

MORE PORTENTS IN THE SKY

Myth or not, these 'saucers' will not lie down

By DR. PETER RUSSO

ALL around us are masses of the under-privileged who have never seen a flying saucer. For the benefit of these unfortunates I dig out a few files going back to 1946 in Britain and Europe, where the flying saucer anticipated the New Look by more than two years.

The first comprehensive report about saucers in the sky seems to have appeared in the London "Daily Telegraph" of July 12, 1946.

Datelined "Stockholm" and headlined "Ghost Rockets Over Sweden," the report is worth quoting in full:

"For some | "For some | "For some

For some weeks a fair number of 'ghost rockets' going from south-east to north - east have been reported from various parts of the east coast of Sweden. Eye-witnesses say that they look like glowing balls, and are followed by a tail of smoke more or less visible.

"So many reports cannot be put down to pure imagination, and the General Staff has started a thorough investigation. . . .

"As there is no definite evidence that the phenomena are of meteoric origin, there is a growing suspicion that they are a new kind of radio-controlled V-weapon on which experiments are being carried out."



THE first reaction of the public was to accept the "Telegraph's" assumption that the saucers were simply more or less visible balls, but by the following Sunday, July 14, the "Sunday Empire News" had nailed down both the saucers' origin and their traveling arrangements. It cried:

"Streaks Over Sweden Come from Peenemunde. Soviet Fire V-Rockets from Secret Base."

Nobody had been able to locate a fallen saucer, because

It was projected in such a way as to fall only into Norwegian lakes

as to fall only into Norwegian lakes.

By the end of July even the Swedish newspapers, horrified at what they had read in the London Press, were saying that "Sweden was becoming a test shooting-range for rocket missiles."

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AFTER brooding over this one-sided publicity

Behind the news

for a few weeks, the rest of Europe decided it might as well be in it, too.

Throughout August and September the

saucer stories crowded the wires from Austria, France, Italy, Greece, Morocco, and Portugal.

Even General Smuts referred in a speech to "the flying bombs, now seen nightly in the west," as an indication of how people spent their time behind the curtain.

Then, on October 10, after sifting a thousand stories, the Swedish Defence Staff issued an official communique: "Most of the meteor-like objects, often described as 'rockets' were

described as 'rockets,' were ordinary celestial phenomena. . . . Some of the objects could not be identified, but there was nothing to show that they were V-bombs or any other type of projectile."



AFTER these assurances many readers went back to their reclining postures, and did not sit up again on the question of flying saucers until a few weeks ago.

In this month's "Reader's Digest" I see that the U.S. armed forces have permitted a writer to tell the public that these flying saucers are no myth.

The notice has been given in case a saucer comes to earth prematurely in an out-of-way place, and some inquisitive yokel tries to tamper with it.

The writer of the article tells us also that these saucers, being full of offensive surprises, are good news for our side.

The only other intelligence I have to offer on the flying saucer comes from a man who called at my office this morning.

He says he was one of those people in Avoca who saw the flying saucers, and they do not look like saucers at all. He states emphatically that they look more like cups.