

THE FIFTH HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE

UFOS: A HISTORY

1947 January 1st – June 23rd

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES

By

Loren E. Gross

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Fremont CA

“UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse.”

--- Dr. Lincoln La Paz

“Supplemental Notes” consist of material under consideration for any revision of the original UFO history volume covering this time period.

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ARKIVET FÖR
UFO-FORSKNING
Box 11027
600 11 NORRKÖPING 11
Tel. 011-13 86 66, 16 77 84

LG
2000

Some notes about sources:

Nearly all of the government documents utilized in the "Supplemental Notes" in my UFO history series were obtained by Robert Todd and Jan Aldrich, involving considerable effort and expense on their part. Thousands of pages of AFIN UFO records were furnished to the two researchers by the National Archives and Records Services (NARS) from the Director of Intelligence decimal files 000.9 "Flying Discs" file. These are not part of the Blue Book files but are part of the same record group #341. Hundreds more were obtained by Jan and Robert from the National Air Intelligence Center (NAIC), 4180 Watson Way, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, 45433-5648. The NAIC furnished documents listed under: "Project Sign 1948/1949 Investigative Reports, 333.5, Investigations." Moreover, some more information was obtained from the Inspector General, USAF, Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Files, Record Group #341, Entry 63A. ---L.E. Gross

WANTED: Any UFO material related to the summer 1947 UFO wave. Contact: Project 1947, Box 391, Canterbury CT 06331

XXXXXXXX

Early January.

The "Man in the Moon?" The Swedish Ghost Rockets? (See clippings below)

Famed Flying Missile of Rocky Butte Seems Doomed to Be Eternal Mystery

Who threw the rock at Rocky Butte?

That question Wednesday seemed destined to take its place among unsolved mysteries, as Hill Military academy authorities, physicists and others involved discounted all theories that had been advanced to explain the origin of the small cylinder that last Saturday morning smashed to the ground near two members of the academy's faculty.

Who threw it?

Was it the explosive force of air pressure behind it?

Academy authorities said that the missile could not have come from the nose of a decorative shell casing imbedded on the parade ground, even though Portland physicists said that mounting air pressure in the casing could have sent any object used as a plug hurtling into the air to become such a missile as that which fell.

Laboratory tests also found that particles in the shell cavity were similar to the substance in the missile. But Hill Cadet Lt. Allen Main said Wednesday that he helped paint the decorative shells last spring and that the shell casing had no plug. Joseph A. Hill, head of the academy said the shell had never been plugged.

Was it a prankish student?

It developed Wednesday that there were but three cadets at the school when the incident occurred. Capt. Leon G. Thompson, was was one of those near

whom the missile fell, said that none of these boys could have thrown it. He had left them just a moment before and all were on the lower floor of one of the barracks. Cadets Main and Von Kessler Wednesday blushingly admitted that they had telephoned The Oregonian Tuesday night to deliver the false anonymous message that the object had been thrown from a roof top.

U. S. army authorities discounted the possibility that the object could have found its source in rockets sighted recently over Sweden.

Was it the U. S. army?

An ordnance official stated emphatically that the substance

found in the missile was not in any U. S. rocket experiment.

Was it an airplane?

The civil aeronautics authority reported that no planes were in the sky over Portland when the object fell.

Was it a man of Mars?

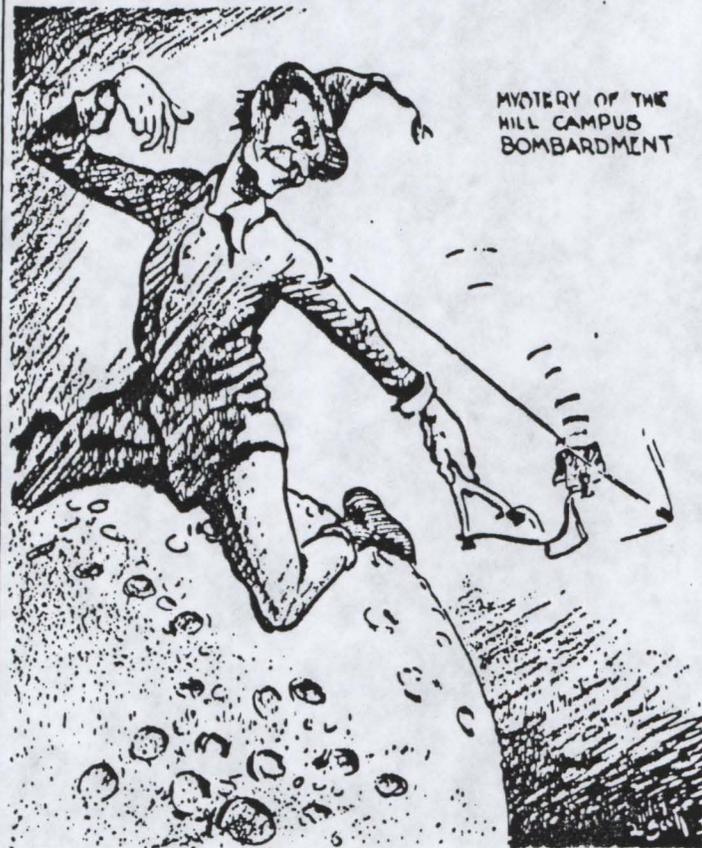
Tom Matthews, of the state department of geology, who made the spectographic analysis of the missile, said he discovered nothing to indicate that the material may have come from the outer space.

Nobody knows—or won't tell—who threw what, if any, at whom, if any.

The Portland, Oregon Oregonian

8 January 47 & 9 January 47

Or Maybe the Man in the Moon



MYSTERY OF THE HILL CAMPUS BOMBARDMENT

During normal night-flying practice at 2230 hours on 16th Jan. one of British Mosquitos, ~~numbered~~ was vectored on to an unidentified A/C at 22,000 ft. A long chase ensued commencing over the North Sea about 50 miles from the Dutch Coast and ending at 2300 hours over Norfolk. Two brief AI contacts were made but faded quickly. The unidentified aircraft appeared to take efficient controlled evasive action.

No explanation of this incident has been forthcoming nor has it been repeated.

SECRET

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Date 16 Jan 47
2. Time 2230
3. Location 50 miles from Dutch coast to Norfolk, England
4. Name of observer Reported by Air Ministry Great Britain
5. Occupation of observer pilot of Mosquito
6. Address of observer N/S
7. Place of observation 50 miles from Dutch coast 52° 52' N 02° 37' E
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight N/S - object chased from 2230 to 2300 hours
11. Altitude 22,000 ft
12. Speed N/S - faster than Mosquito
13. Direction of flight west (from Dutch Coast to Norfolk)
14. Tactics Evasive controlled action
15. Sound N/S
16. Size N/S
17. Color N/S
18. Shape N/S
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions N/S - night
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: (over)

SECRET

18 January. Helsinki, Finland. (9:30 p.m.)

“Rocket-like phenomena.”

According to a Navy Department Intelligence report, the sighting of a “rocket-like” phenomena was published in the Helsinki press. The U.S. Naval Attache in Finland forwarded a translation to Washington:

“An amateur observer (M. Niamala) observed what appeared to be a rocket at 2130 on Saturday [the 18th] evening. Mr. Niamala, who was working at the most 10 seconds, at three second intervals. It appeared and disappeared five or six times, after which the flame (light) changed to a white glow and finally a dark red color. The rocket seemed to be on a curving course approaching from the north and at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. Just before the rocket disappeared (for the last time) an object resembling a parachute [?] was seen to fall to earth. This was observed through a telescope.” (xx.)

(xx.) Intelligence Report. Issued by the Intelligence Division, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Department. Serial # R-5-S-47. From: U.S. Naval Attache, Helsinki, Finland. Reference (a) Alusna Helsinki R-21-S-46 dated 22 August 1946. Source Press and Official Liaison Officer. Evaluation C-3. Subject: FINLAND-Army/Navy-Guided Missile. Date of Report: 10 February 47. Copy in author's files.

20 January. More information from another American military attache.

The American Naval attache in London, Commander Jenkins, learned more from the Chief Scientist of the British Ministry of Supply, Sir Ben Lockspeiser, who passed on what he had learn from an informal conversation. (See pages 4-5)

Since the second page does not reproduce well, the important part of it is retyped here:

“Swedes are themselves in doubt that reported phenomena might be of Russian origin but prefer to have British and American authorities believe so. No fragments have been recovered, but Swedes advance theory of consumable [“case” –not clear] like magnesium or plastics. When queried by Sir Ben as to how such materials could be designed to withstand firing conditions and stresses, Swedes had no further explanations or comments. Sir Ben feels that though possible, it is highly improbable that these phenomena which continue to be reported from time to time are due to other than natural causes plus popular imagination. This opinion is strengthened by fact that no official observer or person of recognized authority in Sweden has observed any of these later phenomena. However, British will continue to keep Peenamunde area under surveillance.”

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 785011
By JJ NARA Date 10/14/84

WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET TOT

Page 2

From: USMA London England sgd Holly acting

Nr : 71395

20 January 1947

11 seconds for an average of 618.4 miles per hour.

On 20 January Air Marshal Sir Norman Howard Bottomley KCB, CIE, DSO, AFC, relinquished command of RAF Bomber Command to become Inspector General of RAF, replacing Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Sheridan Barratt, KCB, CMG, MC, retired. Air Marshal Sir Hugh William Lumsden Saunders, KBE, CB, MC, DFC, MM, is now Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Bomber Command.

Armament Research Department and Armament Design Department of Ministry of Supply now have 40% more work than their present staff and funds will permit them to complete. Heads of these departments have requested Director of Naval Ordnance and Director General of Artillery to cut their demands by 40%. In design, the great bulk of this work is sign of carriages for new weapons. Consideration is being given to placing with outside armament firms, such as Vickers-Armstrong and others, some carriage design work, thereby reducing load. Present thought in Armament Research and Armament Design departments is to concentrate primarily on basic research and basic design problems in armaments for next 2 or 3 years.

On subject of so called ghost missiles over Sweden, Sir Ben Lockspeiser, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply, recently returned from conferences in Sweden with Swedish scientific and air force authorities, gave following information in informal conversation with Commander Jenkins, Office of

CM IN 3830

(21 Jan 47)

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COPY NO.

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Incoming & Outgoing Messages, 1947
LAPARL, WP R6 319 857 Box 24 270/7/17/3 -
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London Mil. Attache' from 71348-71999
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 Authority: NND 785011
 By: J... NARA Date: 10/1/86

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SECRET TOP

Page 3

From: USIA London England and Holly acting

Nr : 71395

20 January 1947

American Naval Attache, London.

Swedes are themselves in doubt that reported phenomena might be of Russian origin but prefer to have British and American authorities believe so. No fragments have been recovered, but Swedes advance theory of consumable gas like magnesium or plastics. When queried by Sir Ben as to how such materials could be designed to withstand firing conditions and stresses, Swedes had no further explanations or comments. Sir Ben feels that though possible, it is highly improbable that these phenomena which continue to be reported from time to time are due to other than natural causes plus popular imagination. This opinion is strengthened by fact that no official observer or person of recognized authority in Sweden has observed any of these later phenomena. However, British will continue to keep Peapomunde area under surveillance.

Burmese Talks opened 13 January with Yorkshire Times and Daily Telegraph editorially emphasizing that Britain should not be "pushed" in response to delegations program. Attlee's welcoming speech declared Britain to be of open mind, sympathetic with no desire to hold Burma within the Empire. (Principal demand of delegation for independence in one year prominently highlighted and appears, together with proposals for election procedures, to be biggest stumbling block.

Relations with Albania provided mostly factual articles with most editorials emphasizing Britains' good position and

CM IN 3830

(21 Jan 47)

SECRET

COPY NO. 10

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? January. Near Fredensborg, Denmark. (6:30 a.m.)

Meteor?

According to our source:

"In January 1947, a special worker of Birkerød saw in the sky about Grønholt south of Fredensborg, at 6:30 h, an object that was round, bright yellow, gliding at low altitude and at a rate of 6-700 km p.h. over the sky from south-east to west. Abstract from text: 'The object looked like a comet with the difference, however, that it left a trailing rain of sparkles that fell to the ground. The object was so close that I could see the sparkles fall down in front of the outskirts of a wood about 500 m away.'" (xx.)

(xx.) "1947 Reports from Sweden and Scandinavia." Compiled and translated by Anders Liljegren. Archives for UFO Research (AFU). Footnote by Liljegren: (UFO-NYT, January 1960) Liljegren's report is part of Jan L. Aldrich's book: *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report on the 1947 UFO Sighting Wave*, published by the UFO Research Coalition, 1997. See page 128.

Additional footnotes referring to Aldrich's book will be given as: *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report*.

January. England. (Midnight)

"Ghost Plane X362" makes its first appearance.

RAF radar picked up a track of something flying at 30,000 feet. It zoomed over the East Anglia coast at a speed of 400 miles an hour heading west. The target was logged in as track "X362," "X" being the RAF symbol for "unidentified". This incident became quite mysterious when the object made repeat appearances of the same nature. (xx.)

(xx.) Boston, Massachusetts. *Boston Globe*. 30 April 47.

First week in February. Somewhere in Sweden. (no time)

"Something like a torpedo."

A Swedish Air Force officer approached Captain J.B. Pearson, Jr., USN, and provided the following information:

"A Swedish Artillery officer sighted a missile in an optical range finder and was able to follow it for about one and a half minutes. It was approximately in level flight at about 8000 meters distant, and was reported as being about twelve meters long, shaped something like a torpedo. Due to the angle, the officer was unable to determine whether or not there were wings." (xx.)

(xx.) From: Tully Shelley, American Embassy, Office of the Naval Attache, London. To: Chief of Naval Intelligence. Subject: Alleged rockets over Sweden. TOP SECRET. Date: 8 April 47. Copy in author's files.

February. Verviers, Belgium.

Saucers over Verviers?

Some inhabitants of the town of Verviers, near Liege, reported mysterious objects in the sky. Reports were said to be greeted initially with thinly-veiled skepticism, but within days hundreds of other people also saw the objects. (xx.) More objects were seen in March.

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Rocky Mountain News*. 7 July 47.

17 February. Swedish Colonel Westergard.

An Intelligence report by U.S. Naval Attache Capt. J.B. Pearson, Jr., dated February 17th, was submitted to Washington. It said it part:

“During the conversation on guided missiles Colonel Westergard who heads up the Airplane Design Section of the Air Ministry made the following statements relative to the missiles which have been reported over Sweden from an unknown source:

- a.) There have been about 1,000 observations of which about 40% are reliable. These observations are not necessarily of different missiles, as many reports have apparently been made on the same missile. They seem to run from a point near Peenemunde and the general path is judged to be between Peenemunde and Karelia (near Finland).
- b.) It was stated that the best observation was from an officer of an artillery group who sighted a missile in his optical range finder and was able to follow it for about 1½ minutes. It was in approximately level flight at about 8,000 meters distance and was reported as being about 12 meters long, shaped something like a torpedo. Due to the angle the officer was unable to determine whether or not there were wings.” (xx.)

(xx.) Intelligence Report. Issued by the Intelligence Division, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department. Serial # A9-S-47. From: U.S. Naval Attache, London, England. Reference: “None.” Source: Swedish – Official. Evaluation: “A-1.” [Not clear in text] Subject: Sweden – Aviation. Date of Report: 17 February 47. Copy in author's files.

28 February. Mr. Flickinger's “Spook Rocket” report.

Members of the U.S. Army Air Force's Defensive Air Branch questioned a Mr. Flickinger, Vice President in charge of exports for Republic Aviation Corporation, who had just returned to the States after a visit to Sweden. Among other things, Mr. Flickinger made a curious, brief remark: "Mr. Flickinger stated that he had seen one of the Swedish 'Spook Rockets' in flight, which resembled the V-1 buzz bomb but was somewhat smaller. The noise from this missile was more like that of a rocket than like a V-1 [the V-1 made a fluttering roar somewhat like a prop-driven aircraft. An air breather, the V-1's air intake vents opened and closed with a rapid and discernible rhythm]" (xx.)

(xx.) Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington. Memorandum for AC/AS-2 and ONI. Subject: Daily Activity Report. CONFIDENTIAL. James F. Olive, Jr. Colonel, G.S.C. Chief, Air Intelligence Division (AC/AS-2-O.N.I.) Date: 28 February 47. Copy in author's files.

March. Verviers, Belgium.

"Turn, dip, whizz straight?"

Strange objects, which were first seen in air over the town of Verviers in February, were still being seen in the month of March. A woman named Terry later told the American press that when she left Verviers in March (another place in the same news article says April), the Verviers newspaper *Le Jour*: "...carried a full account of the sightings of the saucers. One appeared to have fallen in a garden in the suburbs, but police were unable to find anything Jules Verne-ish at the site." (xx.) Moreover: "...the discs—the European variety of which turn and dip as

(xx.) Denver, Colorado. *Rocky Mountain News*. 7 July 47. p.5.

well as whiz straight overhead—were still in evidence, and still unexplained." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

14/11? March. V-weapons in the Soviet Far East?

The Army's Daily Activity Report mentioned:

"Unconfirmed information obtained by the Assistant Naval Attache in Peiping from Chinese intelligence sources indicates the possibilities of recent V-weapon activity in the vicinity of Talaya (in the eastern end of the Transbaikal-Amur Military District). SOURCES: CM-IN-211, Assistant Naval Attache, Peiping, 10/19/47, no evaluation, and CM-In-2117, 11 March 47 – SECRET Eval: C-3 (Major Sykes, Ext.6625) COMMENT: This is the first indication that has been received that the Russians may be experimenting with V-weapons in the Soviet Far East as well as other parts of the Soviet Union." (xx.)

(xx.) Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington. Memorandum for AC/AS-2 and ONI. Subject: Daily Activity Report. James F. Olive, Jr. Colonel, G.S.C. Chief, Air Intelligence Division. Date: 14 March 47. Copy in author's files.

This Chinese V-weapon Intelligence may explain why the British mission in Tokyo received an inquiry from General MacArthur (who at this time was Command-in-Chief of American forces in the Far East) about a story making the rounds a strange missile had crashed in England. (xx.) The date of MacArthur's inquiry is not given by our source.

- (xx.) Jones, R.V. "APPENDIX V: The Natural Philosophy of Flying Saucers." *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. Daniel S. Gillmor, ed. E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc.: New York, 1969. p.927.

21 March. "Ghost Rocket" activity makes the pages of the *New York Times*.
(See clipping)

8 April. Report on Ghost Rockets by U.S. Naval Attache.

A report to Chief of Naval Intelligence in Washington said in part:

"Since the issue by the Air Ministry of the two papers on the alleged rockets over Sweden, references (b) and (c) [(b) COMNAVEU Sec. NNI-96, 752-S-46 of 20 Sept. 1946 and enclosures thereto. (c) ALUSNA Sec. NNI-96, A346-S-46 of 6 Dec. 1946 and enclosures thereto.], both of which were forwarded to ONI [Office of Naval Intelligence], no information of sufficient significance has been obtained to warrant even the contemplation of a third paper. However, the Air Ministry did receive from the Swedish Air Force bits of material which had been subjected to high temperatures, and which the Swedes thought might possibly have been a part of a guided missile. These bits of material were given thorough tests and sent back to Sweden with the report that they in themselves did not afford sufficient evidence to show they were part of a guided missile.

(xx.)

- (xx.) American Embassy, Office of the Naval Attache, London. From: Tully Shelley, U.S. Naval Attache, London. To: Chief of Naval Intelligence. Subject: Alleged rockets over Sweden. S78-1(5) TOP SECRET. Date: 8 April 47. Copy in Author's files.

Furthermore:

"The Naval Attache is of the opinion that a rocket or guided missile was

'Phantom Bomb' Returns To Skies Over Sweden

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, March 21—Another of the "phantom bombs" that were seen frequently over Sweden last fall was observed today over the southern part of the country by several persons. At first they thought it an airplane, but looking more intently they noticed that smoke was coming from the tail and that its shape differed from that of a plane.

The projectile was flying from east to west at a considerable height. The witnesses described it as a cigar-shaped metallic body, approximately sixty feet long, traveling at slow speed and making no noise.

The "bomb" was visible for a considerable time and smoke was observed long after the projectile disappeared. Judging from the smoke, the missile turned at a certain point and flew back eastward.

seen over Sweden, possibly three or four, but that the remaining numerous reportings were only conjecture.

"In formulating the above opinion on the alleged rockets, the following items, in addition to the British reports, were taken into consideration:

- "(a.) Peenemunde was a German V-2 development center and is now part of the Russian Zone.
- "(b.) There is evidence that the Russians have been working on the V-2 at Peenemunde, aided by German scientists formerly connected with the Project.
- "(c.) It is quite likely that the Russians in their experimental and development work have fired some of the V-2's, as has been done in the United States for experimental purposes, and that the Russians with their lack of knowledge and experience in guided missiles are probably not too accurate when it comes to firing same.
- "(d.) An error of 5 – 10 degrees in the azimuth of a rocket or missile fired up the Baltic Sea from Peenemunde or the immediate vicinity could easily cause the path of the missile to be over Sweden from well inland to the shore line.
- "(e.) A team from the British Air Ministry was sent to Sweden to investigate the alleged rockets with negative results. The final report of the Air Ministry, reference (a.) [(a.) ONI Sec. Ltr. 001642P32 of 4 Feb. 1947] Was based on the findings of this team." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.2.

9 April. The Central Intelligence Group's report on "Flying Projectiles." (See pages 11-14)

? April. Vendee, Roche-sur-Yon, France. (daytime)

"Flying Saucers" may or may not have been seen in Belgium, but we do have at least 3 stories from neighboring France. Here is the first one (no exact date) from Vendee, Roche-sur-Yon:

"In April 1947, I was in Vendee, at Roche-sur-Yon to be more precise, for several days whilst on holiday with my mother's family. My uncle and aunt were both working, so I found myself alone at their house.

"As the weather was bright and particularly spring-like, I sat down by a pathway which ran down to the garden, armed with a gripping book which was *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas. To this day I cannot explain what it was that compelled me to raise my head towards the brilliant blue sky.

"It was then that I observed passing over the roof of the house towards the right of our house (from my viewpoint), a metallic globe that seemed to move by rotation, and whose sphere was surrounded by a ring. A very small antenna was fixed upon its peak. The craft made not a sound." (xx.)

(xx.) Dominique Weinstein, Perry Petrakis, and Jean Sider. "1947 UFO Cases From France." *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report.* p.161.

"The so-called 'ghost rocket' has again been sighted near Sundsvall where today (July 18) three workers saw a cylinder-shaped, shiny object moving in the sky at an altitude of 200 to 300 meters, noiselessly and without any smoke exhaust. It was moving at first towards the west, but before disappearing, it had a northwesterly course." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, July 18, 1946, 1:30 p.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 19, 1946.)

"A morning newspaper (unnamed) writes today that the mysterious projectiles that have been observed over Scandinavia cannot be dismissed as ghost planes. The paper writes further: 'Pending the results of the further investigations being made in Norrbotten — if there is anything left to investigate — it could be wished that the authorities make it known in a suitable way that we do not wish our country to become a target. Those who send out these projectiles apparently wish to know how far they can go and we very kindly give this information in the press, in telegrams, and reports from the different places. Perhaps we ought to stop this in order not to encourage any further traffic. If the sender-country did not receive any information from us, perhaps they would find it more advantageous to direct the fire to another place less thickly populated, and where it would be equally possible to follow the line of the projectiles. Such possibilities over the open sea exist if ships and planes are handy. International courtesy should demand a little more consideration, even if it would cost a little more in money and trouble, provided of course that the "X" country does not wish to give the practice as much publicity as possible in order to impress "Y" country or "Z" country. At the moment the publicity is a Swedish interest and the work is helped by finding out what it is all about. To a certain extent the attention paid to it by the press is a suitable introduction for a severe protest, which cannot be left out when there are results from the investigation.'" (Stockholm, Overseas Service in English, July 22, 12:40 p.m. EST -L; FBIB Daily Report for July 23, 1946)

"Yesterday a visitor from London saw a ring projectile. He told a newspaper it looked like a V-2 bomb. The visitor, a Mr. Harrison, served in England during the war and saw V-1 and V-2 bombs countless times. The Swedish defense staff is, however, not making a statement on the matter for the time being." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 13, 1946 6:30 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 13, 1946)

... "The experts have ascertained with certainty that the 11 centimeter-long object of unknown origin which was found does not come from any stratosphere projectile. The same applies to certain pieces of copper found. These have probably been lying on the ground for a long time... nothing has so far been revealed from which one can decide with certainty whether the light phenomena and so forth which have been observed come from... stratosphere projectiles..." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 14, 1946, 4:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 15, 1946)

... "A flying object somewhat different from those observed previously, was seen this morning by four people working in a woodyard near one of the large lakes in central Norrland. It resembled a small airplane, and flew at an altitude of about 200 meters, making a hissing noise. It had a short body, a tail and two small wings. The object descended at colossal speed and crashed into the lake." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 14, 1946, 1:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 15, 1946)

-3-

"In an editorial about the stratospheric bombs which have recently been seen over Sweden, SKAANSKA DAGBLADET says that it is the general assumption that they have a new kind of radio-directed weapon. It is suggested that the Russians have found incomplete German weapons about which there was so much talk in the last phases of the war, and that they are trying to perfect these weapons by experimenting with them over Swedish territory. SKAANSKA DAGBLADET continues: 'But a scientist who has seen one is of the opinion that they are meteors. Undoubtedly it will be established shortly which is correct. The Swedish authorities are making every effort to clear up the matter.' The newspaper is of the opinion that the theory of experimenting with weapons is the correct one. Two of the so-called stratospheric rockets were observed early this morning over (Storeby) near Koege. They came from the south and resembled cigars with flames...One of the rockets...at an altitude of about one kilometer and it was possible to follow its course northward. The rockets were seen by several people." (Kalundberg, Danish Home Service, August 16, 1946, 11:40 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946)

"Many people say that they saw stratospheric rockets over Oeresund last night. Two oblong, glowing objects moving from south to north with smoke coming out of their tails were seen at (Snekkesten)." (Kalundberg, Danish Home Service, August 18, 1946, 5:30 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

"This morning a stratospheric projectile was observed over a town in southern Sweden which exploded with a loud bang when it met a hailstorm. Afterward a strong smell of gunpowder was noticed. The explosion was so strong that the houses shook. It was about 500 meters high. After the explosion what appeared to be a mist collected, and it was still to be observed after the hailstorm had passed. According to meteorological experts, who were approached by the Air Defense Division of the General Staff, a very probable explanation is that it was a tornado in connection with a very strong flash of lightning. The object which was believed to be seen might have been a so-called 'coil of cloud' from the tornado." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 16, 1946, 1:00 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

"A report from Goeteborg says that a mysterious bright light and violent explosion thought to have come from a so-called stratospheric projectile, caused some anxiety at two farms in Central Sweden late on Friday evening (Aug. 16). The explosion occurred so near the buildings that it was at first feared that a barn had caught fire. The explosion was heard round about the farms and at some places a bright light resembling a meteor was seen shortly before the blast. Some observers say that they are convinced that the stratospheric projectile was an ordinary meteor." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 18, 1946, 6:40 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 19, 1946.)

"Before the big autumn maneuvers of the Swedish Air Arm, the Air Arm has given some big exhibitions at Karlsborg. The main objective was to give the 1945 Defense Investigation Committee an idea of how the Air Arm works and what resources it has. At the same time, the Chief of the Air Arm, General Nordenskiöld, took the opportunity of inspecting his forces. A new weapon had its premiere; a rocket projectile which is shortly to be put into production at Bofors. The guests were very much impressed by what they saw." (Stockholm, Swedish Home Service, August 21, 1946, 6:30 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for August 22, 1946.)

[REDACTED]

-4-

"The NEW TIMES in its news section against 'Misinformation and Calumny' exposes the anti-Soviet campaign launched in Sweden in connection with the fabrication about the flight of mysterious rockets, the provocative rumors about the arrest of German children in Soviet-occupied Germany..." (Moscow, Soviet European Service, in English to the United Kingdom, September 4, 1946, 11:00 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 5, 1946)

"During the past 2 days several aircraft of unknown nationality have been seen over Bornholm. During the same time ghost rockets have been observed over the western areas of Denmark." (Oslo, Norwegian Home Service, September 11, 1946)

"According to press dispatches from Patras, two rockets coming from the north were seen crossing the skies over the city on the night of Saturday to Sunday (September 14 - 15). (Athens, in French for "Friends of Greece Abroad", September 16, 1946, 3:30 p.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 17, 1946)

"Tetuan — The CIFRA agency announced that during the nights of last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 'reddish-green balls of fire' passed over Tangiers and, linking them with similar fire balls which recently were reported over Sweden and France, the agency suggested in careful terms that they could be flying bombs." (Paris, AFP, in French Morse to Latin America and Canada, September 16, 1946, 11:35 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 18, 1946.)

"Oviedo — A ball of luminous green light was seen to cross the sky in the early morning by a number of people. The ball had an appearance of what the press described as what a flying bomb looks like." (Valladolid, Spanish Home Service, September 19, 1946, 7:30 a.m. EST; FBIB Daily Report for September 20, 1946.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

? April. Col De Serre, near Falgoux (Cantal), France. (8:15 a.m.)

The second French case in April:

“M. Maxime Orliange, in a car, observed an object which appeared like a lens-shaped disc with a cupola above him, flying on an ascending sloping path. A blue light emanated from the place where the cupola joined the disc. The disc seemed to be 30 meters in diameter, and when it was about 400 meters away it disappeared on a near vertical path. (Guy Quincy Catalog, INTCAT #7; J. & J. Vallee, *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*, p.119; LDLN #249, p.33).” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

? April. Rothois (Oise), France. (night)

The third French case in April:

“Two young girls were followed on their way home by two luminous white spherical objects which moved near the ground. The night was clear. (LDLN #326, p.26).” (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid.

Spring (no exact date). Copenhagen, Denmark. (5:00 a.m.)

Missile or meteor?

A sighting by a Mrs. Ase Wiede of Hagersten (Stockholm) which was reported in 1991:

“I was alone when I saw this. I am deaf since 1949 [but this occurred in 1947]. Was waiting for the tram to work, at about 05.00 in the morning, when I heard a strange sound and looked up. From the Finland-Russia area [thus from the east] came a strange thing – having the shape of a cigar, strongly luminous with red, blue and neon colours – at an incredible speed. I told this story at work. In the afternoon there was an article in *Extrabladet* [Danish newspaper] that people in the early morning hours, including tram personnel, had seen it. It was dispatched as fantasies! (Aftonbladet, Stockholm, Swede, 15 December 91).” (xx.)

Anders Liljegren. “1947 Reports from Sweden and Scandinavia.” *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report*. p.130.

15 April. U.S. Naval Attache report.

“Allowed to die a quiet death.” “Unexplained press sensation.” (See document on page 16)

ISSUED BY THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
NAVY DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

(Reference to this report must specify Serial No., Page and Date.)

Serial 22-5-47 at Stockholm, Sweden Date 15 April, 1947
(Start new series each year, i. e., 1-43, 2-43.)

From U. S. Naval Attache Monograph Index Guide No. 804-360 B.I.D. .0407.
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person) (Make separate report for each main title. See O. N. I. Index Guide.)

Reference See below
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source Personal observation Evaluation A-2
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with— (A-1 to F-0 etc.)
Identify citizen pres/cable, etc.) Ref: AS/EN 3-10; SER. 4312415-11-10-43

Subject SWEDEN Guided Missiles Alleged rockets over Sweden
(Main title reported on) (Main title as per Index Guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

NOTE: (How enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

Alusna Stockholm's final opinion regarding the alleged rockets over Sweden in 1946 is that the widespread press reports last summer were not based on available factual evidence, that it is very doubtful if any of the reported missiles landed in Sweden, and that while a few stray guided missiles may have passed over Sweden, the Swedes have as yet brought forth no tangible evidence, and still insist officially that there is none.

Refs: (a) ONI Secret Ltr (SC)AS-2/EF66 Op-32F411, Ser 001642P32, dated 4 Feb 1947.
(b) MA Stkm Secret Report No. R164-47, dated 14 Mar 1947.

Encl: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. Reference (a) requested that this office forward its final opinion regarding the alleged rockets over Sweden.
2. To date no evidence is available to this office that any rockets or projectiles launched by a foreign power have passed over or landed on Scandinavian territory, although both the Swedish and the British intelligence services had stated that they would notify this office if any concrete evidence was obtained. (German V-2's landed in Sweden in 1945).
3. It is the opinion of this office that no foreign-launched guided missiles have landed in Sweden since the end of the war, and that the Swedes have no tangible evidence or even photographs to prove that such missiles have passed over Swedish territory. This skepticism is shared by M/A Stockholm's office (reference (b), enclosed).
4. While it is possible that a few captured German V-2's or other Russian-launched guided missiles may have gone astray and landed in Baltic waters, it

U. S. Stockholm Report No. 22-5-47

15 April 1947

is not believed that any have landed in Sweden. However, it is quite possible that a few guided missiles may have passed over Swedish territory.

5. The subject has in the past few months been allowed to die a quiet death, and Swedish officials prefer to dismiss it as an unexplained press sensation.

Original and copies: Use the 2 by 13 L. Main field covers accepted for additional pages. Forward to... on original and a "reproduction" copy. Officers report data the last page of original and retained file copy of report only. Submit copies of copy, statistics, etc., when practical. If practicable, prepare charts on a form suitable for black and white reproduction.

Prof. G.
H. A. ...
Ch. H. ...

Mid? April. Richmond, Virginia. (probably about 10:30 a.m.)

"Richmond 1947 Weather Bureau sighting." (See letters by Dr. James McDonald, Joseph Harden, and Walter Mincz pages 18-21)

30 April. News of the "Ghost Plane" reaches the Public.

Midnight 'Ghost' Creeps Overhead at 400 MPH

Plane, Tracked By Radar, Sweeps Over British Coast, Disappears

By Associated Press

1947
LONDON, April 30.—Recurring reports of a midnight "ghost plane" swooping out of the East at tremendous speed gave the British press a sensational aviation mystery today but the Royal Air Force, while admitting the whole thing was "slightly mysterious," refused to get excited.

Myewitness accounts said the mystery craft, first plotted by radar early in January, zooms over the East Anglia coast—as tho it came from the continent—and disappears inland at a speed of 400 miles an hour or more.

What is even odder is that the plane has never been seen making the return journey from England to the continent. RAF night fighters have tried regularly to intercept the "ghost plane" but so far

have been unsuccessful.

"Radar has plotted some strange things in its time, from children's kites and raindrops to formations of geese, but it surely never plotted a stranger thing than this," said the Yorkshire Post, adding: "Is it a diamond or drug smuggler? Is it conveying a secret agent from one foreign power to another?"

All the Air Ministry would say for sure is that the plane was traveling at 30,000 feet when radar spotted it in January. "Our night fighters always try to intercept unknown craft," a spokesman added.

This particular unknown craft is down in the official records as X362, "X" being the RAF symbol for a plane that hasn't been identified.

PLANE REPORTS DENIED

After investigating reports that an unidentified aircraft has been flying at night over East Anglian sea areas, the Air Ministry is taking no further action in the matter. "We have found no evidence to support the reports at all," an official of the Ministry stated yesterday. Investigations followed reports by radar operators of some unusual plots on their screens. **2.5.47**

DAILY TELEGRAPH

→ Spoke to WB on 10/19 & we worked it back to conclusion that photo was taken at 10:00 EST and 1600 EST in 1947.

→ 10/19 Loran line evidently covers about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the theodolite field, hence whole field must run about 45' to 40' across. Mincz's questioned object occupies $\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{4}$ of field as that comes out to about 10' of arc.

* Called again to TUS-USWB & got independent check. Electronic scan found 1.9" ($\pm 11.5^\circ$ on close - second)! Have eye would have been $\frac{1}{2}$ " - I now suspect his over-recalling eye & object, since he would not see it with naked eye

October 19, 1967

Mr. Ted R. Bloecher
317 East 83rd Street
New York, New York 10028

Dear Ted:

I'll write a separate letter here on the Richmond 1947 Weather Bureau sighting so that both of us can more conveniently file it.

The fellow's name was Walter A Minczewski. He has since abbreviated his name to Mincz. His present address is 301 North Confederate Avenue, Sandston, Va., 23150. Home phone, Area Code 703, 737-6584.

I phoned the Richmond Weather Bureau today to see what had happened to my query and was informed that two letters had been mailed a few days ago and would reach me via an intermediate office. They are letters from Mincz and from his present supervisor, a Mr. Harden. I had both letters read to me over the phone, and then obtained Mincz's telephone number and called him this afternoon.

The general details were about as originally reported by Keyhoe. It was a morning pilot-balloon run (probably about 10:30 a.m.). He believes that the theodolite was pointed to the north northeast at an elevation angle of about 45°. While tracking the balloon the disc-like object entered the field of his theodolite from right to left moving toward the northwest. He stopped tracking the balloon and manipulated the knobs to track the unknown, but had difficulty following it because of high angular velocity. He thinks he followed it for something like five to seven seconds before giving up. Then he momentarily looked up with naked eye but was unable to see it. I queried him on the apparent angular size and he said that if you represented the field of view of the instrument as a three inch circle the object would have covered about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. He did not know the angular field of the theodolite, and my references at hand don't give it, but I would guess it would be the order of 30 minutes so that would make the object out to be something like 7 or 8 minutes of arc. That is rough, however.

Mr. Ted R. Bloecher
 October 19, 1967
 Page 2

It had a metallic appearance, but not extremely shiny. As it was viewed in the theodolite it appeared to be domed on the top, but theodolites invert images, so it may be that he was only looking at the bulging bottom of an ovoid object of some sort. The edges of it were not sharply outlined even though he had the instrument focused for infinity to follow the balloon. The balloon outline he said was distinctly sharper than the object.* He thinks it was a 20-power theodolite, but is not sure of that.

He emphasized that there was at that time no talk of flying saucers and though he discussed his observation with some of the fellows at the Weather Bureau neither he nor the meteorologist-in-charge felt it was important enough to make a log-entry. It was not regarded as being of meteorological significance. Some months later when the talk of flying saucers came up he recalled the incident and mentioned it to a few people but made nothing of it. He was quite emphatic, and so is Harden in the letter of transmittal that is coming, in saying that he did not report it to any Air Force or any other official channels as nearly as he can recall. Hence, he is puzzled that a report of it is in the Air Force files. He did recall a friend showing him a paperback a half dozen years later in which an account was given which sounded to him as if it was written about himself. This is doubtless Keyhoe's FSAR.

I am curious now as to the form of the report that you saw at Project Bluebook. Do you recall whether it was put down in the form of a formal investigation? Do you recall how it came about that the spelling was incorrect with an "o" instead of a "c" in his original name? He thought it was barely possible that his boss at that time, a Mr. Wright, might have casually mentioned it to some reporter or to someone who called; but he himself was never formally queried as far as he can recall.

I have asked him if he had ever seen anything like it before or since and he said that he had not, nor have there been any other observations by Richmond Weather Bureau personnel comparable to that one.

There was nothing indefinite about Mincz's description of the sighting; it was apparently a very real observation of an essentially unexplainable phenomenon.

The probability of a UFO passing through the field of a balloon-theodolite is obviously very low, yet this is the second such case of which I have knowledge. The other occurred at Yuma, Arizona on February 4, 1953 at 1:50 p.m. I have obtained confirmation from the Yuma Weather Bureau office. In that instance two white objects entered the field and were tracked for a number of minutes. Puzzling.

(DR. JAMES E. McDONALD)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
 WEATHER BUREAU

Richmond's Byrd Field
 Sandston, Va. 23150

Oct. 12, 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. James E. McDonald
 Senior Physicist
 University of Arizona
 Institute of atmospheric Physics
 Tucson, Arizona 85721

Sgt 10/17/67

(Through: Director, ESSA Weather Bureau Eastern Region Headquarters)

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of September 19, 1967 we regret to inform you that our information concerning the incident referred to as in April, 1947 is very meager.

There is no entry in our logs or records referring to this incident. This occurrence was considerably prior to my own assignment to this office, and it can be assumed that no official record was made because the incident had no meteorological significance. However, Mr. Mincz, to whom this sighting is attributed, is still employed at this office and his brief account, as his memory serves him after these many years, is attached for your information.

MR. Mincz has never attached any particular significance to this incident since none of us is capable of positively identifying everything we see. I believe it can be safely assumed that this was not of a meteorological nature nor an ordinary or common astronomical event. It also comes as a surprise to Mr. Mincz that this incident is contained in official Air Force files since he is positive that he has never previously discussed this with anyone outside our official staff, so that the information you previously had or attributed to him from any other source would necessarily have been indirect information and not from him personally.

It is regretted that we could not provide you with any more factual information.

Yours very truly,

Joseph T. Harden
 Joseph T. Harden
 Meteorologist in Charge

JTH/rc
 CC: WBERH, New York



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
 WEATHER BUREAU

Richmond's Byrd Field
 Sandston, Va. 23150

Oct. 10, 1967

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. James E. McDonald, Senior Physicist
 The University of Arizona
 Tucson, Arizona 85721

Thru MIC, Richmond, Va., *10/10/67*
 Regional Director, Eastern Region Headquarters,
 585 Stewart Avenue
 Garden City, New York

Dear Sir:

The following is a report in connection with sighting an object while taking a pilot balloon run in 1947.

My name is Walter Alexander Mincz (name changed from Minczewski). My address is 301 North Confederate Ave., Sandston, Virginia. I am employed as a Meteorological Technician by the U. S. Weather Bureau at Byrd Field, Sandston, Virginia.

As this happened 20 years ago I cannot add much to the information contained in your letter of September 19, 1967. As nearly as I remember these are the circumstances under which I saw the flying object:

I do not know the date. You gave the month as April. I am not even sure if this is correct as no entry was made on the weather forms. I do recall, however, that the incident occurred on a clear, bright morning. I had been tracking a balloon for a few minutes when I noticed a silver disc appear in the scope. The bottom was flat and the top was slightly dome-shaped. The scope was pointing in about a NNE direction at about a 45° angle. I tracked the object for about 5 seconds as it crossed the scope proceeding on approximately a northwesterly course. I could not see it with the naked eye.

While I made no formal report on this object I did mention it to fellow workers. If I recall correctly I had not heard anything about "flying saucers" or UFO's at this time and recounted the experience merely as a curious happening.

P.S.

Note: The actual theodolite image is inverted in relation to the apparent image described above.

Very truly yours,

Walter A. Mincz
 Walter A. Mincz
 Meteorological Technician

29 April. Tucson, Arizona. (about 1:20 p.m.)

The following information was given Dr. James McDonald via a phone call on August 3, 1947, from a Mrs. E.G. Rawlins. She was 52 at the time of the incident. The other witness in the case was a Mrs. William Down. Dr. McDonald detailed Mrs. Rawlins' claims in a letter to Ted Bloecher. (See below and on pages 23-24)

Mr. Ted R. Bloecher
August 3, 1967
Page Two

Type and Number of Objects Seen: Nine small disc- or possibly saucer-shaped objects and one large object of similar shape. All were dull white, non-metallic, not highly reflective.

Estimated Size of Objects: The nine small objects were estimated by Mrs. Rawlins at perhaps 100 ft. in diameter. The larger object of the same geometric form was estimated to be three to four times as large. On querying her, I found no strong basis for those size estimates, except that she repeated several times that she felt she was a better than average judge of distances. I'm not inclined to take that opinion as entirely firm, though the total account suggested that her size estimates might not be off by more than a factor of perhaps two or three.

Description of Sighting: Mrs. R. and Mrs. D. had been sun-bathing in the back yard of the Rawlins home. Mrs. R. had stepped inside to prepare the midday meal, when she heard Mrs. D. call excitedly to her to come quickly to the back yard. On repeated urging, Mrs. R. went out and was told by Mrs. D. (who was still lying on her back looking up at the sky) to lie down, shield her eyes, and look up at the sky. Mrs. R. did so and immediately saw what had attracted Mrs. D.'s attention. Somewhat north and east of their zenith (perhaps 10° or 20° at most, I gathered), Mrs. R. spotted an isolated cloud of somewhat unusual nature. She described it as very fleecy and yet rather steamy. On this point, she was not particularly articulate, but she kept repeating that it seemed to be a rather odd cloud and was emphatic on the point that it was much lower than clouds usually were at that time of year. On discussing this with her at some length, I gathered that she was probably referring to an altitude of perhaps 10,000 ft. (clouds here at that dry time of year do not ordinarily have bases much below 12,000 to 14,000 ft.) She stressed that this was the only cloud to be seen anywhere in the sky, which further indicates its possibly unusual nature. Moving around "in Yo-yo fashion" were a number of small disc-like objects with dull white finish. At times there would be two or three, at times more than that. They were moving up and down and occasionally sideways and would intermittently disappear into or behind (i.e., above) the cloud. They were round in plan

Mr. Ted R. Bloecher
 August 3, 1967
 Page Three

form, but they were not spherical, she said. She indicated that they felt there might be a slight bulge on the under-surface, somewhat like looking at the bottom of a shallow bowl or saucer. They never tipped or flipped, and since they were rather near the zenith, they only looked like circular discs to the witnesses.

She estimates that they watched the objects "playing around the cloud" for perhaps five to seven minutes. The cloud, she indicated, was somewhat oblong and was perhaps twenty times longer than the diameter of the objects and ten times wider than the objects. After awhile, all of the objects seemed to disappear above the cloud, hidden from sight. Then suddenly the large object (several times larger than the small objects) emerged from the cloud or from above it and moved out eastward a bit. Then behind it came a formation of four of the little ~~clouds~~ ^{discs} in row abreast, followed by three abreast, and then two abreast, making a total of nine small discs following in an over-all V-formation (point to the rear) behind the large object. Mrs. R. said that they quite definitely noticed that the formation of three seemed to be delayed just a bit in getting into position, but then, when all were in position, the entire array began climbing at tremendous acceleration toward the northeast and disappeared from sight in what she thought was about two or three seconds, definitely not more than four seconds. The objects remained with their planes horizontal as they climbed out at high speed.

Additional Comments on the Sighting: I asked her if she was aware of any other witnesses in Tucson at the time. She was not. She had not reported them to anyone, nor did she even discuss the unusual sighting with anyone other than Mrs. D. while in Tucson. She stated that both of them were quite sure, at the time, that these were "ours"; that is, she felt quite sure that they must have been made by the American Air Force and the public had just not been told about this new type of aircraft yet.

Mr. Ted R. Bloecher
August 3, 1967
Page Four

A few days after this sighting, she went on a ten-day visit to California, and then, on returning, went with Mrs. D. to Iowa, which was her original home. They went there to rejoin their husbands at a northern Iowa lake resort, Okoboji. They told their husbands about the sighting, but apparently didn't discuss it further until the late June news about the Arnold sightings and subsequent events. She recalled rather clearly when the four of them were playing cards one day in midsummer when a news broadcast from Des Moines described the sightings of many discs and saucers. The announcer (a man named Gross at station WHO, now an Iowa Congressman, she said) made the assertion that anybody who saw those things was either drunk or crazy. Their husbands immediately accused them jokingly of having been drinking, and they took this rather testily because they were so sure of what they had seen.

I talked with Mrs. Rawlins this evening for about thirty minutes, and regard her recollections of the sighting as fairly reliable because she emphasized how vivid the entire sighting still remained in her mind. Unfortunately, there is no possibility of checking with Mrs. D. because she is extremely ill with multiple sclerosis. Neither of their husbands are alive today. Mrs. R. has remarried and returned to Tucson, where she now makes her home. Her address, at present, is 1837 West Ina Road. Her telephone number here is 297-3647. She is still quite articulate at 72 and gave a rather clear description of most of the sighting. Her estimates of altitudes and sizes were not too good, but, as we know, that's quite typical, unfortunately. She made the understandable mistake of identifying her nine objects with Arnold's nine, and when I indicated to her that the shape described by Arnold was not perfectly circular, she seemed rather surprised. She has never reported this sighting through any official channels nor apparently to anyone concerned with UFOs. It was only her slight misinterpretation of the *Time* article as a confirmation of her sighting that even led her to call me up at the University today.

May *Mechanix Illustrated's* cover story.

The Navy's Flapjack mystery plane was given good coverage by *Mechanix Illustrated*. In the article about the aircraft was this sentence: "Don't be amazed when one of these days you hear a whistling sound from the sky and see a blurred, circular object sailing across the heavens at a speed never before attained by man."



XXXXX

5 May. Near Bozeman, Montana. (afternoon)

Airplane, ball lightning, meteor, or what? (See clipping below)

May 9, 1947

THE BOZEMAN COURIER, BOZEMAN, MONTANA

Shooting Star Roars To Final Rest On Mt. Baldy As Two Residents Watch

Scientists Say Fire In Sky Was Ball Lightning

"It is likely that the phenomenon which Mrs. Smith witnessed was ball lightning," Dr. A. J. M. Johnson, head of the physics department at Montana State college said when the phenomenon had been explained to him.

Dr. Johnson said the phenomenon has a long history of reported observances, and in one instance, when a ball of fire traveled along a high tension wire, has been photographed.

Ball lightning, however, has never been observed in action at close range. Its effects have been observed by scientists. Striking a dwelling it has burned a hole through the wall, though not setting the house on fire. Striking sand it has been reported to turn the sand to glass.

Dr. Johnson relates that he observed the phenomenon himself about 10 or 12 years ago. A ball of fire remained in the sky for a period of 15 or 20 minutes. It was right after a severe thunderstorm and was observed east of Bozeman in the evening. Dr. Johnson said he thought the ball lightning he saw was about three or four miles removed. He heard no sound effects.

Asked what caused ball lightning, Dr. Johnson said nobody knows. A report from such close range and of such size has not come previously to Dr. Johnson's attention. He said he hoped to be able to stand with Mrs. Smith at the spot where she observed the phenomenon, to have her point out where it landed. An aviator, Dr. Johnson said he would fly immediately over the terrain where the ball lightning was believed to have buried itself. Some effects might be observable from the air,

Sizzling and searing through the sky for 30 minutes a celestial phenomenon, meteor or shooting star, Monday afternoon appeared to two Bridger canyon residents to finally land in the Mt. Baldy area.

Its appearance during broad daylight, like a broad streak of lightning, the sound effects reported, and its passage through a cloud and out the other side recalled to the minds of Bridger canyon residents the Indian legend of the Flaming Arrow ranch, near where the spectacle occurred.

Vayle Smith, five-year-old granddaughter of Mrs. Nellie Smith, first witnessed the flying body of fire. She hastened to tell her grandmother who was in the house. Mrs. Smith did not at first pay much attention to the little girl's entreaties to "come out and see," but in a moment when she heard a strange sound out of doors, she went to look. The hour was 3:45 in the afternoon.

The spectacle transfixed Mrs. Smith and her granddaughter. Its rate of travel was amazingly slow, and as it proceeded closer and closer it grew larger and larger in size. Mrs. Smith relates that the head of the shooting star at the last appeared to be about the size of a house.

It had come into view from the east, Mrs. Smith reports. The Smith home is 12 miles up Bridger canyon, about five miles below The Flaming Arrow ranch. The celestial spectacle added weirdness to its performance when it entered a large cloud. Even more weird was its exit from the other side of the cloud, and its proceeding on its course, all the time emitting a sound very similar, though many times magnified, to that of the first searing of a beefsteak when it is placed in a hot greasy frying pan.

From the appearance of the phenomenon Mrs. Smith said that it must have been revolving at high speed, which would in part explain the long period of time during which it was visible, about 30 minutes in all. Its final disappearance occurred when the entire light went out and the meteor appeared to bury itself in the side

of Mt. Baldy mountain.

A report of the spectacle reached Bozeman on horseback and via telephone. Phones at ranches in the Smith home neighborhood have this week been out of order as men worked at repair. Norman Taylor, a youth who lives at Mrs. Smith's home, goes each day to the J. B. Mast ranch further down the canyon where he is employed. Norman conveyed a very careful and complete account of what Mrs. Smith and her granddaughter had seen, to Mrs. Mast, who phoned it to The Courier.

According to Indian tradition it was at the site of the Flaming Arrow ranch that a strange Indian maiden appeared on the top of one of the mountain peaks, the daylight became darkness, a flaming arrow appeared in the skies and in a language understood by the warriors who were engaged in a deadly battle at the foot of the peak, a sweet voice came through the air bidding them: "Warriors—children of the great Sun Spirit, sheath thy tomahawks and unstring thy bows. Shed not the blood of your brothers here, lest it defile the waters of the Valley of Flowers below." The Indians complied and never again was strife known to those parts.

Late Thursday no additional witnesses had reported seeing or hearing the shooting star. The fact that only two residents witnessed it is not considered unusual, inasmuch as it all occurred during broad sunlight in a very sparsely settled region.

cont

and in that event the flying physicist would orient the spot and reach it by horseback and on foot, to observe closely what the effects of the bolt had been.

Armin Hill of the college physics department said that weather conditions are currently ideal for ball lightning, from what is known of the phenomenon's appearance. Very dry air, and the turbulence of a thunderstorm accompany the reported incidents.

Explaining the probable visibility of ball lightning, the scientists said it would likely be visible if the sky were somewhat cloudy, but that for that matter ball lightning reports heretofore have dealt apparently, with a much smaller demonstration. Commonly the ball lightning appears to be about the size of a baseball, and other reports have not placed the observer as close to the demonstration as was Mrs. Smith.

Cont

17?/21? May. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m.)

A man named Byron Savage was interviewed in late July about an experience that was suppose to have taken place in the month of May. (See this page and page 28)

OCAPN/KDS:cp

#3724-I

24 July 1947

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECURITY OFFICER, OCAMA, TINKER FIELD.

SUBJECT: ██████████, Field Engineer, Radio Corporation of America, Dallas, Texas. Residence: ██████████ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.)

RE: Flying Disc.

On 23 July 1947, ██████████ was interviewed at his residence, ██████████, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, relating to his alleged viewing of a flying disc over the vicinity of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Subject, whose age is 38, advised he is married and has one child, and is presently the holder of a Private Pilot's License, No. ██████████ (Single Engine, Land). Subject averred he has extensively studied electronics, sound engineering and aeronautics, and his present occupation, which is Field Engineer for Radio Corporation of America, offices of which are located in Dallas, Texas, is that of installing theater sound equipment. ██████████ stated that between the days 17 May to 21 May 1947, just after dusk, he observed an object which he believed to be a small aircraft in the south. ██████████ advised that the sun had just gone down and the moon had not arisen on the horizon. ██████████ related that he and his wife had just departed their residence and had started to enter their car in the driveway at ██████████ Street, Oklahoma City. He judged the time to be between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., and the lights from the city of Oklahoma City appeared to be shining on this object when he first saw it. He judged the object to be about 160° in the south when he first saw it, and as it moved toward him he remarked to his wife that "a big white plane was coming over."

██████████ stated that when this object was at a 45° angle from him, he realized it was not a conventional type aircraft, and it appeared elliptical at first and as it moved closer it appeared perfectly round and was flat. ██████████ advised the object, which appeared to him as a disc, had no appearance of being spherical and had a ratio of diameter to the thickness of approximately 10 to 1, appearing thicker in the center, but this could not be positively ascertained. ██████████ judged the object to be at an altitude of between 10,000 and 18,000 feet, and it left no trailing effects. ██████████ related that it appeared to be in bulk as big as the bulk of six B-29s at an altitude of approximately the same height. ██████████ advised that the object was in his vision approximately 15 to 20 seconds and travelled at a speed which he judged to be approximately three times that of jet-propelled aircraft.

Memo to the Security Officer, OCAMA, Tinker Field, dtd 7/24/47, File 3724-I.

██████████ stated that there were no protrusions on this object and as it went by he listened for a sound of noise, and at one time thought he distinguished a swishing sound like the rushing of air. This swishing sound occurred a few seconds after this object had passed. ██████████ averred this sound was not very loud and did not last very long, and it is very possible that the sound could have been his imagination or expectation, as he was not sure of the sound. ██████████ related that he called his wife to see this object but it had disappeared before she could focus her eyes on it. Subject stated that the object appeared to diminish in size and speed as it moved away, and it was moving in a direction of 350° to the north. Subject further stated that the object appeared to be frosty white in color at all times.

██████████ advised that he has held a pilot's certificate since 1934 and has been flying since 1929. He advised that he would be glad to answer any further inquiries and will cooperate in every way possible. ██████████ stated he was sure this object was not a meteor and in his opinion it must be radically built and powered, probably atomic.

KALMAN D. SIMON
C.I. U. S. Army

19 May. Manitou Springs, Colorado. (12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.)

This document is from Dr. J. Allen Hynek's personal files: (Also, see page 30)

"I. Description of incident.

During their lunch period (1215 – 1315) 19 May 1947 a member of a train crew called attention to a silver object in the sky approaching from the Northeast. It appeared to be traveling at great speed. The object appeared extremely small and therefore the altitude could not be estimated. It did appear higher than the top of Manitou Mountain which is some 1,000 feet higher than the city. No definite shape could be determined even with the aid of 4-6 power binoculars. The men were certain that the object was not a conventional aircraft since it did not have any of the physical characteristics. Upon reaching the area just north of Manitou the object remained in the area for several minutes during which time it executed maneuvers such as climbing, diving and reversal of flight. This happened ever few seconds. The distance and location between views prompted two of the men to think that there may have been more of the objects in the sky. At times it seemed to hover and then it would start on another flight path. When last seen the silver object was climbing very fast towards the west almost directly into the wind.

"II. Astonomer's [Hynek's] Comment.

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident; the reversal of direction of flight and the maneuvers executed by the object preclude this.

The speed is not stated with any exactness, but if it was not too great, the object might have been a balloon, or aircraft seen under unusual conditions, otherwise, there appears to be no plausible explanation." (xx.)

(xx.) "Manitou Springs, Colorado –19 May 1947"
(Incident #92 BLUE BOOK Files) Dr. J.
Allen Hynek's files at CUFOS. Photocopy
in author's files.

19 May. Del Salto Observatory, Chile.

"Remain for a certain time." (See clipping)

**"FLYING SAUCERS
OVER CHILE"**

**SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS
TO WATCH**

SANTIAGO, (Chile), July 11.

Following reports of the supposed appearance of a flying disc in the vicinity of Santiago, the Scientific Department of the Del Salto Observatory announced that it had recorded the presence of a "strange object" in the sky over Chile on May 19, which moved slowly through the ionosphere, producing at intervals discharges of whitish smoke.

The announcement added, "This strange meteor remained for a certain time and then crossed the horizon at a considerable speed, which must have been similar to that of a V. 2, that is to say higher than 4,800 kilometres an hour (3,000 miles an hour).

Indicating that it must be of an extraordinary nature, the communique added: "The fact is that these meteorites were continually observed in various regions in June. As it is impossible to reach a scientific conclusions at a moment's notice, the Observatory has recommended over 300 observers from Arica to Magallanes to maintain a state of alert from July 11 to 23 and 28 to 30, during which periods the earth should cross important meteorite zones."

—Reuter.

MANITOU VETS RELATE STORY

Another 'Disk' Seen

By BERNARD, KELLY.

Denver Post Staff Writer.

MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo., June 28.—Seven employes of the Manitou and Pike's Peak railway may have seen one of the mysterious "whirling disk" planes last month and have reported their singular experience to intelligence officers of headquarters, Fifteenth air force.

On a cloudless day at noon, while they were eating lunch at the railway shops in upper Manitou Springs, they observed the maneuvering of a scintillating object so high that even a pair of field glasses failed to bring it within range.

The strange object was first observed by Ted Weigand, veteran mechanic. Weigand said he was watching the side of a near-by hill for deer when he saw the shining, scintillating object high in the sky. He could not make out its shape but followed its gyrations clearly for a full fifteen minutes before he finally called attention of his fellow workmen.

CLEAR ACCOUNT GIVEN.

From this point a clear account of the strange object is given by a 26-year-old ex-Sergeant, Dean A. Hauser, a machinist for the railway.

Hauser said he would not commit himself that the object was a plane. It might have been wind-borne, he said. But it was midday, no breath of wind was

stirring, and there was no cloud in the sky.

"It was about thirty-five degrees above the true horizon," he said. "I watched it for between fifteen and twenty minutes. It moved in a straight line in a generally westerly direction and then began to move erratically in wide circles.

"All this time it reflected light like metal, but intermittently, as though the angle of reflection might be changing from time to time.

BINOCULARS USED.

"I could not get any idea of its shape. We brought out a good pair of four- or six-power field glasses, and I looked at it. The glasses did not bring it any closer.

"Whatever it was, it finally disappeared travelling in a straight line in the west-northwest in the clear blue sky."

The object made no sound that could be heard, Hauser said. There was no noise within the shop. A slight hum came from the Manitou Springs hydro-electric plant seventy-five feet north and the only other sound was the ripple of water in a mountain stream forty feet south.

Marlon Hillhouse, another machinist and war veteran, verified Hauser's account of the strange object.

Denver Post

June 28, 1947

P. 1

June. Sodra Hammarby, Stockholm, Sweden. (before noon)

Flying lipstick-tube executes 90-degree turn.

This is a report collected by UFO researcher Clas Svahn. Jan Aldrich obtained the information for his 1947 project. The witness was 24-year-old John Elfstrom who was visiting some friends who were apparently employed at a construction site on Hassleholmsvagen. Elfstrom told Svahn:

"It could have been before noon, since the sun was where the Nacka radio towers are situated. I was standing on the platform of a small building crane. I saw the object over Skarpnack (to the south). I spotted reflections from it. Without them I would never have discovered it. I saw reflections several times...I saw the object coming from Danvikstull and saw it execute a sharp turn, 90 degrees, directly.

"I wouldn't have bothered about it if it wasn't for that sharp turn. Then I saw the shape. It continued at a slower pace and then it took up a great speed, and whoosh, it sort of rushed away. I had it right in front of me and the sky was clear. But in the direction of the Nacka radio towers, where it went, there were clouds so I couldn't see it any more. I saw it for quite a while, but it went very fast. It made a sharp turn and then I called out for the other guys. 'Look!' I cried out. This was something new, I had never seen a plane turn in such a fashion before." (xx.)

(xx.) "1947 Reports from Sweden and Scandinavia." Compiled and Translated by Anders Liljegren. Archives for UFO Research (AFU). Telephone interview by Clas Svahn, January 31, 1995; UFO-Sweden questionnaire, signed December 20, 1994. *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report*. p.131.

Svahn questions Elfstrom:

CS: 'Did the others have time to see it?'

JE: 'No, they never spotted it. It went too fast.'

CS: 'What did the object look like?'

JE: 'It was about like a lipstick when it is in the tube. Golden-glistening it was.'

CS: 'Was it shaped like such a tube?'

JE: 'Yes. It was simply a tube, no point or so [sic]. It was a tube that came in in the air. It increased speed from slow to an unbelievable acceleration.'

CS: 'Was it the same in the back as in the front?'

JE: 'Yes, it was the same in the back. Of this I am sure. It was like a cylinder.'

CS: 'In what direction did you see it?'

JE: 'Between Skarpnack and the Nacka towers. First it cam over Skarpnack (in the south) and traversed the heavens towards the Nacka towers (in the

east). It disappeared into the clouds.

CS: 'How would you describe the size of the object compared to a known object?'

JE: 'As like a plane going at 10,000 meters [altitude?], one of those four-engined passenger planes.'" (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, pp.131-132.

Svahn concludes with these remarks: "It was a clear and fine day. The witness estimates the duration of the sighting to be about one minute. No sound was heard." (xx.)

(xx.) Ibid, p.132.

June. Vincent H. Gaddis' "Visitors from the Void" article.

Gaddis wrote this early in the year and it appeared on the newsstands in the June issue of Ray Palmer's sci-fi magazine *Amazing Stories*. (See pages 33-35)

6 June. Bombay, India. (about 9:00 p.m.)

"The Bombay Phenomena." (See clippings on page 36)

12 June. Weiser, Idaho. (about 6:15 p.m.)

"Shooting up and down."

According to Air Force BLUE BOOK files:

"On the evening of June 12 about 6:15, a neighbor and I returning home from another neighbors, glanced into the sky toward the West, and saw what we thought was smoke from an airplane. She mentioned that she had never seen that before, so we stopped to look and listen, thinking we would see the plane. But there was no sound, so we kept looking until we saw a tiny object from which the vapor was emitting. It was so far away we could not determine the size or even the shape. Its only identity was a glister in the sun. We had watched this one for a few seconds, when from the general direction of the sun, another object shot into the sky. It followed the general direction of the first, shooting up and down before settling to a south-easterly course across the sky, where we followed them until they were only a glister and the vapor could no longer be seen. After the objects were gone, we continued to look and to watch the vapor that had been left which now looked like clouds but kept a shape, and this shape seemed to glide across the sky to the east where there was a black streak leading to the horizon. The vapor stayed in the sky for over an hour." (xx.)

(xx.) U.S. Air Force BLUE BOOK files. Reel #1. Incident #24.

VISITORS *from the* VOID

★

By VINCENT H. GADDIS

★

THESE have been signs, symbols and objects in the skies of earth described as snakes, swords, lights and rockets. Slow-moving so-called meteors have zig-zagged their way above the clouds, and stratospheric explosions have rocked the land below. Mysterious rays stopped airplane motors over the world's largest city as unidentified phantom planes puzzled the war departments of four nations. Ships and men were observed to drop from the heavens in isolated areas only to vanish.

This is the startling story of bewildering events that have occurred in the last few years. What relationship, if any, exists between these varied reports? Who or what lies behind them?

From Point Pleasant, W. Va., on Oct. 11, 1931, came the report that a blimp or dirigible was observed to have plunged to the earth in flames, men leaping from it in parachutes as it fell. There were many witnesses who stated that the crash had occurred in the hills south of the city. Observers at Gallipolis Ferry reported that the blimp had crossed the Ohio River and it had fallen while one man was watching it through field glasses. Described as being between a hundred and one hundred and fifty feet long, it was at an altitude of three hundred feet when it burst. White objects, believed to have been parachutes, fell with it.

Searching parties were organized. Nearby airports sent planes to assist in the all-day search. Officials at Akron, Ohio, announced that all naval blimps were safe in their hangars. And despite the extensive search and far-flung inquiries, not a single clue was turned up. The mystery remains—concealed somewhere in the West Virginia hills the solution to this puzzle is still a secret.

Then, slightly less than two months later, came a report from Hammonton, N. J. On Dec. 5, late in afternoon, an aviator was observed to fall in a parachute into the Folsom Swamp, one of the densest sections of bog and woodland in the southern part of the state, south of the city. Additional reports of witnesses came from Weymouth, a village on the other side of the swamp. Dropping from a high altitude, no plane had been observed or heard.

Led by state police, five local fire companies and witnesses, a small army of volunteers searched the swamp all night and all the next day. Airports throughout the eastern part of the country reported that all planes were accounted for. The long search was fruitless, but it was added that the swamp contains areas never penetrated before except by Indians.

A year later, on Dec. 29, 1932, it was reported that a large tri-motored airplane had been forced down in the woodlands eight miles west of New

Brunswick, N. J. Observers said that its motors were silent and that its lights were blinking when it disappeared behind the wooded hills. Time of the observation was close to midnight. Again the state police made an unsuccessful search, and again all planes throughout the east were accounted for.

These three reports were collected from the New York Times by David Markham, a member of the Fortean Society. According to Tiffany Thayer, secretary of the Fortean Society, Mr. Markham, who has been collecting material on maritime vanishments, has reached certain conclusions which he has asked him to withhold temporarily as possibly too dangerous to make public. My article "Strange Secrets of the Sea" presents the type of material referred to.

Oddly enough, these reports of men or airships dropping to earth and vanishing without a trace are not unique. The original records of the late Charles Fort contain several similar accounts. How many more lie buried in the files of obscure newspapers we can only guess.

ONE year after the New Brunswick report a mysterious plane appeared over New York City. On Dec. 26, 1933, the metropolis was blotted out from above by a snowstorm. The first telephone call to police headquarters was made at 9:30 a. m. and then the reports steadily increased. The plane could not be seen, but its progress was followed by the sound of its motor. Apparently the pilot was wandering blindly above the snow-shrouded towers of Manhattan in circles unable to find a place to land.

In the hope that the pilot had a short-wave receiver, the National Broadcasting Company tried to contact him. All airports were notified. Beacons and searchlights were lit. A ceiling of five hundred feet was reported at the Newark Airport. As the hours lengthened the ceiling rose, but the reports continued to flow in. Residents of Jersey City and the Bronx announced hearing the motor. By the middle of the afternoon, when the reports finally ceased, the visibility was set at a mile and the pilot could easily have landed at ports in New Jersey or Long Island, but all air fields in the Metropolitan area reported that there had been no flying during the day and no stray plane had appeared.

At this time a phantom plane was appearing over the Scandinavian countries. The first dispatch was released at Stockholm on Dec. 31, 1933, and it announced that Swedish army aviators had been ordered to chase a mysterious plane which had been sighted for several weeks over Lapland. Based, it was believed, somewhere in the moun-

tains, it has been making night flights, and had recently been heard flying toward Norway during a heavy snowstorm.

Another dispatch from the same city on Jan. 9, 1934, stated that the "ghost plane" had been observed over Westerboten in northern Sweden, and that the Swedish airforce had already lost two airplanes in efforts to locate the base of the mystery ship. A party of four men who had been making a ground search along the Norwegian border had vanished.

More dispatches followed from Helsingfors and Stockholm. There was speculation that the planes might be Soviet flyers making test flights to arctic icebreakers or exploring a new air route from Russia to the Atlantic. Soviet authorities denied that any of their planes were over the area.

On Feb. 3 a Helsingfors dispatch announced that "continued night flights over Northern Finland, Sweden and Norway by so-called ghost aviators which have caused such apprehension here as to prompt the general staff to organize reconnoitering on a wide scale by army planes all over Northern Finland still remain a deep mystery." Although there were a large number of eyewitnesses, the plane could not be identified.

The report added that mysterious lights over Helsingfors and Viborg had caused alarm, and that the large unidentified plane had been sighted over eastern Finland where aviation experts stated "that the mysterious flyers show exceptional skill, undoubtedly superior to that of northern European aviators." The appearance of a mystery plane, the first, over London is referred to in this dispatch, and it has been pointed out that this group of reports stopped about the time of the interior conjunction of Venus (Feb. 5, 1934).

But in March, 1935, an object described as "a large shining form resembling a gigantic snake, wriggling forth in the northwestern sky" appeared for half an hour in the early evening over southern Norway and Denmark. As observed at Grimstad by a correspondent for the *Tidens Tegn* (Norway), it had four or five curves marked off by shadows, and was in a vertical position with its "head" down toward the earth. The vision was clear. There were no clouds, and it was very brilliant. The Stavanger *Aftenblad* for March 26 published a complete description of the appearance and sketches of it made by the artist Naesheim who was a witness.

A similar object appeared three times over the city of Cruz Alta, Brazil; twice in December, 1935, and again in July, 1937. On its last appearance the "snake" had its "head" toward the earth, the head appearing as a ball of fire. In passing it might be added that there were reports of "swords" and "coffins" in the sky over the Polish-German border in 1937, but details regarding these reports are not available to the writer at this time.

Then came the mystery ray stopping airplane motors over New York City. In a Universal Service dispatch dated May 24, 1935, written by

Lou Wedemar, it was announced that pilots had asked the Department of Commerce to investigate a supposed radio ray which was stopping the motors of planes flying over the city. The planes while flying over the central part of Manhattan had experienced puzzling engine trouble. In aeronautical circles the belief had spread that some sort of short-wave had been developed by an unknown experimenter which affected the motors at which it was aimed.

Motors went suddenly dead without apparent reason, and careful examination by expert mechanics failed to reveal any reason for the phenomenon. Several disasters had almost occurred as the "magnetism" did not pass off for some time, and the planes had to be brought down to emergency landings. One example cited was the near-disaster of a cabin plane piloted by Michael Stupell which was forced to land in the East River while carrying three passengers.

This report, too, is not unique. In October, 1930, forty automobiles were stalled for an hour on the road between Riesa and Wurzen in Germany. All motors mysteriously stopped. But earlier, in the summer of 1923, and south of this road in Saxony, Germany, French aviators reported the mysterious stopping of motors near Furth while they were flying from Strasbourg to Prague. It was believed that a German experimenter was practicing on French airplanes with newly-discovered rays. If so, his secret was never used in the late war.*

ON THE night of Nov. 24, 1935, a "flaming word" was observed in the heavens between Palestine and Dallas, Texas. Dr. J. D. Boon, professor of astrophysics at Southern Methodist University, stated that no comet or stellar phenomenon of any kind had been scheduled to appear. One witness, a newspaper editor, described the appearance as "a narrow, bright shaft of light, absolutely stationary and vertical, an exact replica of a sword."

In February, 1936, the "phantom light of Ringold" (near Pasco, Wash.) was reported. It was a mysterious light, drifting widely and often along populated highways where it had caused motorists to drive into ditches, and many citizens of high repute had sworn to its authenticity. It vanished when approached, and all efforts to find a plausible explanation resulted in failure.

A ghost scare in a mine near Bishop, Va., was reported in dispatches of Jan. 18, 1937. Officials of the Pochahontas Fuel Company, owners of No. 34 Mine, were trying to lay the scare that had caused

* This is not true. Your editor has an eye-witness account of six B-17s crashing in the Siegfried Line, coming down without a shot being fired, all of them crashing because of a simultaneous cessation of the motors. This incident was broadcast over the American radio by a news reporter, but did not appear in any paper of the same or following day that he knows of—nor was it mentioned again on the air. It can only be assumed the information was suppressed for security reasons. It has also been rumored that German authorities have denied that they knew of such an ignition-stopping ray, or of the plane crashes mentioned.—Ed.

more than a hundred miners to desert the pits. The mine was believed haunted. For several months there had been reports of mysterious moans, shrieks, slamming of doors, and a phantom form that followed the men.

On the night of July 20, 1937, a mysterious plane was observed hovering over the Hendon Aerodrome and the heart of London. There were many witnesses. The Air Ministry was puzzled, and its investigation was fruitless. Two nights later the British steamer *Ranee*, while 500 miles off Cape Race, sighted a "mysterious plane" flying eastward. No trans-Atlantic flights were being made at the time. No planes had been reported missing. According to the crew of the vessel, two "navigation lights" were visible on the craft.

Mysterious blue flashes appeared in the southern sky of Sussex, England, on the evening of Oct. 2, 1938. These flashes were followed by a "sudden rift in the sky where a most beautiful blue-green radiance shone. Through this there appeared to drop a fiery body, vivid and lovely, which disappeared in a second. After this there was only one faint flash."

In December, 1939, another sky visitation came to Finland. According to the Finnish *Evangeliskt Vittnesbord*, the phenomenon took place close to midnight. It lasted for about a half hour. Beginning as a ball of fire which grew larger, the appearance changed from a red to a brilliant white color as sudden rays from the eastern and western horizons merged. As the light spread, a shining object, resembling a huge human-like figure, appeared for a few moments at the point where the rays merged. Then, slowly, the vision faded into the night leaving the spectators silent and bewildered.

A large light with a tail, resembling a comet, was observed in Transylvania in September, 1943. It was visible for five minutes. Witnesses reported that the head dissolved and the tail took the shape of a scimitar before vanishing.

On May 10, 1944, press dispatches told of a strange light in the sky at Mexico, Mo. A number of residents had observed it. Like a large kite moving up and down, from side to side, and sometimes almost in a circle. It was located in the northeastern sky at approximately a forty-five degree angle, visible in the early evening hours.

June 27, 1944—Brilliant red and green meteor over Cass County, Ind. A witness near Kewanna stated that it flashed across the road just above the telephone wires. Bright green with a tail of red sparks. But this object was merely a mild forerunner for the real puzzler that arrived less than two months later:

It came in the early morning hours of August 18, and so amazing were the varied reports of its appearance that astronomers in Chicago said that it was "man-made." The apparent ball of fire was visible above eastern Illinois, Indiana and western Ohio. All the reports are conflicting, and rumors of robot bombs, explosions and plane crashes followed in its trail. War plants were

checked by military authorities. It moved too fast for a plane, and too slow for a meteor. Its size was given variously, some of the reports stating that it was too large to be an airplane. It followed a zig-zag course, from west to east and from south to north. It "screamed through the air," and rattled windows. State police were besieged with calls. There were a dozen reports of its fall to earth at widely-scattered points, but with one exception no traces were found. The exception is Lyons, south of Danville, Ill., where a piece of stone about eight inches long was said to have dropped from the flaming ball. It resembled "petrified wood."

From Tierquin, Ireland, came the story of a large luminous ball, larger than the moon, moving slowly west in the sky in January, 1945. In April a light was observed at Jefferstown, Ky., in the midnight sky. It was over Fisherville, to the east, size of a large cantaloupe, glowed and receded in brilliance like a heart throb, casting its light like a lampshade over the town. After ten minutes it vanished. On May 4 in the early morning there was a flash of light and an explosion reported over six states. Visible for three seconds. Buildings shaken.

AT 7:30 p. m. on the evening of June 1, 1945, something whizzed through the sky over Morganton, N. C., traveling northwest. Tubular in shape, shiny, gleaming in the light as if covered with aluminum, five or six feet long, with a blue flame spurting from its tail. It disappeared in the vicinity of the mountains near Lake James and shortly later an explosive sound was heard.

Near Morganton is Brown Mountain, scene of mysterious lights since the Civil War that are so puzzling that government geologists have conducted fruitless investigations. In my files is a long article on the Brown Mountain mystery that appeared in the *Literary Digest* for Nov. 7, 1925. These lights are about the size of a toy balloon, vary in color, move about, and appear and disappear abruptly.

The last report of a mysterious aircraft in the Scandinavian area came from Vaesterbotton, Sweden, on July 9, 1945. Its shape resembled that of a bird. It moved at great speed going south over the city at about 10,000 feet altitude. "If it was a plane, it was one the like of which the Swedish General Staff never had seen before."

Late in the afternoon of Nov. 29, 1945, a flaming object exploded and then transformed itself into a ball of fire over Modesto, Calif. It was visible throughout the San Francisco area, and was observed moving away northeast at a speed of about 800 miles per hour at an apparent low altitude. But before we decide that it was merely a freak meteor, we must add that according to the *Oakland Tribune* "it was reported sighted in western Nevada a full five hours after it was first sighted at Oakland."

No, meteors do not linger or hover in the skies of earth, nor do they resemble rockets or airplanes.

THE BOMBAY CHRONICLE (INDIA)

19 JUNE 1947

OUR READERS' VIEWS

Was It A Comet?

Sir,—Being very much interested in Astronomy, I am writing this letter to describe the brilliant phenomenon which myself and some friends saw on Friday, 6th instant at 9 p. m.

It was a brilliant star with a fairly long trail like a comet's tail. The star appeared in the Western sky about 35 degrees above the horizon, and travelled northwards. It was visible for nearly 20 seconds. Twice it passed through small clouds and reappeared to continue its journey.

The star was seen by me from my house at Versova. The time was 9-2 p. m. in my clock. Other citizens of Bombay, especially near the beach, must have seen this unusual phenomenon also.

We hope the Government Observatory at Bombay will throw some light on this astronomical experience of the city. It was far too high to be a fireworks display.

BEHRAM MEHTA.

Times of India

June 9, 1947

DAZZLING "COMET"

SEEN IN SKY

Bombay Phenomenon

A "bluish brilliant star with a tail" was seen moving across the skies by several persons in Bombay about 9 p.m. on Friday. The dazzling object which was clearly seen by scores of people at Bandra and Chembur, was visible for just over a minute.

One of the observers told *The Times of India*: "About 9 p.m. I saw a 'missile' emitting blue and red light flying from north-west towards the east, several times hidden by monsoonish clouds. After about 15 minutes, I saw a similar 'missile' emitting blue light, right in the east, which disappeared immediately. The latter was round in shape, whereas the first one was of similar shape but accompanied by several smaller-sized ones. The 'missile' was definitely going down because the second one was seen as if dropping from the clouds. When I saw the object, it was at a height of about 1,500 feet."

A Kolaba resident said that an object which he noticed moving across the skies on Friday night displayed a number of beautiful colours. "It was seen to start somewhere above the island of Khandari and move towards Bombay. During the earlier part of its travel, the body was almost round in shape with a short, sharp-pointed tail. Later, however, the tail developed and was seen with a few independent, small luminous bodies.

It is not yet known whether the object was a comet or a shooting star.

SEEN AT DAHANU

Dahanu: An unusual phenomenon was noticed last night when a big comet with six small stars was seen travelling from south-west to east in the sky for about 1½ minutes shining very highly.

13 June. Between Fleure and Nieuu, France. (11:30 p.m.)

Cigar-shaped object.

Our source states:

“M. Bellot during a storm saw an orange cigar-shaped object about 5-6 meters long, with a very bright halo which lighted the area. It landed about 100 meters away and stayed there for about five minutes before taking off and disappearing. M. Bellot experienced no effects after the sighting.” (xx.)

(xx.) Dominique Weinstein, Perry Petrakis, and Jean Sider. “1947 UFO Cases From France.” *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report*. p.162.

“14? June. Valley City, North Dakota. (about 9:00 p.m.)

“Red ball.”

Hjaimer Lokken, fireman at the State Teachers' College power plant, reported a strange event to his boss, W.J. “Bill” Carroll. Later Mr. Carroll told the story to the local newspaper:

“‘Mr. Lokken came to me the next morning,’ Carroll reported, and said, ‘Bill I saw a strange thing last night. I was sitting on the west side of the plant, about 9 o’clock, and something that look like a ball, bright red in color, went shooting past. It was about the height of the flagpole on the college... [high? Word not clear] building from the ground approximately 65 feet. I jumped up to get a better look but it was gone. It was traveling west at a terrific speed.’

“Superintendent Carroll said he questioned Lokken, suggested it might have been an airplane light. Lokken insisted it was not a plane light, but a round object about 16 inches in diameter.

“‘This man does not have hallucinations,’ Carroll continued. ‘He didn’t have spots before his eyes. I know him well enough to believe he actually saw it.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Valley City, North Dakota. *Times-Record*. 9 July 47.

15 June. Lansing, Michigan. (9:30 p.m.)

According to the local newspaper:

“Harry Von Ripper was alerted by his landlady, Mrs. Letta Loree, and watched “balls of fire’ jump in and out among the clouds ‘like clay pigeons’ for about ten minutes. He tired of watching and returned to the house and did not see them again.” (xx.)

(xx.) Lansing, Michigan. *State Journal*. 6 July 47. p.1. *Project 1947: A Preliminary*

Report. p.64.

23 June. Bridgeport, Nebraska. (about 4:00 p.m.)

According to a newspaper story:

“Confirmation by neighbors to whom she reported seeing the ‘flying discs,’ now causing nationwide controversy, as early as June 23, may credit Mrs. Hanna Smith of route one as being one of the first, if not the first in the nation to witness the Phenomena.

“An interview in Tuesday’s Scottsbluff Star-Herald reports in detail Mrs. Smith’s experience at about 4:00 p.m. of that day, when noticing her chickens running for cover, she scanned the sky for possible hawks and witnessed ‘two flat, platter-shaped objects’ soaring from northwest to southeast at a height ‘of about two miles.’

“Mrs. Smith immediately called her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Earl Smith, but before she arrived the discs had disappeared in the sky down the valley. Mrs. Smith described them as being flat, and dipping occasionally, reflecting the rays of the sun. Visibility was good that day, and Mrs. Smith’s eyesight is confirmed as being excellent, better than average for a much younger person. She admits her age as being 75.

“Fearing ridicule, Mrs. Smith did not report seeing the discs, except to discuss it with neighbors in the hope that others had also witnessed them. After the same thing had been seen in other parts of the county, she revealed the occurrence of June 23.”
(xx.)

(xx.) Bridgeport, Nebraska. *Bridgeport News-Blade*. 10 July 47.

23 June. Wapakoneta, Ohio. (about 9:30 p.m.)

“And it wasn’t a “Man from Mars’ movie either.”

Richard L. Bitters, editor of the Wapakoneta, Ohio, *Daily News*, got scooped on one of the biggest news stories of the year:

“‘I didn’t wake up,’ he writes, ‘until I got to looking at the United Press news report on the story over the week-end.’

“Bitters saw his saucer as he and his wife were returning from a movie about 9:30 p.m. ‘And it wasn’t a “Man from Mars” movie, either,’ he asserted.

“He said his saucers matched those of most reports across the nation, ‘flying an uneven course in the sky and weaving in and out of view.’” (xx.)

(xx.) Columbus, Ohio. *Citizen*. 7 July 47. p.1.

23 June. “Martians may have been here already.”

Speculations by a Yale professor during a radio broadcast on the subject: “The Rocket; a Tool For Exploring the Universe.” (See clipping on page 39)

MARTIANS MAY HAVE BEEN HERE ALREADY

Yale Professor Sees Inter- planetary Travel in Few Decades

By William D. Clark
United Press Staff Correspondent
New Haven, June 23—(UP)—
The man from Mars, like the Ice-
man, already may have cometh,
but Dr. Lyman Spitzer, Jr., associ-
ate professor of astrophysics at
Yale University, couldn't vouch for
this today.

He did believe, however, that
if life on Mars "developed a little
earlier than on earth, it is possible
that the Martians may have been
civilized for millions of years, as
compared to our thousands. In
such case, their scientific knowl-
edge would, of course, be enor-
mously greater than ours."

With a head start of a million
years or so the earthlings, Dr.
Spitzer said it was "perhaps possi-
ble" that the Martians already
have visited this planet.

"If this is the case," he said,
"and unless they had spent some
time in a large city or had landed
sufficiently recently to be photo-
graphed, we would have no record
of their having been here."

Furthermore, continued the sci-
entist, "any few men who had seen
them would probably not be believ-
ed by anyone else."

From what science knows of
Mars, and with interplanetary trav-
el "probably only a few decades
away," Dr. Spitzer said that "we
may be approaching the most mo-
mentous event in civilized history"
if intelligent life really exists on
the planet.

"The impact which our Euro-
pean civilization had on the Afri-
can nations and on the South Sea
Islands might seem trivial indeed
compared with the impact on earth
of a civilization millions of years
older than ours."

Dr. Spitzer's observations were

(Continued on Page Five)

The Willimantic,
Connecticut
Chronicle.
24 July 47. p.1.

The ET hypothesis.

Not many persons in the summer of
1947 seriously believed in the existence
of Martians and space travel.

Few people paid any attention to the
Yale professor's remark that: "...we may
be approaching the most momentous
event in civilized history." Charles Fort
in 1919 would have found no problem
with the idea, nor would his disciples,
but his disciples, at least the most in-
fluential ones, were science fiction
writers.

An aircraft breaking the sound barrier
was the limit of thinking for the vast
majority of Americans.

MARTIANS MAY HAVE BEEN HERE ALREADY

(Continued From First Page)

made during a broadcast on "The
Rocket: a Tool for Exploring the
Universe."

He said that "within seven de-
cades" it should be possible to
build an atomic rocket capable of
escaping the earth's gravitational
pull and that scientists hope for
the time when they can launch a
satellite "observatory" which would
circle our planet indefinitely.

Human observers would not go
along on such a trip, he said, be-
cause they would be unable to get
back "without bringing the entire
satellite down to earth. Radio
waves would therefore be used
both to control the equipment and
to bring back the information need-
ed."

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