

INDEXED ARCHIVES OF SCIENCE

WANTED: ANOTHER CRACKPOT LIKE EINSTEIN

The frontiers of science are expanding with long-overdue speed. Yesterday's crackpot is today's sought-after authority. No longer are phenomena that are slightly beyond the present reach of formal scientific explanations automatically considered the flimsy stuff of reverie. For instance, parapsychology is now in the process of definitively crossing the so-called "respectability barrier". What happens to objects placed one third up from the center of the base of an object scaled to the dimensions of the Great Pyramid of Cheops is now the subject of intensive studies. The list goes wondrously on. Publications and articles devoted to such phenomena are proliferating rapidly. One of these days, and probably fairly soon, some obscure genius is going to demonstrate the irrefutable soundness of a series of new mathematical formulas that will transform several branches of the "arcane sciences" into the hottest stuff for "legitimate" study since jalapeno peppers. Technologies will change, social behavior will be transformed, and a whole heap of "crackpots" will at last be able to be treated with the dignity that is their due. Things that once couldn't get published in the National Enquirer will appear regularly in Scientific American. All we need to do now is to determinedly and methodically GET THAT DAY TO ARRIVE.

We at Indexed Archives of Science are trying to do just that.

A system of communications is needed for all the work that is being done in the "arcane sciences" in order for that dubious word "arcane" to be removed once and for all. We're talking about a centralized mass publishing effort by the tens of thousands of people who do serious informal research on unexplained phenomena. If enough people who have made significant

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the apro bulletin

VOL. 26, NO. 8

February, 1978

EXTENDED UFO FLAP OVER TUCSON

Object Over N.C. On Dec. 27, 1977

Unidentified Flying Objects were spotted by Tucson residents three nights in succession, starting on Feb. 19th. In chronological order, the reports which were investigated by Wendelle Stevens are as follows:

For a period of 15 minutes beginning at 10:45 p.m., two policemen in a Bell Model 206B Jetranger Helicopter and two FAA Radar observers were involved in a U.F.O. incident. The Helicopter, designated "Snoopy II" was traveling N.W. on routine patrol over Charlotte, when the policemen, Ron Arey and Howard Dellinger spotted two lights having the appearance of landing lights traveling in formation approaching from out of the N.W. They passed over Snoopy at an estimated 200 ft. Time of transit 10:56 p.m. Snoopy was at 1800 ft. indicated altitude (1100 ft. above the terrain). At this point officer Arey contacted FAA traffic controller Ray Bader to ask what he was "painting" on radar. Bader responded that he had a Cessna 172 eastbound (the Cessna was carrying mode C equipment which identified it on the radar scope) and three unknowns. Snoopy II flashed a landing light briefly to establish his azimuth and thus identify himself to the radar tower. This left two unknowns which were showing a return of about 60% that of Snoopy II. Snoopy continued on course in response to a police call. As he reached his destination the call was cancelled. He then headed S.E. toward the coliseum where he again encountered the two unknowns at his own approximate altitude (1800 ft. indicated).

At first they appeared to be passing to his left. Suddenly one shot up to an estimated 4,000 ft in 3 seconds at a 45° climb angle. Arey relayed this information to Bader. Arey then executed a pedal turn to the left to inspect the object as it passed by, but the object at an estimated 200 ft. range out-turned him ending up "on the tail" of Snoopy II. Snoopy II turned again, this time to the right, and once more the object out-turned him remaining on his tail.

The object appeared to be a globular white light with a surrounding glow. The light seemed to be directed upwards, a silver parachute-like object with ribs seemingly attached to the light was above the object. As the two men in the helicopter watched, a large spark dropped away from it and dissipated. The object then moved to the east. Snoopy II gave chase but the object soon
(See Charlotte - Page Five)

At 10:15 PM on the dark rainy night of 19 February 1978, Mrs. Sharon Moon of 4201 West Bilby Road, Tucson, was sitting on her couch facing north watching the news on the TV set which is located in the northeast corner of the living room. Suddenly she noticed a very bright light shining through the heavy lined fibreglass drapes which were closed over the south window. The light seemed to be coming from that window and was so bright that it illuminated her arm like someone shining a flashlight on it. She noticed that the light made a perfect half circle of brightness on the floor in front of her, curving toward the wall just short of the TV set and disappearing outside. She rose and went to the east window which had a thinner curtain and looked out and saw that the circle of light continued outside on the patio and ground in the same circle about 15 feet in diameter.

She ran to the kitchen and threw open the door facing north and ran out to see what was causing it. She thought it must be coming from above, and intended to go around to the east end of the north porch and look back to the south. She calculated it was coming from about a 45 degree angle above the horizon to the southeast and wanted to see what could cause that. But as she stepped out onto the north porch, she saw the bright light all around and looking up saw two bright glowing circular objects come from above the house and swoop up to the north and pass over a rocky knob on the hilltop just north of her house. They moved in perfect precision in perfect side-by-side formation, flying at an angle of tilt that raised the front parts of the circular objects about 20 to 30 degrees above the horizontal. They had a flat finish bright aluminum color but also had a substantial degree of luminosity like soft fluorescent light to them. They did illuminate the surrounding area quite brightly however. They flew out of sight over the hill, into the north.

The objects were perfectly circular and had flatter vertical sides, sort of like a flat drum, were perfectly smooth in appearance and had no projections, windows or ports, or markings of any kind visible. The objects were absolutely silent throughout the experience. They passed over the hill only a few feet from the top.

(See Tucson - Page Three)

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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Reader Comments and New Mail Policy

The addition of letters from APRO's members to the Bulletin has received overwhelming approval by the readers. We welcome further comments, but ask the reader to be as brief and concise as possible.

In the past it has been APRO's policy to acknowledge the receipt of clippings and reports. Because of the recent rise in postage prices, only reports will be acknowledged, and by post card only.

New Consultant

The staff of APRO is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Ronald M. Westrum to our staff of scientific consultants.

Dr. Westrum received his B.A. degree in sociology from Harvard University (cum laude) in 1966, his M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1969, and his Ph.D. from the same University in 1972. His professional experience has been varied, including Purdue University, the Rand Corporation and Eastern Michigan University where he is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Dr. Westrum's areas of specialization are: Sociology of science and knowledge, with emphasis on social information-processing and transmission; History and Construction of Social Theory; Complex organizations, and Technology and social change. He has been published extensively including his paper, "Eyewitness Testimony and it's Problems in UFO Investigation" which was published in the August 1977 issue of the Bulletin. We look forward to a mutually valuable association.

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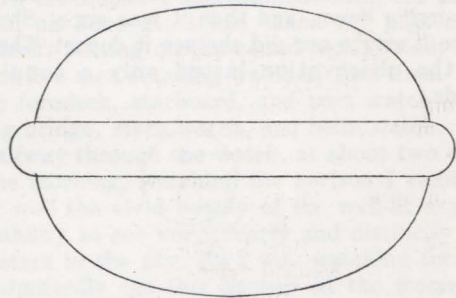
Tucson

(Continued from Page One)

On Monday night, the 20th of February, Mr. Harold Stevens and his wife were sitting on the couch in their trailer home at 755 West Grant, looking out the big picture window which faces north, when they suddenly saw a brilliant luminous object flash through their field of view and pass behind a tree to the left.

The object was very large, filling the window area about like a small portable television screen reflected in the glass would. The object was a brilliant light green color, like the green of a traffic

light only lighter. It was brighter and lighter in the center shading to a darker green, but still very bright, towards its edges. The middle was surrounded by a fat ring of bright whitish-yellow light. The main green part was oval-shaped, kind of like an M&M chocolate candy, and had the bright yellowish fat ring around the rim of the oval or flattened spheroid. The ring was thick much like a tire. The object was going 2 or 3 times as fast as the fastest jet the witnesses have seen and Mr. Stevens thought it might have been leaving a trail behind it. The shape of the green main body was something between the shape of an egg and a circle. The observation lasted 3 or 4 seconds before the object disappeared behind a tree.



Object seen by the Stevens' and Mrs. Kwasney

Later, Mr. Stevens learned that Mrs. Karen Kwasney of 2728 W. Rudasill Road, had apparently seen the same thing or something similar about the same time that same night. Karen was sitting on the sofa watching television, when she happened to look out the big picture window facing north and her attention was drawn to a large bright light in the sky. She said that it was huge and glowing a bright green, and seemed to be leaving some kind of a short trail. She said that it moved very fast, like a meteor but slower than most she had seen. She said it was also bigger than most to her knowledge. She saw it very clearly in the night sky to the north. She thought it was really a rare meteor and went in to another room and told her husband about it and then forgot the incident. She did think it a strange occurrence however.

The Tucson sky was overcast that night. In order for these two parties to see this object so clearly it would have had to be below the cloud cover.

On Tuesday night, the 21st of February 1978, Mrs. Reita Lipsitz of 1813 E. Silver Street, near Campbell and Silver, was driving home from her real estate class and came down Campbell and turned onto Silver and turned again into the alley behind the Whataburger restaurant off Silver. As she was going north up the alley she saw a

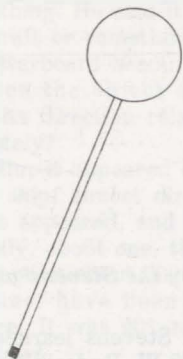
(See Tucson - Page Four)

Tucson

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brilliant flash to the northeast, high in the sky.

Looking closer, Mrs. Lipsitz saw that the flash was a big bright flame yellow ball high in the sky with a long flame yellow tail, somewhat like a stem, because it was hanging down at a steep angle to the left. The tail ended in red abruptly changing from the flame yellow. Mrs. Lipsitz was emphatic that the ball and the upper part of the tail did not have any red in them, only the end of the tail, which was almost vertical but hanging down slightly to the left. The ball was high in the sky and the tail was very long. Nothing was moving. The ball of light just sat there with that tail hanging down, and then it was gone. She did not see it arrive nor did she see it depart. She felt that the observation lasted only a couple of seconds.



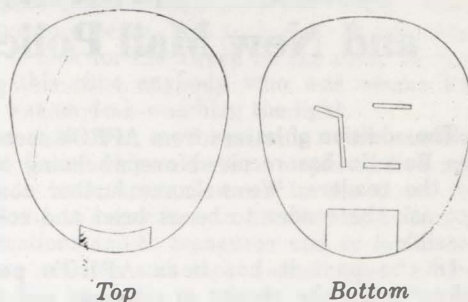
What Mrs. Lipsitz saw.

Mrs. Lipsitz thought of a shooting star or meteor but rejected that idea because the object was still and did not move. Also there was the long tail hanging down, and meteors do not shoot straight up.

The automobile engine was running and the headlights were on and no effect was noted on either. The object seemed to be closer than the mountains, perhaps much closer. It was not within the area of the block of the sighting.

Six days later, young elementary student Dale Mazur of 2336 South Hemlock Street in central Tucson, had gotten out of school at 3 p.m. and walked south on Hemlock Street toward his home. It took about 10 minutes to walk the distance from Keene Elementary School and he poked along in the rainy weather. It was not raining at the time but the ground was wet and the sky was overcast. He arrived in front of his mail box at about 3:15, threw a stick he had been carrying and opened the box and looked inside.

He closed the box and looked up as he did so, and noticed a strange dark yellowish-orange



The Dale Mazur Object

colored object descending to the south of him. It looked round, with the upper left side slightly flattened and had a darker orange, shinier, square section set into the front lower part. The front part was elevated to about a 40 degree angle of tilt, and except for the tilted pitch angle it seemed to be settling straight down, like a big frisbie at the end of its flight. The edges around the rim area were not sharp but smoothly rolled in a wide curve, thicker at the front and thinner at the rear. The apparent slight flatness of the upper left side was due to the unusual cross section of the object and the angle of viewing it. It appears otherwise to have been symmetrical. It hovered there about 2 blocks away toward the south with the nose high and maintained a side-to-side pitching motion like a boat in waves. It hung there pitching from one side to the other at about a 30 degree elevation above the horizon. Not a single sound from the strange craft could be detected. Dale noticed three strange dark gray lines painted on the under side center, aft of the square window-like structure.

Suddenly it stopped the pitching motion and steadied itself and began to rise, increasing its ascent, straight up, until it disappeared into the clouds. Dale thought the nose came up a little more as it began to rise. From reconstructing the scene the size was estimated to be between 11 and 16 feet wide and 13 and 19 feet long. Its thickness, on the same scale would be 4 to 6 feet. As it began to rise, Dale saw something like smoke come out around the rolled edge.

★★★★★

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Charlotte

(Continued from Page One)

outdistanced him and disappeared. Radar operator Ray Bader confirmed that he was tracking one of the unknowns, eastward. At 11:02 Ray advised that he was tracking the second unknown over the coliseum heading toward Southpark. At 11:03, Ron Arey confirmed it visually and then it was almost immediately lost visually and on the scope simultaneously.

As the result of a radio appeal by George Fawcett, one person came forward with an account that he and two other persons (not identified) had been launching balloons on the night in question. According to the hoaxer, they saw Snoopy II suddenly appear and show a spotlight on the balloons while circling them. One balloon was "whipped around" while the other one was blown upward by rotor wash. They stated that no metal was used on their balloons.

Investigator Wayne Laporte and two others with balloon launching experience, experimented with launching some hot air laundry bag balloons "powered" by candles. Colors and behavior did not support the hoax theory.

On January 14, 1978, the three investigators, P. Wayne Laporte, H. Norton and George Fawcett, met with a group of people who collectively had experience in radar, balloon launching, helicopters and jet interceptor experience. This group found the balloon hoax theory to be contradicted by the following points:

1. Balloons should have travelled only easterly (with the wind).
2. The hoaxsters couldn't identify helicopter lighting when asked.
3. Distant hot air balloons (by experiment) were found to appear orange, not yellow-white.
4. A helicopter could close on a balloon to 75 ft. and usually identify it. Any closer would cause balloons to be drawn into the rotors - not "whipped around".
5. Air flow is through the blades downward. Snoopy was too high to cause rotor blast to be deflected off the ground, therefore, a balloon would not be blown upward by rotor wash.
6. The police did not shine a spotlight on the balloons.
7. Balloons with no metal attached (or transponders) would not show on radar.
8. Balloons could not travel at the top speed noted on radar.

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Transcript of Interview

With ED SALISBURY
Conducted By RAY STANFORD

RE: 6-21-65 Radar-Visual Sighting
from U.S.C.G. Cutter *Eagle*

This took place aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Eagle*. *Eagle* is the Academy training ship. I was a midshipman in the U.S. Navy, being trained in an exchange program with the Coast Guard Academy. It was the summer of 1965. There were twelve of us midshipman from the Naval Academy aboard the *Eagle*. I had the midwatch, the 12 to 4 watch, on June 21. I had taken my post on the foredeck, putting on the sound headphones. I was one of five men standing watch at that time. There were foredeck, starboard, and port watch on the flying bridge, stern watch, and helm watch.

Halfway through the watch, at about two o'clock in the morning, watching the horizon I remember very well the vivid beauty of the well-lit sky, and the ability to see very clearly and distinctly all of the stars in the sky. As I was watching foreward — admittedly not that acutely at the moment — there caught my attention a rapidly rising "star". And yet, it really didn't flicker like a star, and it wasn't something like an aircraft, in that it was very bright, having a magnitude larger than any planet I'd seen. It rose in the sky over the horizon dead ahead, in less than five seconds time from right on the horizon to fifteen to twenty degrees above the horizon. [We were traveling from Bermuda to New York, on that course, but we were under sail, not under power, so it's really hard to determine what our heading was. I would approximate it to be rather north by northwest. We were about due east of the North Carolina - Washington area.]

As I noticed this on the horizon, I thought to myself, "Either I'm seeing things, or maybe it's a plane that has some sort of odd light or brightness to it." I wasn't sure whether I should report it over the phones or not. You can hear every other man on the watch on the headphones. Then I heard the man on the starboard watch call the starboard bridge and say, "Did you pick up anything dead ahead?" (And the man at the bridge had no comment.) "Well I just thought I saw something, a bright star maybe, falling, but not falling, rising." That's when I confirmed that that seemed to be what I had seen, as well. So we started talking, trying to describe which of the bright lights actually the brightest one in the sky it was which had moved, but since it was no longer moving, it blended well into the stars. As we were talking, not more than two minutes, five minutes, after we'd first sighted it, it just disappeared. It just dropped as fast if not faster than it had appeared.

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Eagle

(Continued from Page Five)

This time all of us had been looking in the area, and did notice that it dropped from its setting of about 20° in the sky to down out beyond the horizon, instantly.

At that time the bridge watch called into the radar man and said, "Did you pick up anything on the scope?" The reply was negative. Following that, we just alerted all of us on watch to watch for we did not know what.

Not more than 15 minutes later — more like 10 — the same thing appeared, but not rising directly up. This time is sort of arched to the right, that is, to the starboard side of the ship, arising out of the horizon dead ahead, and very quickly, about as fast as the eye could follow, like a shooting star, it whizzed over to a point directly abeam, to the right, to our starboard.

About that time the radar came in and confirmed that it had something. He said it might have been a ship or an aircraft or something — about 15, 20 miles off to our starboard beam.

Stanford: When the object appeared at that time, what was its direction relative to the earth itself, approximately?

Salisbury: Again, it appeared over the heading, the nose, of the ship, almost directly, coming out of the earth as it appeared, and then it rolled off, rising very slightly, about one, three, five degrees until it came to a point about directly abeam of our starboard. It must have been about 1000 feet above the surface. It was 90° to the east of the ship [approximately].

At this time we did pick it up on the scope, and everybody was watching it. We were sort of teasing each other, trying to decide if it was some sort of jet fighter. One guy said, no, it must be a subhunter. Yet we couldn't explain why it had moved so rapidly, with one constant bright light, and no identifying beams or beacons or anything blinking. It was just a constant bright white light.

About that time it seemed to move away, get dimmer. We thought it was leaving us. And then immediately it came at a run almost right for the ship, we thought, It whizzed from where it was on the starboard side to about the same position on the port side. We didn't know whether it had gone right through us, above us, below us, or what. Well, we did notice that the light sort of zoomed over the top of us. As it flew over it moved from the starboard to the port position almost as fast as we could keep track of it. It took not more than three to five seconds.

By that time we heard a lot of cussing and screaming; everybody [saying], "God, what in the world is that up there?" Then immediately the bridge watch called into the man on radar and said, "What in the world did you pick up?" And he said, "I picked up a dot that was on our starboard side and is now on our port side," meaning that it

traveled faster than the radar could keep up with it. He said it was anywhere from 20 to 30 miles to our port side. It went from our eastern beam to our western beam. This took place in less than the time it took for the sweep on the radar to turn.

By this time anybody who was awake aboard ship was on deck watching the light.

The radar was a maneuvering radar used by all Coast Guard ships. It was a sophisticated system used to train upperclassmen in the Coast Guard Academy to know how to handle ship-to-ship communications and to maneuver and so forth. It was a very reliable and sophisticated piece of equipment.

Once it had reached this port position, everybody was all up in arms, wondering what in the world, something was going on here. I was standing there almost with mouth open, wondering what in the world was going on.

Stanford: How many degrees would you estimate it was above the starboard horizon before it made this great high-speed movement across, and how many degrees did it stop at, above the port horizon?

Salisbury: As I remember, we had a reading on the radar that it was not more than a thousand feet above . . . or, I think in points, because we'd say it was two points off to the port bow . . . I'd say it was about 10, 12 degrees above the horizon when it started on our starboard side, and again 12 degrees above the surface when it came to a halt, or it ceased to show any apparent movement, on our port side.

There were twelve people I know had to be on deck [during the passage overhead], and I expect there were maybe 15 or 20 more. However, from the port position where I was, I could not really see how many people came up on deck.

Stanford: Did they all pretty well see this sweep across the sky visually?

Salisbury: Yes. Almost every one of them, without anything else to distract them, everyone was paying attention, watching this thing take place.

Stanford: Do you recall how the object disappeared?

Salisbury: It seemed to just stay where it was. We continued sailing. It merged, pretty much, into the sky. We lost track of it. It reached a point, over 5 to 15 minutes time, where you couldn't distinguish it from the rest of the stars in the sky. Or it might have shut its light off, and just disappeared.

After this had taken place, there was quite a hub-bub of gossip about the ship about what in the world had gone by. Everybody was anxious to be on midwatch the next day. I had it again the next day. Nothing took place.

We reached port in New York about six or seven days later, where everybody was saying, "Well, man, that's really something we have to talk about!" And this was the discussion of every man for the rest of the cruise. We got to shore, and

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Eagle

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were met by a party of military specialists. Naval Air Intelligence I know was there; I remember the symbol "NAS" — I forget what that represents, one of the security agencies; and a couple of others, came aboard. All leaves were cancelled; here we were, all ready to go on liberty. These fellows met with the captain and . . .

Stanford: Do you remember the names of any officers involved in that?

Salisbury: I don't. I don't have any names of those particular officers. You could check the log on the dates; you'll find them very easily. [Explains that the ship came to New York before July 4. *Eagle* was one of 21 tall ships racing from Bermuda to New York. *Eagle* was not in visual sight of any other ships during the sighting, or, so far as Salisbury remembered, at any subsequent time until arrival in New York.]

The intelligence officers went into the captain's quarters and conferred with the captain, the other officers of the ship, and the officer of the watch at that time. They had a long conference — 20 minutes, half an hour. Then they left, and the captain called a meeting of all hands. We assembled on deck. He then explained to us that what had transpired June 21 [the UFO sighting] was something of military importance, and that we were not to say anything about any of the things that had happened to anybody, and if we were caught or found to be discussing this, we could be, I think he said, court martialed out of the service. It was a very threatening tone. That was rather absurd — just because we saw a light and a lot of things happening, we should have such strict reactions. Nonetheless, it was enough to make sure that nobody was that voluntary about talking about it.

One thing I want to add before we close — this is the amazing fact about what I learned as we sailed out of New York on the rest of our cruise. As I looked back over the ship's log — and this is a record kept aboard all ships on the ocean, recording all things that have transpired — I looked back and I noticed that the pages describing what took place had been removed from the ship's log. This I thought to be a sin of the highest order, something I understood was never done. I asked one or two other people aboard ship about the fact that these pages were missing. They said, "Well, you know, we're not supposed to say a word about that," and that was the end of the conversation. Two or three pages were missing.

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UFO Related Information From The FBI File

Part III (Continued)
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UPS AND DOWNS OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

I have already presented (Parts I and II) the information which indicates that the AF initially took the view that "flying discs" were either Russian—made missiles or natural phenomena. The AF also allowed for the possibility that at least some of the UFO reports could have been generated by subversives. However, the thought that the whole UFO business could have resulted from Russian subversion did not last as long as the first flap in 1947. The failure to find any indications of internal subversion was one of the reasons the FBI got out of the UFO quagmire.

The opinion expressed by Mr. E. in the previously presented interview probably represented the general AF opinion as of 1949. However, as I have mentioned, during 1948 the Project Sign team apparently went through an "extraterrestrial period". Whether or not this possibility was ever imparted to the FBI cannot be determined from the papers I have. As I have pointed out, the "cupboard is bare" during 1948. However, the possibility of extraterrestrial intelligence having something to do with UFOs was mentioned several years later, as I will presently demonstrate.

In late 1948 and early 1949 "green fireballs" were observed over several military installations in the Western U.S. I will discuss the green fireball information obtained by the FBI later. However, suffice it to say at this point that the appearance of these phenomena at the beginning of Project Grudge gave the AF an added impetus to investigate UFO reports. **No one denied the existence of the green fireballs**, a fact which is in contrast to the repeated denials that actual dislike objects were the cause of flying saucer reports, and a meteoriticist who saw one himself. (Dr. Lincoln LaPaz), argued quite strongly in his communications with the AF (specifically with Lt. Col. Doyles Rees, Commander of the 17th District of the OSI) that the green fireballs were **not** natural meteors, and that their characteristics were what might be expected of **Russian Missiles** (where have we heard that before?). Thus during 1949 and into 1950 the AF had an acceptably real phenomenon on their hands which might have been related to military developments of the Russians. Now it is important to note that grouped with the fireball reports were also reports of a "disklike variation". Thus one might expect that the AF would continue to attribute discs to the Russians. However, just a year later, in response to a request from Hoover to

find out "Just what are the facts re 'flying saucers'?", an agent interviewed a Major ——— and Lt. Col. ——— on March 28, 1950.⁴³ The agent was told that the AF discontinued its intelligence project and announced the discontinuance to the press in Dec. 1949 (referring to the demise of Grudge) because "after two years of investigation over three-fourths of the incidents regarding flying saucers proved to be misidentifications of a wide variety of conventional items such as lighted weather balloons and other air-borne objects." Col. ——— also stated that the AF was no longer actively investigating saucers. Thus, in early 1950, the FBI was to believe that there was nothing to flying saucer reports.

On the other hand, in May 1950 the FBI received a copy of an AF briefing in which the ETM was not specifically thrown out, but merely stated to be improbable. In the same briefing, the **continuance** of reports was specifically attributed to mass hysteria and to suggestability of the population.⁴⁴

In Aug. 1950 the OSI informed the FBI that the continued appearance of "green fireballs, **discs**, and meteors" (bold emphasis by the present author) caused them great concern.⁴⁵

On Oct. 9, 1950 the FBI was informed by the OSI that their "investigation of these phenomena fails to indicate that the sightings involved space ships or missiles from any other planet or country".⁴⁶

(Note that the OSI continued the investigations of disc reports after Grudge ended, during the period when the AF officially had no special project for such studies.)

The portion of the FBI file which I obtained contains no interoffice memoranda (and only one UFO report) for 1951. Skipping then to 1952, on July 29 the FBI was informed that⁴⁷ the Air Force has failed to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion in its research regarding numerous reports of flying saucers and flying discs sighted throughout the United States". (Note that was the period of the 1952 flap. In 1952 the AF logged more reports — 1501 — than for any other year.) On the other hand, this particular document advised that "it is not entirely impossible that the objects sighted may possibly be ships from another planet such as Mars."⁴⁷

On Oct. 10, 1952, the FBI received a copy of a news release from Project Blue Book (specifically from Albert Chop) in which it is stated that approximately 20% of the sightings "cannot be associated with these familiar things."⁴⁸

On Oct. 27, 1952, a document was filed which indicates that the film taken by Delbert Newhouse had a tremendous impact on the Air Intelligence. After ruling out mundane explanations "completely", ATIC was "at a complete loss to explain this most recent creditable (sic) sighting". In the same document is the statement, "Col. ———

advised that Air Intelligence still feels that the so-called flying discs are either optical illusions or atmospheric phenomena. He pointed out, however, that some Military officials are seriously considering the possibility of interplanetary ships."⁴⁹

The last document which I have that gives any indication of the AF attitude toward flying saucers was written in Nov. 1957⁵⁰. (There is a complete lack of interoffice memoranda from Oct 27, 1952 to Nov. 12, 1957, and there were only 5 good reports and 3 poor reports from Nov. 1952 through Dec. 1957 in the portion of the file that I have received.) The Nov. 1957 memorandum mentions the UFOs seen during the "Sputnik Flap" and states that "In view of the number of these reports . . . (an agent determined from the AF) . . . that all the cases mentioned above have for all practical purposes been resolved as being nonauthentic or there was no basis for the sightings." Although this statement is not an explicit statement of opinion, it is consistent with the standard public AF attitude that there was nothing to UFO reports.

It appears from the information in the FBI file that the AF attitude changed considerably during the first five or six years of the phenomenon. However, from other sources^{21,22,51} we know that after the Robertson Panel recommendations of January 1953 the official AF attitude toward UFO reports crystallized around the "nothing to it" attitude. Any reports left unidentified were explained away as not having sufficient information, even though that was, at best, a weak explanation in many unidentified cases. As far as the FBI is concerned, there is no document in the portion of the file that I have which expresses an opinion on the reality or nature of the "flying discs", other than the Sept. 25, 1947 document which contains the conclusion that none of the disc reports was related to subversion²⁵.

This section of this series on the FBI UFO documents has presented information obtained from the AF regarding official and unofficial opinions as to the nature of the UFO phenomenon. In the next section I will present some of the interesting details of the information supplied by the AF and a listing of reports in the FBI files up through 1950.

(Bibliography Continued)

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observations in these areas can get in contact with one another, enough data might be assembled in one place for our genius of synthesis to find the formulas capable of bowling over all the outdated, senescent aspects of "traditional science".

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