

Jets Couldn't Find Them

Air Force After D. C. 'Saucers'

The Air Force's top field expert on "flying saucers" has been called to Washington to investigate reports that 7 to 10 "unidentified aerial objects" were tracked by radar over Andrews Air Force Base early Sunday. He is expected to arrive here today.

Radar-equipped, all-weather jet interceptors, based at Andrews Field to protect the Capital, didn't get off the ground when National Airport asked them to go up and contact the "saucers." The News was told today. Allegedly, pilots weren't available.

The Navy sent jets up from Norfolk when Andrews couldn't make it. But they failed to make contact with the mysterious objects.

VERY SLOW

The Air Force announced last night that:

• Seven to ten objects appeared on the radar screen in the Air Route Traffic Control Center at National Airport. They appeared to be over Andrews. They appeared on one section of the screen, then showed up seconds later on another part, traveling in an entirely new direction. They moved at only 100 to 135 miles an hour—very slow for saucers.

• A Capital Airlines pilot—Capt. S. C. "Casey" Pierman—watched the lights for about 12 minutes as he flew from Washington to Martinsburg, W. Va.

• Another Capital pilot said a brilliant light followed his plane from Herndon, Va., to within four miles of National Airport.

HIGH

Meanwhile, a Marine pilot told the United Press he saw "two green objects—like shooting stars without tails—shooting straight across the sky at terrific speed and a very, very high altitude" over Quantico, Va., on the night of July 10.

Capt. Pierman, who has flown in this area for 17 years, was asked by the airport tower to keep an eye out for the objects when they showed up on the radar screen.

He was flying at 180 to 200 mph toward Martinsburg, W. Va., he said, when he saw six lights.

"They were very similar to bright falling stars without tails," Capt. Pierman said.

Three flew in an approximate 90-degree dive at "a substantial altitude" and three more flew "very, very high" on a horizontal plane. Capt. Pierman said he had "a feeling" they were in the upper atmosphere, at about 60,000 feet.

HUNG MOTIONLESS

He finally lost sight of them when they went into what he called "a terrific power dive" near Martinsburg.

They traveled at "tremendous vertical speed" and then changed pace and seemed to hang motionless, he said.

An Air Force press information man said the Air Force so far has only a preliminary, telephone report on the Sunday visitors, and therefore he knows nothing about the report that Andrews couldn't answer the request to try to intercept them.

He said the report that Navy jets went up from Norfolk "is news to me."

TOP BRAINS

Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, the Air Force's field investigator for the Air Technical Intelligence Command and the head of "Operation

Bluebook," will check the saucer reports, probably today, the spokesman said.

"He will make a complete report, including interviews with pilots, and so on, and it will be turned over to top men in the fields of aerodynamics, physics, and other related subjects."

"The Air Force has some of the top scientific brains in the country almost at its beck and call, you might say, to help it figure this thing out."

The report that Andrews had no jet pilots available and that Navy jets from Norfolk were sent up to intercept the objects came to The News from an Operations man at Anacostia Naval Air Base here. He said Anacostia was notified of the objects when they were over Andrews, but was not asked for help because no interceptor jets are based there.

Recent attempts to explain "saucers" as optical illusions have been shaken by recent radar sightings. Illusions don't show up on a radar screen.

7-3712-41

Radar Spots Air Mystery Objects Here

Eight Show on Screen
At National Airport;
Fliers See Odd Lights

The Air Force disclosed last night it has received reports of an eerie visitation by unidentified aerial objects—perhaps a new type of "flying saucer"—over the vicinity of the Nation's Capital.

For the first time, so far as known, the objects were picked up by radar—indicating actual substance rather than mere light.

They were described as traveling at a slow 100 to 130 miles per hour—instead of the incredible speed attributed to earlier saucers—although at times they shot up and down.

The objects also were described as hovering in one position.

The Air Force said it has received only a preliminary report, and therefore does not know why no attempt at interception was made.

The air traffic control center at Washington National Airport reported its radar operators picked up eight of the slow-moving objects about midnight last Saturday. They were flying in the vicinity of nearby Andrews Air Force Base.

The center said Capital Airlines Flight 807, southbound from National Airport, reported seeing seven objects between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va., at 3:15 a.m., the same night.

Capital Airlines said the pilot, Capt. "Casey" Pierman of Detroit, 17 years with the company, described the objects in these words:

"They were like falling stars without tails."

Company officials said the airport picked up radar "blips"—contact with aerial objects—and asked Capt. Pierman to keep a watch out for any unusual objects in the sky.

Pierman, then flying at normal cruising speed of 180 to 200 m.p.h., reported the objects were traveling with "tremendous vertical speed"—moving rapidly up and down—and then suddenly changing pace until they seemed to hang motionless in the sky.

SKY OBJECTS SEEN ON SCOPE AT D.C. AIRPORT

Data Turned Over To Air Force

The Air Force last night was investigating reports that from seven to ten unidentified aerial objects were picked up by radar operators at National airport early Sunday.

This is believed to be the first time that the mysterious "flying saucers" have been detected by radar since hundreds of such objects were sighted several years ago.

'Copter Causes Scare

Meanwhile, thousands of northwest Washington residents last night were alarmed by a Navy helicopter which trailed a large light on a 135-foot cable over the Naval observatory. Thirty-fourth street and Massachusetts avenue northwest.

The airport traffic control center said another airliner, Capital-National Airlines Flight 610, reported observing a light following it from Herndon, Va. "This information has been relayed to the proper Air Force authorities and the Air Force is investigating the matter," the announcement said.

Earlier, the Air Force said it is receiving flying saucer reports this summer at a rate of 100 a month, higher than at any time since the initial flood of sightings in 1947.

Observatory staff Dr. John Hall told the Times-Herald that the craft, dispatched into the restricted air space from the Patuxent Naval air station, was aiding the center in finding out "what makes the stars twinkle."

Hall said the experiment involved determining the effect of atmosphere on light. The helicopter hovered about the observatory grounds at altitudes ranging between 2,000 and 8,000 feet.

However, Hall said the observatory did not conduct any experiments over the weekend and can offer no help in explaining the unidentified radar "blips."

The strange objects, moving up and down and horizontally at between 100 and 135 miles per hour, appeared on radar screens at the Air Route Traffic Control center, a civil aeronautics administration bureau at the airport, at approximately 3:15 a.m. Sunday, CAA said. The saucers were moving across the skies in the vicinity of Andrews Air Force base here, the report declared.

Pilots See Objects

At least two airline pilots said they saw the objects at about the time they were picked up by radar operators.

Capital Airlines flight 807, outbound from National airport, reported seven lights between Washington and Martinsburg, W. Va. In addition to moving up and down rapidly, the objects were said to have hovered in one position, the carrier said.

Another pilot, on Capital-National Airlines flight 610, said a mysterious light followed his plane in from Herndon, Va., to within four miles of National airport.

Sees Strange Light

A woman spotter here with "Operation Skywatch," the round-the-clock ground observer operation, said she saw a "strange light" that looked like an "orange circle" hovering over the western part of Washington about midnight Saturday.

Mrs. Hazel Gordon, of 11 Forty-ninth St. SE., reported sighting the object a few minutes after she left her observation post. Two spotters on duty at the time, however, did not see the object.

The filter center at Baltimore, which receives reports of unidentified planes from this area, announced that no sightings were turned in from the section where the saucers were seen.

Captain S. C. Pierman, of Capital Airlines, said he spotted seven saucers as he began his early morning flight from Washington to Detroit.

A veteran of 17 years' flying with the airline, he reported watching the objects for about 15 minutes. He finally lost sight of them when they went into what he described as a "terrific power dive" near Martinsburg.

The radar screen at National

meanwhile, picked up the saucers, according to CAA. An operator said they would occasionally disappear from one portion of the screen only to reappear within seconds on another portion, traveling in an entirely new direction.

Capt. Pierman, in a written report to his operations section, described the objects as "flying with bright lights at phenomenal speed." He expressed surprise at their great vertical speeds, explaining that they "looked like comets or falling stars" when they shot down into power dives.

Earlier Saucer Reports

The flier's report was relayed to CAA, which turned it over to the Air Force. The latter has a special section at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, devoted to studying flying saucer reports.

Similar reports of the mysterious objects over the Washington area were made 10 days ago. Two Pan American Airways pilots said they spotted a flight of saucers near Norfolk and reported them to the Air Force.

A Defense department spokesman said, meanwhile, the radar observation may provide investigators with new data which may aid them in solving the mystery of the strange objects.

The Air Force has said in the past that many of the saucer reports can be explained as conventional objects but that others cannot be readily explained.

Reports Stepped Up

The Air Force revealed that flying saucer reports this summer are coming in at a rate higher than at any time since the initial flood of sightings in 1947. Reports are averaging about 100 a month in the current outbreak. Second greatest volume was during November and December 1948.

Pentagon intelligence officers explained that saucer reports are more abundant at this time of the year. They said many of the sightings are weather balloons, natural celestial phenomena, optical illusions or other similar things. There is no evidence, however, that the saucers are from a foreign nation or a nearby planet, or a result of some secret research in this country, the Pentagon asserted.

Intelligence officials concede that there have been a few incidents which could not be explained but they are not talking about them.

Experts Push Studies As Objects in Skies Are Reported Again

Air Force experts continued their investigation today of what is becoming a popular week-end phenomenon—mysterious objects in the skies.

For the second Saturday, Washington area radarscope picked up as many as a dozen "blips," observers told of seeing moving, unidentifiable objects, and this time the Air Force sent jet planes in pursuit.

About a dozen of the strange objects first showed up on the Air Route Traffic Control Center radar screen at National Airport. This was at 9:08 p.m. About 15 minutes later the "scope" at Andrews Air Force Base revealed similar specks.

The Air Force decided to go into action, but there were no interceptor units at Andrews at the time. The Air Defense Command units usually based there have temporarily moved to other quarters during reconstruction of runways.

Jets Sent From Delaware.

So F-94 jets of the 142nd fighter interceptor squadron were sent from Newcastle, Del., about 80 miles away.

At 11:25 p.m., First Lt. William L. Patterson reported seeing two or three lights about 10 miles away, but he could not rule out the possibility that they were reflections of ground lights, or even stars. They soon disappeared.

At 11:49 he reported seeing a bright light 5 or 10 miles away, but when he zoomed toward it to investigate, it disappeared about two miles distant.

Again Lt. Patterson was not sure the light was anything more than a reflection, or a star.

A companion jet piloted by Capt. John W. McHugh reported nothing from a higher altitude. The planes went back to their base at 1:40 a.m., when two other jets took off from the Delaware base. They remained aloft until 2:20 a.m. without sighting anything.

Sharp Difference in Reports.

There was a sharp difference of opinion in the reports of radar operators at Andrews and one version of what the jet pilots saw.

Radar experts said the objects moved at a slow rate of speed—38 to 90 miles an hour. The Air Force report said:

"One of the jet pilots reported sighting four lights in front approximately 10 miles and slightly above him but he reported he had no apparent closing speed. They disappeared before he could overtake them."

A week ago the "scope" at National Airport recorded a similar array of little dots and two air-line pilots reported will-o'-the-wisp objects which danced up and down, and then disappeared.

WASHINGTON POST

-- July 29, 1952

Jets Poised For Pursuit; 'Saucer' Peril Discounted

Unexplained Objects Over Capital Believed Physical Phenomena But Planes Are Alert

By John G. Norris

Post Reporter

Air Force jet interceptor planes are on the alert to take off in chase of any further "flying saucer" manifestations, a spokesman said yesterday, despite the continued belief they are some sort of physical phenomenon.

Units of the Air Defense Command have no new or special orders to intercept "saucers," the spokesman said, but they will pursue any unexplained "glowing lights" or radar "blips" as part of their mission to protect the United States against any threat from the skies.

Officials conceded there was a delay in putting jet fighters over Washington Saturday night after radar observers reported "unidentified objects" in the air near the Nation's Capital, but they deny any lack of alertness on the part of the Air Defense Command.

Didn't See Previous 'Blips'

A week earlier, Air Defense officials decided against sending up interceptors to investigate similar reports from CAA radar operators at the Washington National Airport. Then, Air Force radar observers at Andrews Air Base were unable to confirm the CAA "sightings."

Last Saturday, however, Andrews operators also saw unidentifiable "blips" on their radar scopes. But the two different "sightings" failed to place the objects in the same place at the same time.

Many top-ranking Pentagon officials were inclined to discount these latest "saucer sightings." A high Navy officer suggested they were a "revisitation of the ghosts of Nansie Shoto."

He referred to the rash of spots which appeared on radar screens on many ships lying off Nansie Shoto in 1945 during the Battle for Okinawa, causing repeated "alerts" and calls to "general quarters." Never fully explained, they were believed generally to have been caused by sea gulls or "electronic noise" from the many radar sets operating in the area.

Disowned by Navy

"Certainly, these latest manifestations have no connection with anything the Navy is doing," said the Navy official, who asked that his name not be used. "Perhaps it's due to the heavy use of TV during the conventions."

An Air Force official suggested the spots on the Washington area radars might have been caused by "windows" dropped by high-flying B-36 bombers in air defense exercises which have been under way for the past two weeks in the northern part of the United States. "Windows" are strips of tinfoil let loose by attack bombers to cause spots on radar screens and confuse intercepting fighters.

It was considered possible the strips might have been blown south, despite the fact that the prevailing winds are west to east over the United States.

Other Pentagon officials also denied that the recent appearance of unexplained lights and radar spots are connected with any experiments or tests conducted by the armed forces.

A high-ranking Air Force spokesman summed up the situation this way:

"If any Air Force activity or project sponsored by the Air Force is conducting any experiments or tests which could even remotely account for the mani-

festations we would know about it. There are none.

"Furthermore, if the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, or other Government agency had anything under way along this line, I am sure we would know about it, because of the necessity of advance coordination in anything affecting the air defense of the United States, which is our responsibility.

"What may they be? We don't know, but we can say this:

"The Air Force is fairly well convinced there is nothing in the phenomenon to indicate that it is a menace to the country. Second, while we cannot discount entirely that they are visitations from a foreign country or another planet, we lean more to the view that they are physical phenomena which we don't know enough about to identify.

Holding Nothing Back

"One thing I would like to do is to dispel the belief of some that we are holding something back. We are not."

A spokesman for the Naval Observatory said observers there had seen nothing in the skies Saturday night except the jet fighters sent up to investigate the "unexplained objects" seen on the radar scopes. The Observatory had some experiments under way last week involving a helicopter and balloons, but the CAA was informed of these and none were held on Saturday, it was said.

The Rev. Francis Heyden, S.J., astronomer at Georgetown University, told The Washington Post he had been watching through the telescope every clear night recently and had seen nothing except the Naval Observatory experiments. He declared many of the "low-hanging colored lights" reported of late undoubtedly were stars seen through the layer of hot air which has hung over the city recently.

Sylvanus Jones, 25, of 2101 I st. ne., a research clerk in the State Department's passport division, last night reported seeing a small light which flared up, "floated around in space" and eventually disappeared. He was positive it was not a twinkling star or an airplane, he said.

The CAA radar failed to pick up any strange blips up to midnight, and registered no blips at all at 10:30 p. m., when the Joneses saw the light.

Jets Ready to Chase Lights

24-Hour Alert Ordered After Second Appearance Here

Jet interceptor planes of the Eastern Air Defense Command are on stand-by, round-the-clock orders today to take off immediately if any more mysterious lights show up in the sky or on a radar screen.

Four jets were sent up to investigate the strange lights Saturday night—the second Saturday in a row they have appeared—but only one saw them and he couldn't catch them. They just disappeared before he could close in. None were reported last night.

"We have no evidence they are flying saucers," an Air Force spokesman said. "Conversely, we have no evidence they are not flying saucers."

"We don't know what they are," he added.

Whatever they are, information about them is considered "highly classified" by the Air Force.

1700 FEET UP

The lights were spotted on radar for the second time Saturday night

at Andrews and at the CAA Air Route Traffic Control Center at National Airport. CAA said the objects traveled at "predominantly lower levels"—about 1700 feet—and varied from 4 to 12 in number.

They were seen on the radar scope at the airport from 9:08 p. m. until 3 a. m. Andrews' radar picked them up from 8:30 p. m. until about midnight. Their speed was plotted at 38 to 90 miles an hour.

Two F-94 jets from the Air Defense Command squadron at New Castle, Del.—capable of 600 miles an hour—were sent up at 11:25 p. m. One of the pilots spotted four lights near Andrews but could not overtake them before they disappeared. He saw another steady white light about 10 miles east of Mt. Vernon but that, too, faded before he got

there. He said the lights lasted no more than two minutes.

SIMILAR TO AIRCRAFT

Two other jets took off on a second flight but they didn't see the lights.

CAA said the objects on the radar screen at National Airport ruled out any possibility of clouds or some other weather disturbance. They were "analogous to targets representing aircraft in flight," he said.

CAA said it notified many pilots in the area to be on the look-out for the objects "but a good many of the pilots in the area couldn't see anything such as we were describing to them."

A CAA tower man said none have been spotted since Saturday night, "but until they start following IFR (Instrument flight rules) and start

calling in for a clearance, I won't get alarmed."

SCIENTISTS ARE CONVINCED

Several scientists, who stumped for an explanation of "flying saucers" today said they're convinced the mysterious objects really exist.

"I definitely believe the objects sighted over Washington were not a figment of someone's imagination," said R. L. Farnsworth, president of the U. S. Rocket Society, a reputable organization devoted to the study of rocket travel. He said "there is a possibility" they are interplanetary space ships.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer at Ohio State University, said

he thinks the persons who have reported seeing the "saucers" were not just letting their imaginations get the best of them. He said he was convinced these persons saw something—"some type of object or phenomena."

One scientist, who asked that his name be withheld, speculated that the "saucers" might be experimental aircraft developed by the U. S.

If this is the case, he said, "it's time the Government quit playing jokes on the people."

He said he thought it "slightly fishy" that many reports of the objects come from the general area of Washington and atomic proving grounds in New Mexico.

Fiery Objects Outrun Jets Over Capital

Investigation Veiled In Secrecy, Following Vain Chase of 'Blips' Coursing Night Sky

By Paul Sampson
Post Reporter

Military secrecy veils an investigation of the mysterious, glowing aerial objects that showed up on radar screens in the Washington area Saturday night for the second consecutive week.

A jet pilot sent up by the Air Defense Command to investigate the objects reported he was unable to overtake glowing lights moving near Andrews Air Base.

The CAA reported the objects traveled at "predominantly lower levels"—about 1700 feet. July 19.

Air Force spokesmen said yesterday they could report only that an investigation was being made into the sighting of the objects on the radar screen in the CAA Air Route Traffic Control Center at Washington National Airport, and on two other radar screens. Methods of the investigation were classified as secret, a spokesman said.

"We have no evidence they are flying saucers; conversely we have no evidence they are not flying saucers. We don't know what they are," a spokesman added.

The same source reported an expert from the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, was here last week investigating the objects sighted July 19.

The expert has been identified as Capt. E. J. Ruppelt. Reached by telephone at his home in Dayton yesterday, Ruppelt said he could make no comment on his activity in Washington.

Capt. Ruppelt confirmed that he was in Washington last week, but said he had not come here to investigate the mysterious objects. He recalled he did make an investigation after hearing of the objects, but could not say what he investigated. The captain said he had been informed of the latest sightings of the lights.

Another Air Force spokesman said here yesterday the Air Force is taking all steps necessary to evaluate the sightings.

"The intelligence people," this spokesman explained, "sent someone over to the control center at the time of the sightings, and did whatever necessary to make the proper evaluation."

Asked whether the radar equipment might have been malfunctioning, the spokesman said radar, like the compass, is not a perfect instrument and is subject to error. He thought, however, the investigation would be made by persons, acquainted with the problems of radar.

Two other radar screens in the area picked up the objects. An employee of the National Airport control tower said the radar scope there picked up very weak "blips" of the objects. The tower radar, however, is for short ranges and is not so powerful as that at the center. Radar at Andrews Air Force Base also registered the objects from about 8:30 p. m. until midnight. Andrews radar located them about seven miles south of the base.

A traffic control center spokesman said the nature of the signals on the radar screen ruled out any possibility they were from clouds or some other weather disturbance.

"The returns we received from the unidentified objects were similar and analogous to targets representing aircraft in flight," he said.

The objects, "flying saucers" or what have you, appeared on the radar scope at the airport center at 9:08 p. m. Varying from four to 12 in number, the objects were seen on the screen until 3 a. m., when they disappeared.

At 11:25 p. m., two F-94 jet fighters from the Air Defense Command squadron at New Castle, Del., capable of attaining 600-mile-per-hour speeds, took off to investigate the objects.

Airline, civil and military pilots described the objects as looking like the lighted end of a cigarette or a cluster of orange and red lights.

One jet pilot observed four lights in the vicinity of Andrews Air Force Base, but was not able to overtake them, and they disappeared in about two minutes.

The same pilot observed a steady white light 10 miles east of Mount Vernon at 11:49 p. m. The light, about five miles from him, faded in a minute. The lights also were observed in the Beltsville, Md., vicinity. At 1:40 a. m., two other F-94 jet fighters took off and scanned the area until 2:20 a. m. but did not make any sighting.

Washington Post -- 28 July 1952

Visible in Two Ways

Although unidentified objects have been picked up on radar before, the incidents of the last two Saturdays are believed to be the first time they have been spotted on radar—while visible to the human eye.

Besides the pilots who last Saturday saw the lights, a woman living on Mississippi ave. se. told The Post she saw a "very bright light" streaking across the sky toward Andrews Base about 11:45 p. m. Then a second object, with a tail like a comet, whizzed by, and a few seconds later, a third passed in a different direction toward Suitland, she said.

Radar operators plotted the speed of Saturday night's "visitors" at from 38 to 80 miles an hour, but one jet pilot reported faster speeds for the light he saw.

The jet pilot reported he had no apparent "closing speed" when he attempted to reach the lights he saw near Andrews. This means the lights were moving at least as fast as his top speed—a maximum of 600 miles per hour.

One person who saw the lights when they first appeared in this area did not see them last night. He is E. W. Chambers, an engineer at Radio Station WRC, who spotted the lights while working early the morning of July 20 at the station's Hyattsville tower.

Chambers said he was sorry he had seen the lights because he had been skeptical about "flying saucers" before. Now, he said, he sort of "wonders" and worries about the whole thing.

Leon Davidson, 604 South Irving st., Arlington, a chemical engineer who has made an exhaustive study of flying saucers as a hobby, said yesterday reports of saucers in the East have been relatively rare.

Davidson has studied the official Air Force report on the saucers, including some of the secret portions never made pub-

lic, and analyzed all the data in the report.

Davidson, whose study of saucers is impressively detailed and scientific, said he believes the lights are American "aviation products"—probably circular flying wings, using new-type jet engines that permit rapid acceleration and relatively low speeds. He believes they are either new fighters, guided missiles or piloted guided missiles.

He cited some of the recent jet fighters, including the Navy's new F-4D, which has a radical but wing, as examples of what he thinks the objects might resemble.

Davidson thinks the fact that the lights have been seen in this area indicates the authorities may be ready to disclose the new aircraft in the near future. Previously, most of the verified saucers were seen over sparsely inhabited areas, Davidson explained, and now, when they appear here, it may indicate that secrecy is not so important any more.

Sky 'Sparkler' in Iowa Called Planet Jupiter

IOWA CITY, Iowa, July 27 (U.P.). Astronomer C. C. Wylie of the State University, said today the strange, spark-shooting object seen in the sky by southeast Iowans "most likely was the planet Jupiter."

Police had reports of flying objects that shot off fire and bobbed up and down in circles. Wylie said Jupiter, more than 800 million miles from Earth, when rising above the horizon would appear to be shooting off multicolored sparks.

Merry-Go-Round

Air Force Admission On Saucers

By Drew Pearson

While the politicians have been watching the none-too-mysterious conventions, some other people, including the Air Force, have been watching a mysterious rash of flying saucers.

Furthermore, the Air Force, long skeptical about flying saucers, has now made some official and important admissions.



PEARSON

ADMISSION NO. 1 is that they have now detected something that looks like flying saucers on radar at the same time that people have claimed they saw flying saucers. In other words flying saucers are not just cloud freaks or hallucinations. If so they could not be detected on radar screen.

ADMISSION NO. 2 is that flying saucers could possibly be space ships from another planet. The reason for this admission is that it will soon be possible for us to build a space ship to visit the moon if we are willing to spend the money for research and construction.

Our current research into atomic power and supersonic speeds already has progressed so far that it is definitely known such a ship can be built, but the big expense would come from creating atmosphere inside the ship to support human life while traveling from one planet to the other.

Therefore if we are this close to interplanetary travel, Air Force officers admit that a more advanced civilization could be keeping this planet under surveillance through flying saucers.

ADMISSION NO. 3—it has not been announced, but scientific observation posts have been set up in New Mexico, where we are testing guided missiles, to track flying saucers also. A number of flying saucers have been seen in the Southwest, and since trained specialists are already on the job in that area with the latest scientific gadgets, the Air Force has ordered them to watch for flying saucers and track them scientifically.

Radar Spots Flying Unidentified Objects Seen Again on Radar Screen at Airport 'Saucers' Over D.C. Again

New sightings of unidentified objects occurred on the National Airport radar early today, but efforts to track them down proved fruitless.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration said that one to 12 "blips" appeared on the Air Traffic Control Center screen off and on between 2:30 and 6 a.m.

They were fainter than the sightings of the past two Saturday nights, but they appeared in the same general vicinity over Herndon, Va., and Andrews Air Force Base and seemed to be traveling at from 90 to 120 miles per hour.

Not Confirmable

Unlike the other two instances of radar detection, it was impossible to get confirmation of anything unusual from airline pilots. An Eastern Air Lines pilot directed to the area about 3 a.m. saw nothing out of the ordinary.

For this reason, CAA did not alert the Air Force as it did last Saturday night, and no jet planes were sent to the scene. The radar screen at Andrews, which picked up objects Saturday, revealed nothing this morning.

On Saturday a National Airlines pilot reported seeing two lights which looked like a lighted cigar or cigarette and faded out when approached. A United Air Lines pilot saw a reddish yellow light seven miles south of Herndon at about 1,200 feet. A CAA pilot spotted two blue lights northwest of Beltsville, and five white lights near Andrews.

Air Force Experts Called.

As it sifted the latest mysterious radar performance, the Air Force called experts from Dayton, Ohio, to confer on the mystery.

"We don't know the answer positively and there's no use pretending that we do," said a spokesman. "We are studying the reports of the sighting of unidentified objects which were spotted on radar screens at National Airport over the week end."

"The only thing we can say is that these reports are being studied by the best technicians and that we are attempting to answer inquiries to the best of our ability."

Jets Take Off Late.

The sightings over the week end brought about the dispatch of two fast jet interceptor planes to look for the objects. But actually the jets did not take off from their New Castle (Del.) base until nearly two hours after the radar watcher at National Airport first saw the unexplained objects on his screen. The delay was caused by the fact the reports were sent to a flight center at Middletown, Pa., instead of through the command post at the Pentagon.

Capt. E. J. Ruppelt from the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton and one of the experts on saucers, was expected to arrive here today for a conference with officials on the new reports.

Many Reports Studied.

Meanwhile, the Air Force maintained its stand that it still doesn't know whether any such thing as a saucer actually exists. For several years the experts at Dayton have studied and filed over thousands of saucer reports.

"Of this number, only a small per cent of those received from reliable sources remain unexplained," said a Air Force statement. "The remainder could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a mild form of hysterical meteorological phenomena or hoaxes."

"Of the unexplained sightings it can be stated that they appear in a haphazard fashion and show no pattern which would indicate that the objects are being controlled by a remote body."

It added preliminary evaluation of the latest reports did not indicate "they differ from those received in the past few years or that they actually represent a threat to the United States." But each report is being given "a most careful analysis," it concluded.

Those Flying Things May Prove To Be Only Weather Balloons

Maybe those alleged flying saucers spotted by Washington area radars are nothing more formidable than weather balloons.

Air Weather Service officials at Andrews Air Force Base offered

New Unidentified Objects Sighted on Airport Radar Screen Today. Page A-3

this as a possible explanation today in clearing up another little mystery. This involved a five-foot "thing" covered in tinfoil which was discovered by a woman near Martinsburg, W. Va.

The "thing" had been attached to a balloon and then tracked by radar to determine wind speed and direction. Eventually, such balloons burst and the suspended

objects drift to earth on little parachutes.

The balloons sometimes expand from their normal 6-foot diameter to 9 feet. The suspended object is meant to catch radar beams, and does. The balloons can travel as fast as 100 to 125 miles an hour. They go up at better than 1,000 feet a minute.

They are released at Andrews—the vicinity where "saucers" have been spotted—four times a day. Those who know the balloons said they can do everything the "saucers" have been seen doing. The tinfoil makes a wonderful reflection for lights.

"There's an awful lot of those balloons floating around," one officer declared.

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Our Town Was Buzzed Again

Those "mystery objects" swooped in over the Capital again today as an aroused Air Force called in top scientists to find out what flying saucers really are.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration traffic control center reported that its radar picked up the objects for about six straight hours early this morning.

The objects, a CAA official said, were traveling about 100 to 120 miles an hour in a 10-mile arc around the Capital, between Herndon, Va., and Andrews Air Force Base.

CHANGE OF WIND

It was in this same area that radar screens recorded the strange "targets" the past two Saturday nights, setting off a new rash of "flying saucer" rumors in the Capital.

Top Air Force brass has decided to get to the bottom of the mystery. Forsaking an earlier attitude that "there ain't no such animal," they are enlisting top scientists in a major new saucer study, it was learned today.

A CAA official said the control center radar first started picking up the strange "blips" about 1:30 a. m. and that they continued showing up on the radarscope until 6 a. m. today. At some times, he said, there were as many as eight to 12 of the objects on the scope at the same time.

COULDN'T CLOSE IN

A pilot aboard an Eastern Air Lines Constellation was directed to check on the objects at about 3 a. m., but he reported he saw no lights despite a 15-mile visibility. The CAA official said the objects disappeared from the radar screen when the plane was in the area where they had been tracked and "then came back in behind him."

No jets from the Air Defense Command were sent up to chase the new objects on Saturday. Then a jet pilot reported sighting "steady white lights" but said his 600-mile-an-hour jet was unable to "close in."

Asked why the Air Defense Command had not been alerted, the CAA official said "We were too busy with other things and besides those objects aren't hurting anybody."

The Air Force will rely primarily on physicists for its "flying saucer" investigation. This is in line with a tentative opinion already reached in some Air Force circles that the various described mystery objects in the sky actually are physical phenomena, however imperfectly understood up to now, rather than actual flying discs.

THE WHATZITS

IN the belief that the strange objects sighted over our town may be experimental aircraft developed by the United States, a scientist suggests that if this is the case "it's time the Government quit playing jokes on the people."

We believe most Americans will share this view.

Objects reflected on radar screens and repeatedly reported by experienced, reputable airmen cannot be laughed off as figments of the imagination. So what are they?

It is incredible—as well as an unsettling thought—that our Air Force, with all of its facilities, hasn't been able to identify these objects in the two years or longer during which they have been sighted in various parts of the country.

If these so-called saucers involve experiments cloaked by military secrecy, it is time to take off that cloak in the larger interests of national sanity. There are enough real dangers in the world without the unnecessary addition of imaginary gremlins from Mars.

And if a satisfactory explanation of this mystery isn't forthcoming soon, many people are likely to accept the theory that we are indeed menaced by a comic strip air attack from another planet.

On the other hand, if the airmen and scientists in the employ of our Government actually do not know what these objects are, then let there be no more boasting of our scientific and military advances until they do come up with the right answer.

Makes You Wonder

(See Stories on Page 4 and Pictures on Page 5)



MAJ. DON KEYHOE, U. S. M. C., retired, is our most modest and unassuming citizen hereabouts; he just happens in his own quiet way to be America's leading authority on flying saucers. His honest but reluctant opinion is that the mysterious red-orange lights blinking lately over Washington, Chicago, and many another place are manifestations from another world.

Do not worry about them, the Major adds. They've been with us for the last 200 years and they haven't bit yet.

Even so, it seemed to me that I had a hair-raising lunch with Maj. Keyhoe; I don't suppose there's anything quite so scary as the unknown. Causes you to imagine things. So with no imaginings whatever, I'll try to tell you exactly what the Major had to say.

AFTER a distinguished war-time career as a Marine Corps flyer, he became an aviation writer. This led him to do a little piece about saucers for True magazine; it caused such a sensation in military circles that he later wrote the best-seller, "Flying Saucers Are Real." All other authorities are coming 'round now to agree with him and no longer do we get the suggestion from the Pentagon that reports of saucers are hallucinations and probably drunken at that.

Maj. Keyhoe, who has tracked down dozens of such stories and talked to their goggle-eyed tellers (mostly commercial aviators), said there were three theories about saucers:

- They are a natural phenomenon growing out of atomic explosions.
- They are a secret weapon, developed either by the United States, or Russia.
- They are exploratory vehicles from a far-advanced civilization on another planet.

No. 1 he discounts because the saucers do not travel haphazardly; they maneuver, as if controlled by a brain, possibly not human, but still and all an intelligent chunk of gray matter.

The second theory could not possibly be true, he believes, because mere humans cannot keep secrets so well. If the Russians had such a machine they'd have used it before now, he continues, while if we had developed it, a least some of our high brass would know something about it.

That leaves No. 3, or what he calls the extra-terrestrial theory.

"I CAME to the latter conclusion reluctantly," he said, "because none of the other theories fit the known facts. This one does. I believe further that these so-called saucers are unmanned and controlled from afar, perhaps by radio from a space ship so high that it cannot possibly be detected."

The saucers fly at hundreds of miles per hour and sometimes make right-angled turns without slackening speed, he added. No human, or even human-like creature could withstand such suddenly developing pressures.

Maj. Keyhoe said that more than 1000 flying saucer incidents have been logged by the Air Force. Many others have not been reported because those who saw them kept quiet on fear of being ridiculed. The machines in general seem to be in a shape of an egg, with the large end front. This has caused them to look like discs sometimes, while others have insisted they saw something that was cigar-shaped. At night they usually glow deep orange.

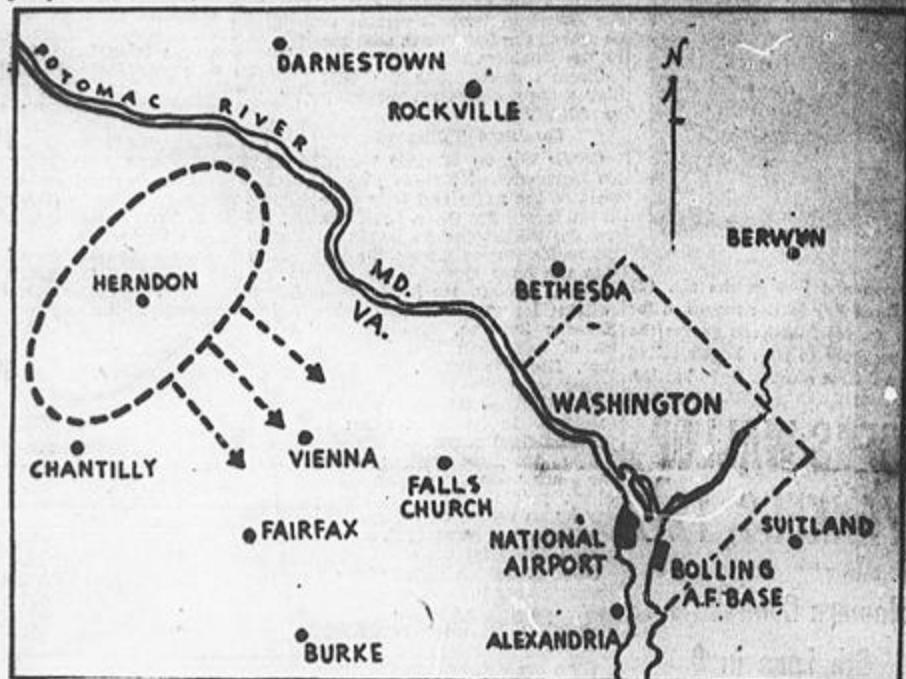
In my opinion," the Major continued, "there is no cause for fear. For at least 200 years now, astronomers, sea captains and others of repute have reported seeing similar objects. Only lately have the reports been numerous, but that simply is because we now are able to see better than we did in the horse-and-buggy age."

There you are. If the Major's opinion is correct, somebody somewhere has a civilization at least a couple of centuries ahead of our own. Makes you wonder.

JET CREWMEN AND RADAR OBSERVERS POISED FOR 'FLYING SAUCERS'

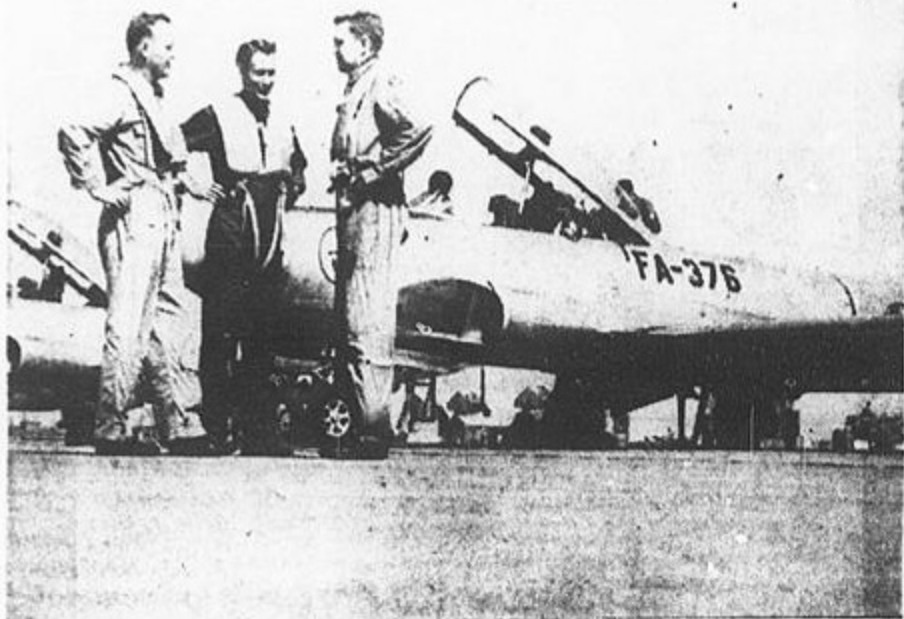


This quartet includes members of the crews who swooped over the Washington area Saturday when "flying saucers" were sighted. They are (left to right) Lt. William L. Patterson, pilot; Lt. Joseph Van Laecken, Lt. Andrew J. Sabatino, both radar observers, and Capt. John W. McHugh.



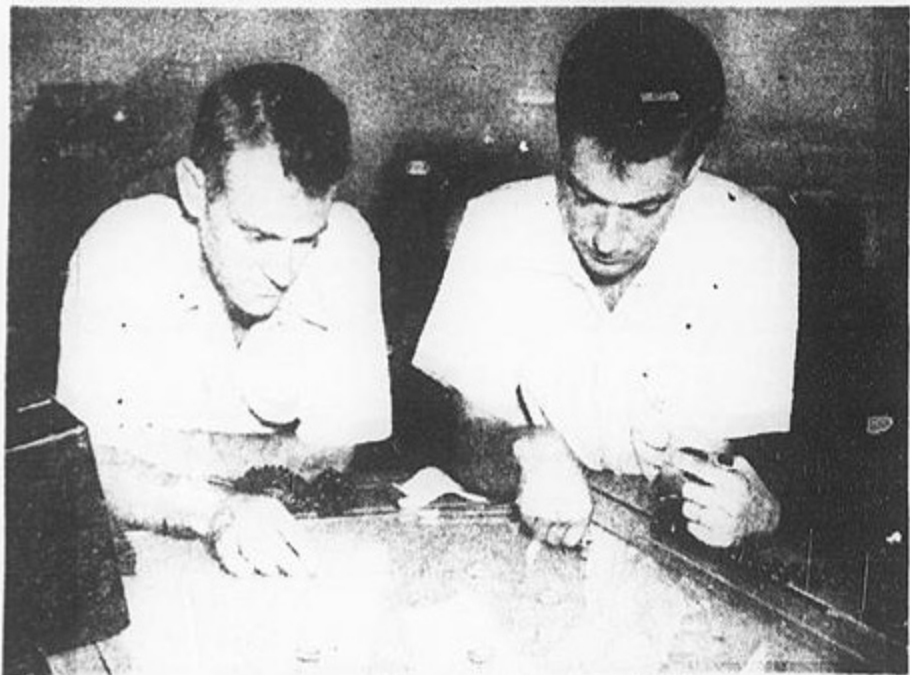
The above map shows where "flying saucers" have been observed in this area. Four or five of the objects were seen near Herndon (dotted oval) July 20 and six days later 12 more were spotted there. All disappeared in a southeasterly direction.

JET CREWMEN AND RADAR OBSERVERS POISED FOR 'FLYING SAUCERS'



by Byrd Verneyhough

Their waiting F-94s in the background, these jet crewmen talk things over on the flight line. All veteran jet fighter crewmen, members of the 142d Fighter Interceptor squadron, the men are (left to right) Lt. F. Lamar Watson, Lt. John Fagan and Capt. John C. Casey.



Airways operations specialists James M. Copeland (left) and James M. Ritchey, both of Alexandria man the radar scope on which they saw the unidentifiable "blips" commonly labeled "flying saucers." They are shown at the CAA Air Route Traffic Control center.

Objects Not New Weapon, Defense Says

(Pictures on Page 17)

BY DONN MUNSON

The Department of Defense emphatically denied today that mysterious unidentified aerial objects which have been sighted on radar over Washington area are secret American weapons.

The denial came on the heels of new reports of radar tracking of eight to 12 flying "saucers" which spent more than five hours swooping in a 10-mile arc at the edge of the Nation's Capital.

"It has been suggested that what people have been seeing is the result of some of our own secret experiments—guided missiles, or new types of planes or flying weapons. This is emphatically not the case," said an official Pentagon announcement.

Again Seen on Radar

"None of the three military departments nor any other agency in the government is conducting experiments, classified or otherwise, with disc-shaped flying objects which could be a basis for the reported phenomena," said the statement.

The latest invasion of "saucers" came today when radar screens at National Airport picked up eight to 12 unidentified aerial objects. The CAA traffic control center reported its screens picked them up between 1:30 a.m. and 6 a.m.

More Than 100 M.P.H.

A CAA spokesman said the saucers were traveling between 100 and 120 miles an hour in an arc around Washington between Herndon, Va., and Andrews Air Force base.

The International News Service reported today the A.F. is turning to a new type camera to help solve the saucer mystery. An Air Force spokesman said it photographs "luminous phenomenon," using the principle employed by astronomers in determining the composition of stars (usually spectrographic analysis). Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, chief of A.F. intelligence, said the new type cameras have been ordered and will be distributed to jet fighter units when available.

WASHINGTON

TIMES-HERALD --

July 29, 1952

Because there were no visual sightings, the CAA spokesman said, interceptors were not summoned.

He said civilian pilots in the area were asked to inspect the unidentified aerial objects. Because they could not make visual contact with them, Air Force interceptors at New Castle, Del., were not summoned.

The Air Force issued an official statement designed to quell public alarm created by the unidentified clusters of objects that have been reported by radar operators and area pilots.

Answers From "Experts"

To attempt to answer the many questions directed to it, the Air Force today scheduled a special Pentagon news conference. An A. F. announcement said "saucer experts" from the air technical intelligence center at Dayton, Ohio, will be there to answer questions. The intelligence men were summoned here after jet interceptor fighters from New Castle air base attempted to close in on mysterious objects over Andrews field here last Saturday.

Air Force attention has centered on Washington during the past week as a result of two appearances of "saucers" in the area. The first visitation was on the early morning of July 20, when four or five unidentified "blips" were seen on National airport radar.

Seeking Explanation

The second manifestation occurred Saturday night when 12 objects appeared on both the National airport and Andrews Air Force base radar screens. Jet pilots from New Castle, Del., roared into the area to find them. One pilot chased a "light" but could not overtake it.

It was disclosed last night for the first time that there was a two-hour delay between the first sightings of the objects Saturday night and the dispatch of the jets to Washington.

Meanwhile, radar operators at National airport who saw both visitations on the air route traffic control radar screen, heightened the mystery by disclosing that in both instances the "saucers" alternately disappeared and reappeared.

This was seen as obviating any possibility that the "saucers" were unscheduled conventional aircraft. It also wrecked another theory that the mysterious visitors were nothing more than lighted weather balloons.

Scientists Baffled

The fact that the objects appeared on radar proved that the objects represented some type of solid or semi-solid. The "blips" were sharp and distinct, like the images created by conventional aircraft.

Storm clouds make a dim, larger image on the screen and can easily be identified. Electrical disturbances show up on radar if there is sufficient moisture in the air. However, such images also can be spotted by experienced operators.

Pentagon scientists admit themselves baffled by the Washington visitations. The radar images eliminated the possibility the objects were optical illusions or light reflections from the ground.

The scientists agreed there was some force that had created the images.

"Nature plays many tricks and we are just beginning to pierce some of the mysteries of the upper atmosphere," one scientist said. "We should be frank and admit that we know very little about cosmic rays and electromagnetic forces that might possibly be creating these lights people see in the sky."

Yesterday's Air Force statement emphasized all available evidence points away from any conclusion that the "saucers" are being controlled by a "reasoning body."

"During the past few years, over 1,000 sightings of unidentified flying objects have been reported to the Air Force," the Pentagon statement said.

"Of this number, only a small per cent of those received from reliable sources remain unexplained. The remainder of these sightings could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a mild form of hysteria, meteorological phenomena or hoaxes."

All Being Analyzed

"Of the unexplained sightings, it can be stated that they appear in a haphazard fashion and show no pattern which would indicate that the objects are being controlled by a reasoning body."

"Due to the recent publicity given to flying saucer sightings, a large number of reports have been received by the Air Force during the last few months."

"Preliminary evaluation of these reports does not indicate that they differ from those received in the past few years or that they actually represent a threat to the United States. Nevertheless, each report is being given a most careful analysis."

Coincident with the Air Force announcement was another "saucer" scare near Indianapolis, Ind. There, three "saucers" were seen by State police and personnel at nearby military bases, who watched a "dogfight" just before dawn.

No radar sighting of the objects was reported and interceptors were not sent into the area, altho the Air Force fighter center at South Bend was notified of the phenomenon.

'Weird' Says Trooper

One State trooper said the "things were so weird I hesitate to even talk about them."

Jet fighter pilots at the New Castle base yesterday admitted to a Times-Herald reporter that the pressure exerted upon them by the saucer scare has made them jittery.

The fliers, many of them Korean war veterans, are on 24-hour call at a newly-built building on the flight line. They eat and sleep in the building. When an alert comes thru, it is transmitted to the pilots and radar observers by means of a buzzer.

The number of buzzes signals the number of F-94 radar-equipped jets to be used in the chase.

The pilots alerted for the pursuit jump, fully-clothed, from their cots, pick up their equipment, and sprint 100 yards to their ships. The jet craft requires no warm-up and the interceptors are aloft in a matter of seconds.

First Lt. William L. Patterson, of Cleveland, Ohio, a Korean veteran who sighted the objects over Washington last Saturday, said he concentrated on one of the "bright lights" but it outran him.

"I tried to make contact with the bogies below 1,000 feet but they (the radar controllers) vectored us around," Patterson said. "I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed (600 miles an hour or more) but even then I had no closing speed."

"I ceased chasing it because I saw no chance of overtaking it. I was vectored to new objects. Later, I chased a single bright light which I estimated about 10 miles away. I lost visual contact with it about two miles. At no time was it on our radar."

The interceptor pilots, members of the 142nd fighter squadron, are under the command of Lt. Col. Jack West. The latter refused to say whether his men have been ordered to shoot down any unidentified objects they manage to overtake.

West said only that his pilots have orders to shoot down any aircraft that appear to be hostile.

The colonel's pilots admit that several "scrambles" of the type that constitute their present assignment make them nervous. One night, a pilot recalled, a pet kitten upset a tin pail on the floor.

"It made a helluva clatter," the pilot said. "Before they could check themselves, four pilots had sprinted for their planes."

The two CAA airways operations specialists who sighted the mysterious objects both week ends on the National airport radar are James Ritchey, 30, and James M. Copeland, 28. Both live in Alexandria.

Ritchey was an Air Force tower operator during World War II. Copeland was a Navy pilot.

The pair said the "blips" suddenly appeared on both occasions in the vicinity of Herndon, Va., about 10 air miles from the city. Then the objects moved south-easterly.

Jets Ordered To Hunt Down Flying Saucers

Washington, D. C., July 28 (U.P.)—The Air Defense Command alerted jet pilots today to take off instantly in pursuit of any "flying saucers" sighted anywhere in the country.

It acted after F-94 jets unsuccessfully chased "glowing white lights" seen in this area Saturday night. Mysterious objects also had been spotted the previous Saturday.

The new batch of saucer reports included unexplained appearances on radar screens, but the Air Force remained skeptical. It said the reports have shown "no pattern which would indicate the objects are being controlled by a reasoning body."

Reports Under Study.

Statements by "eyewitnesses," including Air Force and commercial pilots, are being studied and evaluated here and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Meanwhile, intercepting jets

are ready to go aloft at any time.

"The Air Defense Command's mission is air defense of the United States and it is vitally interested in anything unidentified that flies in the air," a spokesman said.

Saucer stories have been pouring in to the Air Force recently from all sections of the nation. The commanding officer of the Air Force filter center at South Bend, Ind., said today that he has been studying "a couple of dozen a day," studying such reports.

Some Believed Colored.

Some of the Indianapolis reports described the objects as colored. The ones reported here were uncolored.

The Air Force said it has received more than 100 saucer reports in the past few years, but "only a small percentage of those received from military sources are main stream."

It said "the majority of reports could be explained by a variety of natural causes, a mild form of hysteria, or psychological phenomena."

60 Here Tell Of Saucers

During the last 30 days, more than 60 reports of flying saucers have been made to the United Air Force here from all parts of the nation, officials here have reported yesterday. Two reports were forwarded to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, for evaluation, a spokesman said.

'Flying Saucers' Whirl Between Rumor and Fact

By Herbert B. Nichols

Special Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

How easy it is for one to take a story with a small element of mystery and by letting imagination and the typewriter keys ramble where they will—come up with a fascinating yarn that packs a mountain of interesting reading—but has only half-truths or no truth at all.

Take flying saucers, for example.

"Why don't you tell the truth?" I asked a companion at a Pentagon news conference. "You've sifted the 'evidence' the same as I. You have talked to the pilots and the radar operators. You're intelligent and you know as well as I the Department of Defense is hiding nothing essential from us."

Yet Los Angeles had five days of flying-saucer alarms. Washington is deep in its second week of similar apprehension; saucer accounts have been sharing front-page display with the Democratic convention.

"Get wise," he said. "The public loves a mystery. Why spoil it?"

There you have reason No. 1 for the continuance of the flying-saucer mystery.

Reports Jump

The fact is, there is nothing new at all about the saucer reports except perhaps, that with the United States radar warning net going into round-the-clock action all over the country backed by an army of amateur watchers as well, the saucer warnings have jumped up to almost 100 a day. Because the Air Force has responsibility for patrolling American skies, it cannot afford to ignore them.

One of the cardinal rules of military intelligence is to consider all possibilities that have any bearing on a commander's decision of where to meet a threat. And one day the Russians can be expected to produce an intercontinental missile. Each report is given a most careful and complete analysis.

I've read more than 300 samples. Preliminary evaluation of the current items does not indicate that they differ in any way from those received in the past few years.

"How about the radar angle?" someone may ask. "Radar operators reported good 'blips' that were exactly as good as those that appear when planes are in the vicinity."

No one will deny this, even though the radarscope of the pursuit planes that took off after the sighted objects over Washington could not pick up anything at all.

The fact is, many a "battle" was fought during World War II, when for six to eight hours radar operators were picking up "blips" that suddenly appeared, perhaps moved at fast or slow speed a bit, then as mysteriously faded out. An alert was given on the Atlantic coast a few weeks ago that "40 bombers have been sighted approaching at fast speed."

Blips Explained

The answer is well known now to physicists and experienced radar operators. Sometimes blips are caused by pranksters or by official use of "window," those long coils of aluminum foil tossed out of planes during the war to confuse enemy radar as to true air movements. But most of the time these pseudo-blips are caused by the appearance of ionized clouds in the atmosphere, especially when the sunspot cycle is approaching a high.

The latest word from Air Technical Intelligence is: "Only a small per cent of reports received from reliable sources remain unexplained. The remainder of these sightings could be accounted for as misinterpretations of various conventional objects, a mild form of hysteria, meteorological phenomena, or hoaxes. Of the unexplained sightings it can be stated that they appear in a haphazard fashion and show no pattern which would indicate that the objects are being controlled by a reasoning body."

Pentagon Probes

Recently Thomas K. Finletter, secretary of the Air Force, and other top Air Force officials asked for a special briefing on Air Force saucer investigations over the past five years. The secretary sums up the briefing as follows: "No concrete evidence has yet reached us either to prove or disprove the existence of the so-called flying saucers."

Reached just a few moments ago, as this story goes to press, a harried Pentagon spokesman repeated again what I am sure is a fact, "we have no really new evidence, nothing more concrete to go on than we have had right along. Every report, nevertheless, will be given a most careful and complete analysis."

"What more can we do or say to convince people that we are not trying to hide something, that we feel there is honestly no reason to believe there is any inexplicable mystery at all about 'flying saucer' reports?"

AF Thinks 'Saucers' Friendly, Eager to Identify Them

Knowing What They Aren't It Narrows Down the Field

WASHINGTON

DAILY NEWS --

July 30, 1952

The Air Force today has said—as publicly and convincingly as it could, thru some of its top generals—that:

- It doesn't know what some "flying saucers" are.

- It's trying harder than ever to find out.

- Washington's "saucers" probably are just so much hot air.

But as far as Air Force experts are concerned, saucers are NOT:

- Ours.
- Any foreign nation's.
- Extra-terrestrial.
- A menace to the U. S.
- Flying saucers.
- Mere figments of the imagination.

Aside from the birds, planes, rockets, missiles, balloons, clouds, kites, optical illusions, meteors and out-sized light globes that earnest citizens have turned into saucers, Air Force has "too many reports by credible observers of incredible things" to drop "saucers" without more investigation, it said.



GEN. SAMFORD

Washington's saucers were rather promptly shot down by the Gen. as hot air.

When warm air masses move over cooler air masses, a layer of warm air formed in between seems to "bend" radar and light waves back toward the ground, he said.

Experts—including two intelligence officers who watched "saucers" by radar here last Saturday night—"tend" to believe that's what happened here, Gen. Samford said.

After several newsmen accused him of "explaining away" the Capitol's saucers, he and his aides revealed that:

- Saucers have been picked up on two radar scopes simultaneously long before that happened here.

- Jet pilots have been chasing anonymous blips around the skies for some time, directed by ground radar observers.

- Some have been steered right into what turned out to be flocks of hostile, unidentified birds.

- One pilot "locked on" to a "target" with his radar, turned a downward corner and almost plowed himself a field before he found his radar beam was being bounced off a cloud, into the ground and back at him in the first recorded electronic switch on Tinker to Evers to Chance.

- One of the six jet pilots who went up over Washington "locked on" to a "mysterious flying light" and almost rammed it before he learned it was his buddy in another jet.

- There's a lot to be learned about radar.

NOTHING FROM AIR

Gen. Samford said there have never been any airborne radar sightings of "saucers," which backs up his theory that waves from the ground are bent back toward the ground.

Radar has tracked objects "many times," from "zero to fantastic speeds" but none of these has been run down.

About 25 per cent of Air Force's 1000 to 2000 "sauce" reports came from military pilots and about 8 per cent from airline pilots, Gen. Samford said.

ORDER EQUIPMENT

But not even these contained "accurate measurement of size, speed, altitude, direction, etc." Now Air Force is switching from the "shot-gun approach" of collecting masses of reports to an attempt to get accurate measurements, so scientists will have something to work with, the General said.

This includes:

- Ordering over 200 cameras fitted with diffraction grids that should help show chemical composition of any light source.

- Investigation of use of a photographic Schmidt telescope that could monitor the sky over the whole Northern Hemisphere.

- More study of radar's behavior.

SOME PHENOMENA

"We believe now that the unexplained reports are due to some phenomena—meteoric, atmospheric, light aberrations and so on—that we don't fully understand," Gen. Samford said.

"We also believe most of this can be understood gradually, by the mind of man, when we have collected and analyzed enough data."

SPECIAL CONFERENCE

It presented a shiny array of brass at a specially called Pentagon press conference yesterday to tell the world these things.

Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, director of operations, served as pilot and Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, chief of operations, took the controls when Gen. Samford got stuck.

Capt. E. J. Ruppelt—top field investigator of saucer reports—and officers and civilians filled in as experts on intelligence collecting, analysis of data, use of camera and telescope, and the wanderings of light and radar waves—one of the chief headaches in the saucer analysis business.

Gen. Ramey

IT'S OLD STUFF

Reports of unexplained aerial objects date back to Bible days, Gen. Samford said, but:

"Man is doing more now and the opportunity to observe has been greatly enhanced. Our ability to measure doesn't seem to have advanced in any way nearly as well as our ability to observe."

"It leaves us in a dilemma. Our present course of action is to give it that attention that it very definitely warrants—adequate attention but not frantic attention."

Study Photo

By JIM G. LUCAS
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

The Air Force is checking the authenticity of a photograph which purports to show five flying saucers in formation over Salem, Mass.

The picture was taken by Coast Guardsmen at Salem last Thursday about 10 a. m.

It was flown to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington and then turned over to the Air Force Base, Dayton, O., where flying saucer reports are investigated and evaluated. I saw it yesterday in the Pentagon.

Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, the Air Force's flying saucer expert, had it in his briefcase—out of sight and unmentioned—throughout a 90-minute press conference in which Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Air Force Intelligence chief, discounted recent saucer sightings over Washington. Capt. Ruppelt still had it in his briefcase when he took a plane for Dayton an hour later.

EGG-SHAPED

In the picture the flying saucers—if that's what they are—appear egg-shaped white objects with wavy edges, suspended in air. If the photograph can be accepted at face value, it is the first daylight picture of flying saucers. Altho several photographs of what purport to be flying saucers have been taken in the past, all were snapped at night. The Air Force invariably has explained them away as meteors, rockets or bursting fireballs.

Altho the sky is light in the photo, the white objects which may be flying are easily distinguishable. They somewhat resemble, but could not be confused with, clouds. There are several buildings in the foreground.

SKEPTICAL

Capt. Ruppelt, who has spent several years checking and plotting flying saucer reports, said he is skeptical. Attempts have been made to hoodwink him in the past and he believes nothing which cannot be proved.

He points out that a single photograph was submitted. There was no negative. That invariably happens, he said. The Air Force has yet to get hold of a negative of a flying saucer picture.

Capt. Ruppelt said he has asked the Coast Guard to obtain the negative and forward it to him at Dayton.

Without questioning anyone's integrity, Capt. Ruppelt said his first impression was that the picture is a fake. He said the alleged saucers appear to have been painted in. Their somewhat irregular wavy edges indicate as much, he said.

I wouldn't know, Capt. Ruppelt is a trained observer, who makes it his business to look for such things. I could easily be fooled by a composite picture.

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD
July 30, 1952

'NOT CURIOUS' OVER SAUCERS, SAYS EINSTEIN

Top Savant Replies To Pastor's Query

Dr. Albert Einstein, the nation's foremost scientist, is not at all interested in flying saucers.

He said as much yesterday in a letter to the Rev. Louis Gardner, of Los Angeles, who had written the scientist asking his opinion of the saucer scare.

Einstein's reply stated: "Dear Sir, Those people have seen something. What it is I do not know and I am not curious to know. Sincerely yours, A. Einstein."

Meanwhile, the saucer sightings continued at an accelerated pace. The latest case involved a volunteer air defense observer in Jersey City, N.J., who came up with a photograph of what he said was a saucer over Manhattan.

The observer, August Roberts, 32, turned the picture over to police inspector Joseph Foley, who is chief ground observer in Jersey City. Three other observers reported seeing the saucers about the time Roberts took the picture.

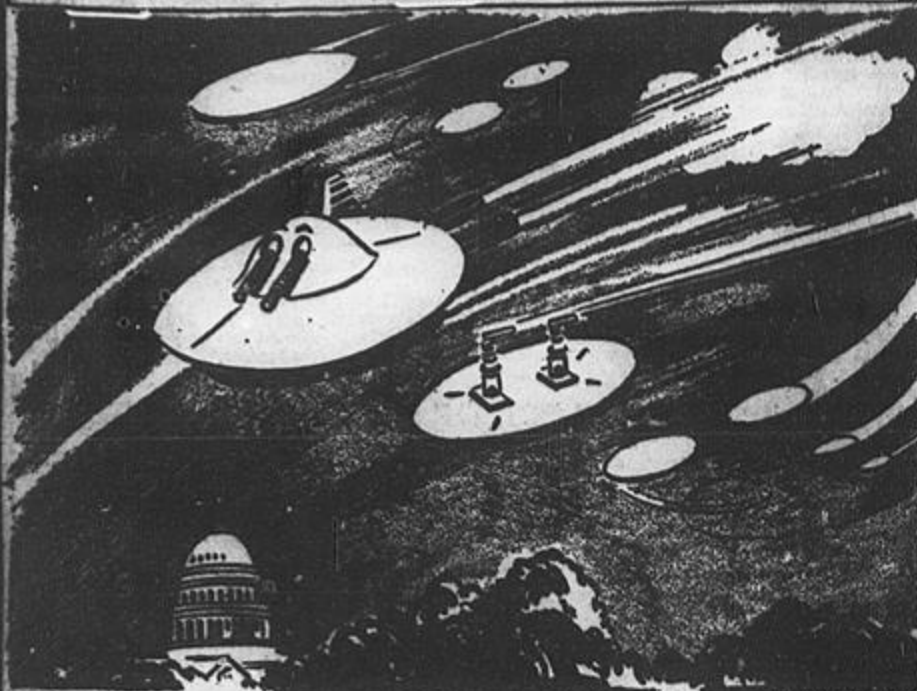
After examining the picture, Foley promptly released it for publication and turned over prints to two Air Force officers who were sent to Jersey City by Maj. Frederick B. Johnson, in charge of the Westchester filter station to which all air activity is relayed by spotters.

The picture shows a bright, somewhat cylindrical object which was moving, Roberts says, from north to south or down Manhattan island. It's color was bright orange, Roberts said. Opposite the "saucer" a smaller white light appears on the print.

Are These What You Saucer?

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

July 30, 1952



[Drawing by C. H. Wetzel]

The Times-Herald presents what may be one of the most definitive views ever obtained of flying saucers as they wheel thru the evening skies over the nation's capital. Seen close up, the whirling discs present an awe-inspiring sight, according to the Times-Herald artist who was able to capture their every puff and turret in pen and ink before a policeman told him to move on. The temperature was 93.

Mirage, Says A.F. Officer Of 'Saucers'

BY ROBERT R. DENNY

The chief of Air Force intelligence yesterday labeled Washington's "flying saucers" as heat mirages, but said his staff will use new inventions to study future reports here and elsewhere in the nation.

The officer, Gen. John A. Samford, told a Pentagon press conference he is "satisfied in my own mind" that the three local appearances of mysterious objects within eight days resulted from atmospheric conditions.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon announced today that no new sightings of "saucers" were reported in the Washington area last night or this morning.

Radar experts from the Air Force Technical Intelligence center at Wright-Patterson field in Dayton, O., said false radar images often are created by a type of air layer that "bends" the electronic beams.

Theory Discounted

The "bent" beams reflect ground objects. Such phenomena result from the "same type of hot, humid weather you've been having around here lately," Samford said.

A check with the District weather bureau disclosed last night that the temperature inversion which creates the type of air mass under discussion occurred July 20, last Saturday night, and early yesterday—all three times the "saucers" appeared on radar here.

Samford said scientific research has established that the theory that the "saucers" are visitors from space must be discarded unless it can be believed that the objects lack mass and are capable of unlimited power.

Neither of these conditions—a lack of mass and limitless acceleration—have been fulfilled by scientists working on aircraft design, Samford declared.

Earlier, Maj. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, Air Force director of operations, disclosed for the first time that F-94 jet interceptors were sent streaking into the Washington area on both Saturday nights that the "Saucers" were reported by radar men.

New Telescope Invented

Samford told reporters that the Air Force is organizing independent research in the field of aerial phenomena and has several new inventions to implement this work.

One is a special "refraction grid" camera, of which about 300 have been manufactured, that will disclose the source of lights that are photographed in the skies. The device will tell whether light's source is gaseous or of some other nature.

Another is the Schmidt telescope, which can photograph the entire hemisphere on a single plate. The telescope is not yet in production but soon will be available.

The small cameras, according to the plan, will be given to qualified persons at strategic spots. From the pictures, it can be determined whether the objects are solids or mirages.

Samford said photographs taken every night by astronomers "show a complete lack of things that would have to be there (in space) for many days" if some object were approaching from another planet.

This fact, he said, "gives our astronomers a complete lack of enthusiasm about the possibility of visitors from elsewhere."

The general emphasized that "We're progressively learning more and more about radar and the things that are seen on it." He said rather cryptically at one point that "We're getting good observations on things that radar is not intended to observe."

Remark Explained

When this remark drew a laugh from his audience, Samford explained he meant meteorological phenomena such as the northern lights and electrical disturbances that create illumination.

The Air Force, he said, is not building and has not built anything like a flying saucer. However, Samford said, many of the "saucer" reports have come from persons seeing various types of aircraft.

Samford said the Air Force does not believe that the "saucers" are of any type of "vehicle or machine." Rather, he said, it is believed the manifestations are various kinds of meteorological phenomena.

A Wright-Patterson field radar expert, Capt. Roy James, said radar images can be created by temperature inversions. The images will be as clear and distinct as those caused by aircraft, he said.

A temperature inversion, he said, means simply that the normal temperature differences at various levels are inverted.

Inversion Occurs

Beginning at ground level, the temperature ordinarily falls with altitude. However, it sometimes happens that a warm air mass aloft will overtake a cooler air mass near the ground. When this happens, the air aloft is warmer temporarily than the surface air.

Between the two air masses of different temperatures is formed an air layer which creates the difficulty.

This layer, James explained, will have effect of "holding down" a radar beam. The beam ordinarily scans the skies in something of an arc, since the beam has a tendency to bend earthward anyway.

When the beam strikes this dense air layer, however, it bends earthward even more. Radar creates an image on a radar screen when its beam bounces back from a solid or semi-solid object and shows up on the scope.

But, when a temperature inversion exists, the beam can be bent so far downward that it actually is "looking" at some object on the ground instead of in the sky. Therefore, a "blip" or point of light appears on the radar screen which in reality is only the reflection of some ground object.



[Times-Herald Staff Photo]

This was the scene yesterday as Air Force experts conferred at the Pentagon on the flying saucer riddle. Seated are Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, director of AF operations (left), and Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, director of intelligence. Standing, from left, are Capt. Roy L. James, Capt. Edward J. Rupelt, Col. Donald L. Bower and B. L. Griffing, all of Wright-Patterson AF base, Toledo, Ohio.

False "Blips" Recounted

James said the creation of false "blips" by temperature inversion is well known among experienced radar men.

At the same time, a Harvard university professor has developed a now widely-held theory that these same temperature inversions reflect lights that cause additional confusion.

James said that substantiation of this theory was supplied, in one instance, by an Air Force pilot who had been sent aloft to chase a "saucer." The pilot "locked on" to the object and followed it closely, James said.

* Then he suddenly found that he was flying into the ground. He recovered, re-located the object aloft, and did the same thing twice again, narrowly avoiding a crash each time.

Each of the three times, James said, the pilot almost struck the ground at the same spot. This would indicate that the light he saw was some kind of ground reflection heightened by the refracting air layer, James asserted.

Samford said birds in flight have added to the problem created by atmospheric pranks.

On one occasion, the general said, a flight of interceptors roared aloft to overtake a formation of unidentified objects seen on radar screens.

The "intruders" turned out to be a flock of ducks, he said.

James said a naval "battle" was fought during World War II because a temperature inversion created the appearance of an enemy fleet on radar screens.

Samford said that altho the Air Force does not believe the theories of "saucer" proponents, it has a "very definite obligation to analyze and study things that appear in the skies that might comprise a menace to the United States."

He said the Air Force had received nearly 2,000 "saucer" reports since 1947 and succeeded in explaining 80 per cent of them. The balance, he said, concerned "incredible things seen by credible observers."

Devices Lacking

"The difficulty in identifying these things is the lack of measuring devices that can convert the information into something manageable," Samford declared.

The Air Force has hopes that the new cameras will provide such measuring data, he said.

"In the interim," the officer said, "We will devote adequate, but not frantic, attention to this problem."

Ramey told reporters that the two-hour delay between last Saturday night's radar sightings of 12 objects and the dispatch of jets from New Castle, Del., resulted from an operation officer's decision.

The officer in charge of dispatching the planes did not do so immediately, Ramey said, because the objects were forming a "sporadic pattern" on National airport and Andrews Air Force base radar "and could be tracked accurately."

However, jets later were sent into the area. One plane spotted a light which it followed for a short time. Then the illumination disappeared.

Ramey said that New Castle sent six sorties in all to the Washington area on the two Saturday nights. The first Saturday display featured four or five unidentified radar "blips" on the National airport radar.

Yesterday's early morning visitation comprised eight or 12 "saucers" which swooped and bounced about on the radar screens for five hours before vanishing into space.

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(continued)

Civilian pilots in the area were asked to look out for the apparitions but reported they could see nothing. For that reason Air Force jets stayed on the ground.

Weather bureau officials said an early morning balloon observation July 20 showed that a temperature inversion existed from the ground up to 1,000 feet. Between 8,000 and 9,500 feet was an isothermal layer of air in which the temperature remained constant.

This layer, it was thought, might have acted as the refracting element which "bent" the light.

Last Saturday night, another constant-temperature layer existed between 3,500 and 4,300 feet. However, 24 hours earlier two separate inversion layers were recorded between 3,000 and 3,300 feet and between 7,000 and 7,300 feet.

Early yesterday there occurred an inversion from ground level up to 1,500 feet. The observations are made at 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. each day by balloon releases.

CAA Official's Own Story

How Radar Spotted Whatzits That Air Force Couldn't Find

By HARRY G. BARNES

Senior Air Traffic Controller, Civil Aeronautics Administration

Written for NEA Service

Shortly after midnight of the 19th of July Ed Nugent called me over to the radar scope and joked:

"Here's a fleet of flying saucers for you."

As it turns out, Ed could very well have been stating absolute fact.

I am a senior air route traffic controller for the Civil Aeronautics Administration. I was in charge of the air route traffic control center that particular night at National Airport.

SCANS D. C. AIRSPACE

Part of our job is to constantly monitor the skies around the Nation's Capital with the electronic eye of radar for purposes of controlling air traffic.

Our shift had been on duty about 40 minutes. Eight men were on this particular shift. It was a normal night for both flying and weather. The sky was cloudless. No storms were approaching. Air traffic was light, as is usual for that period. Those facts are important in connection with what came later.

MYSTERIOUS PIPS

The "things" which caused Ed to call me over to the scope were seven pips clustered together irregularly in one corner. The scope is 24 inches in diameter. The pips show up as pale violet spots. Ordinarily they represent aircraft in the air. The radar we were using scans a 70-mile radius.

The seven pips indicated that the objects were in the air over an area about nine miles in diameter, 15 miles south-southwest of Washington. We knew immediately that a very strange situation existed. First, from all the information we had at hand we knew that the spots were not aircraft—at least, not identified and friendly aircraft.

THREE POSSIBILITIES

That left three possibilities: something wrong with the radar, enemy aircraft or some unexplained flying objects. We tracked the seven pips for about 5 minutes. We quickly determined that they were moving between 100 and 120 miles per hour while we could observe them.

But their movements were completely radical compared to those of ordinary aircraft. They followed no set course, were not in any formation, and we only seemed to be able to track them for about three miles at a time.

The individual pip would seem to disappear from the scope at intervals.

Later I realized that if these objects had made any sudden burst of extremely high speed, that would account for them disappearing from the scope temporarily. Our radar is only designed to track known types of aircraft or objects in the air at speeds known to all of us.

After five minutes of watching the strange pips I asked Jim Cope and Jim Ritchey, two experienced radar controllers, to check our observations. They confirmed our findings. Then I called the airport control tower to see what the radar showed there. The radar operator verified the same thing instantly. At this time I notified the Air Force of our observation. This is a regular procedure, but some parts of it are secret. I am not at liberty to explain it in detail.

But we kept the Air Force informed of subsequent observations which continued for approximately the next six hours, until after daylight when we could no longer distinguish the objects from other aircraft.

Early Sunday morning is an especially busy time for both private flying and military reserve flying.

Before notifying the Air Force of our findings, our technicians had carefully checked the equipment to make certain that it was operating perfectly.

These are the important events of the next six hours:

- During the first hour the objects had moved over all sectors of our scope. That meant that they had been over the restricted areas of Washington including the White House and Capitol.

- At the first opportunity, Ritchey contacted Capital Airline pilot Capt. S. C. Pierman, a veteran of 17 years of flying. Shortly after taking off, Ritchey asked Pierman to look for the objects we were watching on the scope. He agreed to do this.

- All of a sudden, his voice came over the radio which we could all hear, with the words: "There's one, and there it goes." He described it as just a bright light, moving much faster than a shooting star at times.

the movements of the objects coincided with the position of our pips at all times while in our range.

During the next 14 minutes he reported that he saw six such lights. He said they had no tail, no recognizable shape and were just bright lights in the dark sky.

Each sighting coincided with a pip we could see near his plane. When he reported that the light streaked off at high speed, it disappeared on our scope, for the apparent reason I cited.

While he was giving us reports of his sightings he was on a course from Herndon, Va., to Martinsburg, W. Va.

Some of the other pilots we contacted reported that they were unable to see the objects. I had the distinct feeling that some of them were just unwilling to discuss the subject over the radio.

However, one other commercial pilot did flatly confirm seeing a light off his left wing which we saw as a pip on the scope. He was coming in for his landing and the tower scope reported the same radar sighting. The light disappeared on our scope and from his view about four miles before he touched his wheels down.

During the whole period of observation we could detect no pattern to

the movement of these objects. We did not see the pips in any recognizable formation at any time.

However, they did seem to become most active around the planes we saw on the scope.

The radar we were using does not show altitude, and it is faintly possible that the objects could have been in a vertical formation without our recognizing it.

At one point toward daybreak we counted 10 objects over Andrews Field, just outside of Washington. We sighted seven originally. Most of the time we could count eight of them.

The only recognizable behavior pattern which occurred to me from watching the pips was that they acted like a bunch of small kids out playing. It was helter-skelter as if directed by some innate curiosity. At times they moved as a group or cluster. Other times as individuals over widely scattered areas.

Other than some information in connection with our communications with the Air Force, which is classified, the above is a complete factual description of the important events which took place during those six hours. These facts I have set forth in my official report to CAA.

Speaking personally, and not officially for CAA, I would like to make these additional comments:

Radar is strictly an electronics device. It has no imagination. It reports only what it "sees." The equipment was in perfect operating order during that period.

There is no other conclusion I can reach but that for six hours on the morning of the 20th of July there were at least 10 unidentified objects moving above Washington.

NOT USUAL CRAFT

They were not ordinary air-

Nor in my opinion could any natural phenomena account for these spots on our radar. Neither shooting stars, electrical disturbances nor clouds could either. Exactly what they are, I don't know. Now you know as much as I do. And your guess is as good as mine.

Fighter Pilots at New Castle Stay Alert for More Saucer Reports

By Harry Lever
Star Staff Correspondent

NEW CASTLE AIR FORCE BASE, Del., July 30.—The Air Force may now consider those unidentified objects in the sky as natural phenomena, but if the Capital's favorite family of "flying saucers" return, Washington fighter pilots at this base are all set to ferret them out.

They are members of the 121st Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, using F-94 all-weather night fighters equipped with radar. This group, made up mostly of men from the District area, is on temporary duty at New Castle, from its home at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

The flyers are acting with the 142d Fighter-Interceptor Squadron in maintaining a 24-hour alert, lately especially concerned with keeping strange things out of the sky over the Washington area.

Trick Reflection Cited.

The Air Force says that whatever has been seen probably can be traced to the trick reflection of light. But nobody has called off the 121st, and it stands ready to investigate when the alarm buzzer rings in the readyroom at New Castle.

Last Sunday morning, after two pilots of the 142d went aloft on orders to find out what those now-famous things were over Andrews, two men of the 121st took over the early dawn patrol. They were Capt. John C. Lang, of 7812 District Heights Parkway, District Heights, Md., and Capt. Francis T. Evans, of 1101 Barnaby street S.E.

Not Easily Deluded.

They cruised at 1,500 feet in their F-94's over Mount Vernon, where the alleged sky phantoms were supposed to be operating. Experienced combat pilots, they were not easily deluded by the flying ectoplasm. Here is Capt. Lang's report:

"I saw two little patches of clouds. And also a lot of shooting stars. I even quipped to National Airport's Control Center about all those 'Stars Over Ala-

bama.' I thought 'Meteors Over Maryland' was better. And mass hallucination even better than that."

Lights On Horizon.

He even mentioned the possibility that the illusion of a stationary sky saucer could be created by lights on the horizon, or by the upturned headlamps of an automobile.

The 121st also includes men like First Lt. Lawrence H. Boteler, 1680 Thirty-second street N.W.; First Lt. Norman H. Todd, 1638 V street S.E.; Second Lt. Wayne W. Wilson, 5365 Pumphrey Drive, Forestville, Md.; Capt. G. B. Holland, 4719 Falls Stone avenue, Chevy Chase, Md.; Capt. C. M.

Eisele, 7204 Forest road, Landover, Md.; Capt. H. W. Philpot, 2123 Guilford road, Hyattsville, Md.; First Lt. Robert A. Maxwell, 3211-A Terrace Drive S.E., and Capt. William F. Smith, who lives in Silver Spring.

Another Strange 'Blip' Seen on Radar Here; Check Finds Nothing

Pentagon Says 'Saucers' Are Natural Phenomena Caused by Inversion

By John A. Giles.

Another of those unidentified objects showed up on a Washington radar screen last night—the kind of object the Air Force now flatly says is not a flying saucer, but a natural phenomenon.

The latest and lone visitation was spotted at the National Air-

Fighter Pilots at New Castle Stay Alert for More Saucer Reports. Page C-6

port traffic control tower about 1 a.m., from 9 to 12 miles south-southwest of that point.

The observer asked a passing aircraft to investigate. Result: No lights, no saucers, no space ships. Nothing but space.

The only things supported were the words of Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, chief of Air Force intelligence, who yesterday told a Pentagon press conference:

"In my own mind, I am satisfied that the recent Washington sightings were caused by temperature inversion, but it is my obligation to learn more about it. It is our problem to give adequate attention, but not frantic attention, to such reports."

"We have found nothing associated with the sighting to show them vehicles, materials or missiles directed against the United States."

Gen. Samford and a group of Air Force intelligence, operations and technical officers explained in de-

(continued next page)

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The Unexciting 'Saucers'

Whether or not there are such things as "flying saucers" (the Air Force prefers the more precise phrase "unidentified aerial objects"), the American people seem bound and determined not to be excited by them. At any rate, although some of the reports about the phenomenon have been atrociously sensationalized, the general reaction thus far has been one of monumental calm, if not complete indifference. By and large, it is a wholesome, common-sense reaction—a mark of maturity—and it deserves three cheers.

Actually, the calm is altogether understandable. After all, wholly apart from the somewhat exhausting televised proceedings of the recent political conventions, the American people have lived through a great many alarms and excursions since that October night in 1938 when Orson Welles made large numbers of them half-panicky with his radio broadcast of a fictional invasion from Mars. Between then and now a lot has happened to the wells of human excitability. Wars, multiple crises, revolutionary inventions, the atomic race, persistent international tensions, a host of astounding actualities and potentialities, and the clinging presence of abnormalities that have grown to seem normal—these have so upended the world that most of us have become rather inured to shock and lost much of our capacity to be surprised or agitated by anything, including "flying saucers."

Maybe these objects really exist. Maybe they are a new super-secret weapon, either our own or another country's. Maybe—perhaps—possibly—they are interplanetary machines operated by visitors from outer space. Whatever their true nature, however, the fact remains that the American public at large seems quite unmoved and unimpressed by them. And this indifference is the stronger because of findings by the Air Force that only a small fraction of the "saucer" reports have yet to be explained and that all the rest have been accounted for in terms of optical illusions, a mild form of hysteria, hoaxes, natural meteorological phenomena, and misinterpretation of various conventional things like weather balloons and radar-screen "blips" caused by flying birds. In the circumstances, the whole business fails to lend itself to the sort of excitation that the Martian broadcast stirred up in 1938.

This non-excitable frame of mind is a good thing for Americans to have. Except to the extent that it seems to be creating difficulties for civil defense authorities in recruiting volunteer observers for "Operation Skywatch," it is a frame of mind well suited to these days of explosive world tension—a kind of sensible middle-ground mood between panic-breeding jitters and the folly of complacency. It is a mood worth cultivating, for we are living in a time that calls for steady nerves and level heads regarding matters far more substantial than the elusive "saucers."

tail, at the 1½-hour meeting, that the illusion of saucer-like objects flying silently at incredible speeds often results from the trick refraction of light under special weather conditions.

In this natural phenomenon, air at ground level becomes cooler than in regions above—the reverse of normal conditions. This is called temperature inversion.

Light rays are refracted when they shine through a layer of warm air that has settled between cool air near the ground and cool air in the upper atmosphere. The light rays project displaced images against the sky, with the warm air acting as a sort of lens. Thus light shining upon it from such sources as street lamps or automobile lights is turned downward.

Agree on Radar Indications.
Gen. Samford and his fellow officers agreed such conditions can produce strong indications on a radar screen—such have been observed here recently—and that they are likely to occur during hot, humid weather such as Washington has experienced in recent weeks.

At one point Gen. Samford observed that "radar has been getting good observations of things radar is not supposed to observe."

He said the military constantly is learning new things about radar and its ability to observe objects, but he added this knowledge is far from complete.

The conference was called for the specific purpose of answering questions and telling what the Air Force knows and has learned about the current crop of reported sightings of unidentified objects in the air.

2,000 Reports Evaluated.
Gen. Samford, along with members of the staff of the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton, Ohio, outlined the continual study and evaluation of some 2,000 reports received in the last six years.

All agreed to one thing in connection with the study, as put by Gen. Samford:

"It reveals no pattern that shows anything remotely consistent with anything associated with danger to the United States."

Most of the reports have been disposed of "to our satisfaction" as aircraft, hoaxes, natural phenomena, light reflections or ice formations, the general said.

Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, director of Air Force operations, recalled that, on one occasion, fighters were dispatched on one sighting to find only a flock of geese.

Lack of Reported Direction.
But there remains about 20 percent of the reports which for one reason or another are still unexplained. This might be caused by lack of complete information, such as direction of flight.

Gen. Samford said the Air Force

feels an obligation to learn more about aerial sightings that have not been explained as either natural phenomena or physical causes, such as unidentified aircraft or even the flocks of birds.

He said the Air Force has ordered 200 cameras with refraction grids, which can be distributed to still unselected observation points.

Reports of objects in the skies are not new. Gen. Samford pointed out, recalling that they go back to Biblical times.

Despite the Air Force's soothing explanation, reports of flying "things" still persisted. In Enid, Okla., Sid Eubanks, 50, a Wichita (Kans.) salesman, said a huge saucer, traveling at terrific speed, swooped over the highway, completely reversed directions and disappeared.

The object appeared as first a yellow-green, then yellow-brown streak about 400 feet long, and the pressure nearly threw his car off the road, Mr. Eubanks said. A policeman to whom he told the story said the salesman was still trembling.

At Elkton, Md., Mrs. Harry Mann, Jr., said she saw a silvery round object explode and drop in a puff of smoke. Elkton is about 14 miles from the Army Proving Ground at Aberdeen, where new type military equipment is tested.

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(continued)

Flying Saucer Hobby Leads to a Theory



The Washington Post

LEON DAVIDSON

... has own ideas on 'saucers'

Some hobbyists collect stamps; others, match book covers, even teabag tags.

Leon Davidson, of 804 S. Irving st., Arlington, Va., is more up to date. He collects reports on flying saucers.

He began his side interest in mid-1949, in personal dissatisfaction with the Air Force's findings after investigation of flying saucer reports.

Today he has analyzed those reports, and almost everything since published on flying saucers. He has some conclusions, and some fixed ideas.

First, he said, official denials to the contrary, the saucers are most likely Navy-developed missiles, either piloted or ground-controlled, or both, and jet-propelled.

Davidson thinks the Navy is laughing up its gold-braided sleeves at the Air Force. And he thinks at least one Air Force official knows it. Else why, he asked, would an (unidentified) Air Force official suddenly change the designation of its flying saucer investigation from "Project Sign" to "Project Grudge."

The name change, he said, occurred at a doubly significant time—during unification of the military forces, and when the Air Force was winding up its 1947-48 saucer investigations.

Here's why Davidson thinks flying saucers aren't foreign to this earth: None has been observed in any area for a period of more than four hours, an incredibly short time for visitors who would have traveled so long from so far.

Here's why he discards the idea they may be Russian-made: The United States military would be far more concerned than to wait two hours after sightings to send jet interceptors after them, as was reported from nearby Andrews Field recently.

Davidson said his geographical plotting on flying saucer reports supports his conviction the objects are a Navy product. Reports of the first sightings, in 1947, almost all came from Northwest United States, mostly over sparsely populated areas, but not far from Navy installations, he said.

In 1948, they were reported over the Southeast United States. They have spread out since over a more general, geographically scattered area, but all within control range of the far-flung Navy, he said.

Finally, said Davidson, a chemical engineer, the saucers have traveled courses of established air lanes, where radio beams would be helpful in their flight control—by Navy scientists.

There's one thing about Davidson's hobby—it could be ended suddenly by an official announcement.

All's Quiet Along the Potomac On the Flying Saucer Front

The "flying saucer" front in Washington was relatively quiet yesterday, although reports of saucers from other parts of the country still come in.

An unidentified object showed up on the radar at the air traffic control tower at the National Airport at 1 a. m. yesterday. A CAA spokesman said the object was regarded as routine, but a nearby plane was asked to check it. The plane found nothing.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, Air Force operations chief, identified little strips of tinfoil found near the Upper Marlboro race track as "chaff" or "windows," dropped by bombers about 8 a. m. Sunday during current Air Defense exercises. He said the tinfoil did not cause the "blips" on radar screens here Saturday night.

The report of saucers over Washington has stirred up similar reports from other cities. An orange disk over Baltimore, egg-shaped white objects over Salem, Mass., a yellow-green saucer near Enid, Okla., and an "oscillating star" all have been reported in the past two days.

Air Force Examine

Coast Guard Photo

DAYTON, Ohio, July 30 (AP).—The Air Force has a copy of a

Coast Guard picture—taken in daylight—which shows four unidentified aerial objects, Capt. E. J. Ruppelt disclosed today.

He will make no estimate of the picture's value until he gets the negative, Ruppelt said. He did say the picture was of the type which easily could have been faked. He did not say it was.

The picture, he said, was taken through a screened window at 9:35 a. m. (EDT) July 16 at Salem, Mass.

Ruppelt described the objects as irregularly egg-shaped and white, three of them in stair-step position with the fourth object below the center one in the trio.

An attempt now is under way to locate the negative to determine whether it was tampered with before the print was made, Ruppelt said.