

Report said flying saucers were not a joke

So many people in U.S.A. were reporting flying saucers and other sky objects that an official authority—called Project Saucer—was set up. It was helped by the F.B.I. Its report granted that there were unidentified objects in the skies, which could be attributed to no known source.

The report added, "The saucers are not a joke; neither are they a cause for alarm." It was a frank facing up to the mystery. Then Project Saucer itself became a mystery. But the U.S. armed forces no longer said that saucers were "all hallucination." Instead, they denied they had a hand in the strange craft.

CHAPTER FIVE

When one month more—in June—the discs looked in again at the testing ground at White Sands, New Mexico, though again it was a team that saw it, and not the navy commander, he felt even less than at the first sighting that he could dismiss the evidence brought him.

The first upper-air missile had been a job of the army's. This one, sent up on that June day, was a

on that June day, was a navy job, the commander's own division of the forces.

And it was not let disappear before two sky inspectors arrived, No one saw them arrive. The observers simply found that a brace of discs — or at least platters — had appeared alongside, and what is more strange still, were now running up alongside the climbing missile.

Perhaps they were the smallest ever seen. They were thought to be less than two feet across. Then one dashed through the wake of the rocket and came out beside its companion on the other side.

★

STILL stranger.

now they were together, they started racing each other. And they made such speed that they left the rocket behind them, going up and away—the usual exit.

Nor did the commander

have to rest with the evidence of only this one team.

From nearly a dozen of the look-out posts which

the look-out posts, which are placed at distances round the huge field—miles in length—to keep posted as to where a stray missile may fall—from one after another came the telephone reports—the twins had been viewed in their amaz-

ing—and till then unprecedented—flight.

Meanwhile, what was authoritative opinion doing about all this?

We saw at the very beginning of the story that there were three factors wound together, making the fibres of this strange tale. The first were the actual experiences of a number of trained men, trained in accurate observation of aerial craft and sky-phenomena.



THIS sum of most valuable opinion and findings has grown. You can rub off and brush away the reports of good-hearted and honest lookers-on—who may mistake a meteorological balloon or a meteor as an unknown, original aircraft.

IS ANOTHER WORLD WATCHING US?

But you can't get rid of the evidence of men who are trained to observe, and who here are on their own ground.

These men do not want publicity—quite the reverse. They don't want to see things that are odd. They are neither credulous nor fanciful.

But, besides the first-rate reporters and the first-class observers, there were others—the men who want to be talked about, even though they were ruining the sense of reliability among average people who tell the truth.

Naturally the discs have seemed an opportunity to such people. Their reports have been dug into and most of them have been crumpled.



BUT the risk of such creatures does make the work of finding out what actually happens

what actually happens doubly difficult. And it does go some considerable way to explain why responsible persons (and especially those who have to carry most responsibility, the officials of the defence forces and of the Government) have "leant over backwards" to keep the story from getting premature approval, and have exposed the evidence, again and again, to examination, in the natural hope that it might, in the end, all be fitted into known or likely types of experience.

For that is the third thread of our story—the official story, what the authorities said about the saucers.

And this story by itself is one as complex as any psychological novel ever written.

Yet we shouldn't be surprised at that. As was said at the start, this isn't an easy subject.

THE first reaction of the armed forces authori-

of the armed forces authorities in the North-west corner of the States, where the discs problem first became of nation-wide concern, was to say that the evidence was far too poor to permit anything but the conclusion that these stories were inconclusive.

That was fair enough.

But, as the reports grew, two things did grow clearer, if not more comprehensible. First, they couldn't be dismissed; they must be quizzed and sifted and criticised.

The second also called for a little more openness. If they would stand up to examination at all, then they

would perhaps prove themselves not to be the most pressing of perils.

Perhaps, if the proofs held up, they could carry the whole question—odd as that might seem—right outside present political controversies and international tensions.

On the last day but one of the Year One of the Discs December 30, 1947.

Discs December 30, 1947.
the decision was ready to be
launched. Project Saucer
was to be set up.



THERE was to be a
central authority, equipped
with experts—astrophysi-
cists, electronic experts,
meteorologists. Radar, as
well as the telescope, were
to be at the service of these
judges and searchers.

Even that wonderfully
efficient instrument for dis-
covery, the Federal Bureau
of Investigation—an invalu-
able service for disclosing
hoaxers—was asked to aid
the project.

The first summaries that
were issued were clear and
hopeful. The greater part
of the reports had been
satisfactorily disposed of.
But it was owned that a
residium, a core of hard
fact, seemed left.

It was allowed—a con-
clusion with which every
sensible private person must

sensible private person must agree—that as there were unidentified air objects wandering about which could be at present attributed to no known source, why then “constant vigilance” is needed, not only by those on the project, but by the public.

Please report anything you see as soon as you do to the authorities.

The report ended with a friendly note. “The saucers

are not a joke. Neither are they cause for alarm for the population.”



HERE is a frank facing up to an exciting mystery.

Then the project itself became a mystery. Throughout, the air force had said that to the best of its knowledge there were no such things as discs, and it gave in March, 1950, a definite denial that the air force itself was engaged on any work that could be taken for the kind of thing

taken for the kind of thing that appeared in the newspaper descriptions

Nothing was being made for secret missiles or spaceships that could at all resemble discs. Yet the reports went on.

Finally, a well-known columnist and commentator, Henry J. Taylor—addressing a large audience in Los Angeles, declared categorically that, in spite of the official denials, the saucers are real and are U.S.A. secret weapons.

He said: "If you found a flying saucer—and the chances are slight because most of them are made of material which disintegrates in the air and disappears after a time—you would find stencilled on it in black letters:





"Military secret of the United States of America Air Forces (and a number). Anyone damaging or revealing description or whereabouts of this missile is subject to prosecution by the U.S. Government. Call collect at once. (Then a telephone number and the address of a U.S. Air Base.)

Non-explosive."



WHAT was the official reply to that?

The navy, the air force, and the army explicitly denied Taylor's statements.

They denied also similar statements made by another writer, David Lawrence (of U.S. News and World Re-

U.S. News and World Report).

To answer Lawrence, inquiries were sent down to Key West, where the President of the U.S. was then staying.

Not only had the President's Press Secretary, Charles Ross, to make a statement, but the President's air force aide also made statements on the President's authority.

General Landry (the air force aide) and Ross said exactly the same thing—there was nothing in these reports. The forces were making experiments of no such sort.

Note, that the armed forces and the Department of Defence are no longer saying that it's "all hallucination." What they are sticking to doggedly is that they themselves have no hand in these craft.

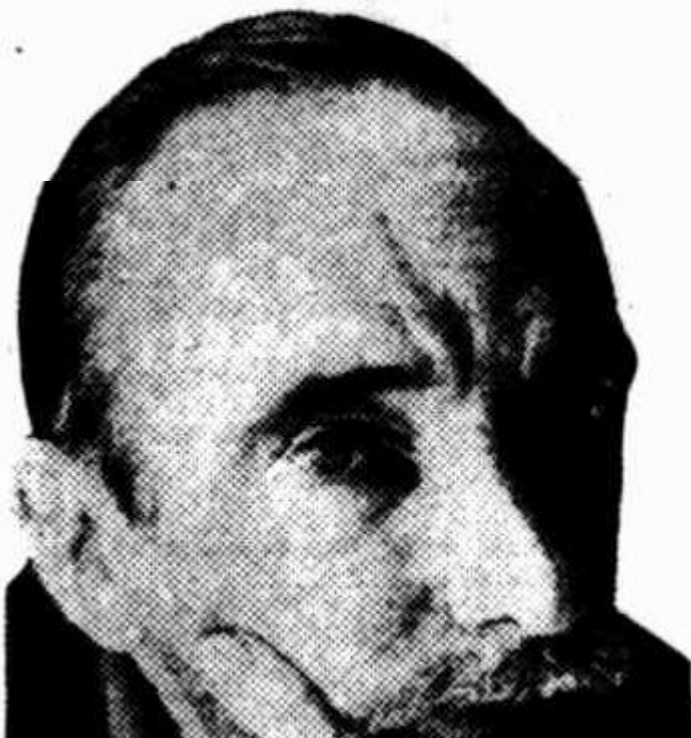


FLYING." a first-rate technical monthly, followed this with a full

lowed this with a full article on the subject of flying saucers, and in September published a long letter written by Captain Sperry on his May 29 encounter.

Sperry wrote: "In comparing the speed of this object with jet aircraft which I have observed many times at close range I say without doubt the object's speed was far beyond the limits of any aircraft speeds that we know. In comparison, the speed was fantastic."

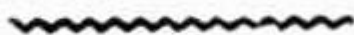
By





GERALD HEARD

Commenting on this letter the editors of "Flying" said that they in their opinion and "in the opinion of top-notch Washington military correspondents with whom we have discussed the subject in detail, no public commentator has satisfactorily explained the saucers or been able to present satisfactory proof of his theories. Flying welcomes detailed reports from its readers."



ON MONDAY

**Flying saucers seen near
the South Pole.**