

Making A Case For The FLYING SAUCER

By **RICHARD GREENOUGH**

From America, the "home" of flying saucers, comes this up-to-the-minute summary of report and rumor about the modern mystery of the skies.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "DAILY MAIL."

EVER since Kenneth Arnold, 30-year-old ordinary business-man pilot from Boise, Idaho, touched off the "flying saucers" mystery by reporting, on the afternoon of June 24, 1947, that he had seen "nine shiny discs like metal hub-caps flip-flapping along at about 1,200 m.p.h." only one fact seems quite certain.

Nobody has yet proved definitely that such things do or do not exist.

Air Force Finding

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THIS includes the US Air Force, still investigating reports about "celestial crockery," though officially last December, after checking 375 cases, it closed down "Project Saucer," a special investigation group of Intelligence officers with headquarters in Ohio.

At that time it was stated in a blanket turn-down that all reports were:

1. Misinterpretation of "conventional" aerial objects. These included giant experimental cosmic-ray balloons, radar tar-

cosmic-ray balloons, radar target balloons with dangling strips of aluminium foil, meteor trains, wisps of or whole vapor trails from high-flying aircraft, bright planets.

2. Mild form of mass hysteria.

3. Hoaxes.

But steadily, from 1947 up till a few days ago, reports of curious objects that "go whizz in the air" keep on coming in from all over the United States.

They have now been reported from 43 out of the 48 States, with the majority coming from the south and east and near the Mexican border.

They have also, of course, been reported from other parts of the world, from Scandinavia, Africa, China, the Far East.

The objects allegedly seen here have ranged from the now almost conventional flying disc or "saucer," sometimes with "fuzzy" edges, or lit up at night, to torpedo-shaped wingless "space-ships" showing regular rows of lights in the dark and orange flames coming from the tail.

Sometimes they have been reported shaped like tubes, pillars, spheres.

But two facts seem to remain constant. They are all said to be either white or silver, and to move across the sky in an undulating way, tilting first in one direction, then the other, rising and falling, before finally disappearing into nothing or over the horizon.

Pilot's Chase

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ONE US Air Force pilot, Capt. Thomas Mantell, lost his life some months ago trying to catch up with something that looked like "a silver ice cream cone topped with red."

An experienced war-time pilot, with several thousand hours' flying time, Mantell was in his fighter plane leading two others near Fort Knox, Kentucky, when the control tower at his airbase, Godman Field, radioed him to try to locate a strange object sighted from the ground and moving in his direction.

Mantell later called back that he had spotted the "thing" at "12 o'clock high" (directly ahead and above him), and that it looked like a silver ice-cream cone topped with red.

His air-to-ground conversation was logged at the air base and I have checked it. He later reported:—

"I'm closing in now to take a good look. It's directly ahead of me and moving at a good speed. The thing looks metallic and is tremendous."

His Last Report

FOR 25 minutes Mantell and the two other pilots tried vainly to close in. Mantell reported the object was climbing and moving at a speed equal to his own, which he gave as 360 m.p.h.

In broken cloud at 18,000 ft. the other two pilots lost sight of him. Mantell later broke off and landed

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Mantell called once more to say that if he were no closer at 20,000 feet he'd abandon the chase as he hadn't the oxygen.

That was the last heard from him.

His body was later found near Fort Knox and the wreckage of his machine scattered over half a mile around. Obviously his plane had disintegrated in mid-air.

Official Air Force version was that Mantell had probably "blacked out" from lack of oxygen and had not regained consciousness before he crashed out of control.

Still A Mystery

BUT one of his fellow-pilots later commented:—"I think that was a cover-up. Mantell was too experienced a pilot for that. He was quite familiar with signs of approaching anoxia (lack of oxygen), and would have taken steps to prevent it.

"Some of us think he may have collided with whatever he saw and that it knocked him out in the air."

Engineers later added that the type of machine Mantell was flying, starting a dive at 20,000 ft., would not have disintegrated so thoroughly.

During the past two and three-quarter years a multitude of people on the ground claim to have seen these "flying saucers," nor have they always been seen with the naked eye; many saw them through binoculars

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But the fact that first started the US Air Force to sit up, take notice, and then institute "Project Saucer" was the large number of apparently responsible pilots and aircrew members who sent in startling reports of what they claimed to have seen.

One of the theories along which "PS" investigators worked was evident from the fact that every plane whose pilot reported close encounters with "flying saucers" was checked with Geiger counters for possible radio-activity.

Head-On Meeting

TAKE the case, for instance, of Captain Clarence Chiles, former Air Transport Command pilot, and John B. Whitted, who flew B.29 Super-forts during the war. Both are happily married men with families, good jobs, and no need, or apparent desire for publicity.

They were flying a scheduled airline service near Montgomery, Alabama, one night last summer, when a brilliant, fast-moving object suddenly appeared ahead of them.

"We saw it at the same time," Chiles told investigators later. "Whatever it was flashed down towards us and we veered to the left. It veered sharply too and passed about 700 feet to our right and above us."

"The thing was about 100 feet long, cigar-shaped and wingless, about twice the diameter of a B.29 without protruding fins."

B.29 without protruding fins," said Whitted.

"There was a tremendous burst of orange flame from the rear. It zoomed into clouds, its jet or prop wash rocking our DC3."

Seeing's Believing

MORE recently, two weeks ago, two other airline pilots, Captain Jack Adams, with some 8,000 hours' flying time, and co-pilot G. W. Anderson reported a "flying saucer" with windows on the bottom and a blinking light near the top as they passed over Arkansas.

"It was flying almost due north and we crossed its path at about a 45 degree angle," said Adams. "It was about 1,000 ft. above us and travelling at a tremendous rate. It had a peculiarly colored and very intense light near the top which blinked very rapidly.

"We kept the object in sight for about 45 seconds.

"I've been a sceptic all my life about such things, but what can you do when you see a thing like that?" he concluded. "We were both flabbergasted."

Secret Experiments

WHAT is the explanation of these mysterious apparitions—the flying saucers? Undoubtedly some of them could be instances of the secret stratospheric rocket experiments being carried out at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where rockets are known to have been fired and to have reached 250 miles high.

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Others could probably be some of the radar target balloons with six-cornered aluminium foil trailers which oscillate and scintillate in the sun and wind, or the new cosmic ray test balloons capable of rising 70,000 ft. or more.

When these balloons leave the ground they are filled to only 1 per cent. capacity with helium, but when they reach great heights they fill out to 100 ft. long and 70 ft. in diameter.

Donald Keyhoe, naval pilot, one-time aide to Colonel Lindbergh, and lately Chief of Information at the Aeronautics Branch of the United States Department of Commerce, has recently expounded a theory in an article in True magazine, published in New York.

"For the past 175 years, the planet Earth has been under systematic close-range examination by living, intelligent observers from another planet," he writes (and I pass on this news without comment).

Three Types

THE vehicles used for such observations, he says, have been identified and categorised as follows:—

Type I., a small, non-pilot-carrying, disc-shaped aircraft equipped with some sort of television or impulse transmitter.

Type II., a very large, up to 250 ft. in diameter, metallic disc-shaped aircraft operating on the helicopter principle.

Type III., a dirigible-shaped, wingless aircraft.

wingless aircraft.


These, he maintains, "vary in no important particular from well-developed American plans for the exploration of space expected to come to fruition in the next 50 years.

In some support of this I learned from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics that circular or elliptical air-foils (wing surfaces) like the reported discs are quite possible aerodynamically.

But there are many people in the United States, even in high places, who believe these aerial manifestations are part of some colosally top-secret experiments carried out by the Air Force, who used their "Project Saucer" investigators merely as a blind.

Senator Clinton Anderson, who comes from New Mexico, where the great Los Alamos atomic plant and the army's guided missile testing ground are located, is convinced flying





discs are not figments of the imagination.

"I believe something big is under way," he says. "There is too much going on in those large research centres in my State to pooh-pooh the numerous eyewitness stories of flying saucers and other mysterious devices roaring over the countryside.

"I am convinced you are going to be surprised about where these flying saucers are coming from and what they really are when the facts are finally made known. I think they have a direct relation to the atomic programme."

In a recent broadcast, commentator Henry J. Taylor, from Dallas, Texas, said:—"The saucers are not from another planet, not from Russia, but right here from the United States."

Taylor went on to say investigations had convinced him they were some type of guided missile which disintegrates after a given period in mid-air.

My Own Ideas

THESSE are typical views held by some important people here in America. Modestly, as a former RAF pilot, I am inclined to think these "flying saucers" are real.

SAUCERS ARE REAL.

I do not think they are orbiting space ships from another planet, circling way up beyond the pull of gravity, or satellites sent down to spy out the earth from some space base.

The Germans had long-range plans for space platforms, and similar schemes are being worked on in the United States.

Were this the case, I feel that one of the "saucers" which has ventured down well within earth's gravity pull would have crashed and been discovered by now.

I am of the opinion that some of the "saucers" seen are man-made and part of some fantastic and fabulous secret.