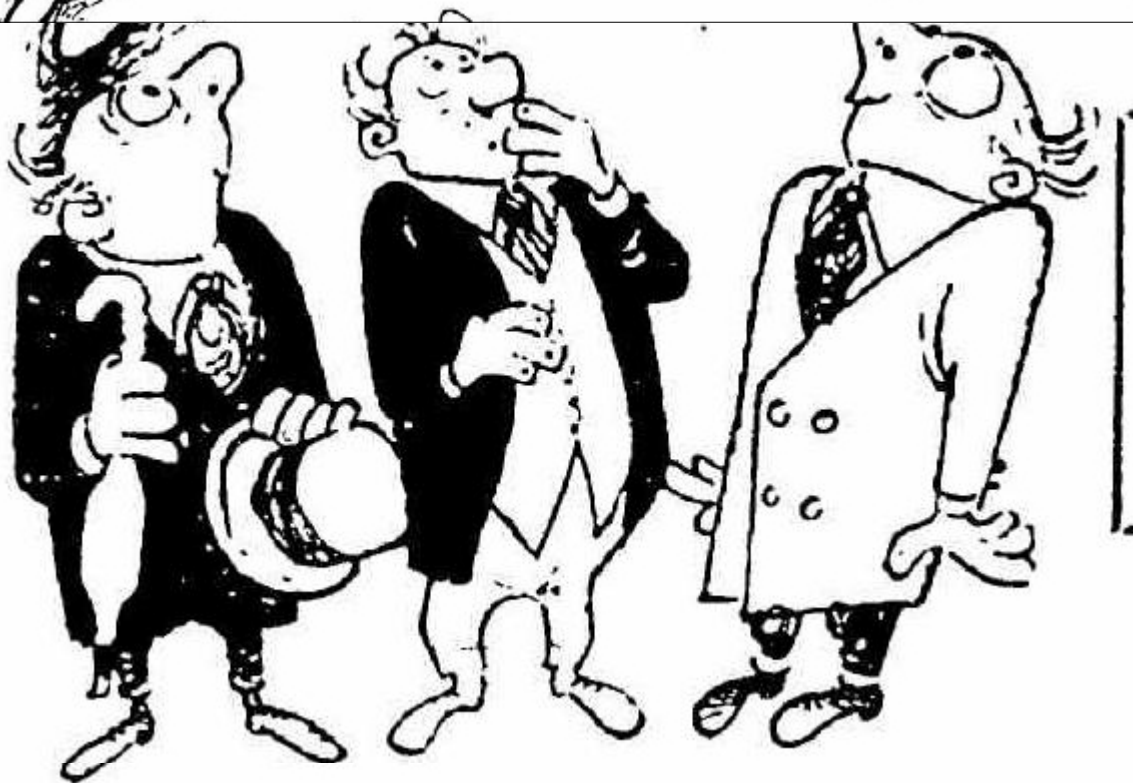


BY FRANK FELDMAN FROM PARIS



The flying



PUZZLING reports about flying saucers have been received from all over the world, including Australia. Three women—all perfectly sober—swore that they saw two shimmering green balls fly at great speed overhead near Linz, Austria.

A lecturer in Denmark affirmed that he had seen a phosphorescent and green "balloon-like" object fly overhead. Danish German Swedish

overhead. Danish, German, Swedish and French observers made similar reports.

A number of Swedes vowed that they saw a squadron of saucers near Stockholm. The Air Ministry investigated and reported that the "saucers" were probably atmospheric phenomena occasioned by magnetic storms.

But this explanation hardly satisfied the hard-thinking Swedes. One official suggested meteors. But the tail of a falling star is merely the glowing vapor trail it leaves behind. Meteors do not travel in formation.

Toward the close of 1950 it looked as if the public had become tired of the saucer hocus-pocus. Experts who had collated dozens of reports in their "Project Saucer" came out with the lame statement that they were due to an optical deception.

But aeronautic specialists have never stopped probing. Uncanny reports have lately come to the US Air Force headquarters in Tokio.

Bomber crews declared that they had spotted saucer-shaped, orange-colored objects about three metres in diameter over the Korean night sky.

Th discs were surrounded by rings

In discs were surrounded by rings of greenish-blue flames. They followed the bombers for a short while and then disappeared.

Intelligence officers made immediate inquiries and submitted their findings to the Air Material Command in Wright Field (USA). An official spokesman affirmed subsequently that the objects were remarkably like the objects called flying saucers by laymen.

In a way it was an important admission, for officials handle the whole subject of flying saucers with extreme circumspection.

Said one American Air Force official, "One cannot doubt the observations, but the Air Force does not believe in flying saucers."

The Flying Saucer sensation first rippled through the world in the summer of 1947. In the west and south-west of the United States people were reporting strange objects of an elliptic shape which could

Thousands of people have seen flying saucers. Were

they all wrong?

do some weird junketing in the air.

They either moved at great speed, turned close curves or hovered motionless, dropped vertically or rose steeply, zooming away at stupendous speed.

The first observation of a group of discs of the size of a two-engined plane was made on June 12, 1947, by US air personnel.

All units received orders to give chase when they spotted any unidentifiable objects. On January 7, 1948, Captain Tom Mantell, an experienced fighter pilot, roared into the sky from an airfield north of Fort Knox.

Highway police and military police in Kentucky had allegedly seen a saucer. Mantell was flying a Mustang and was accompanied by two other pilots.

They rose quickly after an enigmatic object emitting an orange luminousness had been seen over Godman Airfield.

"I have seen it," Mantell communicated excitedly back to the field by

cated excitedly back to the field by radio. A few moments later his voice came over again, "The thing is gaining altitude, but not as fast as I am. Am trying to approach . . ." Then the terse, "It's still above me."

A few seconds later there was a loud explosion and parts of the wrecked plane were scattered over



several square miles. As Mantell's colleagues zoomed up, the "thing" had vanished. And so had Mantell.

This misfortune which might have been due to a mechanical defect sobered down the sceptics who had jeered at the saucer-spotters. "Project Saucer" was launched.

Members of the investigation commission asked civilian and military pilots to forward confidential reports of their observations.

In July, 1948, Captain Charles Chiles and his co-pilot (both experi-

Chiles and his co-pilot (both experienced fliers with 8000 flying hours to their credit) saw a phosphorescent, projectile-like object in the moonlight over Texas.

At first they mistook it for a jet plane. Captain Chiles said, "It sped toward us at a terrific velocity. We turned to port and it followed us with a sharp turn, passing us at a distance of about 1000ft."

The co-pilot described it as being about 150 long, cigar-shaped, wingless, emitting an intensely dark blue



saucer enigma



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exhaust from the side. The air whirl
shook the DC3. This was confirmed
by a passenger, McKelvie, who was
the only passenger awake at the time.

An hour before the ground staff

ALL HOUR BEFORE THE GROUND SURVEY of the military airfield at Robbins near Macon (Georgia) had also reported a cigar-shaped "ship."

This became observation case No. 144 of 375 examined by members of the Project Saucer which was dissolved on December 30, 1949, three days after the US Air Force had categorically disclaimed the existence of discs.

But the final report did play up an innuendo on the possible visit of space strangers who might have become alarmed by atom and rocket developments. This allusion was naturally seized upon by pseudo-scientific writers.

Although the project was officially laid aside at the end of 1949, astrophysicists, meteorologists and other scientists were not so easily assuaged. They accepted a statement from the White House that the discs were not a new form of a secret weapon. But that did not clarify the mystery.

On August 25, 1951, Dr. Robinson, Professor of Geology at Texas University, Dr. Oberg, Professor of Chemistry, and Professor Ducker, petrologist, were discussing some problem on the terrace of Robinson's house in Lubbock (Texas)

house in Lubbock (Texas).

Suddenly they saw 20 shining lights in V-formation passing overhead at tremendous speed. The objects were completely noiseless.

The professors were discussing this when another formation raced overhead, followed by 10 other groups. An 18-year-old student, Carl Hart, was lucky enough to take pictures of them.

Five photos depicted them as shiny blurbs brighter than Venus. No plane was in sight at the time. The US Air Force examined the pictures. Verdict: No fakes, but what are they?

Astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh saw a flying saucer over Las Cruces (New Mexico) on a summer night in 1948. "It flew noiselessly," he said later, "but much faster than an aircraft, but not as fast as a meteor. It looked like a big airship, being oval and yet bathed in a greenish-blue phosphorescence."

It is not generally known that a number of the "balls" have exploded on our planet; strict secrecy has been observed about this, although one sensation-monger wrote up a fantastic piece that they were manned by little Mars men.

On November 2, 1951, one of these

On November 2, 1951, one of these incandescent objects was seen flying over the State of Arizona and 165 people witnessed its path.

At the site of its explosion investigators looked in vain for shrapnel or debris. They found none. But there was an abnormal amount of copper particles in the air.

The green light may be caused by burning copper. There is no copper in meteorites, according to experts.

In August, 1950, French physician M. Desmas saw a similar disc over eastern France which looked like an airship at first, but as it gained distance it took on the proportions of a saucer.

Dr. Walter Riedel, who was in charge of the Nazi rocket experimental site in Peenemuende and is now doing secret work for the US, does not believe the objects are of terrestrial origin.

No human being could stand the pressure or heat, says Riedel. Nonetheless, the discs do fly as if they are guided. Pilots are convinced of that.

Dr. Kuiper, famous astronomer, discounts the theory that they are manned by Mars men. Only insects

manned by Mars men. Only insects can exist on Mars, says Kuiper.

Our flying saucer reports are nothing new. Our forefathers also reported seeing strange celestial objects.

On September 26, 1870, The Times wrote that an elliptic object "with a sort of tail" took 30 seconds to traverse the moon.

On August 1, 1871, a rotund body was sighted over Marseilles. On March 22, 1880, several phosphorescent objects were seen over Kattenau, East Prussia, flying toward the west, and in 1885 an astronomer spotted a "gigantic thing" over Adrianopol, Turkey.

Then in 1934 an American expedition to Tibet under Nicolaus Roerich saw an oval metallic disc flying in a north-south direction with tremendous speed.

Air force specialists are still sceptical, though they admit that the existence of saucers can no longer be refuted. Thousands of people have seen them. ●