

---

# **'The Morning Bulletin'**

## **ROCKHAMPTON.**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1954.**

---

### **THE FLYING SAUCER**

Washington Air Force officials on June 1st announced that reports of flying saucers in the United States had fallen off appreciably since 1952. So far this year only 87 "sightings" have been reported. It is believed that more scientific investigating and better education are to a large extent responsible for the decline.

The American report is of particular interest to Australia just now in view of the spate of reports lately received from people who claim to have seen strange objects moving across the sky. In one week in May Queensland was inundated with reports of this character. They came from such widely separated points as the Darling Downs, Bundaberg, Gin Gin, Maryborough and Rockhampton. There is no means of telling whether any connexion exists between the

nexion exists between the falling off in North America and the sharp increase in flying objects in the Southern Hemisphere.

The RAF has been investigating flying saucer reports since 1947. The conclusion arrived at is that at least 10 per cent of the people making them have definitely seen something of an unusual nature, and that many of them, particularly air pilots, have sufficient knowledge of air conditions to justify the acceptance of their reports as reliable. From sources other than the RAF explanations of the phenomena suggest that the persons concerned have been deceived by an apparition that could be fully explained by the application of scientific knowledge.

In the face of the Australian experience and the occurrence of flying saucers in Britain, U.S.A., Canada, South Africa, and countries in South America it would be foolish to be thoroughly sceptical. In the quest for an explanation of the phenomena three of the most popular theories canvassed are: (1) That the reports are a mere figment of the minds of people who are

minds of people who are  
deceived by appear-  
ances; (2) that the objects  
seen are the secret weapons  
of one of the great military  
Powers undergoing tests; (3)  
that we are being visited by  
beings from another planet  
in strange machines.

All three explanations are  
tenable. Americans have  
noted that the flying saucer  
season invariably coincides  
with the period when meteor  
showers are most frequent in  
U.S.A. On the other hand,  
the Canadians are so inclined  
to believe that the strange  
objects are secret weapons  
undergoing test that they have  
recently built a scientific ob-  
servatory for detecting fast  
moving objects at great  
height at night time.

As to the belief that the  
strange objects come from  
another planet, it cannot be  
overlooked that American  
scientists have just completed  
plans and tested the gear for  
rocket ships capable of mak-  
ing a journey to the moon,  
and no one has denied that  
it can be done. Since there  
are 22 planets on which  
astronomers believe life like  
ours could exist, and many  
consider it quite reasonable to

consider it quite reasonable to assume that life does exist on them, how can we refuse to believe that people on another planet can visit us, or that the flying objects reported in practically every country have come from one of these planets?

The position, therefore, with which we are faced is that the flying saucer reports are something for which no universally accepted solution has, as yet, been forthcoming. The Washington Air Force statement of a falling off in the incidence of flying objects does not solve the mystery, since it admits inability to explain at least 10 per cent of the "sightings." It is probably true, however, that more scientific investigation and better public education on the subject have narrowed the field so that the reports now coming in are fewer and more authentic than the earlier crop of flying saucers.