

- (12) Code XII. The object had windows in its top and front and its top recedent. It also had a set of poopedness around its waist.

It is not possible, therefore, to devise a verified model of a "flying saucer" from the data that have been gathered to date. This point is important enough to emphasize. Out of about 4,000 people who said they saw a "flying saucer", sufficiently detailed descriptions were given in only 12 cases. Having called the cream of the crop, it is still impossible to drawing a picture of what a "flying saucer" is.

In addition to this study of the good UNKNOWNNS, an attempt was made to find groups of UNKNOWNNS for which the observed characteristics were the same. No such groups were found.

On the basis of this evidence, therefore, there is a low probability that any of the UNKNOWNNS represented observations of a class of "flying saucers". It may be that some reports represent observations of not one but several classes of objects that might have been "flying saucers". However, the lack of evidence to confirm even one class would seem to make this possibility remote. It is pointed out that some of the cases of KNOWNNS, before identification, appeared fully as bizarre as any of the 12 cases of good UNKNOWNNS, and, in fact, would have been placed in the class of good UNKNOWNNS had it not been possible to establish their identity.

This is, of course, contrary to the bulk of the publicity that has been given to this problem. The reason for the nature of this publicity was clearly brought out during the pre-evaluation study. It is a definite fact that upon reading a few reports, the reader becomes convinced that "flying saucers" are real and are some form of genuine contrivance. This reaction is independent of the training of the reader or of his attitude toward the problem prior to the initial contact. It is unfortunate that practically all of the articles, books, and news stories dealing with the phenomenon of the "flying saucer" were written by men who were in this category, that is, men who had read only a few selected reports. This is accentuated by the fact that, as a rule, only the more vivid-sounding reports are cited in these publications. Were it not for this common psychological tendency to be beguiled by the mysterious, it is possible that no problem of this nature would exist.

The reaction, mentioned above, that after reading a few reports, the reader is convinced that "flying saucers" are real and are some form of sinister contrivance, is very misleading. As more and more of the reports are read, the feeling that "saucers" are real fades, and is replaced by a feeling of skepticism regarding their existence. The reader eventually reaches a point of saturation, after which the reports contain no new information at all and are no longer of any interest. This feeling of satiation was universal among the personnel who worked on this project, and continually necessitated a conscious effort on their part to remain objective.