

THE "SILENCERS" AT WORK

U.S. Air Force Denies Responsibility

ON February 5, 1967, the *Sunday Telegraph* published a disquieting story from the United States. It has since transpired that the reported interview from which the story was taken, was granted by the Pentagon Spokesman to our contributor John A. Keel. We here reproduce the full version—taken from the Florida *Orlando Sentinel* of February 3—of the account which appeared in more than a hundred newspapers in the United States.

"Mysterious men dressed in Air Force uniforms or bearing impressive credentials from government agencies have been 'silencing' UFO witnesses, according to Col. George P. Freeman, Pentagon spokesman for Project Bluebook.

'We have checked a number of these cases,' Freeman said in an interview this week, 'and these men are not connected with the Air Force in any way.'

He cited one recent case, in which the police officers and other witnesses at the UFO sightings in Wanaque, N.J., were allegedly collected together by a man wearing an Air Force uniform. They were told that they 'hadn't seen anything' and that they shouldn't discuss the incident.

'We checked with the local AFB,' Freeman declared, 'and discovered that no one connected with the Air Force had visited Wanaque on the date in question. Whoever it was, he wasn't from the Air Force.'

Another mystery man, this one

bearing credentials from the North American Air Defence (NORAD), turned up at the home of Rex Heflin, a man who had taken a series of UFO pictures in California in 1965, and demanded the originals. Later, NORAD denied having anything to do with the incident.

Major General M. M. Magee, NORAD's chief of staff, later told Rep. James B. Utt, R-Calif., that 'for your information NORAD does not have the responsibility for the evaluation of UFOs and therefore would not knowingly be in the business of collecting UFO pictures for evaluation. In addition, the office of primary interest for UFO matters is the Department of the Air Force.'

Heflin's photos have never been returned and the Air Force has never been able to determine the identity of the mystery man who took them.

Similar mystery men, according to other sources, have turned up and confronted UFO witnesses in the states of Washington, Texas, Connecticut, and on Long Island, N.Y.

In February, 1960, Joe Perry, a restaurant owner in Grand Blanc, Mich., took a series of UFO pictures and was soon visited by two men posing as FBI agents. They seized a photo of a dome-shaped object with a green tail.

More recently, a man claiming to represent 'a government agency so secret that he couldn't give its name' appeared in a school in Norwalk, Conn., and grilled two 12-year-old boys for two hours about the disc-shaped object which they said had

pursued them at ground level in April, 1966.

'We haven't been able to find out anything about these men,' Freeman admitted. 'By posing as Air Force officers and government agents they are committing a federal offence. We would sure like to catch one.'

When asked if any efforts have been made to track down the elusive imposters, Freeman replied: 'Unfortunately, the trail is always too cold by the time we hear about these cases. But we're still trying.'

Freeman also commented on the numerous reports of sightings of low-flying unmarked planes over areas where UFOs had recently been seen. 'That's a federal offence, too,' he said. 'All Air Force planes are clearly marked. We don't know anything about these unmarked planes. We'd like to catch one of them too.'

Many witnesses swore that they saw several Air Force helicopters manoeuvring over Wanaque reservoir following a UFO sighting last October. Freeman said that a careful check had been made and that no formation of helicopters had been in that area at that time. 'Besides,' he continued, 'most Air Force bases have only one or two helicopters for rescue work. I just don't know where a whole formation of them could have come from.'

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LECTURES

In his address to the British Association at Kensington Public Library on March 4th the Editor of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* spoke of the important part played by Dr. J. Allen Hynek in the development of events in the UFO field since March 1966. A summary of the build-up of the current UFO waves was also included in the talk.

While it was particularly gratifying that there was a full-house audience it was disappointing that so many people (more than a hundred) had to be turned away through lack of seating accommodation.

On Tuesday May 2nd the Editor will give a talk to the Norwood Society. The meeting will be held at All Saints School, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, on 2nd May at 8.0 p.m. Enquiries to Alan Warwick, Esq, 75 Beulah Hill, London, S.E.19.