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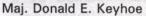


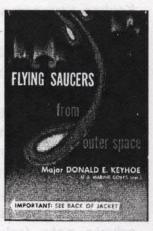
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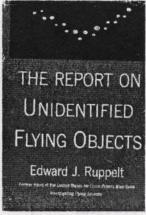
Vol. II, No. 2

May-June 2005











Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt

The 1952 Sighting Wave: A Turning Point in UFO History

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EDITORIAL

The 1952 UFO sighting wave was one of the most significant of all time, and if there is a conscious "cover-up" of some hidden truth, it was firmly in place by 1953. Part 2 of the series is reported in this issue. As an alert reader noticed, I mistakenly said in Part 1 that the Top Secret Estimate of the Situation concluding that UFOs probably were interplanetary in origin was written following the 1952 wave. Actually it was written in 1949, not accepted by the Air Force hierarchy and suppressed. By 1952 it was top members of the Air Force hierarchy suggesting that UFOs were interplanetary.

KEYHOE & RUPPELT FRIENDS

In 1951 and 1952, the Air Force considered Donald E. Keyhoe to be a highly responsible journalist, and gave him unique access to dozens of startling intelligence reports. After 1953, when the Air Force backtracked on its views, Keyhoe was accused of sensationalism and worse.

It is a little-known fact that Keyhoe and Edward J. Ruppelt were friends. In 1953 Ruppelt sent a telegram to Henry Holt & Co. authenticating the reports in Keyhoe's book. In April 1954 Ruppelt sent Keyhoe a formal letter (salutation "Dear Major Keyhoe") repeating and elaborating on his 1953 telegram. The formal letter was accompanied by a private note (salutation "Dear Don") saying how much he enjoyed their bull session. "If you get back out this way and have any spare time," he said, "you'll have to come down and have dinner with us. I always like to talk flying saucers."

In a P.S. he said the enclosed formal letter "sounds a little stupid in spots. I tried to make it sound as if we weren't especially friends....If this isn't okay let me know and I'll redo it." (See page 7.)

A later revised edition of Ruppelt's "pro-UFO" book contained three added chapters, debunking the subject and taking a few potshots at Keyhoe in the process. Was Ruppelt "anti-UFO" all along? If so, this would suggest that he was a very insincere and opportunistic person for publishing the "pro-UFO" book and deceiving people about his real opinions. Major Keyhoe always believed that someone had put pressure on him to alter his stated views.

THE 1952 SIGHTING WAVE, RADAR-VISUAL SIGHTINGS ESTABLISH UFOs AS A SERIOUS MYSTERY: Part 2, The Flap Begins

Through the first 5 months of 1952, the Air Force Project Blue Book investigators had noticed a build-up of UFO sightings. Then, according to project chief Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, "In June the big flap hit...." The objects displayed intelligent control by circling, maneuvering, reacting to pursuit, and otherwise demonstrating extraordinary capabilities unlike any known technology or natural phenomenon, such as sharp turns, rapid vertical motions, and sudden reversals of direction. Radar repeatedly confirmed the presence of unidentified solid objects.

During June 1952, Capt. Ruppelt said, the Air Force was taking UFOs seriously because a lot of good reports were coming in from Korea. Pilots were seeing silvery discs and spheres, and radar in Japan, Korea, and Okinawa all had tracked unidentified targets. (Ruppelt, p. 192.)

Mid-1952 UFO Sighting Chronology (Based on Air Force Intelligence reports and other sources as cited.)

June 1, Los Angeles, Calif. At Hughes Aircraft Company, a crew of test section radar technicians were tracking what they thought was an airliner, when it suddenly climbed rapidly to 55,000 feet, leveled off and sped away.

June 15, Louisville, Ky. A former Navy radar technician saw an unidentified cigar-shaped object in the vicinity oi Standiford Field. The object had a light on either side of the fuselage and a reddish hue on the trailing end. It appeared to be moving at about 400-500 m.p.h., and maneuvered around in several directions for 15 minutes, then descended and flew away to the northeast.

June 18, California. A UFO paced a B-25 bomber for 30 minutes. No explanation could be found for the object and it was classified as "unknown."

"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 unidentifiable objects moving above Washington I can safely deduce that they performed gyrations which no known aircraft could perform. By this I mean that our scope showed that they could make right angle turns and complete reversals of flight." – Senior air route traffic controller Harry G. Barnes.

June 19, Goose AFB, Newfoundland. A glowing red object approached the base, tracked on radar. As the object appeared to wobble, its radar image enlarged. The image was consistent with that of a disc banking so that a larger profile was displayed to the radar.

June 20, Korea. A flight of five Marine Corps F4U-4B fighter planes on a mission spotted a silvery-white object passing below them, banking into a left turn. As the object circled around, the flight leader dove toward the object, which appeared to be 10-20 feet in diameter and it flew away at an estimated speed of 1,000 m.p.h. and disappeared toward friendly lines.

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

June 21, Oak Ridge, Tenn. A Ground Observer Corps spotter reported a strange light flying over the Atomic Energy Commission facility about 11:00 p.m., and the object also was showing on radar. A National Guard P-47 attempted to intercept the UFO and engaged in a "dogfight" with what appeared as a blinking white light. Finally, the object put on an incredible burst of speed and disappeared.

June 26, Valdosta, Ga. An Air Force pilot in a T-33 jet from Moody AFB observed a circular object ahead of him at about 20,000 feet. The object began emitting a thin smoke or vapor trail and suddenly started climbing, accelerating rapidly and moving in a zig-zag pattern, then shot straight out of sight "in a matter of a few seconds."

July 1, East Coast, U.S. During the morning two silvery elliptical UFOs were observed visually near Boston, where an F-94 interceptor was sent up to investigate. The objects moved south along the East coast and hovered near Fort Monmouth, N.J., for about 5 minutes at 50,000 feet. As radar at Fort Monmouth detected the objects, they put on a burst of speed and headed southwest toward Washington, D.C., confirmed visually. At about noon, a physics professor in Washington reported seeing a gravish UFO hovering and arcing back and forth across the sky. (Ruppelt, pp. 200-202.)

July (1st week), Berlin, Germany. German newspaper stories circulated in the

American intelligence community by the CIA reported that Oscar Linke, a former town mayor, and his daughter observed a disc-shaped craft that landed in a forest clearing in the Soviet Zone. Near it were two "men" dressed in shiny metallic clothing. "They were stooped over and were looking at something lying on the ground."

Approaching to within about 10 meters, Herr Linke saw a large circular object about 13-15 meters in diameter. Around its edge were two rows of "holes", and on the top was a dark "conical tower" about 3 meters tall, apparently a comparison to the conning tower of a submarine.

When Herr Linke's daughter called out to him, the two "men" immediately reacted and disappeared inside the conical tower. The color around the edge changed from green to red, a hum was heard increasing in intensity, and the tower (or turret) began to slide down into the center of the object. As it did so, the craft began to rise slowly off the ground, rotating like a top. Gradually the object accelerated, emitting a whistling sound, leveled off and moved away horizontally gaining altitude and disappearing in the distance.

In a formal statement submitted to a judge, Herr Linke said: "When the object had disappeared, I went to the place where it had been. I found a circular opening [sic, probably an indentation] in the ground and it was quite evident that it was freshly dug."

July 2, Tremonton, Utah. Navy photographer Delbert C. Newhouse and his wife, while driving across the state, saw a group of 12-14 shiny silver objects (Continued on next page)

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

milling around in the sky. Newhouse stopped the car, retrieved his 16 mm camera from his luggage, and filmed extensive footage of the objects.

He and his wife both reported seeing some of the objects relatively close-up and they were shaped like one plate inverted atop another. When the film was returned to Newhouse following Navy and Air Force analysis, the frames showing the discs close-up had been deleted. (See interview, page 8.)

July 5, Richlands, Wash. Four airline pilots observed a "perfectly round disc" hovering above the Hanford atomic plant.

July 10, Korea. The crew of the Canadian destroyer *Crusader* saw two shiny discs and tracked them on radar.

July 13, Washington, D.C. A National Airlines flight crew reported being approached and then paced by a "ball of blue-white light." When the pilot turned on his landing lights, the object "departed from the vicinity at an estimated 1,000 m.p.h." on an upward course. The weather was clear with good visibility.

July 14, Norfolk, Va. A Pan American Airways flight crew saw six glowing redorange discs in echelon approach headon at high speed below their airliner which was at 8,000 feet. The objects joined up with two more discs, reversed direction at a sharp angle and sped away. Witnesses on the ground also had seen the objects.

July 16, Hampton Roads, Va. About 9:00 p.m. an aeronautical engineer for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (predecessor of NASA) watched two amber-colored lights, much too large for aircraft, moving north. The objects circled rapidly, joined by two other objects from different directions, and the four sped away to the south.

July 18, Patrick AFB, Fla. Many witnesses at the Air Force Guided Missile Long-Range Proving Ground at 10:45 p.m. observed two amber-colored lights maneuvering west of the base, then a third approached rapidly from the west and flew overhead. Within 15 minutes two more objects passed overhead from the west, circled over the ocean and came back over the observers. They were not aircraft or balloons.

July 19, River Edge, N.J. Associated Press reporter Saul Pett about midnight saw an intensely glowing, non-blinking orange ball of light moving steadily overhead from the northwest to the southeast for 1-2 minutes. He said that it was moving too fast and too steadily for a balloon.

July 19/20, Washington, D.C. Shortly after midnight FAA radar operators at National Airport began tracking a group of 7-10 unidentified targets southwest of the city, moving about 100-130 m.p.h. An individual object would disappear from the scope at intervals, then another target would appear. This continued for about 6 hours, while airline pilots in the area reported sighting unidentified

1952 Sighting Wave, Continued

lights in the positions where radar detected unexplained targets. They were not any known aircraft.

July 20, Herndon, Va. At 3:00 a.m. a Capital Airlines flight approaching Washington National Airport reported that an unidentified light was following it. Air Route Traffic Control radar tracked the UFO to within about 4 miles of the airport before it disappeared.

July 20, Andrews AFB, Maryland. In mid-evening Air Force radar tracked up to 10 UFOs for 15-20 minutes. The objects approached the runway, scattered, made sharp turns and reversals of direction. (Air Force weather observer report to NICAP.)

July 22, New Smyrna Beach, Fla. A private pilot, alerted by his wife, saw a hovering metallic-appearing disc at about 5:45 p.m. After about 10 seconds, the disc abruptly shot away climbing at a steep angle and disappeared. (NICAP report form.)

July 23, Culver City, Calif. Several aircraft plant employees saw a bright silvery elliptical object that moved northwest, then stopped and hovered. Two small discs emerged and circled around the area before rejoining the "mother ship." The object then climbed straight up out of sight at tremendous speed.

This small sample of cases does not fully convey the number and intensity of highly significant sightings during this period. For more details, see the bibliographic references. (Dr. Bruce Maccabee's web site also has a detailed history of the 1952 wave.)

The spectacular radar-visual sightings at Washington, D.C., on the weekend of July 19/20 were repeated - with some new twists - on the following weekend. The story will resume in the next issue with the events of July 25th.

(Next issue: Part 3, What's Going On?)

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Ruppelt, Edward J. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. (New York: Doubleday, 1956.)

See also the following web sites: www.nicap.org www.bluebookarchive.org brumac.8k.com/1952yearofufo/1952yearofufo.html

1911 Josie Ave. 11 April 1954

Dear Don,

Sorry that I couldn't get this out to you sooner but we were gone over the weekend and I just got home and found your letter. I think that it will get to you by Wednesday if I get it out airmail-special in the morning.

Both Jim and I enjoyed the little Sunday night bull session at the Roosevelt. If you get back out this way and have any spare time you'll have to come down and have dinner with us. I always like to talk fling saucers.

I checked on what I had said about Dewey Fournet in the True story. I haven't got the final draft but I believe that I cut out a direct reference to him. I'm anxious to see What True did to the story in the way of editing it.

I'm giving you the info you wanted in a seperate, more formal letter. You can use it as you see fit.

Hope your talk in Cleveland is a success add that you get back out this way soon.

As ever

Ed Ruppelt

PS I just finished the other letter. It sounds a little stupid in spots. I tried to make it sound as if we weren't especially friends since the AF seems to tie you and A Al together like that. I thought it would hold more weight if people didn't say "Oh they are friends and he would say anything". If this isn't OK let me know and I'll redo it. It's later than the devil and my thiker has evidentally conked out for the evening. I do want to get it out so I'll and send it as is.

McDONALD INTERVIEW WITH NEWHOUSE & WIFE

Dr. James E. McDonald, professor of meteorology and atmospheric physics at the University of Arizona, in 1970 interviewed Delbert C. Newhouse, the Navy chief photographer who filmed unidentified disc-shaped objects over Utah on July 2, 1952, and his wife who

first saw the objects.

They were driving cross country to a new duty station at the time, and she persuaded him to stop the car for a better look. Following are excerpts of a May 4, 1970, letter from McDonald to Arthur C. Lundahl. Before he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as chief of the National Photographic Interpretation Center, Lundahl had supervised the analysis of the Utah film at the Navy photographic laboratory near Washington, D.C.

I had the double benefit of getting comments from both of them [Newhouse and his wife] she was the one who first spotted the objects and watched them for an estimated minute or so while she was trying to persuade Newhouse to stop the car for a better look. ...

Both of them emphasized that it must have taken two or three minutes for Newhouse to hunt through their luggage and locate the camera and film, which were in separate suitcases. In that initial period, the objects were considerably closer to them than at the time he finally began shooting, Newhouse stressed. ...

As you will recall, one of the key points that I wanted to check with Newhouse concerned the description given by Ruppelt (and repeated in Baker's analysis as reproduced in the 1968 Congressional hearings), namely, that they appeared to be silvery-gray, "gunmetal," and like two pie pans face-to-face. Both Newhouse and his wife fully confirmed that, Newhouse comparing the shape to a discus in his comments to me.

Mrs. Newhouse pointed out that they occasionally tipped, so that their round projected area, as seen in the initial portions of the sighting when they were nearly overhead, was replaced occasionally by a side-view exhibiting their discoid shape. There was not the slightest equivocation or any element of uncertainty as either of them discussed that very important

point.

I asked Newhouse if it was correct that he had given that description to Ruppelt after the latter had left the Air Force. He confirmed that, saying that the only time he personally talked with Ruppelt was at a filming session for that movie entitled "UFO" produced in about 1954 or 1955. He guessed that meeting must have been in 1954, and Al Chop was also present at that discussion. He brought out the important point that he also stressed the visually observed shape in those early portions of the sighting when he was interviewed at his duty station in Oakland [California] by an Air Force officer. ...

I should add that Newhouse returned to the above point several times in the course of our 50-minute telephone conversation, since, as he remarked, the matter of the visual observation was extremely important in his estimate. ...

I found it interesting to learn that no contacts of any sort have been made with Newhouse since that movie was made. This evidently included Baker as well as Hartmann and the Colorado project team. I was particularly surprised that Bob Baker had not contacted him, when doing that analysis for Douglas [Aircraft Corp.] in 1956.

Newhouse had some very negative comments to make about Condon, whose bias he seemed to sense quite clearly. He had read the Condon Report and made disparaging

comments about [it].

[Editorial note: About 1959 Newhouse visited the NICAP office in Washington, D.C.. I talked with him at length and asked him a number of questions. He also emphasized to me that he and his wife had distinctly seen the "double-saucer" shape, and that when a copy of the film (not the original) was returned to him after analysis, the filmed sequence showing the discoidal shape had been removed. - R.H.]

BRIEF HISTORY OF TV DOCUMENTARIES AND DISCUSSIONS

UFOs have been cussed and discussed for well over 50 years on American television, seldom amounting to anything approaching quality journalism. The erratic coverage of this topic is worthy of consideration by historians of journalism, and by historians in general. Presented here is a first rough draft of an annotated chronology of UFO documentaries, motion pictures, and "talk show" discussions presented by TV networks and major broadcasting companies.

Dec. 29, 1953: ABC Radio Town Meeting of the Air, moderated debate between Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe and skeptic Jonathan Leonard. (See inset of transcript cover.)

1956: United Artists (Greene-Rouse productions) documentary motion picture film *UFO* for theater release. Real film clips, classic UFO cases, high-caliber witness interviews.

Jan. 28, 1958: Armstrong Circle Theater, CBS-TV documentary, UFOs: Enigma of the Skies. Air-Force censored broadcast. (See Vol, I, No. 6, 2005.)

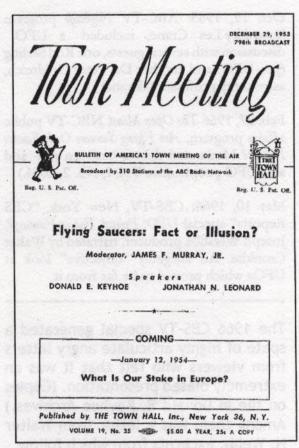
Mar. 8, 1958: Mike Wallace, ABC-TV interview with Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe. (See Vol. II, No. 1, 2005.)

Dec. 5, 1960: Dave Garroway on the NBC-TV *Today* program interviewed Maj. Keyhoe and Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Tacker, USAF. (See Vol. I, No. 4, 2004.)

Mid-May 1964: ABC-TV, Los Angeles, was filming a UFO series.

Aug. 23, 1964: ABC-TV affiliate KGO-TV, San Francisco, Golden Gate Story 30-minute program.

Mid-November 1964: CBS-TV News, New York, filmed an interview with Maj. Keyhoe at the NICAP office for the Mike Wallace morning news.



Jan. 21, 1965: ABC-TV affiliate KGO-TV, San Francisco, program on NICAP and UFOs.

Jan. 27, 1965: Maj. Keyhoe appeared on The Les Crane Show, ABC-TV.

Apr. 13, 1965: CBS-TV program with Walter Cronkite and Eric Sevareid discussed alleged Soviet detection of space signals and UFOs.

(Continued on next page)

Historical UFO Programs, continued

Apr. 20, 1965: Dave Garroway hosting the ABC-TV *Nightlife* program interviewed Maj. Keyhoe.

Fall 1965: NBC-TV News, Chicago. UFO documentary.

Oct. 19, 1965: ABC-TV Nightlife program hosted by Les Crane, included a UFO discussion with several guests, one Rod Serling (pro-UFO) and another Dr. Peter Goldreich, astronomy professor (skeptic)

Feb. 27, 1966 The Open Mind, NBC-TV public affairs program, Are Flying Saucers Only Science Fiction? Moderated debate between pro- and anti-UFO people. (See Vol. I, No. 2, 2004.)

May 10, 1966: CBS-TV, New York, "CBS Reports" special UFO: Friend, Foe or Fantasy?, Joseph Wershba producer, narrated by Walter Cronkite. An allegedly "objective" look at UFOs which proved to be far from it.

The 1966 CBS-TV special generated a spate of highly articulate angry letters from viewers who felt that it was an extremely biased presentation. (Copies on file in Donald E. Keyhoe Archives.) Among them was a letter from Walter N. Webb, excerpts from which follow.

You and CBS-TV are normally to be commended for your excellent coverage of space events...But I was frankly disappointed and discouraged after watching the UFO program....CBS could have performed a real public service by treating this fascinating subject openly and courageously without bias. Instead, what resulted was a program heavily slanted toward the anti-UFO side of the controversy.

The only good UFO sighting...was the recent Dexter, Michigan case...Why didn't you mention such cases as Socorro, New Mexico...a UFO landing and takeoff witnessed by a policeman, one of the most reliable UFO reports on record? [And incidents] where UFOs at close range have stalled auto engines, cut off headlights, and shorted out electrical power? Such events provide some of the best evidence for UFO reality. ...

Radar sightings were more or less pooh-poohed on the program and yet radar-visual sightings (where radar "paints" the same object seen visually and simultaneously by trained observers) represent tangible evidence of solid, maneuverable objects of unknown origin.

Webb also protested the emphasis given to "contactees," obviously faked movies, and uninformed opinions by skeptics. The program also alleged that scientific optical tracking programs had failed to detect any UFOs, precipitating the following response from Robin E. Sanborn, Former Chief, Film Evaluation Section, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO). In a statement dated July 5, 1966. To the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee, Sanborn said:

My section [of SAO] was concerned with establishing the validity of the satellite image itself. A speck on a roll of film could be a satellite or simply a fragment of dirt, or a flaw in the emulsion, or a scratch caused by abrasion, or some unidentified light source.

Smithsonian, continued

We were concerned only with satellite images. A film that showed a bright moving light that was not a satellite was automatically rejected. No attempt of any kind was made to identify the source of the light; it was simply assumed to be a plane, or a meteor, or a whatsit, and the film was dropped into the rejection bin.

From 10% to 15% of the films evaluated contained 'images' that were not satellites. Could we call them UFOs? No, but we most certainly could call them unidentified light sources. ... Curious minds may one day explore the question marks in the reject bin.

Essentially the same point was made earlier by SAO "Moonwatch" technician Bud Ledwith, who provided some examples of the unidentified light sources tracked and photographed by the SAO project for *The UFO Evidence* (NICAP, 1964, photographic section).

Other SAO "Moonwatch" graduates, including Walter N. Webb and Dr. J. Allen Hynek, also were aware of the fact that anomalous phenomena were being tracked and photographed with significant frequency. Dr. Hynek, in a later talk at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center, reported a parallel example of anomalous targets detected with some regularity by Strategic Air Command radar, ignored and cast into the "reject bin" because they did not fit the profile of Soviet Union intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Charles Fort would have called these "damned data." □

AIME MICHEL: LETTERS TO NICAP



Aime Michel

During the early 1960s pioneer French UFO investigator and author A i m e M i c h e l communicated with NICAP and agreed to serve on an international panel of advisers. Following are excerpts from two of his letters.

Aime Michel to Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, July 5, 1960:

I have just read your latest book Flying Saucers: Top Secret to review it in French magazines (Science et Vie, etc.) I shall say lots of good about it. To you personally I would like to discuss it freely. ...

Very frankly, I think that you and NICAP spend a great deal of courage and devotion along the wrong path. All your work seems indeed geared to obtain information from the U.S. Air Force; to show up the Air Force mistakes and oblige them to change their attitude. Why? The U.S. Air Force has published enough statements to show its incompetence, its ignorance and its erroneous methods. ...

Spend your time, your money and your efforts to carry on yourself a serious scientific research on the subject that interests us. ... Do yourself what the Air Force does not know how to do.

Aime Michel to Richard Hall, July 26, 1960:

Thank you very much for your letter, which enlightens me about several points. ... First of all I compliment you on your last report on E.M. effects. ... That is excellent work which makes the subject progress. ...

Aime Michel, continued

[After arguing that the U.S. Air Force really knows no more than we do and are simply incompetent, Michel continued.]

The investigations which, seen from the public standpoint seem sloppy are really sloppy; [from their standpoint] why deepen the inquiries since they know that they lead to natural phenomena or hoaxes? Their sole activity consists of giving the appearance of inquiring so as not to be accused of doing nothing. ... If they published the sightings, people like you would discuss their conclusions and would trouble their donothingness. They don't release anything in order to prevent all discussion and continue to do nothing. ...

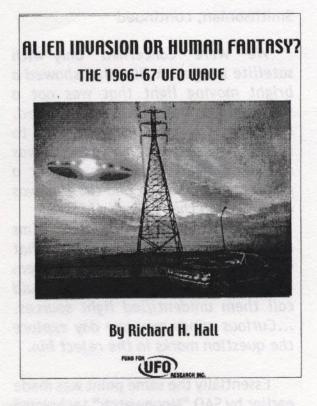
In my opinion, you have no chance, no hope for lifting of the blackout unless the whole problem is handed over to scientists. Why not campaign on the following points. ...the question of UFOs is a scientific one which therefore must be handled by scientists. ...

All of this may seem a bit unbelievable to you. I had trouble myself in believing it but, alas, I am now convinced. ATIC [Air Technical Intelligence Center, U.S. Air Force] is a joke, really a joke and not merely in appearance. Ruppelt acted like a joker when he commanded the commission [Project Blue Book], and it was for me a bitter disappointment to find it out.

Books by Aime Michel:

The Truth About Flying Saucers (New York: Criterion Books, 1956).

Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery (New York: Criterion Books, 1958).



UFO HISTORY PUBLICATIONS BY RICHARD H. HALL

The following publications on UFO history are available from the Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Rainier, MD 20712:

From Airships to Arnold: A Preliminary Catalogue of UFO Reports in the Early 20th Century (1900-1946), 33 pp.

Radar-Visual UFO Cases in 1952: The UFO Sightings That Shook the Government, 30 pp.

Alien Invasion or Human Fantasy? The 1966-67 UFO Wave, 144 pp.

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