

PROJECT MAGNET REPORT

During the past five years there has been accumulating in the files of the United States Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Department of Transport, and various other agencies, an impressive number of reports on sightings of unidentified flying objects popularly known as "Flying Saucers". These files contain reports by creditable people on things which they have seen in the sky, tracked by radar, or photographed. They are reports made in good faith by normal, honest people, and there is little if any reason to doubt their veracity. Many sightings undoubtedly are due to unusual views of common objects or phenomena, and are quite normal, but there are many sightings which cannot be explained so easily.

Project Magnet was authorized in December, 1950, by Commander C.P. Edwards, then Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, for the purpose of making as detailed a study of the saucer phenomena as could be made within the framework of existing establishments. The Broadcast and Measurements Section of the Telecommunications Division were given the directive to go ahead with this work with whatever assistance could be obtained informally from outside sources such as Defence Research Board and National Research Council.

It is perfectly natural in the human thinking mechanism to try and fit observations into an established pattern. It is only when observations stubbornly refuse to be so fitted that we become disturbed. When this happens we may, and usually do, take one of three courses. First, we may deny completely the validity of the observations; or second, we may pass the whole subject off as something of no consequence; or third, we may accept the discrepancies as real and go to work on them. In the matter of Saucer Sightings all three of these reactions have been strikingly apparent. The first two approaches are obviously negative and from which a definite conclusion can never be reached. It is the third approach, acceptance of the data and subsequent research that is dealt with in this report.

The basic data with which we have to work consist largely of sightings reported as they are observed throughout Canada in a purely random manner. Many of the reports are from the extensive field organization of the Department of Transport whose job it is to watch the sky and whose observers are trained in precisely this sort of observation. Also, there are in operation a number of instrumental arrangements such as the ionospheric observatories from which useful data have been obtained. However, we must not expect too much from these field stations because of the very sporadic nature of the sightings. As the analysis progresses and we know more about what

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DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting to Discuss "Flying
Saucers" Sighting, 22 April, 1952.

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

JUL 3 1968

Chairman:

Dr. O.M. Solandt (DRB)

Present:

S/L L.P.S. Bing (JIS)
F/L V.L. Bradley (DRB)
Col. G.M. Carrie (DRB)
G/C D.M. Edwards (DAI)
Mr. A.J. Langley (DRB)
Dr. P.M. Millman (Dom. Observ.)
Cdr. J.C. Pratt (DNI)
Mr. W.B. Smith (DOT)
Lt. Col. E.H. Webb (DMO & P)

Secretary:

Mr. H. C. Oatway (DRB)

The Chairman opened the meeting with a brief reference to the more frequent occurrence of "Flying Saucer" sightings. The frequency and persistence of the sightings would tend to discount the theory of 'hallucinations'. This, coupled with an aroused public interest in these sightings, tended to call for a more active stand on the matter. At present the gathering of reports was rather haphazard and the reaction of the Services was passive. It is thought that a more active and intensive effort should be made to obtain these data on an organized basis, and all reports investigated and analysed. The objects of the meeting were then to determine if a more serious effort is justified and, if so, ways and means of implementing an organized effort. Organizations such as the Observer Corps might be enlisted for the job of sighting. If nothing else, this could serve as a useful training for the Corps. An examination of the theories might prove useful in giving a lead to the best locations for sighting. It was fortunate that proponents of the theories of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial origins were in contact with the D.R.B. and their data could be examined first hand.

The Air Force representatives then briefly outlined the work done by the USAF up to a year or so ago. As these efforts consistently resulted in 'nil returns' their project, in so far as the press and public were concerned at least, had been discontinued. Very recently, however, this investigation was re-opened, but is now classified.

In the discussions which followed, it was pointed out that precise and realistic details were lacking in all known reports. If observers such as the Rangers, watchers on ship board and the Observer Corps, which incidentally is really still in the paper organization stage, are to be enlisted some well planned guidance would be necessary. A small booklet illustrating typical celestial phenomena would result in more intelligent observation and eliminate many erroneous impressions. It was considered desirable to obtain information from U.S. interviews obtained under proper interrogation procedure, but to avoid the U.S. analysis of these

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Minutes of the First Meeting of the Committee
Set Up to Deal with "Flying Saucers" COMMITTEE OF OPERATIONS
24 April 1952

Chairman:

Dr. P.M. Millman

Dom. Observ

JUL 3 1952

Members:

Lt.Cdr. J.C.L. Annesley	D.N.I.
S/L L.P.S. Bing	J.I.S.
F/L V.L. Bradley	D.R.B.
Mr. W.B. Smith	D.O.T.
W/C N.W. Timmerman	D.A.I.
Lt.Col. E.H. Webb	DMD&P.

Secretary

Mr. H. C. Oatway

D.R.B.

For the benefit of those who were not present at the general meeting held on April 22nd, the Chairman opened the meeting with a brief resume of discussions leading to the formation of this Committee and the terms of reference. He then tabled three books by Kehoe, Scully and Heard dealing with Flying Saucers sightings as worthy study as they give a fairly useful summary of the most important publically recorded sightings. These can be used in addition to newspaper reports.

S/L Bing tabled a report by the RCAF relative to the USAF project on Flying Saucers. This report is to be duplicated by the RCAF and copies passed to the Secretary for distribution to the Committee members.

The question of the security classification of the work of the committee was then discussed. It was agreed that CONFIDENTIAL was sufficient, but that members should be cleared to SECRET to facilitate any exchange of information from international sources.

The Chairman stated that it would probably be better to divorce this work from the questionable title of "Flying Saucers", and thought that some name entirely without meaning such as "Project Theta" should be adopted. The Committee agreed in principle to this suggestion, with the exception that the project name is not to be used during exchange of information of an international character. Such "exchanges" are to be effected through established channels only. There being no further suggestions acceptable, the name "Project Theta" was adopted, subject to investigation by the Secretary as to the validity of the use and possible duplication of the name.

The possibility of obtaining U.S. data on a reciprocal basis was considered desirable and the Secretary was instructed to have a formal approach to this effect made through the DRB Member in Washington.

Consideration was given to the interrogation form presently in use by the RCAF. After discussion, it was agreed that the form should immediately be revised with accompanying instructions for its use. The revised form (copy attached) was drawn up and copies are to be distributed by the Secretary prior to the next meeting. The preparation of the instructions was divided among the members as follows:

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At all times

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PROJECT

SIGHTING REPORT

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

JUL 5 1968

(A separate form is to be used for each observer.)

A .. Details of Observer

1. Name of observer:

Surname: ----- Initials -----

2. Address of observer:

Street-----City-----

Province-----

3. Occupation and previous relevant experience:

4. Age: -----

5. Has observer seen "flying objects" before,
and if so, briefly, when, where, and circum-
stances:

6. Was observer wearing glasses?

B.. Details of Observation:

7. Date and local time:

8. Position of observer (as accurately as possible)

9. General description of sighting:

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CONFIDENTIAL