

-1 FEBRUARY 1964

# Interested in 'sightings'?

So UFOs are in the news again. I thought that they had been officially debunked by the US Air Force Special Investigation Committee report published in 1956 in paperback, and still available through the County Library.

The report, which was several hundred pages long, ended with the remarks of a distinguished psychologist, whose words I paraphrase: "Our investigation while not producing any hard evidence for the existence of what have been termed UFOs, has told us volumes about public gullibility and mass psychology."

Seriously though, in the early 1950s we did investigate UFO reports in the Ministry of Defence (for obvious reasons). No radar confirmation was ever obtained, and the sensation-mongers

duly shifted their areas of observation to remote places like South America and New Zealand, where no radar chains as yet existed to confirm or deny their stories.

I can assure your readers, as one whose hobby is connected with earth satellites, that nothing comes over the horizon without its Keplerian elements being duly tracked by radar at the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Hurstmonceux and published to all who are interested. The same applies to all other European countries and North America.

For those interested in the science of astronomy there are courses available for FE students at the Observatory at Marlborough College in the winter months.

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