

Visitors From Space?

The reports on flying saucers add up to something more than the imagination of those who say they have seen them

By DAVID BARKER

Condensed from *Outlook**

SIGHTINGS of flying saucers are on record as far back as the late 18th century. Most of the early reports are from the United Kingdom and Europe; the first sightings on record in America occurred in 1873.

In 1870 on Sept. 26 the *London Times* reported that an elliptical object with some kind of tail had been seen crossing the moon, taking almost 30 seconds to do so.

In 1871 on Aug. 1 a large round body was visible over Marseilles for about 15 minutes. It moved slowly across the sky at great height.

In 1882 on the night of Nov. 17 thousands in England saw a huge cigar-shaped object emitting a greenish light. It passed across the sky from horizon to horizon, taking about two minutes in transit. It was seen by E. W. Maunder, astronomer at the Royal Observ-

atory, Greenwich. He published an account of the incident in the observatory's journal. The object was estimated to be moving 133 miles above the earth at 10 miles a second.

In 1897 on April 19, a torpedo-shaped craft about 200 feet long and some 30 feet in diameter was seen in the early morning over Sistrerville, W. Va. It circled the town for about ten minutes and swept the countryside with searchlights.

A similar object had been reported in late March, first near Sacramento, then near Denver, and subsequently over Omaha (March 29), Kansas City, Eldora, Milwaukee, and St. Louis (April 9-16).

In the last war, pilots reported circular flying objects over Europe and on the bombing route to Japan. The objects were nicknamed "foo fighters" or "Kraut fireballs," but there never was an explanation.



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From 1947 to now there has been a tremendous increase in the frequency of sightings. Many saucers have been tracked by radar, and their size and speed measured with precision instruments; a few have been photographed. A huge elliptical craft observed over the White Sands rocket proving ground in New Mexico was calculated to be flying 56 miles above the earth at 18,000 mph. Several other saucers have been estimated at 500 feet in diameter.

One of the most detailed and convincing reports in recent years was supplied by two pilots of an Eastern airlines DC-3. They are Lieut.-Col. C. S. Chiles, U.S. Air Transport Command, and J. B. Whitted, wartime pilot of B-29's. At 2:45 A.M. on July 23, 1948, they were flying from Houston to Boston. A brilliant projectile-like craft came hurtling towards them, and both craft had to veer sharply to avoid collision. The strange object passed 700 feet away, its jet wash rocking the airliner. The pilots described the craft as being about 100 feet long, cigar-shaped, wingless, and without fins, and about twice the diameter of a B29. It had two rows of windows and what appeared to be a pilot's cabin, and was traveling at 500-700 mph, leaving a red-orange exhaust trail 30-50 feet long. The object was also seen by the one passenger who happened to be awake.

On Jan. 7, 1948, a huge gleaming

object several hundred feet in diameter was seen over Madisonville, Ky., and shortly afterwards over Godman air force base, 90 miles away, where it hovered overhead for almost an hour.

Three P-51 fighters, led by Captain Mantell, took off to investigate. When Mantell sighted the object it was directly above him, starting to climb, and making half his speed. "It looks metallic," he radioed to base, "and it's tremendous in size!" The other pilots had also sighted the object, but Mantell, in an effort to close in, outclimbed them, and was quickly lost in the clouds.

Five minutes later he reported that the object had speeded up and was climbing at 360 mph or more. Two minutes later he radioed: "It's still above me, making my speed or better. I'm going up to 20,000 feet. If I'm no closer, I'll abandon chase." Shortly afterwards his fighter disintegrated.

As the tragedy of Mantell's death became known at Godman field, the same craft, or one very similar, was seen simultaneously at Madisonville and Lexington, 165 miles apart, thus indicating that it was flying at a height considerably over 30 miles.

It seems very probable that it was the same craft, which had made a swift ascent to this level after Mantell's last report. Two hours later a large oval object was sighted over Lockburne air force base, Colum-

The Moon

THE Hayden Planetarium, New York City, has taken more than 24,000 space-travel applications. Although there's nothing certain about it, the planetarium people have a round trip to the moon scheduled to leave the earth at 8 A.M., EST, May 30, 1975. Besides applications from people in every state in the Union, the planetarium has had letters from many foreign countries. The planetarium does not guarantee the departure date of May 30, 1975, but will turn over all its applications for reservations to commercial space-lines if and when the day comes for the great adventure.

Virginia Irwin in the St. Louis
Post Dispatch (14 Sept. '53)

loon-shaped objects, and balls of light. Of the reports investigated by the American Air Force in the last five years, 23.54% describe disk or spherical shapes, 8.25% torpedo or cigar shapes, and 0.6% balls of light.

Probably some of the sightings can be simply explained. They could be astronomical bodies or merely products of the imagination to be classified with leprechauns and mermaids. But there remains a hard core of well-documented evidence which seems to put the saucers beyond the realm of natural phenomena. Of the 800 reports investigated by the air force, 15% were of this nature.

One theory is that the saucers are aircraft from another planet. The possibility that life exists on other planets besides our own has been recognized by astronomers for many years.

In our solar system, life may exist on two other planets besides our own, Mars and Venus. It is believed that Wolf 359, eight light-years from the earth, is the nearest star outside our universe likely to have inhabited planets. Theologians are paying increasing attention to the religious implications of existence of intelligent beings on other planets. Against this background the thesis that the saucers are interplanetary aircraft seems less fantastic.

My own conclusion is that the interplanetary interpretation of fly-

bus, Ohio, 300 miles away. There it was observed for 20 minutes, and was stationary part of the time. A similar object had also been reported over other points in Ohio. It would seem that all the reports that came in that afternoon from Kentucky and Ohio related to the same object, the one that Mantell lost his life in chasing.

Mantell's was one of 373 sightings investigated by the American air force intelligence between 1947 and 1949. The flying objects fall into four groups: flying disks, torpedo or cigar-shaped bodies without wings or fins, spherical or bal-

ing saucers is the most plausible one on the evidence available. It is the only one which makes sense of the facts as reported. It fits in convincingly with astronomical data, and a close parallel can be drawn between the activities of the saucers and our own plans for space travel.

I am not alone in drawing this conclusion. Dr. Maurice Biot, a leading aerodynamicist, has stated, "The least improbable explanation is that these things are artificial and controlled. My opinion is that

they have an extraterrestrial origin."

His views are endorsed by Dr. Walther Riedel, once chief designer and director of research at the German rocket center at Peenemunde. The American air force intelligence is reported as "being continually astounded by the number of trained scientists who believe they are interplanetary in origin." Whatever you may think about the saucers, you must agree that they pose a problem for every intelligent person.

Conversation in a Flying Saucer

By TOM COOPER

Condensed from *Perpetual Help**

"DADDY, what are all those colored lights for down on the planet Earth?" Daddy was looking straight ahead, his hands on the chromium controls, as the little saucer streaked through the stratosphere. Mother, in the back, was watching the twinkling colors in the windows of cities.

The saucer had been cruising along westward across the Atlantic at about 1,000 miles an hour. Now the lights of cities along the eastern seaboard came into view. Mother named them, as rapidly as she could before they slipped out

of view. "New York, Washington, Baltimore. Now, right below us, is Chicago. There is Denver; now we are over Los Angeles, named for our Lady, Queen of the Angels"

"Mummy, why does Earth look so beautiful tonight?" Mother tried to explain something she but dimly understood herself. "Because this is a great holiday on earth. This is what they call Christmas-tide. Poor mortals sing songs in the snow, and light their windows with colored lights, because many moons ago God"

**Esopus*, N. Y. January, 1953. Copyright 1953 by the Redemptorist Fathers, and reprinted with permission.

"But why do you call them poor mortals, mummy?"

"Because they are so different from us. They must suck in air to keep alive. They must plant and plow and reap to have food to eat. They shiver when it's cold. And after they live a while, their teeth ache and then fall out. Their skin dries up and wrinkles and their bones burn with pain. They do not live on and on as we do. They stop breathing and their bodies stiffen and get cold, and after a few days they must be put away in a hole in the ground. That's what they call *death*. That's why I called them poor."

"But why aren't they like us? Why are they so different?"

"Because they sinned. They disobeyed God's first command. You remember that I told you how God made this whole wonderful universe, how He put men on Earth, and *us* on our own planet.

"Well, when God put *our* first parents in the Golden Castle, He told them to enjoy themselves to their heart's content. They could make themselves at home in every room, climb any stairway, except one that led up into a tiny tower on the roof. *Our* first parents did just what God commanded, and we have all been happy since. We do not mind heat or cold. We grow up but never get old. And we never die. All we will do is move from here to the vision of God in heaven.

"But men down on Earth disobeyed. God put their first parents in a beautiful garden, and told them they might eat anything they saw excepting the fruit of one special tree. That was their test, and they failed. They ate the fruit that God forbade and God cursed the Earth because of their sin. So you see why they are *poor* mortals."

"Yes, mummy, but what is Christmas? Why do Earth men light candles and sing songs in the cold? Why are they so happy if they all suffer cold and grow old and have to be put into the ground when they die?"

"Christmas is their biggest anniversary. It recalls the most wonderful thing that ever happened anywhere in the whole universe. On Christmas, God went down to the Earth and lived there among men."

"But, mummy, I thought you said no one can see God except in heaven! How did the Earth men know God was living among them? Could they see Him with their eyes?"

"Yes, child, they could see Him with their eyes. He was born a little baby boy, and He grew up. And He suffered cold just like other poor mortals. And whenever He met a sick man or someone who was blind or lame, He found the time to cure him.

He told the Earth men He was God. He invited them to leave off

sinning and follow Him and be like God. And then they killed Him. I know, child, it's hard to understand, but that's what happened."

"Well, now they must be really *poor*. Now they must be cursed for fair. And they deserve to have heaven closed to them forever. But I still don't understand why they celebrate God's birthday, if they killed Him."

"There are many things you will never understand about God. He is so good that He does things we would never dream of doing. He loves the Earth men for some reason of His own. He still wants them in heaven.

"The very Queen of heaven is a woman of Earth. It was she who brought Him forth on Christmas. She held God in her arms. Imagine that! She is the only one on Earth who never sinned. And anything

she asks of her Son, He gives her. That is why the Earth is so merry tonight. Because, despite all its sins, it can claim the Queen of heaven as its own. Because Mary can ask her Son to help them into heaven, and they know He will."

"Mummy, I don't think they're *poor* mortals. I think they are better off than we are. We have never seen God. He never came to our planet to live. We have no Christmas. I wish I could go down there tonight and sing songs in the cold and light candles and call God my Baby Brother."

In the back seat of the flying saucer the mother was smiling at the wisdom of her child. She remembered hearing somewhere that down on the planet Earth on a day they called Holy Saturday they even dared to sing, "O happy sin of Adam that won for us so wondrous a Redeemer!"



Freedom for Communists— Even for Cats

STALIN one day was giving Mao Tse-tung instruction in practical communism.

"Comrade," said Stalin, "how would you make a cat eat chili pepper?"

"There are two ways," answered Mao. "I could force it down him or I could stuff a fish with pepper and give the fish to the cat."

"Wrong," said Stalin. "It's not compatible with our ideology. The first method is coercion, the second, deception. You know we never coerce or deceive the people."

"Then how would you do it," asked Mao.

"I would rub the pepper on the cat's tail," answered Stalin. "When it burns, the cat would turn around to lick his tail, thus eating the pepper voluntarily."

The Tester (18 Sept., '52).