

VARIED OPINIONS ON FLYING SAUCER MYSTERY

A hoax, an optical illusion, a new secret weapon, or something from another planet hovering over the earth?

A recent Gallup survey of the American public's ideas about the mysterious discs shows that the largest number with opinions think they are new experimental weapons, or flying contraptions being tested by the U.S. Army or Navy.

This represents quite a change in attitude since a similar survey in 1947, when the largest number labelled the flying celestial crockery as nothing more than an illusion or a hoax.

Whatever the truth may be, flying saucers are certainly one of the best-publicised phenomena of the post-war era—practically everyone interviewed by the American Gallup Poll had heard or read about them.

People interviewed were asked:

"What do you think these flying saucers are?"

Army or Navy experiments, new weapon, said 29.

Optical illusion, hoax, said 22.

Comets, something from another planet, said 5.

Russian weapon, said 3.

Other answers, 3.

Don't know, said 32.

Not heard of them, said 6.

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Guesses included many odd things, such as "Vapor pockets," "fragments of wreckage from the war," "boomerangs," and "flying metal parts from some big explosion." One middle-aged man said "They could be hats."