

OMNII

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**1981's
WORST
SCIENTIFIC
ACHIEVEMENTS**

**JAPAN'S NEW ROBOT
CULTURE, SCIENCE VS.
MALE STERILITY,
BROWN FAT DIET,
DECODING
NOSTRADAMUS,
AND WHERE TO FIND
BURIED TREASURE**



‘Up to a dozen UFOs
maneuvered overhead, rising
and falling in
organized formation.’

ANTI MATTER

A U.S. Air Force captain employed by the Los Angeles Air Defense Sector noticed unusual jolts of light moving across his radar screen with a rhythm that seemed eerily intelligent. The bewildered military officer directed his first, tentative comment to the control tower at Edwards Air Force Base, in southern California. “We’re getting a radar signal just east of [you],” he said. Immediately he received a reply.

“There *should* be two there,” barked a deep voice, cracking with excitement. “I’ve been observing them for almost three hours,” he added.

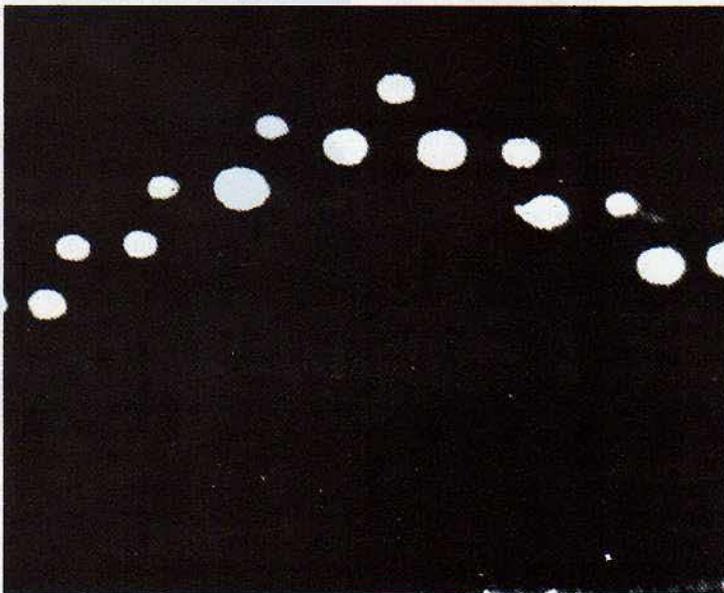
“I have two more north of those, over the rocket site,” the agitated captain in Los Angeles blurted out.

“I can see *three* more,” said the observer at Edwards. “[Our radar] is painting all kinds of data.”

The conversation comes from a tape made on October 7, 1965, when a group of servicemen watched a dozen unknown objects maneuver above an airstrip at Edwards. The tape, and an accompanying written report, were made in conjunction with Project Blue Book, a U.S. Air Force investigation of unidentified flying objects.

During its 20-year probe, Blue Book amassed 13,000 UFO accounts. When its inquiry ended in 1969, the findings were classified; then it became impossible for persons without special authorization to examine Blue Book documents—or to check the government’s assertion that there was no evidence of any alien presence.

Then, in 1976, a team of civilian investigators gained access to the material through the Freedom of Informa-



UFO UPDATE

tion Act. They soon learned that nearly 10 percent of Blue Book sightings had never been scientifically explained; some of the most jarring reports had come from officers stationed at U.S. military installations. One of the most enigmatic accounts was the Edwards incident.

According to Captain John Balent, the Edwards officer who produced the written report for Blue Book, he and a few others watched up to a dozen UFOs for four-and-a-half hours. The unknown objects looked like “ordinary stars,” he wrote, but they kept “rising and

falling” in organized formation; their flight paths varied constantly, and one of the bright moving objects even seemed to be pushing a small cloud in front of it.

An Air Force jet finally attempted to intercept the moving lights, but as soon as the jet swept close to one UFO, it rose out of reach and disappeared.

If one accepts Balent’s report, those who saw the UFOs at Edwards were sane, reliable, and “proficient at their jobs.” They could not have been confused by stray air traffic or by balloon releases, for there were none that night. There were, moreover, several eyewitnesses, and visual observations were confirmed by radar.

This was not the only UFO story to come out of Edwards: Ex-astronaut Gordon Cooper, stationed at the base in the early 1960s, remembers the day when something “landed out on the dry lake bed in front of a camera crew, who filmed it.” The film was then sent to Washington for safekeeping, “never to be seen again.”—LEE SPEIGEL