

Two Investigations Of The Flying Saucer Mystery

"The Flying Saucers Are Real," by Donald Keyhoe. (Hutchinson, Melbourne, 2/6).

"Behind the Flying Saucers," by Frank Scully. (Victor Gollancz, London, 13/6).

For more than three years "flying saucers" have been a subject of debate, often acrimonious debate, in America.

Scoffers and believers have hurled epithets at one another, and the official attitude to the phenomena, particularly of the US Air Force Intelligence, has been far from consistent or intelligent, blowing hot one month and cold the next.

INTO this atmosphere has come these timely and painstaking studies by two American journalists (Keyhoe writes for "Time" magazine and Scully for "Variety"), each of whom comes forward with a similar and dazing solution of the mystery.

Naturally, each writer has examined the same evidence, and their stories cover much of the same ground—but with a difference. Keyhoe is more the reporter, determined to ferret out the facts. Scully is probably less reliable (he boldly claims that "American invented the atom bomb," for example), but his scientific arguments are more coherent and readable. Both scathingly attack the American Air Force authorities.

After tireless investigations, Keyhoe came to the conclusion that the saucers were space ships from the other planets, and that for the past 175 years the earth has been visited and studied by such inter-planetary airships.

Scully actually quotes two

Scully actually quotes two noted men—one is given a nom-de-plume for security reasons—who have not merely seen a saucer scudding at enormous speeds through the air, but have actually examined the fragments of a saucer which seemingly crashed on American soil and had little men—all dead—inside it.

And how did our other-world visitors achieve their aim of travelling billions of miles at terrific speeds (probably at 186,000 miles a second, the speed of light)? How did the inmates keep alive at such speeds and "lifts," and with what metals were the saucers constructed that they failed to melt (the heads of the German V2 rockets, we are reminded, melted at only 2,000 miles an hour!)?

These intricate scientific problems, and their somewhat soul-shaking implications, are exhaustively thrashed out, and the tormented reader, unable perhaps fully to accept the authors' version, or to find a satisfactory explanation for himself, may take refuge and comfort in the statement, re-

comfort in the statement, recently published, of Dr. V. Liddel, US research chief, that "flying saucers are 'sky-hook' experimental balloons."