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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

From: [jan@cyberzone.net](mailto:jan@cyberzone.net) (Jan Aldrich)  
Date: Sun, 05 Jan 1997 08:30:31 -0800  
Fwd Date: Sun, 05 Jan 1997 14:17:58 -0500  
Subject: Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

> Date: Sat, 4 Jan 1997 19:47:03 +0100 (MET)  
> To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
> From: Jean van Gemert <[jeanvg@dds.nl](mailto:jeanvg@dds.nl)>  
> Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

> >From: "Jerry Cohen" <[rjcohen@li.net](mailto:rjcohen@li.net)>  
> >Subject: UFO UpDate: Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

> >>As previously mentioned, Dr. James McDonald brought his findings  
> >>before several scientific groups.

> Jerry,

> Regarding the number of Bluebook unknowns, McDonald felt that the  
> actual number of true unknowns was much higher. He wrote:

> "The Bluebook position has for years been that UFOs are almost  
> entirely such misidentifieds, and Bluebook has repeatedly asserted  
> that their small percentage of unidentifieds would fall into that  
> category if more adequate data were at hand. After studying hundreds  
> of their cases, I do not agree. I say instead that adequate and open-  
> minded scrutiny of the roughly 12,000 cases now on file at Air Force  
> Project Bluebook would probably raise the percentage of unidentifieds  
> from the currently acknowledged few per cent to perhaps 30-40 percent."

> UFOs -- An International Scientific Problem. Paper Presented at the  
> Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium,  
> Montreal, Canada, March 12, 1968

This is interesting, but besides the point. When the 4602d AISS first started their investigations, their unidentified level was very high. Of course, some of this can be attributed to the learning curve. However, it soon came down. They applied little tricks to get it down that I have discussed in other posts. One example concern a GOC post where the woman on duty called the Filter Center to ask if Mars had risen yet. It became a UFO case. When sent a questionnaire, the lady said she was sure that she had seen Mars and just wanted to confirm the time of rising. This incident remained a UFO case in 4602d AISS files.

"Insufficient Information" as Hynek said was usually insufficient follow up, and, really in a some cases, a trick to get rid of truly puzzling cases.

The Air Force had no firm criteria as to what was a case. Sometimes a two paragraph clipping has a case file while a complete investigation by Air Force personnel of an Air Force case on a completed AF Form 112 is listed as "Not a case--Information only." The OSI files at the end of the Project Blue Book microfilm contain many cases not in Project Blue

Book's files.

Hynek's reevaluation of Air Force files did not change the total of unidentified greatly. See, THE HYNEK UFO REPORT, P.298.

Another argument could be made that the Air Force system increase the number of unidentified because cases determined to be IFOs at an place in the chain were not forwarded. From the unit histories I have posted you can see this in operation.

However, there is another reason, I am interested in finding cases in unit histories. They generally tell where in local file the cases are found. All that you have to have is a commander who says "There will be no UFO reports in this command." Boom. There are none. (I am interested in the these local files as a possible of source of new official material.)

My search of Navy logs tends to confirms this. Even before UFOs, there was a bias against recording unusual events because the deck officers were afraid of embarrassing the Captain. So when the rough log was transferred to final version, these things just fell out. Once again, in the HYNEK REPORT you will find a series of reports off Korea by the carrier Phillipine Sea and the battleship Missouri involving in some cases radar visual sighting. These are official reports sent through Navy channels and to the AF, but search the ships' logs in the Task Forces, and you find nothing except a sighting of a green meteor.

Whether the percentage of unknowns is 30% or 5% is besides the point. Arguments can be made in either direction, just the define the sample in different ways. The true unknowns are not in the majority, granted. Despite the arguments of USAF, MOD, DND, this is irrelevant. It is like saying amount of the isotope U235 compared to the amount of Uranium is not significant.

> *And for those who are interested, Brian Zeiler and I have a special*  
> *page dedicated to James McDonald at:*

> [http://www.primenet.com/~bdzeiler/papers\\_e.htm](http://www.primenet.com/~bdzeiler/papers_e.htm)

> Jean

Excellent! McDonald's work is a great counter weight to foolishness and fuzzy headedness seen in some of ufology.

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