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SAI

Special Issue No. 2

June 1969



NORTH AMERICAN REPORT ON RECENT UFO CASES AND RESEARCH

Speaking at the July 29, 1968, House of Representatives symposium on UFOs, Dr. James E. McDonald supported the extraterrestrial hypothesis, but added a proviso: ". . . if the UFOs are not of extramundane origin, then I suspect that they will prove to be something very much more bizarre, something of perhaps even greater scientific interest than extraterrestrial devices."



BEYOND CONDON . . .

Special issue No. 2
June 1969

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

A COMPLEX PROBLEM

THE launching of V2 missiles against British cities signalled the opening of the Space Age: now, nearly twenty-five years later, the mighty descendants of the V2s hurl astronauts into the near reaches of space and around the Moon.

During that same quarter of a century, Man has become uneasily aware of other, stranger objects in the skies—although historical researchers in our field are busily showing that UFOs have been around for much longer than that—and, furthermore, he has been puzzled by, or has ignored, accounts of landings of these objects and of their alleged occupants.

Small wonder then that Man, himself stepping over the threshold of space, has speculated for more than twenty years that the objects come from distant planetary civilizations; that they are "spaceships" surveying us here on Earth.

Yet in twenty-two years not one of the thousands of UFO reports has substantiated this theory, unless a handful of the more sensational, but dubious, "contactee" claims can be accepted as substantiation.

Bedevelled by this stalemate, we at FLYING SAUCER REVIEW have tentatively paraded, and have suggested, alternative lines of enquiry. These have been no more than interesting speculations, and certainly not dogmatic assertions that *herein lies the answer to the UFO mystery*.

What, for instance, if our "visitors" are denizens of our world, yet at the same time of another world; an unseen, unheard, unfelt, unsmelt, but occasionally-sensed reality of a "parallel universe" where the timestream is different from ours? What if those denizens, solid physical entities in their own environment, have long known a way through to us, either by projection, reflection or by some other means whereby they can dematerialize in transit, and re-materialize here, and vice versa.

The idea of parallel universes is far from outrageous: a little study will show that it was believed in ancient religions, is postulated by philosophers, and is considered by present-day physicists.

From ideas such as these it is but a short step to the question of a possible overlap between UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena. We do not suggest that UFOs and their reported occupants are ghosts, but we do suggest that one day we may happen upon a common and perhaps even tangible physical cause for both UFOs and psychic phenomena.

A number of North American investigators and writers have been reporting research field work which seems to indicate that they could well be heading in this same direction: others are making even more surprising claims.

As we believe that every aspect of this remarkable subject should be closely examined, we have gathered between these two covers a representative selection of North American reporting and research, both orthodox (ufo-wise) and unorthodox. It is an interesting study which could help us along the road to an understanding of this most complex problem.

Charles Bowen
London, January 1969

PART ONE

Problems of Methodology

UFOs IN 1952

As the "flying saucer flap" of 1952 mounted, the administration and faculty of Ohio Northern University, a small Methodist institution located in Ada, Ohio, set up what they called PROJECT "A", THE INVESTIGATION OF PHENOMENA. Some 30 members of the faculty of four related colleges—engineering, pharmacy, law and liberal arts—coordinated their efforts in eight fields in an attempt to study unidentified flying objects.

Chief proponent of the study was Dr. Warren Hickman, dean of the university. He had been with Ohio Northern since 1949 and became dean in 1951. A cum laude graduate of Colgate University, he was chief of the file section for Eisenhower's S.H.A.E.F. command in Europe during the war and was recognised by the Brookings Institution for his competency in foreign affairs. Hickman said: "It is time somebody did something about it. We may find an astral body, army research, atomic reactions, flights from outer space, but whatever it is, we must find an accurate answer." The basic objectives of the PROJECT "A" centred around four points:

First: To objectively collect data from all possible sources dealing with "flying saucers" and to analyse this data in various departments of the university.

Second: To make public the results of research of a private institution unhampered by bureaucratic restrictions.

Third: To stimulate and promote objective study of all types of illusory phenomena by individual observers, and to issue reports of the project investigations.

Fourth: To aid in creating more accurate observers for the civilian air defence programme.

Procedure was explained as follows: Data on saucer sightings was collected, categorised as to geography, type, time, number of observers and others and then was subjected to scientific analysis in eight departments of the university. These departments were physics, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, psychology, history, electrical and mechanical engineering and philosophy and religion. The precise methods of "scientific analysis" were not defined.

With the objectives and methods procedure set up, and with the faculty cooperating in the effort, the university set out in the summer of 1952 to solve the mystery. The school

received nation-wide publicity and soon reports began to flow in from every state in the union, and from Germany, Australia, Canada, and Denmark. The total number of reports received was not revealed.

In March 1953, PROJECT "A" released its first and only report, which revealed that of the many sightings reported to the university only 54 could be definitely categorised as not having a known natural explanation. Some 20 per cent of the sightings received, PROJECT "A" stated, did not fit explanation by light reflection, cloud formation, ionisation or other natural phenomena. Most of the sightings examined were in the southwest continental United States during the summer months of July, August and September of 1952. It is noteworthy that the U.S. Air Force's PROJECT BLUEBOOK claimed to have received 1,900 sightings for that year, with over 300 being classified as "unknowns". Years later, the 1952 total was modified to 1,501 without explanation of the reduction.

Early in 1953, the C.I.A.-sponsored Robertson Panel convened in Washington D.C. to examine the material collected by Captain Ruppelt's BLUEBOOK teams. That panel decided upon a policy of suppression, and suggested that the public should be "educated" to dismiss the phenomenon. Soon afterwards, Ohio Northern University released their solitary report and abandoned further research with a vague announcement that lack of cooperation on the part of the press, the public and the military made it impossible to continue. This was contrary to their earlier statements on how freely the reports were flowing in.

A close study of the PROJECT "A" REPORT indicates that it was apparently assembled in haste and it lacked the detailed analysis promised in the preliminary announcements. It did, however, comment on phenomena such as the "falling leaf" motion of the objects which has been repeatedly observed over the years, and might serve as a crude model for new studies.

Additional information on this project has been impossible to obtain at this late date.

J. A. KEEL.

PROJECT "A" REPORT

W. Hickman & E. Turner

A scientific analysis of unidentified flying objects reported in the year 1952. Conducted by the faculty and staff of Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio. Reprinted, with permission, from FATE magazine

WITH only 54 sightings reported to PROJECT "A", it has been impossible for the staff to make a scientific study of this project. Unless at least 200 sightings are reported, it is impossible to make a scientific sampling of the material that has been received by the staff. The number, 54, is such a small group of the total number of sightings reported in the United States by the press (in 1952) that there would be no way to determine whether or not these were representative samplings. However, in general, the clippings collected by PROJECT "A" have corresponded in their results to the information received from the 54 sightings, therefore, we are able to draw certain very general conclusions with regard to "flying saucer" sightings. It has nevertheless been impossible with the very limited data to draw more than general conclusions. These general conclusions are as follows:

1. From the 54 sightings and from newspaper accounts, the sightings occur largely during the months of July, August, and September. Very few sightings occur from December through May. Early summer and early autumn bring some sightings, but most have occurred during the height of the summer. It will be noted that this ties in with the weather conditions referred to by persons sighting phenomena. (*Note: this summer pattern persists, but in 1965-66-67 there has been a massive increase of autumn, winter and spring sightings.*—J.A.K.)

2. The sightings reported from Ohio led in number. This is not the general trend throughout the nation according to collected press reports. The reason more reports were received from Ohio was that the local Ohio press and radio gave more emphasis to the project which was conducted by an Ohio university. Therefore,

ANNOUNCEMENT: ANOTHER RESEARCH PROJECT

WE have decided to try to establish a special UFO research project designed to collect and correlate all available data in the United States. Volunteers from colleges and universities in the New York area will catalogue and analyse this material. Computers and other technical systems will be employed. A detailed quarterly report analysing known UFO activity for each three-month period will be issued. These reports will be made available to all major wire services and national magazines and news media.

To attain any kind of success, this project must rely upon accurate data collected at the local level by independent researchers throughout the country. A training manual is being prepared and special forms will be issued to interested researchers.

This is not a club or "organisation". No membership cards will be issued and no fees will be charged. Participating researchers will receive free copies of the reports and other materials. Other interested persons may obtain copies of the reports for a nominal fee.

This project is not being backed by any educational or governmental institution. It is completely independent of all existing UFO-investigating organisations and hopes to cooperate fully with all such organisations. The aim is to supplement the work now being done by providing valid statistical data and correlative material.

If you wish to participate in this project please send a self-addressed envelope to the address below, together with a brief summary of your background and interests.

If you publish a newsletter or journal, or operate a local UFO organisation, we will welcome correspondence and exchange pertinent reports with you. Because of the obvious problems in setting up such a project we are confining our interests to reports from the United States, Canada and Mexico only. Foreign researchers and organisations may receive our publications on an exchange basis.

JOHN A. KEEL
Specialised Research
P.O. Box 351, Murray Hill Station
New York, N.Y. 10016, U.S.A.

more persons were made aware of this project in the state of Ohio than any other state, according to our limited information. The state of Texas returned the second highest number of sighting reports. We have noted that the coverage by the press in Texas is quite thorough. This no doubt was owing to the fact that most sightings in the nation have occurred in the state of Texas and the press and the public there are more concerned with the problem than are the press and public in some of the other states. The nation-wide trend, discounting the Ohio receipts of this project, indicates that most sightings occur in the southwestern part of the United States.

3. A large number of the sightings were daylight sightings which discounts somewhat the theory of stars and navigation lights on aircraft. The majority of the sightings, however, are night sightings which may be due to the fact that persons are attracted by a moving light at night more than by a moving object in the skies during bright daylight.

4. Forty-eight of the sightings out of 54 appeared in clear weather. Press accounts indicate that this is the trend throughout the country. This may also be due to the fact that the sightings occur during July, August and September when the weather tends to be more clear than during the rest of the year. The combination of the geographical location, time of the year, and weather conditions seem to indicate also that there might be similar phenomena throughout the year, but that the conditions for observation were ideal during these particular months.

5. The breakdown of witnesses is almost a fifty-fifty breakdown. This has been of considerable help in that there has been more than one witness to some of these sightings and the comparison of their sighting reports has indicated that various members of the group reacted in the same way to the phenomena.

6. Only five of the 54 sightings reports were from persons who witnessed the phenomena from a sufficiently close range to give an accurate description of an object. The other 49 sighting reports were valuable from the point of view of data on location, time of the year, weather conditions, and other similar data, but have not been able to furnish information which would aid in any other scientific appraisal of the object. When objects are sighted at a distance of several miles and the witness is not able to judge altitude at that distance, it is also very difficult to get an estimate of speed or shape.

7. The shape indicated by 39 persons was that of a disc, nine indicated a sphere, three a cylinder, and three other shapes. This tends to follow the national trend described in the daily press and over the radio. This leads us to believe that the shape of the phenomena is that of a disc. The majority of persons have observed the object over a course which revealed its shape to be that of a disc. However, if the object remained fairly stationary, or did not change its particular position while travelling in a horizontal line, and was in the shape of a disc standing in a vertical position with relation to the earth, that disc would appear as a sphere. Likewise, if the disc was in a horizontal position with relation to the earth, the edge would be all that appeared to the witness and the shape of a cylinder would be

observed. However, no sphere or cylinder would be likely to appear as a disc.

8. Only four persons noted audible sound. The audible sound was reported by pilots who were at approximately the same altitude as the disc sighted by these pilots. All persons sighting the disc from any great distance referred to the fact that no sound was evident.

Further analysis

Most of the 54 sightings concurred with the press accounts prevalent in the nation in that they indicated a very high speed whenever the object sighted was in motion. The speeds would exceed that of several hundreds or thousands of miles per hour. This would indicate that if the object were a material object rather than a light reflection, ionised air, and so on, this particular object would be at a very great altitude. An object travelling through the earth's atmosphere at a speed of a thousand or several thousand miles an hour would set up shock waves and sound waves which would be far greater than those set up by modern jet aircraft.

However, if the object had sufficient altitude to be above the layer of atmosphere usually employed by standard aircraft, there would be less severe sound waves set up. The detailed descriptions of persons who observed objects as they were leaving the earth or as they were observed in flight were very similar.

A pattern of flight has been described by persons who claim to have observed objects rising from the earth's surface. This pattern is that of an object which slowly rises vertically from the earth, then moves in a horizontal line for a short distance, again rises vertically, then again follows a horizontal path, and in a series of steps reaches a desired altitude before accelerating to a very high rate of speed.

Circumstances surrounding some sightings indicate that the observers probably sighted the lights on aircraft approaching airfields. Other observers may have noted light reflections. Theories of atmospheric conditions probably will be the answer to other sightings. However, there still remain those unexplained sightings at close range. These sightings made from distances of 75ft. to a few hundred yards are not easy to explain.

All trained observers, including pilots, artillery air observers, and army intelligence officers, have indicated to us that their sightings were of "objects". This definite classification of a phenomenon, as a material object, is also made by observers who were within a few yards of the "object" sighted. As these close sightings were usually of an object only a few feet above the earth's surface the explanation of light reflection, cloud formation, ionisation, and similar natural phenomena becomes inapplicable. It is primarily with these sightings that PROJECT "A" has become concerned. Unfortunately, these sightings have accounted for less than 20 per cent of the sighting report sheets returned to PROJECT "A". This very small group of sightings, of course, cannot be the basis of a detailed scientific analysis.

The accounts of several very reliable witnesses, some with experience as aerial observers, indicate that the object sighted was not a conventional aircraft. Of equal importance is the fact that whether the object was sighted in Canada, Ohio, or Pennsylvania, the descrip-

tion was very similar in each case. As these witnesses were reliable, and had no contact with each other, more credence can be lent to the details of the description and the sketches submitted by these parties.

One further piece of evidence submitted by the trained observers was the ability of the object to change course radically at high speeds.

All close sightings reported that the dome gave off an amber light. At night the description was of a more red than amber colour. The rest of the disc was silver-coloured, save for a pale blue light observed, almost as a haze, around the outer edge. At night this blue or green colour was described as being much brighter. Some observers claim the brilliance was that of the blue-white observed in an arc lamp.

There have been frequent statements that any unnatural phenomena must be a new form of weapon or aircraft designed by the United States Air Force. PROJECT "A" finds two reasons to doubt that this explains all "objects" sighted.

1. Sightings have been forwarded which were recorded with sketches as early as 1938. This was an

era well before the high speed of jet aircraft was attained.

2. This fails to account for the sightings in Australia, Switzerland, Germany, South America, and Japan, unless it is assumed that a secret test "weapon" is being employed in all these nations.

Conclusions

PROJECT "A" has been unable to attain enough data to attain all of its basic objectives. Method No. 3 of attaining these objectives has not been employed as had been hoped owing to the limited material available. However, Objective No. 2 is being adhered to in so far as our available information is being released to the public.

There appears to be several explanations for sightings recorded by PROJECT "A". Our major conclusion to date is that no one explanation fits all sightings, and about 20 per cent of the sightings definitely fit the category of unnatural phenomena. Probably a larger percentage fits this category but insufficient evidence is available in these other cases to make a definite statement to that effect.

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PERSONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDES

A study of Persons interested in UFO Reports*

R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D.

Dr. Sprinkle, Counsellor and Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Wyoming, has had a long association with this field, and is consultant to both NICAP and APRO.

"IT is easy enough to praise men for the courage of their convictions. I wish I could teach the sad young of this mealy generation the courage of their confusions. . . . May it not be that we have made too much of conviction as an ultimate goal? Show me a man who is not confused and I will show you a man who has not asked enough questions. . . . It takes courage to engage . . . confusion deeply. It is at least a ponderable proposition that the courage to engage it is a better, because a more humane, act of mind than is that order of conviction that can survive only by refusing to consider seriously those questions an inquiring mind must find unavoidable."

Ciardi, J., "Manner of Speaking"
Saturday Review, June 2, 1962

Since 1947 the "sad young of this mealy generation" have been exposed to a peculiar set of events which elicits many convictions and confusions: reports of "flying saucers" or unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Sightings have been claimed by thousands of persons in many countries (APRO, 1968; FSR, 1968; and NICAP,

1968). The interested reader faces a wide range of questions, assertions, analyses, and documentations from various persons with various viewpoints: e.g. Bowen, 1966; Fontes, 1962, 1966; Fuller, 1966(a), 1966(b); Hynek, 1966; Downing, 1968; Lorenzen, 1962, 1966; Lorenzen & Lorenzen, 1967, 1968; McDonald, 1966; Menzel, 1953; Menzel & Boyd, 1963; Michel, 1956, 1958; Roush, 1968; Ruppelt, 1956; Vallée, 1965; Vallée & Vallée, 1966.

PROBLEM

An important aspect of UFO investigation is the range of hypotheses which can account for the range of unusual phenomena (Salisbury, 1967). Another aspect of UFO reports is the interaction of observers of UFO phenomena and investigators of UFO reports (Sprinkle, 1967). The history of physical, biological, and behavioural sciences (Rosenthal, 1966) supports the observation that the beliefs of persons can affect their reactions to situations and to other people.

Thus, it seems that a study of attitudes and beliefs, or expressed

views, might cast some light upon the question of the characteristics of individuals who submit UFO reports. However, there is a difficulty in connection with this approach: in many UFO reports there is no identification of these individuals, either because they do not identify themselves or because the investigators do not identify them in their description of the UFO reports.

Thus, this writer took the approach of investigating the characteristics of persons interested in UFO reports. This study is based upon a general interest in the relationship of "open mindedness" and "scientific mindedness". Specifically, the study represents an

* This study was supported by funds from the Grants-in-Aid Committee of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, A Division of the American Psychological Association. Appreciation is expressed to Richard Hall, Former Associate Director of NICAP, and Mrs. Brown of Batt, Bates and Company, Washington, D.C., and to fellow members of NICAP for their kind assistance.