

FEBRUARY 19, 1962 25c

Newsweek

FLYING SAUCERS:

Then There Were Ten

A disappearing long, bright object whizzed close to the earth, hovered above a few minutes, then disappeared forever. Then, this reporter quoted it. They had all reports to the Air Force. The Unidentified Flying Objects had been sent into action, interrogated.

But what was that strange bright object which hovered close to the earth and so often one night last year? The answer, declared by the Air Force last month, was: Ten. The UFO have, according to one of the 400 investigations conducted last year, explained that the same often seems to assume an elliptical shape when it is near the horizon.

Since 1957, when Major pilot Kenneth Arnold reported nine circular objects appearing in rapid formation around Mount Rainier, the Air Force has logged almost 4,000 UFO reports. "Usually we get more reports than come with active UFO investigations," a spokesman said.

Of last year's 400 reports, he said, astronomical phenomena accounted for 175, aircraft for 55, balloons for 33, satellites for 12, birds and squirrels and such for 50. Unaccountable reports constituted sufficient data for checking.

Among all the strange flying objects reported with increasing frequency last year, only two—E50 per cent—remained unidentified.

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