observed by Officer Bill Pastor and young John de Giacomo. The only thing missing in the case of Sergeant Thompson's UFO was its strange ability to suck together treetops and cause a rise in the reservoir's water level.

On two occasions I interviewed Philip J. Klass regarding the strange UFO sightings over the Wanaque Reservoir. The first thing I asked him to explain - if he could - was this weird ability of Thompson's UFO to disturb trees and water.

He answered: "Trees have a ground charge, which is electrically negative. The UFO could have been a plasma with a strong positive charge, thereby drawing the trees toward its electrical potential. The situation can also be likened to the static electricity caused by friction from the motion of air. It would be like that classical experiment in which you take a piece of flannel and vigorously rub a rubber rod or comb until they become polarized with an electrostatic potential. The rod will then cause pieces of paper to jump toward it and the comb will cause your hair to rise as you pass it over your head."

"Well, how would you explain the rising level of water then?" I asked. "The surface of water wouldn't have a ground potential would it?"

"It might," he answered. "But that business of the water rising is actually unexplainable. It would require a mechanical kind of suction rather than an electrostatic potential. All I can say is, that maybe under the glare of the light Sergeant Thompson's eyes were affected to the point where his vision played tricks on him. This often happens. Maybe the water wasn't rising at all. Maybe it just seemed to be rising in the bright glare."

I also asked Klass about the right-angle turns and high speed of the UFO. "That's perfectly natural with ball lightnings or plasmas," he answered. "As the energy in a plasma is dissipated its mass is reduced - even though it may appear still quite large in volume - and so its resistance to other forces in the atmosphere is reduced. It can be drawn willy-nilly, appearing to defy Newton's fundamental laws of inertia. The best example of how charged particles can stop and reverse direction is the picture tube of an ordinary television-receiver. The electron beam in the tube stops and reverses direction over 30,000 times a second."

I next asked: "How about the fact that the nearest high-tension wires to the reservoir are at least four

miles away? Wouldn't this make it difficult for ball lightning to be generated in that area?"

"Difficult, maybe," he answered. "But not impossible. Ball lightning, once formed, can travel over comparatively large distances, change direction and altitude many times in the process. Furthermore, atmospheric friction is common in cold, clear weather and this could generate clouds of electrons that move as plasmas. Even tiny ice crystals in the air could add to the effect"

When I mentioned the radioactive rocks that produce radon gas in the Wanaque and Ringwood area, Mr. Klass felt that this also could be a contributing factor in producing ionized plasmas in the air under certain atmospheric conditions.

Perhaps these are all valid explanations for the tendency of UFOs to appear above the Wanaque Reservoir and over surrounding regions of New Jersey. They sound logical. They are logical. But they are not an absolute answer - because nobody has yet bothered to use scientific instruments, such as mass spectrometers, spectrographs or magnetometers, for analysis of the strange UFOs as they appear.

Until somebody is interested and patient enough to keep a vigil with such instruments at the Wanaque Reservoir, nobody will know what really happened at Wanaque, N.J.

## 6 - UFOs In History And Myth

By

*Gordon H. Evans*

The year was 1239 A.D., the place England, and the reporter a chronicler known as Matthew of Paris. On July 24, 1239, at the vigil of St. James, in the dusk, but not when the stars came out, but while the air was clear, serene and shining, a great star appeared. It was like a torch, rising from the south, and flying on both sides of it, there was emitted in the height of the sky a very great light. It turned towards the north in the aery region, not quickly, nor, indeed, with speed, but exactly as it wished to ascend to a place high in the air."

A modern-times astronomer or meteorologist who chanced upon Matthew's report would probably conclude: "It was a bolide, a fireball." And, bending over the manuscript, might think: "How terrified our medieval ancestors must have been by such natural phenomena. A chunk of rock or iron, wandering around in the solar system, enters the earth's atmosphere, and friction causes it to incandesce and disintegrate. But the monks, barons and commoners of the day thought such things were mysterious, supernatural events. How far we have progressed."

The scientist again bends over the manuscript: Not quickly, nor, indeed, with speed." He ponders again for a moment, "Yes, undoubtedly, a bolide. Some of them have been reported with remarkably slow velocities. Apparently they approach the earth in the same direction as its orbit around the sun, with speeds not much greater than our planet's orbital one." He looks again: "It turned towards the north in the aery region ..." The scientist's brow furrows, but only for a moment. "Curious. A bolide could not change direction, at least not abruptly, and that's what is implied. Oh, it must be an error. After all, this is undoubtedly a second-hand account." He closes the book.

But some of these old accounts - and this of 1239 is only one of many - bear a striking resemblance to modern UFO reports. Their language is archaic and often they are phrased in terms of the religious symbols of the time in which they were written. But their basic observations are remarkably similar to today's sightings. You have read reports on many of these sightings in recent issues of Science and Mechanics. Let's compare them with a few of the reports from the Middle Ages. The examples here I owe to Harold T. Wilkins who, some years ago, conducted remarkable research into the history of UFOs.

In 1254 A.D., on January 1st, Matthew of Paris tells us in his *Historia Anglorum* that "... at midnight, in serene and clear sky, with the stars shining and the moon eight days old, there suddenly appeared in the sky a kind of large ship, elegantly shaped, and well-equipped and of marvelous color. Certain monks at St. Albans saw it ... for a long time, as if it were painted, and a ship made of planks; but finally it began to disappear."

Something very like a modern "flying saucer" appeared in 1290: "At Byland or Begeland Abby, in the North Yorkshire riding, while the abbot and monks were in the refectorium, a flat, round, shining, silvery object (discus) flew over the abbey and caused the utmost terror." This account was taken from



William of Newburgh's Chronicle.

In the next century, in 1322, we have this report of what seems to have been a rocket: "In the first hour of the night of November 4th, there was seen in the sky over Uxbridge, England, a pillar of fire the size of a small boat, pallid, and livid in color. It rose from the south, crossed the sky with a slow and grave motion and went north. Out of the front of the pillar, a fervent red flame burst forth with great beams of light. Its speed increased, and it flew thro' the air. ... Many beholders saw it in collision, and there came blows as of a fearful combat, and sounds of crashes were heard at a distance." The chronicler here is Robert of Reading. We should note that meteors cannot accelerate noticeably.

Here is an account from 776 A.D.: "Those watching outside in that place, of whom many still live to this very day, say they beheld the likeness of two large shields, reddish in color in motion above the church, and when the pagans who were outside saw this sign, they were at once thrown into confusion and terrified with great fear they began to flee from the castle." This episode; part of an old chronicle, was brought to light by W.R. Drake.

So frequent do UFO reports seem to have been in the very early Middle Ages that laws came on the statute books which imposed a penalty on anybody travelling in an airship! A manuscript by Agobard, quoted by Jacques Vallee in his *Anatomy of a Phenomena*, informs us that some astronauts landed at Lyons. They made the mistake of admitting they were wizards. A mob killed them and threw their bodies into rivers.

Indeed, UFO reports go back to Roman times and perhaps even before. Consider this account from 99 B.C.: "When C. Murius and L. Valerius were consuls in Tarquinia ... towards sunset, a round object, like a globe, a round or circular shield, took its path in the sky from west to east" Or again in 90 B.C.: "At Aenarie, while Livius Trosio was promulgating the laws at the beginning of the Italian war ... at sunrise, there came a terrific noise in the sky, and a globe of fire appeared burning in the north. ... In the territory of Spoleto, a globe of fire, of golden color, fell to the earth, gyrating. It then seemed to increase in size, rose from the earth and ascended into the sky, where it obscured the disk of the sun, with its brilliance. It revolved toward the eastern quadrant of the sky."

In 42 B.C.: "Something like a sort of weapon, or missile, rose with a great noise from the earth and soared into the sky." (There have been many modern reports of UFOs landing, and then flying away.)

The Roman reports quoted above are derived from the *Prodigia* of Julius Obsequens, a writer thought to have lived in the 4th century A.D.

The following accounts are taken from a medieval writer, Conrad Wolffhart, called *Lycothernes*. Some may be borrowed from Obsequens.

"At Lanupium, a remarkable spectacle of a fleet of ships was seen in the air." The date was 170 B.C. Of course, a mirage may have been the cause. Not enough details are given. A similar mirage may or may not have accounted for a citing in 80 A.D.: "When the Roman emperor, Agricola, was in Scotland, wonderous flames were seen in the skies over Caledon wood, all one winter night.

Everywhere the air burned, and on many nights, when the weather was serene, a ship was seen in the air moving fast."

In 98 A.D., we have this account: "At sunset, a burning shield passed over the sky at Rome. It came sparkling from the west and passed to the east."

UFOs appeared both in the Eastern and Western empires. We have this report from Byzantium, in 398 A.D.: "A thing like a burning globe, presenting a sword, shown brilliantly in the sky over the city. ... It seemed almost to touch the earth from the zenith. Such a thing was never recorded to have been seen before by man."

However, UFO sightings did not stop in the Middle Ages only to be revived in modern times. During the Renaissance and afterwards, they probably became more frequent. Take this account from France on March 10, 1554: "There appeared ... between 6:00 and 8:00 P.M. about the moon, a burning fire, emitting a great noise, what seemed to be the point of a lance, turning from side to side, from east to west, casting out flames on all sides."

Only a few years earlier, in 1528, during the siege of Utrecht in Holland "... a cruel and strange sight was seen in the sky, which terrified the townspeople, and made the enemy think he would get the city. It was the form of a Burgundian cross right over the city, high in the sky, yellow in color, and fearful to behold."

By the diarist John Evelyn: "11th March 1643 ... I must not forget what amazed us exceedingly the night before, namely, a shining cloud in the air, in shape resembling a sword, the point reaching to the north; it was as bright as the moon, the rest of the sky being very serene. It began about eleven at night, and vanished not till about one, being seen by all the south of England." Clearly this could not have been a meteor; and its flight was too slow and its orbit too fast for a comet.

Through the growth of interest in the physical sciences, reports of unexplicable aerial phenomena became more specific. Here is an account by a Fellow of the Royal Society dated December 16, 1742. The time was 8:40 P.M. "I was crossing St James Park, when a light arose from behind the trees and houses, from the south and west, which at first I thought was a rocket, of large size. But when it rose 20 degrees, it moved parallel to the horizon, but waved like this (the speaker drew an undulating line) and went on in the direction of north-by-east. It seemed very near. Its motion was very slow. I had it for about a half a mile in view. A light flame was turned backwards by the resistance the air made to it. From one of burning charcoal. That end was a frame like bars of iron, and quite opaque to my sight. At one point on the longitudinal frame, or cylinder, it issued a train in the shape of a tail of light more bright at one point on the rod of the cylinder, and growing gradually fainter to the end of the rod or cylinder; so that it was transparent for more than half of its length. The head of this strange object seemed about half-a-degree in diameter and the tail near three degrees in length."

In the 19th century, with the great advance in knowledge, communications and literacy, UFO reports became abundant. But hardly anyone suggested they might be extraterrestrial spaceships. One of the very few exceptions was Charles Fort. Fort was born in Albany, N.Y., in 1874. He was blessed, or cursed, with a small inheritance. For long years he devoted his life to collecting reports of curious and

inexplicable phenomena. His sources were newspapers and the many scientific journals which had come into being by the early 19th century. Fort wrote: "... if there be nearby lands of the sky and beings from foreign worlds who visit this earth, that is a great subject ..."

Here is a typical account discovered by Fort in the Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society. It is taken from the log of the bark Lady of the Lake whose captain was F.W. Banner. In Fort's words: "... upon the 22nd of March, 1870, at latitude 5°47' N. and longitude 27°52' W., the sailors of Lady of the Lake saw a remarkable object or 'cloud' in the sky. They reported to the Captain.

"According to Capt. Banner, it was a cloud of circular form, with an included semi-circle divided into four parts, the central dividing shaft beginning at the center of the circle and extending far outward, and then curving backward.

"The thing travelled from a point at about 20° above the horizon to a point of about 80° above. Then it settled down to the northeast, having appeared from the south, southeast.

"It came up obliquely against the wind, and finally settled down right in the wind's eye.

"For half an hour this form was visible, then it did finally disappear, that was not because it disintegrated like a cloud, but before it was lost to sight in the evening's darkness."

Fort attached a sketch of the object drawn by Captain Banner. It does not look very much like a cloud, but looks very much like some of the "flying saucers" reported in later years.

If a case is to be made that UFOs are actually extraterrestrial in origin, certain episodes from the Scriptures may certainly be quoted as evidence. Consider these verses from the prophet Ezekiel:

"4. And I looked, and, beheld, a whirlwind came out of the North, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

"5. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

"6. And everyone had four faces, and everyone had four wings.

"7. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the color of burnish brass.

"8. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides, and they four had their faces and their wings.

"9. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went everyone straight forward. "10. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man and the face of

a lion, on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

"11. Thus were their faces; and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and the two covered their bodies.

"12. And they went everyone straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

"13. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

"14. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of the flash of lightning.

"15. Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

"16. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of beryl: and they four had one likeness; and their appearance and their work as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

"17. When they went, they went upon the four sides; and they turned not when they went.

"18. As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

"19. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up."

It may be that Ezekiel interpreted what he saw in terms of his religious, natural and material world. It has been suggested that the curious description of the creatures' heads, with the faces of animals, may have been the only imagery the prophet had to describe a rather complex space helmet with a visor, earphones, antenna, and so forth. The wings may have been similar - though perhaps more advanced - to the portable rockets which have been strapped to men's backs to allow them to fly for short distances.

These devices are very noisy, as the activities of the creatures seen by Ezekiel seemed to be noisy.

"And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters ..." (1:24).

Further, a craft seems to be included in this account. Ezekiel describes it, not clearly, as a wheel which travelled along with the strange beings he observed.

Ezekiel's account is just about what one would expect from a "primitive man" called upon to describe higher technology. Any advanced apparatus involved would be quite beyond him, and he would describe it in familiar terms, such as the faces of animals, the wings of birds, etc. An event based on technology beyond his imagination might well be attributed to the magical, supernatural or miraculous.

It has been suggested that many events in the history of the human race which exist as myth, may be based upon visits to our planet by representatives of a higher technical culture. What modern science has conventionally passed off as unfounded, it has been said, may indeed have a basis in fact. If this turns out to be the case, a startling revolution in the treatment of the fabulous in myth and history will take place. It may be that future students will have to entertain the possibility that much of the curious, odd, inexplicable material which has come down to us by written and oral tradition has a "real" meaning. Soon we may no longer be able to dismiss what seems "unscientific" as nonsense.

There are a few modern UFO reports in which the occupants of the UFO allegedly have gotten out, walked around, and shown themselves to us. Compared to the many tens of thousands of sightings, these accounts are scarce, but some have originated with quite reliable witnesses. The term "little green man" has passed into popular culture. The fact that they have human form, if they do, raises some most interesting scientific questions that are beyond our scope here. The orthodox theory of evolution holds that the particular form life takes is purely accidental. It is a function, so the biologist or geneticist tells us, of adaptation to environment combined with the enormously complex combining and re-combining of the gene pool, plus a few mutations thrown in. That man has come out as he has in bodily shape and size is a pure accident - so evolution argues.

On another world, intelligent creatures might have an entirely different form, perhaps one not even recognized in our classifications. However, if the extraterrestrials have been seen, and have a humanlike form, albeit diminutive, the orthodox theory of evolution may be in rather serious trouble. But we must leave this fascinating question aside, and return to our main theme.

The fact is that the folklore of the world is rich in tales of small supernatural beings. They far outnumber giants in their frequency. Here is the story of a leprechaun, told by an authority on Irish lore, Col. Diarmuid MacManus, in his book *Irish Earth Folk*.

"On a hot summer day, many years before the first World War, two boys were bathing in a pool in the River Moy in County Mayo. The place was near Foxford, a small town. Later in the afternoon, after they had dressed and began to return home, one of the boys saw a small figure dart behind a rock in a field. He told his friend, and curiosity led them to investigate. They discovered what looked to them like a little man about four feet high. He had on a cap and a close-fitting black coat made of shiny material, something like satin or silk. It was buttoned up tightly. His face was broad and flat, with brown whiskers. The boys, one of whom was to graduate from Trinity College, Dublin, were frightened and ran."

Could it be that these boys saw an extraterrestrial visitor in some sort of spacesuit, which they could only describe in familiar terms? Consider two items of folklore collected by F.G. Speck from the Indians in Connecticut, and presented in the *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History*. The first of them concerns the Makiawisag, legendary dwarfs who lived in the woods. The event he recorded was believed by Speck to have taken place before 1800. "She (Martha Uncas) was then a child coming down the Yantic River in a canoe with her parents. They saw some Makiawisag running along the shore. A pine forest grew near the water and they could be seen through the trees. Her mother saw them and said, 'Don't look at the dwarfs. They will point their

fingers at you and you cannot see them.' She turned her head away. There did not seem to be many of them.

"The dwarfs came to people's houses, asking for something to eat. According to the old Indian, one must always give the dwarfs what they wanted; for, if they refused, they would point their fingers at one, so that one could not see them, and the dwarfs would take whatever they chose." There is an interesting point in this story. Some modern UFO reports, particularly those concerning occupants, suggest that the aliens may have developed a paralysis ray.

On a number of occasions people have reported that they were paralyzed by a flash of light, either directed by the occupants or from their ship. It might be that Martha Uncas and her mother were reporting in a garbled way on such a paralysis device. Rather than describing it as a paralysis device, the technology of such a thing would of course be entirely obscure to them. They may have transposed the idea of paralysis for blindness. The words "point their fingers at you" may have referred to some kind of a gun or ray projector. A theory has been suggested that paralysis may be caused by exposing an organism to the resonance frequency of its ATP, substance which supplies muscles with their energy. If the muscular system is flooded with energy, or deprived of it, paralysis may occur.

Finally, here is another anecdote of the Mohegan Indians as told by Speck: "One dark, stormy night, a woman was coming down the long hill toward Two Bridges, having been up to New London. Looking across the swamp to the opposite shore, she beheld a light approaching in her direction. When they drew near to one another, the woman saw that the light was suspended in the middle of a person's stomach, as though in a frame. There was no shadow cast, and yet the outline of the person could be distinguished as it surrounded the light. The woman was badly frightened and ran all the way home."

"The light suspended in the middle of a person's stomach" is strongly suggestive of an electric torch attached to a belt. The anecdote was collected long before flashlights were common on earth; there is no way of knowing how old the legend itself is: some authorities state it may even be pre-Columbian.

It is an interesting sidelight that the "little people" of folklore - fairies, gnomes, and so forth - always seem to wear boots. An authority on the subject, Pennethorne Hughes, says that available evidence is insistent on this fact. "The little green and red hoods of the gnomes are still remembered, which the seven dwarfs share with the witch of caricature in her high hat with the elf locks peeping from under it. In Germany, the local hobgoblin called Hookedin or Hutkin, and Robin a Hood may be another manifestation of the devil of the fairies." These hoods, as with the strange headgear seen by Ezekiel, may be necessary for a race evolved in another atmosphere. Again, the complex breathing apparatus may have been interpreted in simpler terms.

Is there any way to determine whether the "meteors" with which we began this article, or the supernatural tales with which we conclude it, are actually evidences of alien life, rather than natural or merely imaginative events? The problem of proof is extremely difficult. Perhaps with the data which we now have available, it is impossible. The record is too incomplete, too limited by the time and the people who made it. An uneducated peasant relates a story told to him by his grandmother, who, in turn, heard it from her grandfather. Inevitably, there is exaggeration and distortion. This overlay of

interpretation and elaboration of what may be the bare bones of factual events renders the truth exceedingly hard to detect.

Still, there is one way we may find out if aliens are responsible for some of our heritage of prodigies, miracles and super-normalties. If we can get in touch with them, or they in touch with us, we may find out that at certain identifiable times and places a craft did land and its occupants walk on the earth. If so, and the times, places, and circumstances might be matched with records, or even with the material of myth, it may be possible to determine whether or not the thesis offered here is correct. If it is, our study of history and the fabric of our heritage will be overturned. We will have learned a great thing, yet something of the mystery of life will have passed away.

## 7 - Complete Directory Of UFOs

*An illustrated history of unexplained sightings from "Project Blue Book."*

As a public service, the editors of Science and Mechanics decided to set the record straight about so-called "flying saucers." So much confusion and misinformation have veiled the possible true significance of what are now called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) that it has been almost impossible to separate facts from fantasy.

Certainly many unexplainable things have been seen both in the sky and on the ground by persons of integrity. The question is: as sharp observers of important detail, how reliable were these people? For in order to identify a mysterious phenomenon with certainty, precise scientific data about its entity and actions are a "must." To date, there has been no attempt to correlate all known sightings of bonafide UFOs throughout the world. By "bonafide" I mean those sightings that remain still unexplained in the scientific sense and for which at least some graphic details have been supplied.

Reports of UFO sightings published in newspapers, magazines and books generally tend to confuse the issue more and more. Although they give the superficial appearance of validity, vital details are almost always either noticeably lacking or exaggerated. This last is especially true of those writers and editors who would like to believe or suggest that UFOs are interplanetary, even interstellar, space ships piloted by intelligent beings who are keeping the Earth under close surveillance. I myself would like to believe that Me on a high intellectual level exists throughout the Universe. But I do not believe that a wish can be equated with a fact.

For this reason, the editors assigned to me the task of "identifying" the UFOs currently on record. Believe me, it was a monumental task - because they asked me to be as authentic as possible. They also wanted me to collate all different configurations of sighted UFOs into a visual directory - much in the manner of Jane's All The World's Aircraft, the famous annual British publication that identifies both visually and with technical data all of the latest aircraft, missiles and spacecraft in existence throughout the globe.

In order to carry out my assignment I could not depend upon newspaper reports, magazine stories or books about UFOs. I had to get my information firsthand, in this entire S&M Directory of UFOs, no more than nine sightings presented were taken from already published sources. The vast majority of sightings portrayed here came directly from the files of Project Blue Book. They were selected from almost 700 reports in those files, each of which had been either written by the individual UFO observer himself or contained verbatim interviews with the observer by competent technical people who were trying solely to obtain as much technical data as possible.

In almost every Project Blue Book report, the UFO observer made his own rough drawing of the thing (or things) he saw. The drawings in this Directory were made from the UFO observers' own drawings, refined only to show more detail evident in the observer's written or recorded descriptions. Because of this, I can vouch for the authenticity of the UFO configurations pictured here - as well as for the reliability or non-reliability of the observers.



Here we have tried to pin down not only the specific configurations of unknown objects sighted, but also the essential points of data. Where facts are lacking, there is a statement to that effect: "Not given," "Not observed" or "Unknown." The whole purpose of this Directory is to be as objective, precise and valid as possible. We strongly feel that such an approach is vital to those who are objectively interested in evaluating the existence of UFOs.

The UFO configurations and data presented on these pages are all bonafide "unknowns" and have never been explained by the U. S. Air Force or anybody else. They were culled from the many hundreds of unknowns in the Project Blue Book files because they stood out as being unique. The other unknowns in those files had one or more suspicious aspects that suggested they might be easily explained - if the observer had supplied more concrete information or graphic detail.

For those who may not be familiar with the nature of Project Blue Book, it is the U.S. Air Force central clearing house for all UFO sightings in the United States, or reported to American embassies, abroad, or from foreign nationals who may send a report to any U.S. Government agency, such as NASA or the Department of Defense, for an explanation. Project Blue Book is attached to the Foreign Technology Division of the Air Force Systems Command and is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

Before beginning the assignment of assembling the material for this Directory of UFOs, I had heard and read much about Air Force "secrecy" and even "conspiracy" designed to keep the American public from knowing the "real truth" about UFOs. All that I can say now is: as a representative of S & M, I was welcomed at Project Blue Book Headquarters and given full cooperation. In fact, I was amazed at the assistance furnished by the people at Blue Book. They not only permitted me full access to their automated file system, but they spent most of their time for a week while I was there trying to help me out in many little ways. They made Xerox copies of every file-case I requested, as an example, If they couldn't answer a question for me, they'd spend hours - and once, even a full day - trying to find the answer.

So the editors of S & M and I would like to thank them publicly for their unstinting help. Our appreciation goes to Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Director of Project Blue Book; First Lieutenant William Marley; Master Sergeant Harold Jones; and Mrs. Marilyn Stancombe. Without their assistance this exclusive "Complete Directory of UFOs" could neither have met the standards set by the editors nor legitimately be called "complete."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: June 24, 1947, at approximately 3:00 P.M. local time/vicinity of Mr. Rainier, Washington: between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams.

DURATION: One minute, 42 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Pilot of privately owned airplane.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Nine. -

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Appeared to be good.

SHAPE: Disc-shaped.

DIMENSIONS: Two-thirds the size of a Douglas DC-4 transport.

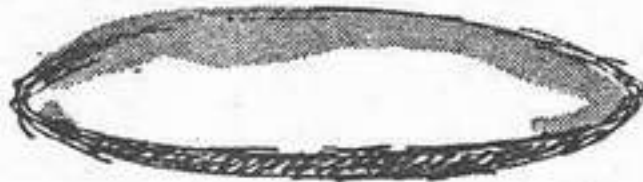
COLOR: Silvery bright when sunlight reflected off the objects.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Approximately 9,500 feet.

SPEED: Second estimate was 1,656.71 miles an hour (almost three times faster than any known aircraft, conventional or experimental, at the time; since estimate of speed depends on knowledge of distance of an object, another estimate was afterward made by an Air Force scientist (based on a shorter distance) of 400 mph; the observer's original estimate (later corrected) was 1,200 mph).

TACTICS: According to the observer, the UFOs flew in a chain-like line as if they were linked together, rather in the same manner of geese; every few seconds, two or three of the objects would dip or change course slightly; they flew in a line spread out over an estimated five miles.



COMMENT: This is the famous case of Kenneth Arnold, first person ever to sight a UFO. During a press interview, Mr. Arnold described the objects he saw as appearing like saucers skipping over water. Hence the phrase "flying saucer" was coined. He was interviewed at length by a representative from Headquarters of the Fourth Air Force, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, A-2 Intelligence, at Hamilton Field, California. Results of the interview were sent to Headquarters of the (then) U.S. Army Air Forces, addressed to the Commanding General, in Washington, D.C., on July 17, 1947.

The interviewer made the following statement in his report: "It is the personal opinion of the interviewer that Mr. Arnold actually saw what he stated that he saw. It is difficult to believe that a man of Mr. Arnold's character and apparent integrity would state that he saw objects and write up a report to the extent that he did if he did not see them. To go further, if Mr. Arnold can write a report of the character that he did while not having seen the objects that he claimed he saw, it is the opinion of the interviewer that Mr. Arnold is in the wrong business, that he should be writing Buck Rogers fiction."

However, the conclusion of the Army Air Forces was that Mr. Arnold had seen a mirage because of

the stable atmosphere conditions at the time, conditions associated with weather inversions and which increase the refraction-index of the atmosphere.

TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 9, 1947, at about 12:15 P.M. local time/in the air at an altitude of about 11,000 feet flying toward Gowen Field from a point between Boise and Meridian, Idaho.

DURATION: At least 12 to 15 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Aviation Editor of the Statesman Newspapers, Inc., and a member of the 190th Fighter Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Good.

SHAPE: Disc-shaped.

DIMENSION: About the size of a quarter as seen in the distance.

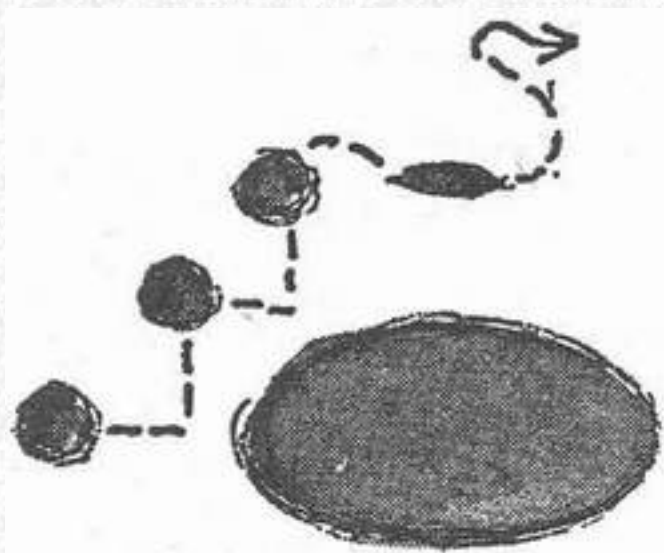
COLOR: Black.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not determined.

SPEED: Not determined.

TACTICS: The object rolled over so that its edge appeared like "a thin black line" to the observer; it then performed a maneuver which looked as if it had begun a slow roll, or a barrel roll, which was broken off at about halfway around the roll: it then rolled out of the top of the maneuver and disappeared.



COMMENT: The observer was David N. Johnson, assigned by his publisher to "Conduct an aerial search of the Northwest states in an effort to see and photograph a flying disc. Conduct this patrol for so long a time as you believe reasonable, or until you see a flying disc." Mr. Johnson was about to give up the search after three days of steady flying, when he saw the single disc. Using an 8mm motion picture camera, he photographed the disc for 10 seconds - but nothing unusual showed up on the developed film.

Yet other reliable persons had also seen the object from the ground. Quoting Mr. Johnson, from his sworn statement to the Intelligence people at Fourth Air Force Headquarters: "I was subsequently informed that personnel on both the United Air Lines side of Gowen Field, and on the National Guard side, observed a black object maneuvering in front of the same cloud formation which by now had grown so that the clouds reached a probable height of 19,000 or 20,000 feet from a mean base of 13,500 or 14,000 feet, mean sea level. Three of these men were National Guard personnel and I talked to them, asking them to describe what they saw, before telling them my story, in order to avoid suggestion of inference of a leading nature. They saw the object (from the ground) while I was on my second search. They believed the time to have been 14:00 hours (2:00 P.M.). The object performed in the same erratic manner, they said, as I observed."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 4, 1960, at 5:53 P.M. local time/Dubuque, Iowa.

DURATION: Four minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Man (profession not given) and his wife.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Three.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Indeterminable.

SHAPE: Elliptical.

DIMENSIONS: Size of a quarter held at arm's length; observers estimate that the UFOs were each 200 feet long and 60 feet thick.

COLOR: Brightly colored like a star; between the brightness of the moon and the planet Venus.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not given, but above 2,000 feet. SPEED: Approximately 200 miles an hour.

TACTICS: Flew across the sky in trail, traveling north northeast.

COMMENT: The UFOs were solid and sharply outlined. They did not change in brightness, shape or color. Nor did they accelerate or hover at any time. No exhaust or vapor trail was visible. Observers submitted a film strip to the Air Force for examination: after processing, no unusual objects showed up in any of the frames.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: Between October, 1957, and April 25, 1960, at various local times between 9 P.M. and midnight, on a farm near Shelby, Montana; five sightings were reported.

DURATION: 20 to 30 minutes for each sighting.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Housewife and farmhand.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Three in the 1957 sighting; five in each of the 1960 sightings.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Fair to good.

SHAPE: Circular or spherical.

DIMENSIONS: Like a grapefruit held at arm's length; estimated by observers as 10 feet in diameter.

COLOR: Strong white light shining downward from objects, which had a red glow within.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Observer estimated height to be from 50 to 100 feet; Air Force interviewer believed after questioning that there was no way accurately to determine altitude.

SPEED: Very slow and very fast.

TACTICS: Objects" always moved in a definite straight line, made sharp in-trail turns and varied speeds from that equivalent to a man walking to very high, at which point they disappeared.

COMMENT: Woman observer made photograph of the UFOs and sent film to the Air Force for processing. The Air Force report stated: "The photos had no information upon which to form a conclusion as to the nature of the objects ... Case listed as Unidentified."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 12, 1961, at 9:00 P.M. local time/Kansas City, Kansas.

DURATION: Three to five minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Senior college students at Drake University.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Appeared to be good.

SHAPE: Like a huge oval or bobsled shape with lighted automobile-type "running boards" along outer edges; also had a high vertical tail, circular in shape which ran from one edge to center of the object.

DIMENSIONS: Slightly less than half the size of a football field.

COLOR: Lights along "running boards" were whitish yellow, but observers were too nervous to notice color of the object itself.

SOUND: None indicated.

ALTITUDE: About 50 feet above the road, could not determine altitudes after the object took off.

SPEED: Extremely fast.

TACTICS: Hovered stationary for from three to five minutes, then shot straight up and climbed away sharply to the east, it disappeared from view in five seconds.

COMMENT: Weather was clear and dry. No wind, no weather inversions in the area were reported by meteorologists. The observers were driving along the road in a convertible with the top down.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 19 and 20, 1960, at about 9:30 P.M. local time each night/St. Louis, Missouri.

DURATION: 20 minutes, first night, 30 minutes, second night.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: At least eight identified, but many more phoned newspapers and police about the sightings.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: College student, housewives and their husbands and children.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Indeterminable, but so many persons saw the object on both nights that overall reliability must be assumed.

SHAPE: Descriptions vary from round to wheel-like, but one common thing about the object was observed by several persons in different ways: it had a central nucleus around which were revolving or orbiting lights, balls or flames.

DIMENSIONS: Approximately the size of a baseball.

COLOR: Bright red, varying in intensity.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Very high.

SPEED: Not given.

TACTICS: Traveled slowly from northeast, stopped and hovered, then flew backwards, then forward, then backwards, then flew straight overhead; the first night it disappeared to the east; the second night it disappeared to the west; both nights, its disappearance gave the impression of a light being turned off.

COMMENT: Nucleus of the UFO appeared solid and burning bright red. It pulsated or flickered, but remained constantly bright - almost like a bright red flare, although it did not light up the sky as a flare would. One 14-year-old boy, an amateur astronomer, depicted the UFO as "four very bright objects, in a circle around a central point (revolving) at about 20 revolutions per minute." A housewife described the strange object thusly: "It looked like a wheel. There was a double row of lights in a circle and it had spokes, also lighted. When we pulled up (in a car) it seemed to be right overhead and I heard a muffled humming, which later faded out." Nobody else reported having heard sounds from the UFO.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** March 23, 1966, at 5:05 A.M. local time/highway near Temple, Oklahoma.

**DURATION:** Not given.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** One.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Not given, but was a male driving a car.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Seems fair to good from details given in his report.

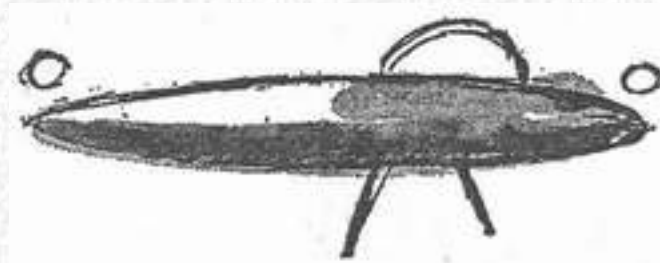
**SHAPE:** Like a conventional aircraft (Douglas C-124 Globemaster) but without wings or engines; Plexiglass "bubble" on top appeared similar to that of a B-26 canopy; the vehicle had no wheels, but rested on some kind of support; it had very bright forward and aft lights.

**DIMENSIONS:** 75 feet long, 12 feet wide and nearly eight feet from top to bottom.

**COLOR:** Not given.

**SOUND:** As object rose from the ground, a high-speed-drill kind of sound was heard, mixed with a noise like that of a welding rod when an arc is struck.

**ALTITUDE:** From ground level to an unknown height. **SPEED:** About 720 miles an hour.



**TACTICS:** The UFO was parked on the highway in such a way that it blocked out a portion of a road-curve sign; observer stopped his car and started walking toward the object; as he approached the UFO, he saw a man wearing a baseball cap enter it by steps from the bottom; after the man entered, it began to rise from the highway and headed in a southeasterly direction at almost the speed of sound.

**COMMENT:** Surfaces of the UFO were smooth, with no sharp edges showing anywhere. Observer thought that the UFO was some strange new kind of Army or Air Force research aircraft. If so, what was it doing parked on a public highway? The Project Blue Book summary was: "Various organizations were contacted around the Temple area to identify a possible (new) experimental or conventional aircraft. All attempts at such an explanation proved fruitless, since there were no aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting. Although there are numerous helicopters and other experimental aircraft in the area, none could be put in the area of Temple at approximately 0500, 23 March, 1966."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 23, 1960, at 3:24 A.M. local time/Wichita, Kansas.

DURATION: Two minutes.

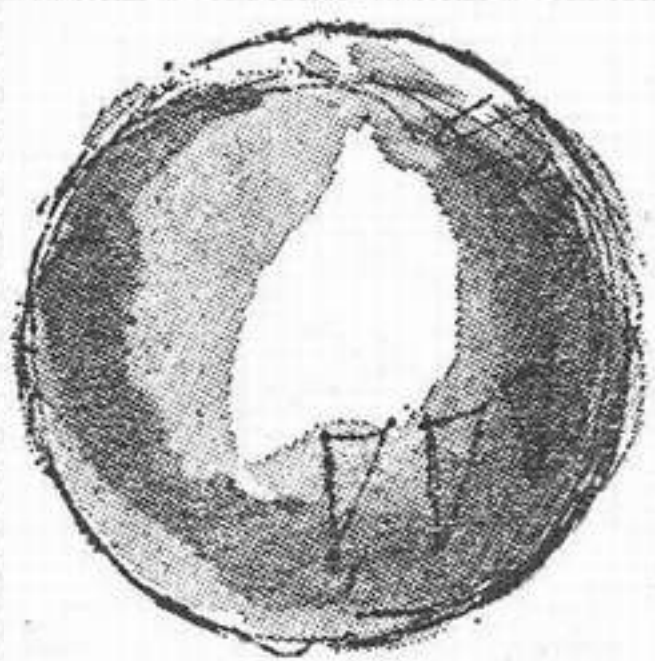
NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Four.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Aeronautical Engineer for Boeing Aircraft, his wife and two young daughters, aged 10 and 12.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Indeterminable, although engineer's was probably good.

SHAPE: Sphere with three triangular-shaped lights (windows?); appearance overall was similar to that of a Japanese lantern.



DIMENSIONS: About the size of a golf ball held at arm's length.

COLOR: Three triangular lights, each about 1/10th the size of the total sphere, were yellowish; they were reflected off the sphere, giving it a dull orange color.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not given.

SPEED: Not estimated, but very fast.

TACTICS: Flew a pursuit curve on the Echo Satellite, which the family had stayed up late to observe; the UFO turned slowly in a large radius and disappeared about 5° north of Echo, three minutes before the satellite went out of view.

COMMENT: No appendages, contrail or exhaust trail were noted on the object. Course of the UFO was smooth, with no power spurts or hoverings. The lighted triangular windows, if they were windows, created an aura on their side of the UFO. The observers were on the front lawn of their home when they made the sighting.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: May 18, 1963, at 10:30 P.M. local time/New Plymouth, New Zealand.

DURATION: Four minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: 15-year-old boy, who, despite his age, was a student at St. Stephens College.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Indeterminable.

SHAPE: Fuzzy object with blurred edges, semi-disc in general shape.

DIMENSIONS: Diameter of an estimated 60 feet

COLOR: Changing from white to red to blue.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not given.

SPEED: Not given,

TACTICS: When first sighted, the UFO was moving between the observer's camp site and a mountain side; it made a sharp, almost 270° turn and sped away curving back in the direction from which it had come; as it moved away from the observer, its color turned to a dark blue from red; sometimes it remained stationary, then would make a speed-dash, changing color as it changed speed and direction.

COMMENTS: The object was bright enough for the observer to view it through a handkerchief in order to determine its configuration. The observer, on a lone camping trip at the time, was first attracted to the object by hearing the wail (?) of an animal on a nearby hillside. He looked up and saw the UFO.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: May 26, 1962, at 11:45 P.M. EDT/Blandford, Massachusetts.

DURATION: Five minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Six.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: U.S. Coast Guardsman and high school students.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Indeterminable.

SHAPE: One observer, a 15-year-old girl, reported the UFO as round as the sun and red hot; the Coast Guardsman, 19 years old, described it as similar to "a red diamond with slightly round edges."

DIMENSIONS: About the apparent size of the sun.

COLOR: Red with yellowish rim, according to a 16-year-old girl observer, others described it as red with a whitish or yellowish center; it gave off sparks like a Fourth of July sparkler,

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: About 35° above a mountain.

SPEED: Slow, less than 100 miles an hour during its descent.

TACTICS: From point of first sighting descended in a gentle S-curve until it went out of sight behind some trees; observers felt that it landed on the mountain; but shortly afterward it reappeared in the sky; observers did not see it disappear: they left the scene for a telephone to report the sighting to Westover Air Force Base.

COMMENT: Could not have been a refracted image of the sun from below the horizon because of the late hour.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: November 27, 1960 at 7:30 P.M. PST/Chula Vista, California.

DURATION: 20 to 30 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Seven.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Two amateur astronomers, manager of a trailer court and four others, including two housewives.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent for the two amateur astronomers; unknown for the other five persons.

SHAPE: Looked like the planet Mars with a very long antenna rod attached; a flashing white light of

high intensity ran back and forth along the rod.

"DIMENSIONS: When it was overhead, the object appeared as large as Mars; as it moved south over Mexico, it appeared to be the size of the planet Mercury.

COLOR: Almost the same color as Mars, which was in the sky nearby at the time for accurate comparison.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Unknown, but very high.

SPEED: Unknown, but terrific.

TACTICS: Moved all over the sky in huge circles and made dashes at terrific speeds; it sped over Mexico, circled some more and returned over Chula Vista, then headed out over North Island and hovered awhile before it disappeared.

COMMENT: The UFO was observed continuously with binoculars and was sharply outlined. The two amateur astronomers, Lewis and Olive Hart, wrote the following in their report to Project Blue Book: "It was unquestionably some kind of intelligently controlled air or space vehicle."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: June 14, 1958, at 10:46 A.M. MST/Memorial Airport at Pueblo, Colorado.

DURATION: Five minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Meteorologist for U. S. Weather Bureau.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent.

SHAPE: Like the planet Saturn with its rings tilted forward and without bottom of planet showing.

DIMENSIONS: At least 30 feet in diameter.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: When UFO first appeared it was 24.2° above horizon; when it disappeared it was 8.1°

above horizon: minimum altitude was at least 30,000 feet.

SPEED: Minimum of 500 miles an hour.

TACTICS: Moved across a large area of sky from almost due west to southwest.

COMMENT: Observer was an experienced meteorologist (28 years with U.S. Weather Bureau) and was observing a pilot weather balloon through his theodolite when the UFO crossed his field of view. He followed it with the optical instrument, timing its passage across the sky. It was sharply defined and definitely was not a balloon.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: April 24, 1964, at about 5:45 P.M. local time/Socorro, New Mexico.

DURATION: Not exactly determined, but at least 80 to 100 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Squad-car police officer.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Good.

SHAPE: Roughly egg-shaped, standing on two girder-like legs.

DIMENSIONS: About the size of a sedan automobile.

COLOR: Whitish, like aluminum.

SOUND: Loud roar (not a blast) that changed pitch from high to low frequency.

ALTITUDE: Ground-level, then rose 15 to 20 feet in air and took off.

SPEED: Very fast.

TACTICS: Settled to ground apparently with retro-rocket of some kind; observer noted a bluish orange flame that was shaped like an inverted funnel coming from bottom of the UFO. After it landed in a moss-covered arroyo observer saw two persons standing beside it, dressed in white coveralls; they seemed startled when he appeared at the scene, got back in the object and took off; observer described them as "normal in shape - but possibly they were small adults or large kids."

COMMENT: The UFO had no apparent windows or doors, its surface was entirely smooth. A strange

red insignia about 2 1/4 inches high by 2 inches wide was centered on the object. A check with radar operators on duty at the White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, both nearby, disclosed no radar detection of unidentified aircraft in the area. But the UFO was flying low - no higher than 20 feet of altitude during its sighting - and could have thus been missed by radar because of ground-clutter. Also there was no record of unconventional research aircraft being tested in flight at the time in that area.

The UFO left impressions in the ground where it was sighted and smoke appeared to be coming from a bush. Yet when a State Police sergeant later broke off a branch from the bush, it was cool to the touch. More than a month later, in an official communique to the Pentagon, the Air Force reported: "Information obtained during this investigation revealed that the sighting was legitimate and there was no indication that a hoax was being perpetrated."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: May 22, 1961, at 4:30 P.M. local time/Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

DURATION: 15 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Wives of Air Force personnel.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Fair.

SHAPE: Disc.

DIMENSIONS: Size of a volley ball

COLOR: Silver.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: First at 3.5° above southeast horizon, then rose to 35° and disappeared.

SPEED: Stationary.

TACTICS: Although stationary, the object itself was revolving; finally it rose higher and disappeared.

COMMENT: Could have been a helicopter - except that women living on an Air Force Base should be familiar enough with all kinds of conventional aircraft to determine this. The women who first sighted

the object stated that: "It was something like I had never seen before, so I told my neighbor to look."

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** August 30, 1965, at about 10:30 P.M. local time/on Powell Avenue near the Fair Grounds, Urbana, Ohio.

**DURATION:** Three to four seconds.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Three.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** High school students, ages 16.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Presumably good, the boys were willing to take a police department lie-detector test.

**SHAPE:** Large solid-appearing ball trailing a streak of light about one-fourth its diameter in length.

**DIMENSIONS:** From five to eight feet in diameter.

**COLOR:** White ("About the same color as a star, only brighter," was the way one of the boys put it.)

**SOUND:** None reported.

**ALTITUDE:** Object came straight down out of the sky, struck the road and bounced straight up again out of sight.

**SPEED:** Must have been quite fast for the sighting to have lasted only three to four seconds.

**TACTICS:** (See ALTITUDE).

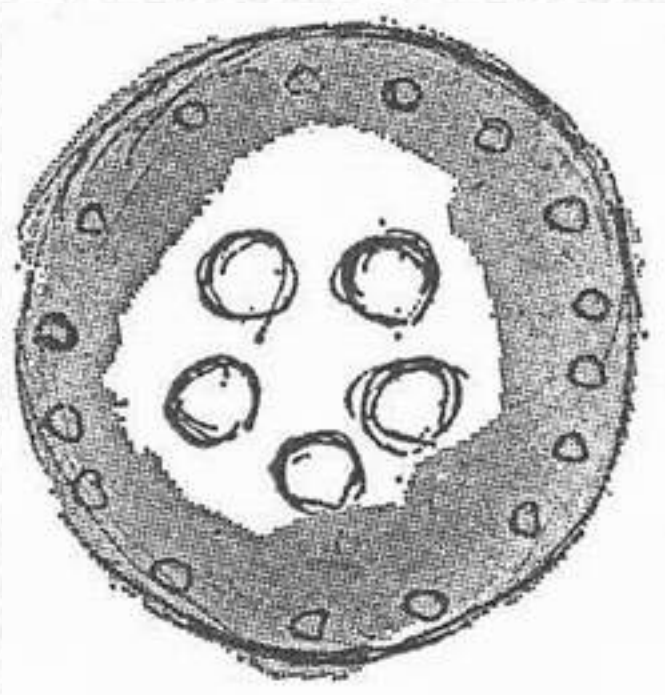
**COMMENT:** There were no projections of any kind on the "white ball." It did not illuminate the surrounding area, "but it was awfully bright," one of the boys told the County Sheriff.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: Sunday, September 13, 1959, at 1:05 A.M. CDT/in Door County, one-and-a-half miles southeast of Gills Rock, Wisconsin, on a farm.

DURATION: About 10 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.



TYPE OF OBSERVER: Farmer's son, who worked in a paper mill: a young man in his late 20s.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

SHAPE: Circular but fuzzy.

DIMENSIONS: Very large.

COLOR: When first sighted, the object seemed to be a round yellowish light with eight blue lights near the outside rim and five much larger red lights located in the center. The blue lights were compared by the observer to the color and brightness of 300-watt blue incandescent bulbs. The big red lights appeared to flicker on and off.

SOUND: Loud and pulsating, somewhat like the engines of a jet airplane flying just off the deck, or quite close to the ground; however, no exhaust-trail was seen.

ALTITUDE: From ground-level straight up until the object disappeared.

SPEED: "Terrific," according to the observer.

TACTICS: First, observer heard a loud pulsating noise, then the big group of lights appeared in the sky before him ascending on a straight vertical trajectory.

COMMENT: The sky was absolutely clear and dark, yet neither contrail nor exhaust trail was visible. Observer feels that he was looking at the underside of propulsion area, of the object. His wife and mother heard the loud noise, but were on the wrong side of the house to see the object through a window. His last impression of the UFO as it rose "higher and higher" was that "it looked like a star."


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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** September 3, 1965, at about 2:00 A.M. EDT on Route 150, three miles southwest of Exeter, New Hampshire.

**DURATION:** Longest period of observation was about 15 continuous minutes, but object was sighted repeatedly for periods of from five to eight minutes before it disappeared.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** First one, then joined by two others.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Young man about to enter U.S. Navy and two police officers.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** Five that moved as one.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Good for all three.

**SHAPE:** Five lights close together in a row that was tilted about 60° to the landscape; each was round.

**DIMENSIONS:** Lights were each about the size of a baseball.

**COLOR:** Bright red.

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** From a few feet to about 100 feet.

**SPEED:** Not estimated.

**TACTICS:** The lights moved over a large field and sometimes fluttered to a lower altitude in a maneuver that resembled a falling leaf; they repeatedly descended behind houses and trees and then reappeared after an interval of time.

**COMMENT:** These mysterious lights were so bright that they illuminated the surrounding landscape with a red glow. They flashed in sequence from one to another along the row they formed and after the last flash, the sequence would be repeated in reverse. They never varied their formation, were always the same distance apart at the same angle to the horizon.

Sometimes they descended so low that they almost seemed to be settling to the ground or to be attacking the observers. Except for minor differences, this UFO sighting at Exeter, New Hampshire, oddly resembles a sighting by two housewives driving in a car through Naperville, Illinois, at 10:40 P.M. about three and a half years earlier, on March 26, 1962, The Naperville lights were also bright red, also flashed (but not necessarily in sequence) yet in a different manner - more like rotating beacons - and flew in formation. The formation, however, was not constant and varied considerably during a comparatively lengthy sighting. One of the observers said she saw from six to eight lights.

She was the driver. The passenger observed only two lights.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: Early March, 1966 (exact day and time not given)/Benton Harbor, Michigan.

DURATION: Not given.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Five or more.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Three rubbish collectors, a policeman and the News Director of Radio Station WSJM.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Questionable to unknown.

SHAPE: Contradictory reports: the collectors described it as being like a hot dog or frankfurter, the news director said it resembled the morning star (presumably the planet Venus, brightest of the planets that can be seen in the morning).

DIMENSIONS: 15 stories high, according to the crew; not given by the news director.

COLOR: Steel-like, so bright you couldn't look straight at it, according to the rubbishmen; star-color with red and green lights said the news director.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: Not given by the rubbish collectors; "High in the Southern sky," according to the news director.

SPEED: Not given.

TACTICS: Not given.

COMMENT: No comment.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** Spring 1966 (exact date not given) at about 5:00 A.M. local time/along a highway for 85 miles from Atwater, Ohio, to Freedom, Pennsylvania.

**DURATION:** 50 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two, plus eight others later.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Deputies to the county sheriff.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Fair to good.

SHAPE: Circular with antenna projecting below.

COLOR: Dazzlingly bright.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: About 1,000 feet.

SPEED: 80 to 100 miles an hour.

TACTICS: The object moved straight along over the highway, flying just fast enough to stay ahead of the police car chasing it; after about 25 minutes it slowed down, allowed the car to catch up and hovered for awhile above the car; then it was off again, ahead of the car; when it moved too far ahead, it hovered and appeared to wait for the car to catch up with it once more.

COMMENT: Several other persons, including three police officers, also sighted the UFO enroute and tried to chase it but gave up early. Ohio State Patrolmen chased it for a short while, as well. The Air Force Troop Carrier Wing and Air Defense unit at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport had no knowledge of the UFO, since it had not shown on the military or civilian radarscopes. However, Deputy Sheriff Robert Wilson, who was in radio communication with the two deputies chasing the object into Pennsylvania, claimed that seven jet aircraft (presumably Air Defense Command aircraft) had been "scrambled" from Cleveland to investigate the UFO. This report has not been verified.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: September 3, 1965, (hour not given) /Exeter, New Hampshire.

DURATION: Not given.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Unknown.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Two.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Cigar-shaped "mother ship" and a smaller saucer-shape.

DIMENSIONS: Not given. COLOR: Not given.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: "High in the sky."

SPEED: Not given.

TACTICS: Small saucer dropped out of larger cigar-shaped UFO and came down to hover above an electrical power line; the saucer extended a thin tube that touched the power line.

COMMENT: This rather incomplete report seemed interesting enough to include, although most details are lacking. It was part of a "roundup" newspaper story by Mort Young of the N.Y. Journal-American, who was trying to demonstrate that some UFOs derive their power from power sources on Earth. He quoted four other cases on this theme, all equally lacking in detail.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 14, 1965 at about 1:30 A.M. EST/the Everglades, Florida.

DURATION: Not given.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Professional dog-trainer.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Character, integrity unquestioned; observational acuteness indeterminable.

SHAPE: Circular with rounded dome about 25 feet high; 10 feet of lower portion contained four rows of brightly lighted windows.

DIMENSIONS: 75 to 100 feet in diameter.

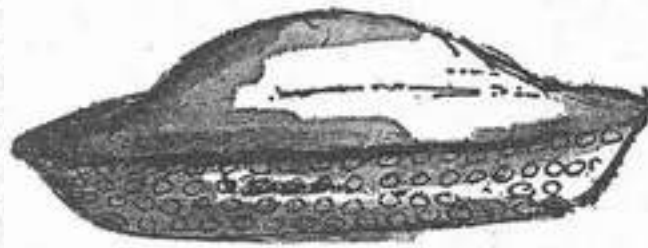
COLOR: Shiny in metallic manner.

SOUND: Not given.

**ALTITUDE:** Either settling onto swampland or hovering just above it.

**SPEED:** Not given.

**TACTICS:** (See **ALTITUDE**). Also, the observer thinking the object was an experimental aircraft, walked toward it. As he approached, some unknown force struck him to the ground. When he regained consciousness, the object had disappeared, and he had a wound that required medical attention.



**COMMENT:** Similar UFO was sighted approximately two months later, just past midnight local time on May 24th, 1965, by three persons who were guests at the Retreat Hotel in the Eton Range 40-odd miles from Mackay, Australia. One of the observers was an experienced airline pilot, J.W. Tilse, who worked for Trans-Australian Airlines. The other two included an engineer and a World War II veteran. Duration of the sighting was more than 30 minutes. The UFO was motionless for a half-hour and then began to rise slowly.

It took off horizontally with rapid acceleration. Pilot Tilse described the UFO as follows: "It had a bank of spotlights, twenty or thirty of them, below a circular platform. It was solid - metallic-looking - and was about thirty feet or more in diameter. ... As it came up over the treetops we could see beneath it in the glare of its lights three massive legs - which appeared to be tripod-type landing gear. Each leg had a light on it. ..." Except for the diameter and landing gear, this UFO closely follows the description given of the one sighted in the Florida Everglades.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: October 3, 1858, at 3:20 A.M. local time/just outside the railroad crossroad settlement of Wasco, Indiana.

DURATION: Not given precisely, but it was an extended period.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Five.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Crew members of a freight train owned by the Monon Railroad; they were respectively engineer, fireman, brakeman, conductor and flagman.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Four.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Not given, but probably good.

SHAPE: "Four big soft white lights," according to Cecil Bridge, fireman.

DIMENSIONS: About 40 feet in diameter.

COLOR: White fluorescent glow, with fuzzy light around edges.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Just above treetops and lower.

SPEED: 40 to 50 miles an hour.

TACTICS: Maneuvered back and forth over the freight train in various formations.

COMMENT: Brightness of these objects increased with their speed: as they slowed down their glow dimmed and changed color to a yellowish orange at minimum speed. Another odd characteristic of these UFOs was that regardless of their speed, they individually grew brighter and dimmer in a patterned sequence.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** June 18 and July 2, 3, 1965, (only time given was for July 3 sighting at 7:40 P.M. local time) South Pole encampments of the British, Argentine and Chilean Governments.

**DURATION:** 8-10 minutes (British), 20 minutes (Argentine and Chilean.)

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** 19 for the first Argentine sighting, number of observers not given for British, Chilean and second Argentine sightings.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Scientific and military personnel, photographers and at least one meteorologist

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Good.

**SHAPE:** Like a gigantic double-convex lens, extremely brilliant but solid.

**DIMENSIONS:** Not given, probably indeterminable because of object's great distance from the observers.

**COLOR:** Mostly red and green, changing once in a while to yellow, orange, blue and white.

**SOUND:** None.

ALTITUDE: 45° above horizon at estimated distance of about six to nine miles.

SPEED: Extremely fast.

TACTICS: Zig-zag trajectory, changed speeds and directions often, once hovered motionless at an altitude of about three miles for about 15 minutes, another time stopped suddenly from high speed to hover motionless for 20 minutes.

COMMENT: The Chilean Antarctic Commander, Mario Barrera, reported the sighting to Air Force communications headquarters in Santiago with this opinion: "I do not believe this could be an aircraft of terrestrial manufacture. As an officer of the Chilean Air Force, my knowledge of man-made machines gives me absolute certainty that nothing similar exists on Earth in shape, velocity or mobility in space."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: June 25, 1964, exact time not given/on a highway near Ely, Nevada.
DURATION: Not given. NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two. TYPE OF OBSERVER: Ranchers.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

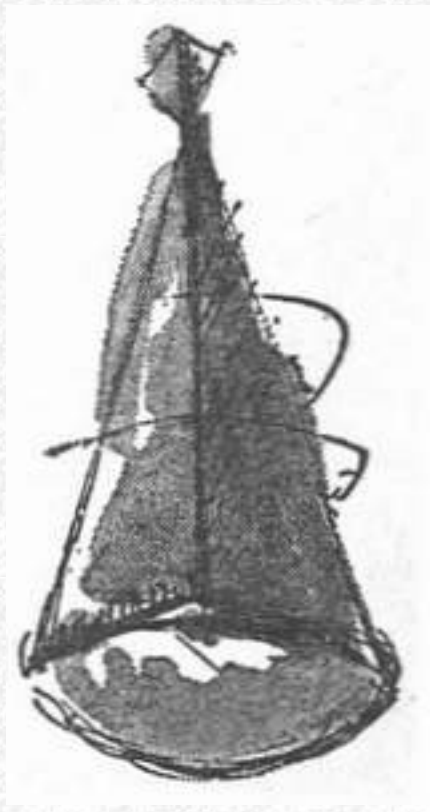
OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Questionable.

SHAPE: Spinning top with pyramidal sides and two-foot-long pedestal at point of "top."

DIMENSIONS: About the size of a Jeep.

COLOR: Similar to a shiny plastic.

SOUND: Loud hum accompanied take-off.



ALTITUDE: Rested on highway, then rose 10 feet in air and landed again. Then took off to an altitude not given and went into horizontal flight.

SPEED: Slow and then rapid, according to the observers.

TACTICS: (See ALTITUDE).

COMMENT: A similar UFO was sighted less than a week later on a highway in South Carolina by a business executive. At approximately 1 A.M. in the morning of June 30, 1964, by Mr. B.E. Parham, District Manager of Family Record Plan, Inc., noticed a bright object coming straight toward him. "Suddenly everything lit up around me," he said later. "I thought I was gone - I thought it was a meteor that was going to hit me!" But it made a right-angle turn upward and flew high above his car. As he described it: "The thing looked like an inverted top with sides about six feet long. There were little holes underneath it and it seemed to be propelled by yellow flames of some sort."

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** July 19, 1952, at midnight local time/tobacco plantation somewhere in Southern United States: exact place not given in report.

**DURATION:** 3 to 4 minutes.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Two.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Part-time tobacco farmer and a hired hand.



NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Two.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Cigar-shape (psychological influence of observers' profession?)

DIMENSIONS: Not given.

COLOR: Transparent, illuminated from inside.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: Not given.

SPEED: Not given.

TACTICS: One object hovered while the other moved to the east and came back, at which time both ascended until out of sight.

COMMENT: Both objects showed an exhaust trail at one end. Neither had wings, tail fins or projections of any kind.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 24, 1948, at 3:40 A.M./exact locale not given, but event as reported occurred aboard a DC-3 airplane in flight.

DURATION: about 10 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Three.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Pilot, Co-Pilot and a passenger.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Cigar or dirigible-shaped with two rows of lighted windows.

DIMENSIONS: Not given.

COLOR: Not given.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: Not given.

SPEED: Extremely fast.

TACTICS: Flew straight toward the DC-3 airplane, then swerved upward and to the right into a steep climb.

COMMENT: One passenger was able to catch a flash of light as the object passed above the airplane. It appeared to be powered by rocket or jet engines shooting a trail of fire some 50 feet to its rear. The object had no wings or protrusions of any kind.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 20, 1950, at 9:26 P.M./about 15 miles north of a "medium-sized city," according to the report, which gave no other information on locale.

DURATION: 25 to 35 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: A captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and a commercial airlines captain.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Good.

SHAPE: Circular, about 100 feet in diameter, with a vertical height considerably less than the diameter, causing the object to appear as a disc. On its underside there appeared to be from nine to 12 portholes of oval or circular shape arranged in a circle about three-fourths of the distance from the center to the outer edge of the object. A soft purple light similar to the color of aircraft fluorescent lights came through the portholes.

DIMENSIONS: (See SHAPE.)

COLOR: Not given.

SOUND: Not given.

ALTITUDE: About 1,000 feet higher than the airplane.

SPEED: In excess of 1,000 miles an hour.

TACTICS: Approached the airplane from the south on a northern heading and passed in front of the

airplane at about a half-mile distance before it went out of sight to the right.

COMMENT: Exactly at center in the top of this UFO was a light blinking an estimated three flashes per second, so brilliant that it would have been impossible to look at it continuously if it had not been blinking. The UFO was traveling in a straight line without spinning.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 25, 1952, at 5:35 A.M./locale not given in report, except that object was stated to be 100 yards off a highway.

DURATION: Not given.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

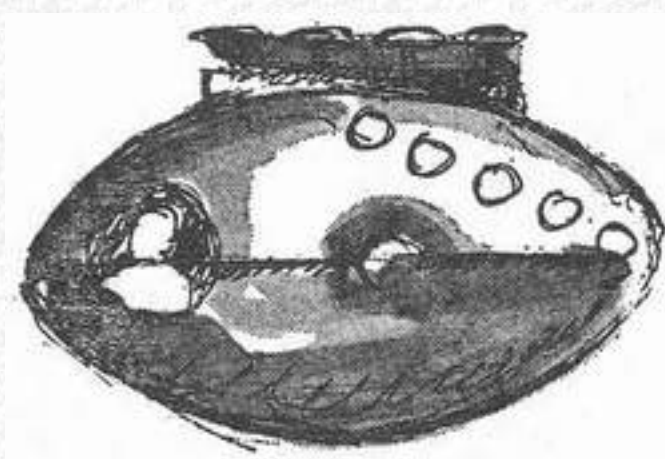
TYPE OF OBSERVER: Musician who worked for a radio station.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: "Reliability of the observer was considered good," said the U.S. Air Force report.

SHAPE: Like two oval meat platters placed together, with a line of windows extending from top of the mid-section to rear edge of the object; directly above it, mounted on a long bracket, were a series of small closely spaced propellers rotating horizontally at high speed.

DIMENSIONS: 75 feet long, 45 feet wide and 15 feet thick.



COLOR: Dull aluminum.

SOUND: Deep throbbing sound while hovering a wild whirring sound when ascending, similar to "a large covey of quail starting to fly at one time," according to the observer.

ALTITUDE: Hovered about 10 feet above a field, then rose vertically through broken clouds until it was out of sight.

SPEED: Not given.

COMMENT: The apparently metallic skin of the UFO was smooth. A medium-blue light shone continuously through the one window in the front section. Through this window were visible the head and shoulders of one man, sitting motionless, facing the forward edge of the UFO.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** March 20, 1966, at 8 P.M. local time/in a swamp 12 miles northwest of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**DURATION:** Not given.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Two, plus 50 others who later saw colored lights - phenomena that resembled phosphorescent marsh gas.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Farmer and his son.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Integrity unquestioned; observational acuteness unknown.

**SHAPE:** Like a football with a dome on top and two whip antennas extending from bottom, the UFO also had three lights - one in the center and one at each end.

**DIMENSIONS:** About the length of an average automobile.

**COLOR:** Reports were contradictory: United Press International quoted Observer-Farmer Frank Mannor as saying the UFO was "grayish yellow" and Life Magazine quoted him as describing it a "grayish or bluish brown."

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** Hovering eight feet off the swamp surface in mist: as Life quoted Mr. Mannor, it was: "Like a man in a boat on a misty lake in the morning - you can see the man but can't quite make out the boat."

**SPEED:** Not given.

**TACTICS:** Hovered with its lights on, turned "blood red," then lights went out and it disappeared.

COMMENT: The lights were pulsating, but in two different reports (Life and UPI) their color was contradicted by Mr. Mannor. In the wire-service report he was quoted as describing the two end lights as being blue and white. In the magazine report he said these same lights were green and white. The large central light was not identified by color, although according to Mr. Manner, "each of them (the lights) looked like they had a little halo around it." Surface of the UFO was described as "quilted" or pitted like coral rock."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: October 2, 1958, at 5:29 P.M. EDT/Delaware Water Gap, not far from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

DURATION: Total of 30 seconds (15 seconds from inside a car, 15 seconds outside).

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Businessman and his wife.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Sincere.

SHAPE: First looked like a puff of smoke, then like a kite in a high wind and finally, in the observers' own words, "like a pickle with a flat bottom."

DIMENSIONS: "It appeared enormous," said one observer.

COLOR: Dull gray.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: From 10° to seven degrees above the horizon.

SPEED: Not given.

TACTICS: "Very odd motions," according to one observer; the object was at first quite "diaphanous" in appearance and then went "from almost total diaphany (sic!) to complete solidity," in the words of the male observer, the extreme" change in appearance was a pulsating situation: the object changed back and forth from something barely sensed to something solid at the rate of "about three flashes per second"; finally, the object rose, "obviously tilted away from us with a flash from the sun on an edge, became a hair line and disappeared, apparently straight away from us into the stratus clouds beyond," recounted the male observer.

COMMENT: Although the object was overall a dull gray in color, when it "flashed" from a hazy

smoke-like shape to a solid shape, the solid form went absolutely black momentarily. The sighting was made at dusk.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** October 1959 (observer forgot exact date) at 9:15 P.M. local time/Telephone Ridge, 40 miles east of Enterprise, Oregon.

**DURATION:** About 45 minutes.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Four.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Manager of a department store (college-educated), his wife, a rancher and his wife.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Good, in terms of details; no good, in terms of dates.

**SHAPE:** A large shapeless light.

**DIMENSIONS:** About the size of an automobile headlight.

**COLOR:** Bright and clean as a carbon-arc light, according to one observer.

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** At first very slow, then terrific.

**TACTICS:** The light appeared in the sky about 10 miles away from the observers and moved toward them over an open meadow; it stopped approximately two or three miles away from them, having taken 15 minutes to reach this point, and remained stationary for a half-hour, after which it shot straight up into the sky, passing through a broken cloud layer; as it passed through the layer, it illuminated the bottom of the clouds with "a large reflection flare" and vanished.

**COMMENT:** Observers were on a camping trip in the mountains to hunt wild game and had pitched their tents on a plateau about 5000 feet above sea level. They tried to observe the UFO more closely through their telescopic rifle sights, but could determine no shape of any kind surrounding the light. As the department store manager later stated: "At no time did we ever see anything but the bright light. We could not see anything around the edge nor a shape, nor anything that the light came from." Since they were isolated high in a wild mountain area, the light could hardly have been a reflection from any civilized source, such as a huge spotlight in the distance. The observed UFO was also pulsing slightly.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: May 30, 1958 between 9:20 and 9:30 P.M. Moscow time (Greenwich plus three hours) a lonely airport outside of Uralsk in Southern Russia.

DURATION: 10 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two Americans and about 30 Russians.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: One American was a professional science writer and amateur astronomer; other American was his wife, a photographer; identification of the Russian men and women were generally unknown, except for the Americans' Intourist interpreter, an English Major from Moscow University.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent for the Americans; unknown for the Russians. **SHAPE:** A disembodied light.

DIMENSIONS: Like a star of the second magnitude, increasing to the size of an airplane's nose light.

COLOR: Almost the same as the Red Giant stars, such as Betelgeuse; Aldebaran or Arcturus; but as it approached, its color changed to that of an airplane's nose light as seen through a haze; it became a yellowish orange. **SOUND:** None.

ALTITUDE: At first it appeared to be at about 1000 feet, then it rose to about 35° above the horizon and then to about 85°, or 88°, or almost overhead at a great altitude. **SPEED:** About 150 knots (roughly, 173 miles) an hour at first, then it speeded up to 400 mph and then stopped and moved more slowly, maybe 30 to 50 mph.

TACTICS: The UFO came out of the North, very bright in the sky, and flew down one side of the small airfield exactly like a jet fighter-trainer making a landing pattern; it came up from under the constellation Cassiopeia, made the start of a pattern to the south edge of the airfield - and stopped; it remained absolutely motionless for a few minutes, then made a right-angle turn to the east for about 150 yards and stopped again; after several minutes, it began to get smaller and smaller (or so was its appearance) until it was a pinpoint of light among the many stars; here, the American observers realized they were looking almost straight up into the sky overhead; apparently the UFO had risen in a straight line from its motionless position; it had seemed also to be rotating around that line; after it had reached a tremendous altitude, another object of similar color came out of nowhere and joined the first UFO; they came together very closely and began to orbit about each other; then they pulled apart into a wider orbit and became so faint that they disappeared from view.

COMMENT: All observers were stranded at the little airport because of bad weather in Moscow, about 300 miles away. The weather at Uralsk was clear and calm, with hardly any clouds. The moon was rising in the southeast, lighting up the sky but not blanking out the stars. The moonlight, however, was bright enough to illuminate any shape that might have been attached to the light. There was no

shape. When the American observers reached West Germany, they reported the UFO to Air Technical Intelligence.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: October 24, 1963 (no time given) at Cupar Fife, Scotland.

DURATION: Not reported.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Boy and his sister, respectively 12 and 8 years old.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent.

SHAPE: Like the wingtip light of an airplane.

DIMENSIONS: Impossible to ascertain.

COLOR: Star-like (white or blue star).

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Extremely high.

SPEED: Assumed to be that associated with an aircraft.

TACTICS: Object moved from North to South across the sky until it reached the vicinity of the star Procyon, where it circled around that bright star and disappeared.

COMMENT: Although the boy was only 12, he made a detailed drawing of the constellation and star positions to identify the path of the moving object. It was not an aircraft. The Air Force complimented the boy for his "excellent report" as follows: "Dear Master McLean: Your presentation of this sighting was one of the most complete of all the 'Unidentifieds' of 1963, and we have so stated in our brochure."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: December 13, 1961 at 5:05 P.M. EST/Washington, D.C.

DURATION: One to three minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Three.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Ex-Navy pilot/flight instructor, guard at George Washington University, and a 26-year-old man who did not identify his profession.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

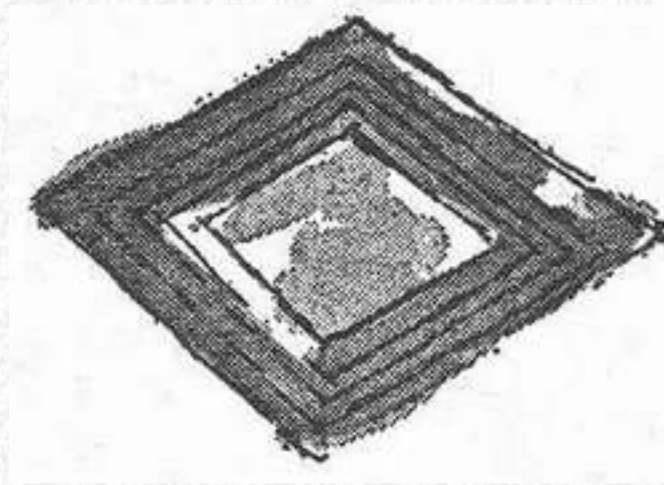
OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent for the Navy pilot; good for the other two.

SHAPE; Diamond-shape.

DIMENSIONS: About the size of a Piper Cub if it were "squared off."

COLOR: Dark Navy Gray with a pulsating orange-brown glow underneath.

SOUND: None.



ALTITUDE: Between 1,200 and 1,500 feet.

SPEED: Constant and smooth, but not estimated.

TACTICS: Approached from true North on a heading of 275° at an elevation of about 45° above the horizon; did not change course and passed directly overhead; disappeared behind buildings on the horizon at an elevation of about 30° .

COMMENT: Object was sharply diamond-shaped with no visible wings, rotors, vanes or any other kind of conventional propelling devices. The brown-orange glow was centered beneath the object in a diamond-shaped area about a third of the total area and was pulsating rapidly.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 8, 1961 at 11:00 P.M. local time/five miles east of Beulah, Michigan.

**DURATION:** Total of 38-plus minutes at different times.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Total of six at different times.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Motion picture projectionist, his young girlfriend, his two male friends (a fruit farmer and a plumber), and his parents.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** Seven.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** According to the Air Force investigator: "Witnesses appeared to be sincere in their observation."

**SHAPE:** Lights of various colors; no defined shape observed.

**DIMENSIONS:** Not determined.

**COLOR:** One bluish white light with a faint rotating beacon inside, three red and three white lights.

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** From quite high to treetop level to two feet above the ground.

**SPEED:** From that of a jet-type aircraft to the slowness of an average bicycle in motion.

**TACTICS:** The bluish white light appeared overhead, traveling southeast to northwest; it stopped and then descended to treetop level, then climbed again to about an elevation of 20°; it came down again and disappeared behind some trees; later, a red object about the size of a grapefruit appeared two feet above the ground, followed by a white object three feet above the ground; the two objects moved smoothly with the speed of a bicycle, merged into one object, then split again into two objects; after a few seconds the red object disappeared; later on, while the observers were sitting in their car, four objects suddenly appeared behind their vehicle; two of them red and two white; one red and one white object moved along each side of the road at about the same height at which the observers were seated.

**COMMENT:** The observers were frightened and fled. When they returned with the projectionist's parents, no red and white objects were in evidence but the bluish white glow with the faint rotating beacon was still there. After taking the parents and girlfriend home, the three young men returned to the area. The bluish white light had disappeared.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: April 13, 1960, at 9:00 P.M. local time/LaCamp, Louisiana.

DURATION: Approximately three seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Farmer.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: According to the Air Force investigator: "The sheriff's office was checked and the one eyewitness was determined to be very reliable."

SHAPE: A round disc or sphere.

DIMENSIONS: About the size of a nickel held at arm's length; later, the observer reported to the sheriff's office that the object was about 12 by 8 feet in size.

COLOR: A fiery red.

SOUND: A loud rumbling noise followed by four or five explosions.

ALTITUDE: The object approached from about 10° above the horizon on a heading of approximately 165°.

SPEED: Very high.

TACTICS: Object came out of the sky, plowed through trees, struck the ground - "like a stone skipping on water" - at nine different points and took off again; it struck about 300 yards from the observer's farmhouse.

COMMENT: Furrows were later found in the ground; the top was cut from one tree and the grass was scorched but not burned. According to the observer, "Fire, about a foot long, was burning out of the rear of the object."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: February 27, 1961 at 10:15 P.M. local time/Bark River, Michigan.

DURATION: 10 minutes.NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two,

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Housewife and her 15-year-old daughter, a high school student.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Spheroidal with light rays projecting ahead of it.

DIMENSIONS: About the size of a grapefruit

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: About 20° above the horizon.

SPEED: So slow that at first the object seemed to be stationary.

TACTICS: Moved North very slowly from an azimuth of 270° to an azimuth of 360° (moved 90° in azimuth) and disappeared behind some trees.

COMMENT: The object described by the witnesses was similar to a description of a fireball, except that its duration was much too long and the forward projected light rays are not components of a fireball.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 23, 1960 at about 3:35 A.M./Indianapolis, Indiana.

DURATION: About 10 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Housewife and her husband, a metallurgist

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: That of the metallurgist should be good to excellent; wife's reliability is unknown.

SHAPE: Contour of an old-fashioned kite with cross-sticks (metallurgist); "kind of comet-shaped" (wife).

DIMENSIONS: About the size of the morning star (probably Venus in size), or larger (wife); 75 feet in diameter (metallurgist).

COLOR: Golden to orange.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Appeared at about 15° above horizon and disappeared about 30° above horizon (metallurgist); 50° above horizon (wife).

SPEED: 1000 miles an hour (metallurgist); 18,000 mph (wife).

TACTICS: Moved in a big arc toward the west from north when first sighted by the wife, then made 180° turn and moved east; then it moved vertically from the horizontal flight path and reversed direction through an angle of about 30°; went across the sky from east to west through a 90° arc and suddenly stopped; then it went back in the direction from which it had come; it disappeared abruptly, as if it had blanked out.

COMMENT: Both observers described the object as being made up of little balls or metal components. They said it was very bright and that the sky was cloudless, extremely clear, dark and all the stars were brightly visible. The housewife said that the object was blinking on and off. She had observed the UFO for the total 10 minutes it was in sight, Her husband estimated that he watched the object for three-quarters of a minute. He had been awakened from sleep by his wife, who wanted him to verify what she was seeing.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: February 25, 1962 at 7:20 P.M. local time/Kotzebue, Alaska.

DURATION: Five minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Seven.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: One U.S. Army private (Company C, 1st Scout Battalion) and six civilians.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Two.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Round lights.

DIMENSIONS: Bigger than stars.

COLOR: One red, the other blue.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: 30° above the horizon.

SPEED: Unknown.

TACTICS: The UFOs moved in trail formation, 30 seconds apart, the red one first and the blue one trailing, on a course from the south southwest to the north northwest; they moved in a straight line and

faded out after five minutes; the weather was clear.

COMMENT: The Air Force evaluations were contradictory. The AF investigator in the Alaska area stated: "The FAA (Federal Aviation Agency) and Alaskan NORAD (North American Air Defense Command) region reported negative air traffic. Negative Weather Bureau balloon activity at time of sighting in the area." Yet the "Comments" on the Project Blue Book Record Card at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, were: "Objects viewed by witnesses display characteristics of a/c (aircraft) and probably were. However, in view of fact that reporting officer reported no air traffic, this case is classed as unidentified."

On the other hand, the reporting officer in Alaska made the following additional observation, which could not have possibly been taken to imply that the UFO was an aircraft: "A check was made with the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute Minitrack (satellite tracking network at a particular radio frequency) and NORAD SPADATS (Space Detection and Tracking System) for possible unclassified ESV (Earth Satellite Vehicle) activity. Nearest correlation was 1961 Omicron (Injun) ESV which was traveling in opposite direction. Evaluation: Possible classified ESV activity."

In other words, both of the evaluations were based on sheer guesswork, since the UFO could have been neither an aircraft nor a satellite. The officer making a report from Alaska was the Executive Intelligence Officer and could have checked out any "classified ESV activity." The officer at Project Blue Book must also have had intelligence clearances to check out this aspect.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 7, 1961 at 11:00 P.M. local time/Copemish, Michigan.

DURATION: One hour intermittently.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Not given, except that observer was a civilian.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: First one, then four.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: Spheroidal.

DIMENSIONS: First appeared large as a basketball, then reduced to baseball-size.

COLOR: Bluish to red.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Appeared to be very high.

SPEED: Very slow.

TACTICS: First noticed as a single object, large and round as a basketball; 45 minutes later it split into four objects each round and small as a baseball; the four objects or colored lights, stayed in close formation as they settled down low behind the treetops and disappeared; their course was varied.

COMMENT: No known aircraft were operating in the area at the time of the sighting and the movement of the UFOs was too slow to be anything conventionally known as aircraft. If the objects were actually the running lights of a helicopter, the 'copter would have had to be hovering with a slow drift over a period of two hours, which is unlikely.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** September 10, 1960, between 9:50 and 11:00 P.M. PDT/Ridgecrest, California.

**DURATION:** Object was observed intermittently four times during an hour and 10 minutes; each sighting lasted from one to two seconds.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Four.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** A man, his wife and two children aged 12 and 14 years.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Not given.

**SHAPE:** The man saw the UFO as boomerang-shaped; his wife and children saw it as a disc with a pod in front.

**DIMENSIONS:** Two to three times the size of a Piper Cub airplane.

**COLOR:** Luminous light gray.

**SOUND:** Whirring or swishing.

**ALTITUDE:** Just under 6000 feet when it disappeared; much lower during first three sightings.

**SPEED:** Must have been fast because the UFO stayed in view for only one or two seconds per sighting.

**TACTICS:** On two observations the object was heading from north to south; on one observation it

headed from south to north: on another observation it headed from east to west.

COMMENT: During one sighting the UFO appeared to be only 600 feet away from the observers. There were no sounds of an engine, only a whirring or swishing noise as the UFO accelerated. It carried no running lights.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 29, 1960 at 4:05 P.M. CDT/on State Route One near north edge of the city limits of Crete, Illinois.

DURATION: 18 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Fanner, aged 67.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: According to U.S. Naval Reserve Lieutenant John T. Cizek, who reported the sighting to Project Blue Book: "Mr. Schneeweis is a farmer in his sixties not given to hallucinations ... He is not well-read on the subject of UFOs and I would respect the validity of his having observed something."

SHAPE: Approximately spherical.

DIMENSIONS: Size of a bushel basket or larger, according to the observer.

COLOR: Brilliant silver or chrome, shone like "the sun's reflection in a good mirror."

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: 30° above horizon when first sighted; 90° high (overhead) when the UFO disappeared.

SPEED: Very fast.

TACTICS: The UFO moved only in the vertical direction, ascending rapidly until it was out of sight.

COMMENT: The observer was driving a pickup truck when he first noticed the UFO "straight ahead at about 600 feet in the air." He also stated that "the light from the object was so intense that it was difficult to determine his exact shape."

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** April 4, 1965 at 5:05 A.M. local time/Kessler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

**DURATION:** 15-plus seconds.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** One.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Weather observer (Detachment 22, 24th Weather Squadron).

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Good to excellent.

**SHAPE:** Like "a large football with lights, according to the observer.

**DIMENSIONS:** About 40 feet long.

**COLOR:** Black against clouds.

**SOUND:** Not given.

**ALTITUDE:** When first sighted, the object was about 45° above the horizon; it disappeared at a height somewhere between 30° and 45°.

**SPEED:** Not estimated, but fast.

**TACTICS:** The UFO came in overhead from the south-west and went northeast, passing underneath the clouds, 'which were at about 1,200 feet; it stayed at the same level, never varying its speed; once it varied its heading to due north, faded into a cloud and then reappeared; finally it faded into the clouds at the northeast.

**COMMENT:** The four lights protruded from the bottom of the UFO and were evenly spaced. They were, said the observer: "Almost the same intensity as the satellite, kind of bright but not very bright at all." Of course, the object could not have been a satellite, since it was flying under a low cloud-bank and there were four lights instead of one. All were white lights of exactly the same intensity and they did not twinkle. No aircraft were in the area at the time. This was verified by the observer, who phoned the Federal Aviation Agency.

The object was moving crossway to the wind. The observer, who was quite familiar with aircraft since he worked on an Air Force base, was shaken up. He said that he had never before seen anything that resembled the UFO. He was also not aware that a half-hour earlier two Naval air cadets at Ellyson Naval Air Station had sighted and reported a strange UFO. But this was a "ball of flame about 16 feet long, from which two objects appeared to emerge." The cadets made their report to nearby Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 17, 1958 at 7:05 P.M. local time/Warren, Michigan.

DURATION: Seven to 10 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Business-machine mechanic.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Not given, but probably fair to good.

SHAPE: Varied, appeared ball-shaped at first, then saucer-shaped: when ball-shaped, it resembled the planet Saturn with the round "planet" and its main ring appearing brighter than the band in between; when maneuvering it seemed to be shaped like a fried egg in a pan with a blister on the disc (or pan).

DIMENSIONS: Size of a pea or smaller at an estimated distance of 600 miles; gave impression of huge size at an extreme range.

COLOR: Extremely bright white, brighter than the planet Venus, which is the brightest "star" in the sky.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Estimated at about 70° above the horizon.

SPEED: Motionless at first, then moved away very fast.

TACTICS: The object was motionless for the first full five minutes, then it moved toward the north northeast, flipped over and sped toward the west southwest, where it disappeared within 30 seconds. The UFO faded very rapidly without any noticeable reduction in size; it disappeared as if it had vaporized.

COMMENT: The observer was using military-type Japanese field glasses with 30-millimeter-diameter objective lenses giving a magnification of eight times. There was a reticle with metric readings behind one lens to aid in artillery spotting. Visibility was good. Sighting was made early on a summer evening and it was still daylight.

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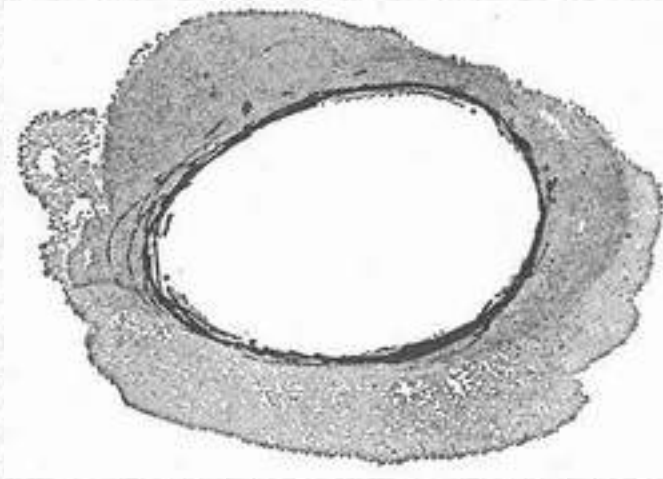
TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: October 26, 1958 at 10:30 P.M. EST/a bridge near Loch Raven Dam, north of Baltimore, Maryland.

**DURATION:** From 30 to 55 seconds.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Two.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** A 24-year-old supervisor for Sears, Roebuck & Co., and a 27-year-old collection manager for a finance company.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.



**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Seemed sincere and were quite detailed in their description of the UFO; Air Force evaluation: "Excellent."

**SHAPE:** Like a huge egg when hovering; edges diffused to disc-shape by white light when moving.

**DIMENSIONS:** Estimated at about 100 feet long.

**COLOR:** Iridescent white, like moonglow only not as "cold"; bright enough so that no surface features could be determined, but not so bright that the shape was indistinguishable.

**SOUND:** A loud noise, interpreted by one observer as a dull explosion and by the other as a thunderclap; the noise was heard only as the object began to rise.

**ALTITUDE:** Between 100 and 150 feet when first sighted.

**SPEED:** Very fast when in motion.

**TACTICS:** The UFO was hovering over the top of a bridge and remained in that position for approximately 30 to 45 seconds, at which time it burst into a blaze of blinding light; an explosion or thunderclap of noise was heard just before it began to rise vertically; it disappeared completely from view within five to 10 seconds.

**COMMENT:** While the UFO was still hovering, the observers approached it in their car. At first, from

a distance of about 300 yards, they thought they were seeing a Navy blimp. But when their car drew up to within 75 or 80 feet of the bridge, its electrical system failed completely; the engine went dead and the dash lights and headlights were extinguished. The observers were terrified, got out of the car and crouched behind it.

As the UFO took off in a blinding glare of light, the observers "felt a tremendous heat wave," according to one of them. "It didn't seem like the heat of a burning object, but something like ultraviolet light or some kind of radiation," he added. Later, they felt a burning sensation on their faces. They drove to St. Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore and were given a superficial examination by an interne on emergency duty.

The face of one of them was redder than normal. The other observer's face showed no reddening. The doctor told them that there was nothing to worry about. But the next day, the other observer's face also became noticeably red. No serious damage to the men resulted from the incident. However, a 16-year-old member of the Gardenville Astronomical Society also sighted a strange object at approximately the same time that the two observers claimed the UFO took off and disappeared.

The boy was observing the sky at the Clifton Park Observation Center when he sighted the UFO on a northeast heading at an altitude of about 85° above the horizon (almost overhead) He kept it in sight for approximately one minute, at which point it disappeared "instantaneously." The investigator from Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C., had this evaluation of the boy's sighting: "Estimated reliability: qualified above average ... The sighting made by (the boy could have been the same object (as observed by the two adults), since the color (glowing white) and the approximate time agree."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: July 25, 1959 at 1:30 P.M. EDT/Irondequoit, New York.

DURATION: 15 seconds or longer.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Technical machine illustrator and private pilot, aged 28.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Good, from the detailed description he gave.

SHAPE: Like a crescent moon with a bubble in the center.

DIMENSIONS: Possible span between horns of the crescent of about 50 feet.

COLOR: Brownish black with the bubble white and resembling a gun turret.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not estimated.

SPEED: Estimated at 800 or more miles an hour.

TACTICS: Object was first noted apparently motionless in the north; position was head-on to the observer so that he could not see the crescent shape; as it started to move very fast, it banked in a swing to the east and the crescent shape became apparent; it disappeared behind some trees.

COMMENT: Observer was using 6-power, 30-millimeter-diameter objective lensed binoculars, trying to locate a jet airplane that he heard, when the strange silent UFO came into view and accelerated tremendously just after it was sighted. Observer estimates that it was about 7000 feet away from him on a slant range. He could see no vapor trail. No engine noise was heard. He also glimpsed the jet airplane much farther away. The UFO appeared to be thicker along its leading edge, tapering back to a thinner trailing edge.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: June 18, 1959 at 8:30 P.M. local time/Edmonton, Alberta Province, Canada.

DURATION: Four minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Young men, aged 33 and 21.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Not given.

SHAPE: Elongated cigar-shape with blurred edges.

DIMENSIONS: Comparable to a small flock of ducks.

COLOR: Reddish brown.

SOUND: None mentioned by observers.

ALTITUDE: Object rose from just below the horizon to 40° or 50° and vanished.

SPEED: Not estimated.

TACTICS: (See ALTITUDE).

COMMENT: The UFO was observed through 7-power binoculars. The Air Force Intelligence officer from the 4601st Support Group (Air Defense) made this comment in his report: "Most striking feature was, reddish brown color and vertical ascent. No plausible explanation re possible cause of sighting."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: June 30, 1959 at 8:23 P.M. EDT/Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland.

DURATION: 20 to 30 seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Navy Commander with 17 years of active duty and a nine-year-old girl.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent for the Commander; unknown, for the girl.

SHAPE: Oblate and solid with sharp edges.

DIMENSIONS: Ratio of length to depth of the object was approximately nine to one; otherwise, size not estimated.

COLOR: A uniformly brilliant gold, metallic in appearance.

SOUND: Not mentioned.

ALTITUDE: Estimated at 4000 feet.

SPEED: Not in excess of 100 knots, (roughly 115 mph).

TACTICS: Object was first sighted to the north about one mile from the observers and moved in straight and level flight until it disappeared suddenly.

COMMENT: The Navy Commander (who should know) stated definitely that the UFO was not being confused with the evening star, a falling star, a balloon, the afterburner of a jet airplane or the pink disc of the sun setting lower on the horizon. Two aircraft in the local traffic pattern were a Navy R6D and P2V.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** September 1, 1958 at 10:15 P.M. Greenwich Mean Time/Wheelus Air Force Base, Tripoli, Lybia, North Africa.

**DURATION:** Two sightings in, the same area were two minutes and 90 seconds respectively.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Two.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Special Investigator (8th District, Office of Strategic Investigations) and a Technical Representative of the Philco Corp.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Regarding the Special Investigator, the Air Force Intelligence investigating officer stated that: "Observer is a highly trained, experienced OSI Investigator. Reliability: Completely reliable."; regarding the Philco Tech-Rep: "Observer seemed to be sober and intelligent with considerable knowledge of aircraft and air activities."

**SHAPE:** Round bluish-white object.

**DIMENSIONS:** First observed as the size of a large star, then object grew to the size of a baseball and finally diminished to its original size and disappeared.

**COLOR:** (See SHAPE).

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** High, somewhere near 14,000 feet; descended to 2000 or 3000 feet.

**SPEED:** Varied from very fast to very slow, at which time the object appeared to be motionless, hovering.

**TACTICS:** The UFO first was sighted at a high altitude then descended to 2000 or 3000 feet as it passed by the observers and then climbed again to a high altitude moving from the northwest to the southeast at varying speeds (see SPEED) and faded from view.

**COMMENT:** There were no known aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting, but there was a significant temperature-inversion from the surface (24° Centigrade) to 1000 feet (35.6° Centigrade). One observer, the Philco Tech-Rep, and his wife sighted the same UFO phenomenon two weeks earlier. At that time, there were no known aircraft - helicopters or other kinds - no weather balloons or ceilometers in the area. This observer denied that the UFO could have been any aircraft known to him because its speed varied so greatly, it had no navigational lights and it was soundless.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: August 10, 1959 at 1:28 A.M. local time/Goose Air Force Base, Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada.

DURATION: 25 minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: An experienced Royal Canadian Air Force pilot.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent.

SHAPE: Bright light, appearing as a large star.

DIMENSIONS: (See SHAPE).

COLOR: Brightly white.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: From horizon to overhead.

SPEED: Not estimated.

TACTICS: Object was moving faster than a star, obviously, since it climbed from 240° on the eastern horizon to overhead in 25 minutes and mysteriously vanished, although it was still in sight when exactly overhead.

COMMENT: Visibility was clear for 20 miles. The UFO was observed through binoculars. It was in sight too long and yet moved too fast to be a star, planet, comet or meteor. For the same reason (too long in sight), it could not have been a satellite. To be a balloon and travel from the horizon to the zenith in 25 minutes, it would have had to have a speed far in excess of the highest wind-velocity reported during the sighting. Also, the wind-direction was about 280°, a difference of 40° from the UFO's reported direction of motion.

The aurora, or "Northern Lights," could not have been mistaken for a UFO because the sighted object was much too local in character and besides, no aurora was reported by geophysical observations during the time of the sighting. Mistaking an aircraft for the UFO was ruled out because the observer was an experienced pilot and he should most certainly have recognized aircraft lights when he saw them.

Another factor which tended to discount that the UFO was possibly an aircraft is that air traffic in the area of Labrador is checked much more closely than in the United States for Air Defense reasons. The

report of the U.S. Air Force Investigator stated that no aircraft could be responsible for this sighting. It is therefore classed as "a one-witness Unknown."

Editor's Note: In the following eight reports, no rough sketches were included by the observer, and since the description of the shape was generally vague, no attempt has been made to illustrate the UFOs reportedly sighted.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 26 or 27 (observers do not remember exact day), 1959, at 12:45 P.M. EST/rural area near Corsica, Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

DURATION: Three minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: A retired 83-year-old man and his daughter.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: One observer described the object as a kind of barrel-shape, pointed at one end and squared-off at the other, with "metal" bands showing; the other observer saw the object as being shaped "like a fish or an airplane without wings."

DIMENSIONS: There was some discrepancy between the two observers: one guessed the length to be 20 feet, the other, to be 20 inches; diameter was six or seven feet or inches, depending on the observer, but the discrepancy could have been the result of one observer not knowing the difference between an indication of feet as (') or inches as (") in his or her notation on the Technical Information Sheet.

COLOR: Bright blue.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Above the tree tops, about 40 or 50 feet off the ground.

SPEED: Motionless.

TACTICS: Settled behind the trees and disappeared; the object appeared to be about a quarter to a half-mile away over a valley alongside a wooded area.

COMMENT: The UFO was viewed from the back porch of a farmhouse. It could not have been any known astronomical phenomena, since it was viewed in daylight just after high noon. It certainly

wasn't any known type of aircraft, with the possible exception of a VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing) type. But this is highly unlikely in that mountainous wooded area of the country. The case is still listed as "unexplained."

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: November 21, 1961, at 7:30 P.M. EST/about seven miles east northeast of Old-town, Florida.

DURATION: Three to four minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: An employee of the Florida State Highway Department (male) and an employee of a local Ford dealer (female).

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: "Very reliable," in both cases, according to the Air Force investigator.

SHAPE: Round.

DIMENSIONS: Size of an auto tire held at arm's length.

COLOR: Reddish-orange.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: First observed just above the tree tops, straight above; then ascended to very high altitude.

SPEED: Not estimated.

TACTICS: Moved straight up; there was no other direction of motion; as it reached an extremely high altitude it looked like a star; it then brightened considerably before it faded slowly and vanished.

COMMENT: The Air Force investigator made inquiries in the sighting area and found that the same strange phenomenon had been sighted twice before by other observers, who had not bothered to report it to the 691st Radar Squadron at the nearby Cross City Air Force Station. Case is listed as "unidentified."

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** September 24, 1961, at 11:40 P.M. local time/1.39 miles south of the

Pine Creek Ranch on State Highway 82 in Monitor Valley, Nye County, Nevada.

DURATION: Eight minutes for the first object; two to three minutes for the second object.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Geologist working for the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Two.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Should be good.

SHAPE: Both objects were described as large lights.

DIMENSIONS: See SHAPE.

COLOR: First light observed was bright and white; second one glowed with an orange-yellowish color.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: Not estimated for the first object; second object was "fairly low over the east-lying Monitor Range."

SPEED: First object was hovering; second object was "traveling at very high velocity."

TACTICS: The stationary light appeared to emanate above "smoke or fumes which appeared cloud-like;" after eight minutes, it focused a beam straight downward - observer's estimate of the beam width was "one hundred feet or, more;" the traveling light moved in a southerly direction for about two to three minutes before it turned in an easterly direction and disappeared.

COMMENT: The Air Force investigator checked the position of the planet Jupiter for that area at the time of the first sighting and found it to be almost identical with the described position of the UFO. Since the thickness of the atmosphere at the horizon could act as a magnifying lens, the planet Jupiter would appear to be much larger than it actually was and also appear to cast a broad beam downward. Evaluation of the first UFO sighted by this observer was that it was Jupiter he saw. The second sighting by the same observer is categorized as "unknown," since there was no scientific explanation for it.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: April 17, 1960, at 8:29 A.M. CST/Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri (20 miles south of Kansas City, Missouri).

DURATION: Two-and-a-half minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: A major in the U.S. Air Force and an engineering field representative for Link - both amateur astronomers.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Should be excellent.

SHAPE: Could not be determined but was generally starlike.

DIMENSIONS: Estimated that the object subtended an angle of five seconds of arc.

COLOR: A reddish glow.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: About 30° to 45° above the horizon.

SPEED: Not estimated, but moved rapidly across a large portion of sky from the constellation of Orion to the bright star Sirius.

TACTICS: The UFO first appeared in the "belt" of Orion and moved in an arc toward the southwest, passing one degree south of Sirius before it fell below the horizon; according to the observers, during the sighting period there was no apparent change in either size, color or magnitude, the angular rate of change (an indication of speed) of the object appeared to increase from two degrees/one minute of arc in Orion to one degree/one second of arc just before it disappeared.

COMMENT: The observers were viewing the nebula M-42 in Orion through a 48-power eyepiece on a six-inch-diameter Newtonian reflector telescope when they first saw the UFO. In the words of the Air Force officer: "We sensed we were seeing something extraordinary. The first 30 seconds we watched and debated the origin of the light. This was no aircraft. Then we checked the object's track. At first we thought it to be in a polar orbit - but on checking it with the celestial polar axis (on the telescope mount), an orbit near 45° appeared more reasonable. In a desperate effort I got the object in the narrow field of my telescope. Unfortunately, I did not get a good focus."

Note: In order to change the field of his telescope, the observer had to change the eyepiece to one of shorter focal length and thus of higher power. The two observers watched the UFO both with the telescope and with the unaided eye.

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**TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING:** November 29, 1960 at 6:38 P.M. local area time/south of Kyushu Island, Japan; sighting was made at an altitude of 21,000 feet from a T-33 Lockheed jet trainer.

**DURATION:** 10 minutes.

**NUMBER OF OBSERVERS:** Two.

**TYPE OF OBSERVER:** Jet-qualified pilots of the U. S. Air Force, one a Lt. Colonel, the other a Major.

**NUMBER OF OBJECTS:** One.

**OBSERVER RELIABILITY:** Excellent.

**SHAPE:** Generally shapeless, but resembled a star of about second magnitude.

**DIMENSIONS:** Equivalent to the North Star as viewed from 21,000 feet.

**COLOR:** White, similar to a star.

**SOUND:** None.

**ALTITUDE:** About 45° above the horizon, halfway to the zenith, at 2 o'clock.

**SPEED:** Not estimated.

**TACTICS:** Flight path of the UFO began due east at 90° and followed a straight course northward from east; it did not maneuver but appeared to slow down and match the speed of the observers' airplane, flying parallel course with them as it reached 30° (about north northeast); after 10 minutes it disappeared instantaneously.

**COMMENT:** Could not have been a satellite, since a check with Space Track at the North American Air Defense Command disclosed that no satellites were in that area at the time. The observers felt, however, that the UFO was in an orbital trajectory-although they had never previously seen an artificial satellite. There were no known aircraft in that area of the sky at that time. One possibility suggested by the Air Force investigator was that the UFO might have been a balloon launched from Communist territory: the only Free World balloon in that part of the world was launched after the sighting occurred. Actually, the movement of this UFO against a star background would be unusual for the average balloon. The AF investigator stated: "Conclusions by the reporting officer would be in the realm of speculation and therefore no factual opinion can be offered at this time."

**Note:** This sighting is generally similar to the UFO observed by two other Air Force observers flying over the Pacific Ocean on an Air Defense mission, April 24, 1961— about five months later.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: April 24, 1961 at 3:34 A.M. local area time/over the Pacific Ocean in an aircraft flying at the position of 35°/50 minutes north latitude and 125°/40 minutes west longitude.

DURATION: Eight minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: Two.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Aircraft Commander of an RC-121D (Lockheed Constellation) air-defense radar-surveillance aircraft, with 18 1/2 years and 4,500 flying hours experience— a captain in the U.S. Air Force; and his navigator, a 1st Lieutenant with 4M years and 3,500 hours experience.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Excellent, in both cases.

SHAPE: Round.

DIMENSIONS: Size of a pin-head at arm's length.

COLOR: Reddish white.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: The aircraft was flying at 11,000 feet; the UFO's altitude was estimated as being "great."

SPEED: Faster than the speed of the Echo I satellite moving across the sky.

TACTICS: The object appeared to be in orbit, like a satellite, and was first noted at a position of 29°/55 minutes elevation on a relative azimuth of 140°; it traversed the sky in the manner noted under **SPEED:** it disappeared on the horizon at 50°.

COMMENT: The UFO resembled a planet in brightness. The Air Force investigator checked out its position and time with Space Track, the central tracking clearing house of the North American Air Defense Command, and was informed that the object could not be a satellite, since no satellite was in that position at that time. Furthermore, it was learned that if the object had been a satellite at the altitude of Echo I, its speed was so excessive that this possibility was ruled out. The UFO was first noticed by the navigator of the RC-121D aircraft because of its motion as he was taking a fix on the North Star through a sextant. Both observers were assigned to the 965th Aircraft Early Warning and Control Squadron, with headquarters at Mc-Clellan Air Force Base in California.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 17 and 20, 1966 at 4:40 A.M. local time on the first date; time on the second date was not given/Milan, Michigan.

DURATION: Several minutes.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One. TYPE OF OBSERVER: Squad-car patrolman, with 10 years experience on the force of the Milan Police Department.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Unknown.

SHAPE: "Like a very huge pie and was very well lighted with red, blue and white lights spinning completely around at," according to the observer's own description. DIMENSIONS: The UFO first appeared to be about the size of a small, light airplane and then seemed larger as it descended lower.

COLOR: See SHAPE.

ALTITUDE: About 75 feet above the observer's car.

SPEED: Hovered over the car, pacing it at the same speed for about a half-mile "and then disappeared at a very high speed," in the observer's words.

TACTICS: Appeared in the southwest and descended from above some store buildings until it was just over the patrolman's car, which had stopped for a traffic light (also see SPEED).

COMMENT: The observer claims that he tried to make radio contact with the Washtenaw (Michigan) County Sheriff's Department for information about the nature of this strange craft, but while it hovered above his car he was unable to use the police radio. Three days later, on March 20th, the observer again saw a strange UFO. He describes it thus: "A similar object came so close to my car and glowed so brightly that I had to stop the car and get out of it before I could see again." He adds that: "Our police department (has) been called at different times about highflying lights, but those I am in doubt about. ... The ones I have seen are very much different and are not stars or planets, flying at such low altitudes ... Please believe me, this is something far beyond flying stars or planets and swamp gas, even though the gas may be responsible for some of the sightings."

Note: This sighting occurred during the same general period as the sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale, Michigan, near Ann Arbor, where many persons reported seeing strange colored lights flying through a swamp area. The lights were scientifically established to be the result of a spontaneous ignition of marsh gas in contact with the air.

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TIME/PLACE OF SIGHTING: March 26, 1962 at 1:35 P.M. local time/vicinity of Ramstein Air

Base, West Germany.

DURATION: Five to eight seconds.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS: One.

TYPE OF OBSERVER: Jet fighter pilot attached to a U.S. Air Force Tactical Fighter Wing at Bitburg Air Base, West Germany.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS: One.

OBSERVER RELIABILITY: Extremely reliable.

SHAPE: The UFO first looked like a small delta-wing jet fighter, then from another angle appeared to have the shape of a Sidewinder Missile; it differed significantly from a Sidewinder shape, however, in that it had a dark-colored snout for about one-third its length, and the other two-thirds seemed to be taken up with aerodynamic surfaces; finally, its appearance became that of a dart-shaped aerial tow-target.

DIMENSIONS: See SHAPE.

COLOR: In general, silvery.

SOUND: None.

ALTITUDE: 31,000 feet

SPEED: Estimated at Mach 2, or twice the speed of sound.

TACTICS: The UFO flew straight and level toward the F-105 fighter-bomber that the observer was piloting at an altitude 4,000 feet higher than its level; in relationship to the F-105 aircraft, it first appeared at an eight o'clock position, moved toward three o'clock and quickly disappeared through the five o'clock position.

COMMENT: The observer's attention was drawn to the

UFO by the flashing of sunlight off its surfaces. Despite its high speed, there was no visible indication of a propulsion system. Apparently it was not powered by rocket, jet or conventional reciprocating engines. No contrails were observed. The Air Force investigator ruled out the possibility that the UFO could have been a missile accidentally launched from another airplane. He stated: "If Sidewinder or other type of radar-controlled missile, it was near enough to (the observer's) aircraft to alter its course for a hit" Also ruled out were the possibilities that the UFO might have been another air-craft or a remotely controlled drone-target because of the fighter pilot's close familiarity with both aircraft and drone configurations then in use. No conclusion could be reached in this case and the sighting is listed

in the Project Blue Book files as "Unidentified."