

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,440

This is Edward R. Murrell. We're going to talk about flying saucers. We're going to

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00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:11,800

talk about them from the standpoint of reporters, not as Canadians, not as

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00:00:11,800 --> 00:00:17,480

sensationalists. For the past three years, a large number of perfectly sane and

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00:00:17,480 --> 00:00:22,280

reliable people have been involved in this flying saucer business. Even those of

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00:00:22,280 --> 00:00:26,440

us who have never seen one have become involved. We read about them, talk about

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00:00:26,440 --> 00:00:32,480

them, wonder about these reports of strange phenomena in the skies. So almost

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00:00:32,480 --> 00:00:36,640

from the start, CBS has been following the story. We have been collecting

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00:00:36,640 --> 00:00:41,440

material on flying saucer observations for many months, checking, cross-checking,

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00:00:41,440 --> 00:00:47,320

trying to track down leads, no matter how far appeal they took up. This tonight is

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00:00:47,320 --> 00:00:52,120

our report. We frankly admit that we don't know whether flying saucers

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00:00:52,120 --> 00:00:57,880

actually exist. We've never seen one. We are going to bring you the facts at hand.

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00:00:57,880 --> 00:01:04,240

What they add up to? Well, that's for you to decide. It all began just a little

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00:01:04,240 --> 00:01:09,280

less than three full years ago. It began in the sky over western Washington, up

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00:01:09,280 --> 00:01:15,040

there in the hip pocket of the country. Early one June morning in 1947, a C-46

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00:01:15,040 --> 00:01:19,760

marine transport with 32 marines aboard crashed in the vicinity of Mount

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00:01:19,800 --> 00:01:24,480

Prehier. An air search was immediately organized to locate the downed plane.

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00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:30,120

Among the many service and private flyers who participated in this search was Mr.

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00:01:30,120 --> 00:01:35,280

Kenneth Arnold, a businessman of Boise, Idaho, a veteran pilot in forest fire

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00:01:35,280 --> 00:01:39,680

control work, a man with six years experience flying over the rugged terrain

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00:01:39,680 --> 00:01:44,920

in and around Mount Prenier. Yesterday morning, we spoke to Mr. Arnold over the

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00:01:44,960 --> 00:01:50,080

phone. We asked him to repeat for us, in his own words, what he saw in the sky

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00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:55,800

over Mount Prenier on June 24th, 1947. We recorded what he said, and we're going

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00:01:55,800 --> 00:02:00,560

to play it for you now. The slight beat that you will hear intermittently is

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00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:04,760

required by law to let both parties of the phone conversation know they are

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00:02:04,760 --> 00:02:10,560

being recorded. Here now is Mr. Kenneth Arnold. It was while I was searching for

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00:02:10,600 --> 00:02:18,840

this place that I noticed a terrific blue flight past those of my airplane. I noticed

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00:02:18,840 --> 00:02:26,280

that the flight came from a plane of very peculiar looking objects that were rapidly

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00:02:26,280 --> 00:02:34,040

approaching Mount Prenier at about 170 degrees. This plane of objects were

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00:02:34,920 --> 00:02:42,000

dying in numbers. I assumed at the time they were a new formation or a new type

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:47,920

of jet, though I was baffled by the fact that they did not have any tails past,

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00:02:49,280 --> 00:02:54,960

almost directly in front of me, but at a distance of about 23 miles, which is not

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00:02:54,960 --> 00:03:02,440

very great to be fair, I checked their wingspan to be at least 100 to be caught.

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00:03:03,400 --> 00:03:09,600

They're fighting to not be sufficiently certain at the time, except that I had never

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00:03:09,600 --> 00:03:15,240

seen planes of that type. Mr. Arnold, after landing, made a routine report of what he

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00:03:15,240 --> 00:03:18,880

had seen to a civil aeronautics administration representative. Promptly

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00:03:18,880 --> 00:03:23,840

forgot the matter, until the wheels of publicity began to turn. The floodgates

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00:03:23,880 --> 00:03:30,520

opened. I never said understand at that time why the world got so upset about

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00:03:31,120 --> 00:03:36,200

this. These things didn't mean to be a minute. I believe they had something to do

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00:03:36,200 --> 00:03:40,000

with our army and Air Force. On three different occasions, Mr. Arnold was

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00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,840

questioned by military intelligence. They expressed doubt as to the accuracy of

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00:03:44,840 --> 00:03:49,680

some of his reported observations. That's right now, of course, some of the reports

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00:03:49,680 --> 00:03:55,000

they did take from newspapers, which did not, you won't see properly. Now, when I

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:01,240

told the press, they reported me and in the excitement of it all, one newspaper

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00:04:01,240 --> 00:04:06,040

and another one got exposed and filed up that nobody knew just exactly what they

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00:04:06,040 --> 00:04:12,160

were talking about, I guess. Here's how the name Flying Saucer was born. These

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00:04:12,160 --> 00:04:17,680

octaves were all in flutter, like they were, oh, I'd say, boats on very rough

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00:04:17,680 --> 00:04:24,760

water or very rough air of some type. And when I described how they flew like

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00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:30,560

to take the saucer and throw it across the water, most of the newspapers

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00:04:30,560 --> 00:04:35,800

misunderstood this photo back to they said that I said that they were

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00:04:35,800 --> 00:04:41,480

saucer like I said they flew in a saucer like fashion. That was an historic

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00:04:41,480 --> 00:04:46,600

misquote. Well, Mr. Arnold's original explanation has been forgotten. The term

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00:04:46,600 --> 00:04:51,640

flying saucer has become a household word. Few people realize that Mr. Arnold

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00:04:51,640 --> 00:04:55,680

has reported seeing the same strange object in the sky on three other

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00:04:55,680 --> 00:05:00,400

occasions. He says that some pilots in the Northwest have reported seeing them on

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00:05:00,440 --> 00:05:05,520

eight separate occasions. We asked for his own personal opinion on the nature of

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00:05:05,520 --> 00:05:11,480

what he and the others had seen. I don't know how best to explain that. I, uh,

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00:05:11,480 --> 00:05:17,040

for a lack of a reserve of opinion as to what I think that means that so for

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00:05:17,280 --> 00:05:24,640

American, if it's not made by our science or our army airport, I am inclined

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00:05:24,640 --> 00:05:28,920

to believe that it's of an extraterrestrial origin. Extra-terrestrial

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00:05:28,920 --> 00:05:32,040

origin? You mean you think there's a possibility they may be coming out of

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00:05:32,040 --> 00:05:36,080

space from other planets? I suppose that's pretty hard for people to take

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00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:42,760

seriously. Well, uh, I'll tell you this much. All the airline pilots, none of us

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00:05:42,840 --> 00:05:47,720

have appreciated and laughed at. We made our report, thankfully, to begin with

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00:05:48,320 --> 00:05:51,840

because we thought that if our government didn't know what it was, it was

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00:05:51,840 --> 00:05:57,800

only our duty to report it to our, our nation and to our airport, thought of it.

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00:05:57,800 --> 00:06:03,440

I think it's something that is a concern to every person in the country. And I

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00:06:03,440 --> 00:06:06,760

don't think there's anything for people to get hysterical about. Now, that's

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00:06:06,760 --> 00:06:11,480

just my frank opinion of it. So that's how it all began. That was the trigger

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00:06:11,480 --> 00:06:16,520

action. Kenneth Arnold's story went scudding over the news, wires, radio and

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00:06:16,520 --> 00:06:20,480

newspapers picked it up. And then within days, the country broke out into a

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00:06:20,480 --> 00:06:26,320

flood of flying saucer observations. Many of these reports, a great many of them,

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00:06:26,640 --> 00:06:31,360

obviously could be discounted. Others reports from perfectly competent, sober

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00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:36,600

and reliable observers found no easy answer. In the face of this, late in

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00:06:36,600 --> 00:06:41,360

1947, the chief of staff of the Air Forces, at that time, General Carl

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00:06:41,360 --> 00:06:46,000

Toey spots, sent a directive to the air material command located at right field

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:51,840

Ohio. The air material command is directed to set up a project whose purpose is

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00:06:51,840 --> 00:06:56,040

to collect, collate, evaluate and distribute to interested government

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00:06:56,040 --> 00:07:00,760

agencies and contractors. All pertinent information concerning sightings of

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00:07:00,760 --> 00:07:05,040

phenomena in the atmosphere, which can be construed to be of concern to the

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00:07:05,040 --> 00:07:11,120

national security. So was born project saucer. Immediately, the air material

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00:07:11,120 --> 00:07:15,840

command went to work. A team of experts was called in. Astronomers, meteorologists,

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00:07:15,880 --> 00:07:19,840

physicists, psychologists, electronic engineers, anyone who might have any

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00:07:19,840 --> 00:07:24,360

special knowledge that could shed some light on this mystery. These specialists,

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00:07:24,560 --> 00:07:28,400

along with the core of trained investigators, tracked down every report of

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00:07:28,400 --> 00:07:32,760

a flying saucer they could find. Each person making a report was questioned

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00:07:32,800 --> 00:07:37,400

in detail. The findings were carefully screened by the entire project personnel.

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00:07:37,720 --> 00:07:42,760

And finally, each and every report was evaluated in a detailed study, two volumes

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00:07:42,760 --> 00:07:49,440

thick, entitled, Report on Unidentified Aerial and Celestial Objects. For two

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00:07:49,440 --> 00:07:54,840

years, this report was marked secret. But on December 30th, 1949, it was

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00:07:54,840 --> 00:07:59,640

declassified. And tonight, for the first time on the air, we will bring you actual

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00:07:59,640 --> 00:08:04,760

portions of this report. Evaluations, summaries, and conclusions. Here, for

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00:08:04,760 --> 00:08:12,600

instance, is a typical case. 8 July, 1947, 0930 hours local, Murak Air Force

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00:08:12,600 --> 00:08:19,280

Base. Four witnesses all observed two silver disc-like, spherical objects

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00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:24,440

against the clear, bright sky. All witnesses estimated the altitude at

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00:08:24,440 --> 00:08:30,920

about 8,000 feet, the speed between 300 and 400 miles per hour. Remember, these

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00:08:30,920 --> 00:08:35,640

were trained observers, Air Force men. The objects reportedly traveled in a

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00:08:35,640 --> 00:08:42,320

straight line, taking the mean reported speed 350 miles per hour. And the time

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00:08:42,320 --> 00:08:49,120

in sight, one half hour, the objects must then have traveled 175 miles while in

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00:08:49,120 --> 00:08:53,440

sight. If the objects were of such proportions as to be seen at that

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00:08:53,440 --> 00:08:57,960

distance, it is believed that more details could have been observed at the

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00:08:57,960 --> 00:09:02,320

first sighting. And the air material command opinion on the Murak Air Base

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00:09:02,320 --> 00:09:07,040

sighting was this. This report is a result of misinterpretation of the nature of

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00:09:07,040 --> 00:09:15,160

real stimuli, probably research balloons. Another report on January 7th, 1948.

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00:09:15,160 --> 00:09:18,920

Tech Sergeant Quintanae Blackwell, Chief Operator of the Control Tower at

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00:09:18,920 --> 00:09:23,720

Bodman Field, an Air Force Base at Fort Knox, Kentucky, spotted a strange object

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00:09:23,720 --> 00:09:28,520

hovering over the south portion of the field. In a matter of minutes, a flight of

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00:09:28,520 --> 00:09:33,560

four P-51 fighter planes approaching the field were contacted by radio and asked

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00:09:33,560 --> 00:09:38,440

to chase the object. Leader of the flight was Captain Thomas F. Mantell, Jr.,

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00:09:38,440 --> 00:09:42,880

a veteran of an arm and the invasion, with some 3,000 flying hours to his credit.

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00:09:43,320 --> 00:09:45,960

At 245 Mantell reported by radio.

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00:09:45,960 --> 00:09:52,160

Object directly ahead in the boat and moving about half my speed, going up to

112

00:09:52,160 --> 00:09:56,040

take a look. At 315 Mantell reported again.

113

00:09:56,040 --> 00:10:03,120

Objects still ahead in the boat, moving at about my speed or faster, 360 miles per hour.

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00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:07,960

The thing looks metallic and is of tremendous size. I'm trying to close in

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00:10:08,040 --> 00:10:12,720

for a better look. By now, Mantell and his flight were at about 15,000 feet.

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00:10:12,720 --> 00:10:17,840

They had no oxygen equipment. At 18,000 feet, the escorting planes turned back,

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00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:22,520

but Mantell kept climbing. His next report came from 20,000 feet.

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00:10:22,520 --> 00:10:29,640

Going to 25,000, if no closer, will abandon search. That was the last report

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00:10:29,640 --> 00:10:35,400

from Captain Thomas Mantell. At approximately 25,000 feet, it is believed

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00:10:35,480 --> 00:10:40,720

he blacked out for want of oxygen. His plane climbed another 5,000 feet and then

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00:10:40,720 --> 00:10:44,840

went into a dive. When it crashed, parts of it were scattered around an area

122

00:10:44,840 --> 00:10:51,000

covering 1-6th of a mile. Project saucers conclusion. It seems probable that the

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:57,560

object observed was the planet Venus. Later, in a report dated April 27, 1949,

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00:10:57,560 --> 00:11:02,400

this conclusion was reversed. Further investigation showed the elevation and

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00:11:02,440 --> 00:11:06,360

azimuth readings of Venus and the object, as reported at specified time intervals,

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00:11:06,360 --> 00:11:12,680

just didn't jive. The object Captain Mantell chased to his tragic death is now

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00:11:12,680 --> 00:11:20,000

officially marked unidentified. In all, Project Saucer investigated 375 cases.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:27,000

The report takes in 244 different observations. Just yesterday, we asked

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00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,640

Major General William F. McKee, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air

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00:11:31,680 --> 00:11:36,600

Forces, to summarize the conclusions reached by Project Saucer. He said,

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00:11:36,600 --> 00:11:43,040

During two years of thorough investigation, no evidence was found which would

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00:11:43,040 --> 00:11:48,200

indicate that the reported flying saucers were anything but the result of natural

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00:11:48,200 --> 00:11:53,600

phenomena. On the other hand, all the evidence indicated that the reports of

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00:11:53,600 --> 00:11:57,680

unidentified flying objects could be accounted for under three major

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00:11:57,800 --> 00:12:05,040

headings. One, misinterpretation of various conventional objects. Two, a

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00:12:05,040 --> 00:12:12,920

mild form of hysteria. Three, or simple, hoaxes. It has been suggested that what

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00:12:12,920 --> 00:12:17,200

people actually have been seeing is the result of some of our own secret

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00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:23,200

experiments, guided missiles or new types of planes or flying weapons. This is

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00:12:23,240 --> 00:12:29,120

emphatically not the case. None of the three military departments nor any other

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00:12:29,120 --> 00:12:34,200

agency and government is conducting experiments classified or otherwise with

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00:12:34,200 --> 00:12:39,840

this shape flying objects which could be a basis for the reported phenomena. On

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00:12:39,840 --> 00:12:45,480

December 27th, 1949, Project Saucer went out of existence. The flying saucers,

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00:12:45,480 --> 00:12:49,720

however, refused to follow the project into Limbaugh. Just possibly one of the

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00:12:49,720 --> 00:12:52,720

reasons behind the stubbornness of the saucers to accept the mantle of

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00:12:52,760 --> 00:12:57,360

oblivion was an article that appeared in True Magazine. Just about the time

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00:12:57,360 --> 00:13:01,680

Project Saucer was abandoned. It had previously been shown pretty conclusively

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,800

that the number of sighting reports over a period of months usually followed

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00:13:05,800 --> 00:13:10,360

closely the amount of publicity given to flying saucer observations. A lot of

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00:13:10,360 --> 00:13:16,560

stories, a lot of sightings, few stories, few sightings. Psychologists call this

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00:13:16,920 --> 00:13:21,960

mass suggestion. But to return to the True Magazine article printed in

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:27,280

December of 1949, the some percentage of the new wave of flying saucer reports

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00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:32,200

can certainly be chalked off to mass suggestion. But again, as in the first

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00:13:32,200 --> 00:13:36,320

reports, there remain that same unexplained percentage of reliable trained

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00:13:36,320 --> 00:13:40,840

observers who claim to have seen some object or object wheeling, whirling,

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00:13:40,840 --> 00:13:45,680

zooming, slicing or hovering in the sky. Douglas Goorley of Laguna Beach,

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00:13:45,680 --> 00:13:48,000

California is an example. Here's his story.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,640

I served 14 months as an anti-aircraft observer with a searchlight

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00:13:52,640 --> 00:13:57,440

battery and also 18 months at the Seat Coast anti-aircraft observer with

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00:13:57,440 --> 00:14:04,120

another searchlight battery. I was driving north March 21st on 101 highway at

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00:14:04,120 --> 00:14:08,360

about three o'clock in the afternoon when my attention was distracted by the

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00:14:08,360 --> 00:14:12,720

sunlight reflecting off some objects. I counted eight of them, proceeding

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00:14:12,720 --> 00:14:17,680

directly out to sea at 2000 feet altitude. They gave the appearance of being

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00:14:17,680 --> 00:14:23,360

made out of aluminum and I could observe a perfect circle outline of these

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00:14:23,360 --> 00:14:29,280

craft. They were going, I would say, approximately 150 miles an hour. They

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00:14:29,280 --> 00:14:35,240

were definitely a hard craft of some sort. Here's a report from Selma,

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00:14:35,280 --> 00:14:40,920

Alabama. We were riding along the open country and had been observing a

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00:14:40,960 --> 00:14:49,200

very beautiful sunset. And as the sun dipped over the western horizon, I looked

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00:14:49,200 --> 00:14:56,040

to my right and there in the sky were three small lights, which to me appeared

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00:14:56,040 --> 00:15:03,400

to be three very small clouds. I looked steadily and I said, no, they are not

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00:15:03,400 --> 00:15:08,160

clouds, they are airplanes. Then I called my husband's attention to it and he

171

00:15:08,200 --> 00:15:13,680

said, no, those are not airplanes, they are lights. And we observed them very

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00:15:13,680 --> 00:15:20,480

closely. But being in motion ourselves, to us they were motionless because we

173

00:15:20,480 --> 00:15:28,160

didn't stop. But as we rode along for something over a mile, they hung there in

174

00:15:28,160 --> 00:15:35,760

the sky and they were, to us, had the appearance of tubes of fluorescent light

175

00:15:36,280 --> 00:15:46,200

of beautiful, silvery, pink-tinged moonlight. And I said to my husband, that

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00:15:46,520 --> 00:15:54,120

gives me a feeling that God is trying to say something to us. And we have had

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00:15:54,120 --> 00:15:59,400

that feeling within us since. By mid-March of this year, the flood of

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00:15:59,400 --> 00:16:03,640

flying saucer sightings had hit a new peak. And to many of these reports,

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00:16:03,680 --> 00:16:07,280

they're now crept in new and somewhat eerie tone. The feeling that these

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00:16:07,280 --> 00:16:11,640

flying saucers were something out of this world, possibly interplanetary

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00:16:11,640 --> 00:16:15,480

aircraft, sent from some distant celestial sphere to investigate what

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00:16:15,480 --> 00:16:20,520

manner of life managed to exist here on Earth. In line with this, we went to

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00:16:20,520 --> 00:16:24,600

Dr. Donald Menzel, professor of astrophysics at Harvard University and

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00:16:24,600 --> 00:16:28,680

associate director of the famous Harvard Observatory to find out just how

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00:16:28,720 --> 00:16:32,880

feasible any such idea might be. Dr. Menzel had this to say.

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00:16:33,880 --> 00:16:37,280

Well, I suppose that anything is possible, but I consider it extremely

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00:16:37,280 --> 00:16:42,160

unlikely. Well, what could these flying bodies actually be, Dr. Menzel?

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00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:49,920

Sun shining from a very distant plane, shining so that you could see that

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00:16:49,920 --> 00:16:52,840

there was an object there, but the plane so far away that you couldn't hear it.

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00:16:53,080 --> 00:16:59,360

Weather balloon. You have the bright round patch at a fairly high altitude.

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00:16:59,360 --> 00:17:04,840

Sometimes three or four of them attach together. And then again, just pieces

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00:17:04,840 --> 00:17:11,120

of paper carried aloft. When it gets up to 200, 300 feet, you can't tell whether

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00:17:11,120 --> 00:17:15,000

it's 100 feet or a thousand or 10,000 feet away.

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00:17:15,520 --> 00:17:19,840

And prior to the middle of March, most observations, certainly all those what

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00:17:19,840 --> 00:17:24,000

could be credited to reliable, sober sources, stated that the object seen was

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:28,480

a good distance away, a distance that ranged from a few miles to 10 and 20.

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00:17:29,080 --> 00:17:33,040

But on March 16th, a physician, a man who holds a private pilot's license,

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00:17:33,400 --> 00:17:37,280

reported that he had seen some strange, unidentifiable type of flying body at

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00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:41,760

close range. Dr. Craig Hunter of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia had this

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00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:42,360

experience.

201

00:17:42,800 --> 00:17:47,760

I've gone north on Route 153 from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, towards

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00:17:47,800 --> 00:17:52,600

Tenfield, Pennsylvania, and about nine miles out of Clearfield.

203

00:17:53,040 --> 00:17:57,280

And I began to hear a hissing whistling sort of a sound, something that I

204

00:17:57,880 --> 00:17:59,800

was completely strange to me.

205

00:18:00,240 --> 00:18:05,920

And then I looked up into the sky and coming from a southeaster,

206

00:18:06,640 --> 00:18:11,960

easterly direction to a northwesterly direction, whereas this flying disk

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00:18:12,080 --> 00:18:15,520

was one of a better name, a Brian Saucer.

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00:18:16,680 --> 00:18:21,000

It was, I would say, around 150 feet around in circumference.

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00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:24,000

And there was three distinct parts of it.

210

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:29,360

There was an inner circle, a metal circle, which rotated around this inner circle

211

00:18:29,840 --> 00:18:35,400

and an outside circle, which are about one third of the area on each side

212

00:18:35,840 --> 00:18:40,560

was covered with openings somewhat similar to an airliner opening.

213

00:18:41,160 --> 00:18:47,680

Now, this inner circle rotated and a clockwise very slowly, and it went over

214

00:18:47,680 --> 00:18:50,160

me practically right over my head.

215

00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:55,440

And I would say it was traveling at a speed approximately 60 to 70

216

00:18:55,440 --> 00:18:56,400

miles per hour.

217

00:18:56,800 --> 00:19:01,440

I would say that the thing was approximately 250 to 300 feet above me,

218

00:19:01,440 --> 00:19:02,920

not over 400 feet.

219

00:19:03,720 --> 00:19:06,000

It was of a dirty aluminum color.

220

00:19:06,600 --> 00:19:11,040

And I got a tendency to indicate the southern edge

221

00:19:11,680 --> 00:19:15,840

as sloping up, which would indicate to me that it was about 15 to 20

222

00:19:15,840 --> 00:19:17,640

feet thick at the center.

223

00:19:18,320 --> 00:19:22,360

It would give you the idea that it was a rocket type of

224

00:19:24,400 --> 00:19:25,400

combustion rather.

225

00:19:25,640 --> 00:19:29,760

It didn't give you the indication of a make and break like a motor or anything

226

00:19:29,760 --> 00:19:33,360

like that. It was a continuous whistling sound.

227

00:19:33,400 --> 00:19:35,800

Conditions were very, very fine for observing.

228

00:19:35,920 --> 00:19:40,680

I mean that it was just as clear as a bell and I could just frankly see

229

00:19:40,680 --> 00:19:43,280

each and every detail to the outline of it.

230

00:19:44,120 --> 00:19:47,880

In order to check the whole question of design, to find out whether or not a

231

00:19:47,880 --> 00:19:50,240

saucer like object, such as the one described by Dr.

232

00:19:50,240 --> 00:19:54,320

Hunter could maintain itself in flight, according to the basic laws of aerodynamics.

233

00:19:54,920 --> 00:19:57,680

We call for the opinion of one of the nation's outstanding aeronautical

234

00:19:57,680 --> 00:20:01,640

engineers, Hall Hibbard, his vice president and chief engineer of

235

00:20:01,680 --> 00:20:02,520

Lockheed aircraft.

236

00:20:02,960 --> 00:20:05,840

And here is what he has to say over the beep recording telephone.

237

00:20:06,520 --> 00:20:12,520

Well, my feeling is that it is possible to

238

00:20:13,400 --> 00:20:17,680

build and fly something that looks like a saucer

239

00:20:19,280 --> 00:20:21,280

just from the standpoint.

240

00:20:21,520 --> 00:20:28,840

But I do not believe that there is such a thing at this time.

241

00:20:29,840 --> 00:20:35,960

I do not know of anything that would be considered in that category.

242

00:20:37,120 --> 00:20:43,200

I'm very familiar with pretty much what's going on in the way of

243

00:20:43,200 --> 00:20:44,280

research and development.

244

00:20:44,440 --> 00:20:52,120

And I know nothing that would be considered as flying saucers or flying

245

00:20:52,120 --> 00:20:53,200

saucer materials.

246

00:20:53,720 --> 00:20:57,240

You can make something that looks like a saucer fly.

247

00:20:58,200 --> 00:20:59,960

If anybody would ever want to do it.

248

00:21:00,400 --> 00:21:05,000

But I do not believe that it was possible with our first knowledge to

249

00:21:05,440 --> 00:21:11,760

to have some basic speed and everything that everybody has been talking about.

250

00:21:12,560 --> 00:21:16,320

The Flying Saucer story came back in the sharp focus on Monday of the present

251

00:21:16,320 --> 00:21:20,920

week. On that day, the United States News and World Report, a national news

252

00:21:20,920 --> 00:21:25,320

magazine and Henry J. Taylor, a radio commentator, both came out with

253

00:21:25,400 --> 00:21:28,080

flat statements that flying saucers actually exist.

254

00:21:28,680 --> 00:21:32,240

Mr. Taylor said that there are two or more different objects that have been

255

00:21:32,240 --> 00:21:34,040

cited and labeled flying saucers.

256

00:21:34,400 --> 00:21:37,400

One of these objects, the true flying saucer, according to Mr.

257

00:21:37,400 --> 00:21:41,560

Taylor, is a missile round in shape, varying in size from 20 inches to

258

00:21:41,560 --> 00:21:43,240

250 feet in diameter.

259

00:21:43,600 --> 00:21:44,920

Some are guided, others are not.

260

00:21:45,760 --> 00:21:49,240

The US News and World Report article mentions nothing about these objects.

261

00:21:49,760 --> 00:21:53,560

The magazine, however, describes a jet-propelled aircraft of revolutionary

262

00:21:53,560 --> 00:21:58,000

design that agrees in some details with Mr. Taylor's second secret aircraft,

263

00:21:58,520 --> 00:22:02,240

a piloted plane capable of high speeds and high maneuverability.

264

00:22:02,880 --> 00:22:08,160

Both accounts agree that the present model stemmed directly from the XF-5U1,

265

00:22:08,480 --> 00:22:12,920

the so-called Flying Pancake, a small edition of which was built and flown in

266

00:22:12,920 --> 00:22:18,240

1942. Last night, we put a special recording line into the home of Mr.

267

00:22:18,240 --> 00:22:22,560

Charles H. Zimmerman of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, the

268

00:22:22,560 --> 00:22:25,680

man who originally designed the XF-5U1.

269

00:22:26,640 --> 00:22:29,800

We asked him about the plane, whether it ever actually flew.

270

00:22:31,200 --> 00:22:33,760

This aircraft never flew.

271

00:22:34,360 --> 00:22:42,640

The official designation of the aircraft was the XF-5U1, which was to be a

272

00:22:42,640 --> 00:22:44,960

high-performance Navy fighter.

273

00:22:45,160 --> 00:22:51,760

However, a low-powered, lightly loaded version of this craft called a V-172

274

00:22:51,880 --> 00:22:56,480

V-173 made a large number of successful flights.

275

00:22:57,320 --> 00:23:03,760

I can see the original idea for this craft back in 1933.

276

00:23:04,520 --> 00:23:07,120

As a top plane designer, we asked Mr.

277

00:23:07,120 --> 00:23:11,520

Zimmerman to give us his opinion as to whether or not a plane could be built that

278

00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:16,080

could hover like a helicopter, then take off at almost supersonic speeds.

279

00:23:16,520 --> 00:23:16,960

He said,

280

00:23:17,840 --> 00:23:24,840

it would be possible, using modern turboprop engines, to build a machine of

281

00:23:24,840 --> 00:23:31,320

this type, which would be capable of hovering and of also flying at all

282

00:23:31,320 --> 00:23:37,800

forward speeds up to possibly 550 or 600 miles per hour.

283

00:23:38,920 --> 00:23:42,720

To follow through on the problem of whether or not disc-shaped objects could

284

00:23:42,720 --> 00:23:45,360

actually fly, we got in touch with Mr.

285

00:23:45,360 --> 00:23:50,160

David C. Prince, Vice President of the General Electric Company and Chief of

286

00:23:50,160 --> 00:23:52,480

its General Engineering and Consulting Laboratory.

287

00:23:53,200 --> 00:23:53,480

Mr.

288

00:23:53,480 --> 00:23:56,080

Prince was having no part of flying saucers.

289

00:23:57,560 --> 00:24:02,160

My thought is simply that the ability of some people to get themselves is extraordinary.

290

00:24:02,640 --> 00:24:07,360

For instance, the effect of searchlights on clouds has been taken to be flying discs.

291

00:24:07,960 --> 00:24:12,680

Even radar evidence is not conclusive here because rain in the clouds would show

292

00:24:12,680 --> 00:24:14,560

up on a radar screen.

293

00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:20,680

The only saucer-shaped aircraft which we know has flown, and that only a few times,

294

00:24:20,920 --> 00:24:23,840

is a propeller-powered disc developed by NACA.

295

00:24:24,400 --> 00:24:30,320

As a matter of fact, a cigar-shaped craft with a single revolving wing jet-powered

296

00:24:30,640 --> 00:24:34,120

could be faster and certainly would be much more maneuverable.

297

00:24:34,640 --> 00:24:39,760

In flight, this plane might look like a disc because of the halo created by its

298

00:24:39,760 --> 00:24:41,120

rapidly revolving wing.

299

00:24:41,520 --> 00:24:45,120

Such a craft would have flight characteristics similar to hummingbirds.

300

00:24:46,640 --> 00:24:49,720

Late this afternoon, we tried to tote up the score.

301

00:24:50,280 --> 00:24:54,960

On one desk, we had a pile of clippings, news reports, recordings of eye-witness

302

00:24:54,960 --> 00:24:56,960

accounts of flying saucer observations.

303

00:24:57,880 --> 00:25:00,120

We had the Taylor broadcast, the U.S.

304

00:25:00,120 --> 00:25:01,640

News and World Report article.

305

00:25:02,320 --> 00:25:06,880

On another desk, we had our Project Saucer Report, the transcripts of our

306

00:25:06,880 --> 00:25:11,600

conversations with leading scientists and engineers, who, to use a gentle phrase,

307

00:25:11,960 --> 00:25:15,120

discounted the possibility of any such thing as a flying saucer.

308

00:25:15,800 --> 00:25:19,480

On that desk, too, was the news ticker dispatch from the United States

309

00:25:19,480 --> 00:25:23,560

Submarine Base at Key West Florida, a dispatch that quoted President

310

00:25:23,560 --> 00:25:27,040

Truman's press secretary, Charles Ross, as saying that President

311

00:25:27,040 --> 00:25:31,480

Truman has no knowledge of any secret project by this government that would

312

00:25:31,480 --> 00:25:34,040

give substance to the existence of such objects.

313

00:25:34,680 --> 00:25:39,520

Ross also said that both the Air Force and the Navy deny that such objects exist.

314

00:25:41,200 --> 00:25:42,280

We tried to add it all up.

315

00:25:43,400 --> 00:25:47,280

We admit that now, as before we started our case, we have no opinion.

316

00:25:47,960 --> 00:25:49,360

The figures just don't add up.

317

00:25:50,520 --> 00:25:51,520

So we went to the public.

318

00:25:51,880 --> 00:25:55,320

We went to the man and the woman on the street to see how they were reacting to

319

00:25:55,320 --> 00:25:59,160

this barrage of positive sightings and just as positive denials.

320

00:26:00,320 --> 00:26:01,400

We wondered how they felt.

321

00:26:02,080 --> 00:26:02,600

They told it.

322

00:26:03,360 --> 00:26:06,480

Well, I think there's more to it than meets the eye, and I think it's more

323

00:26:06,480 --> 00:26:08,240

to it than what they're writing about.

324

00:26:08,600 --> 00:26:10,360

First, now, I don't think such things exist.

325

00:26:10,440 --> 00:26:11,480

I don't see how it could.

326

00:26:11,960 --> 00:26:15,960

I have a confidence that something on that order may exist.

327

00:26:16,880 --> 00:26:22,680

I lived in North Carolina in 1903 when the reporter for the New York

328

00:26:22,680 --> 00:26:26,480

world was fired for reporting that the Wright brothers flew.

329

00:26:27,080 --> 00:26:28,360

Some say they're stars.

330

00:26:28,400 --> 00:26:30,120

Some say they're enemy.

331

00:26:30,400 --> 00:26:30,920

Action.

332

00:26:31,560 --> 00:26:32,400

All kinds of things.

333

00:26:32,400 --> 00:26:33,440

I really don't know.

334

00:26:33,560 --> 00:26:34,920

It might be something to it.

335

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:36,000

Your imagination.

336

00:26:36,200 --> 00:26:38,720

I didn't believe it first, but now I'm beginning to believe it.

337

00:26:38,960 --> 00:26:40,480

Most of the thing is flying saucers.

338

00:26:40,880 --> 00:26:44,600

Well, I believe a present Truman, like the rest of us, has the right to his own

339

00:26:44,600 --> 00:26:45,280

opinion.

340

00:26:46,440 --> 00:26:51,000

And now, just in case all this is added to the celestial confusion about your

341

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:54,120

heads, we've summarized the data we've been able to gather.

342

00:26:54,560 --> 00:26:58,440

Sorted out the points of agreement and disagreement, along those who claim to

343

00:26:58,440 --> 00:26:59,840

have seen flying saucers.

344

00:27:00,840 --> 00:27:01,760

Here is what we found.

345

00:27:02,640 --> 00:27:05,320

Nearly all these observers are in agreement on the color of the

346

00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:05,760

object.

347

00:27:06,200 --> 00:27:09,320

It's a metallic color, they say, something like aluminum or silver.

348

00:27:10,200 --> 00:27:14,560

Almost everybody agrees the objects are generally disc shaped, but with wide

349

00:27:14,560 --> 00:27:18,320

variation, sometimes balloon like or resembling a giant rubber ball.

350

00:27:19,160 --> 00:27:22,920

Still others describe them as elongated cigar shaped things.

351

00:27:24,000 --> 00:27:28,880

Speed of the saucers has been estimated at from zero to 1200 miles an hour.

352

00:27:29,840 --> 00:27:34,160

And when we get into the question of maneuverability, the observers seem not

353

00:27:34,160 --> 00:27:37,080

to be able to find the precise or adequate words.

354

00:27:38,160 --> 00:27:42,880

They say that the saucers hover, accelerate and decelerate rapidly.

355

00:27:43,800 --> 00:27:49,000

They say that some of the objects flutter, oscillate, drift, whirl or float.

356

00:27:50,440 --> 00:27:54,600

There seems to be no fixed pattern of flight in cases where more than one or

357

00:27:54,600 --> 00:27:56,040

two discs have been reported.

358

00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:01,720

But several persons have said that in group flights, one of the discs seems to

359

00:28:01,720 --> 00:28:06,720

be of a distinct color, indicating possibly that this off color disc was

360

00:28:06,720 --> 00:28:09,760

the monitor or the control disc for the others.

361

00:28:11,240 --> 00:28:14,840

A small percentage of the observers has said the discs bore light.

362

00:28:15,560 --> 00:28:20,800

And in five cases, at points as far apart as Alabama and California, the

363

00:28:20,800 --> 00:28:23,560

viewers said the disc suddenly disappeared in flight.

364

00:28:24,800 --> 00:28:28,080

But when we get around to estimating altitudes at which the objects were

365

00:28:28,080 --> 00:28:32,480

cited, we find that some observers say they saw them at 250 feet.

366

00:28:32,840 --> 00:28:35,680

Others guess the discs were at 40,000 feet in the sky.

367

00:28:36,400 --> 00:28:41,400

While one observer estimated the number of discs seen at 100, nearly all thought

368

00:28:41,400 --> 00:28:42,720

the number was less than 10.

369

00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:47,920

And about half those who claim to have seen the objects said they saw only single

370

00:28:47,920 --> 00:28:48,360

saucers.

371

00:28:49,240 --> 00:28:54,040

Well, these are the things men and women in various parts of the United States

372

00:28:54,280 --> 00:28:56,280

say they have seen in the sky.

373

00:28:57,520 --> 00:29:02,480

Men of science and high government officials cast a skeptical eye at these

374

00:29:02,480 --> 00:29:05,280

reported sightings of celestial phenomena.

375

00:29:07,600 --> 00:29:11,480

So far in the course of this broadcast, there have been no reliable reports of

376

00:29:11,480 --> 00:29:14,000

the sighting of any new flying saucers.

377

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:16,440

Frankly, we don't know the answer.

378

00:29:17,440 --> 00:29:20,520

We wonder, do you believe in flying saucer?

379

00:29:22,040 --> 00:29:26,160

You'll be listening to the case of the flying saucer, special report narrated by

380

00:29:26,160 --> 00:29:26,880

Edward R. Murrow.

381

00:29:27,920 --> 00:29:31,520

The case of the flying saucer was based on extensive research collected with the

382

00:29:31,520 --> 00:29:35,840

aid of CBS affiliated stations and CBS newsmen across the country.

383

00:29:36,560 --> 00:29:38,760

Portions of this broadcast were transcribed.

384

00:29:39,520 --> 00:29:41,400

This program was written by EarthUnic.

385

00:29:42,120 --> 00:29:46,080

This program was written by EarthUnic, directed by John Deets, produced by

386

00:29:46,080 --> 00:29:47,400

Robert Bendick and Irving Githam.

387

00:29:48,520 --> 00:29:51,280

Mr. Murrow appeared in this program with the courtesy of Makers of

388

00:29:51,280 --> 00:29:52,400

Franco-American Spaghetti.

389

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:55,160

This is CBS, the Columbia Broadcasting System.