

Reports Investigated

Open File On Probe of the Flying Saucers

By STEPHEN FRANKLIN,
of The Journal

The Defence Research Board this afternoon opened its file on investigations made in the mystery of the Flying Saucers.

The Board disclosed it had probed 30 different reports of strange objects scudding through the upper atmosphere.

In the great majority of the cases, the Board frankly admitted, it was baffled.

It could reach no definite conclusion, but cautioned that the reports could not simply be dismissed as imaginative nonsense.

Among the 30 separate cases, the Board reported its press relations officer this afternoon, was able to specifically find the cause or source of a "few" of the phenomena.

One was attributed to a damaged balloon. A few others turned out to be meteors or parts of falling meteors.

But as to the rest, the Board openly confessed, no firm conclusion had been reached.

In making his late afternoon report, the Board's press relations officer had come straight from the office of Dr. Alfred J. Langley, Director of Scientific Intelligence for the Board.

Dr. Langley has been working cooperation with RCAF Intelligence since the first reports of the Flying Saucers occurred in late 1947.

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exhaustively questioned persons reporting the sighting of the saucers.

Each case investigated included full and complete data on weather, climatic conditions, course and speed of the saucer or disc, and notes on the character and veracity of those reporting the sightings.

Those questioned by the Services Intelligence agents who passed their findings to the Defence Research Board for analysis and possible conclusion, included weather observers, service personnel, airport mechanics, trappers, housewives, policemen and civilian fliers.

The following is a dictated report of a Board-selected number of cases on the DRB's flying saucer file:

"First report of a flying saucer over Canada was one given by an Ottawa resident on June 26, 1947.

"A month later a resident of West Sheffield, Que., reported finding the remains of a flying saucer near his home. This proved to be the remains of a weather balloon."

On August 8, 1950, 10 observers, most of them some distance from one another, reported an unusual celestial object seen near the Little Bartidog area in New Brunswick.

"The following month an RCMP constable in the Yukon said he observed an oblong light brown object travelling through the air at an estimated 8,000 feet. He thought it was about two feet long. It was visible for eight minutes. Time of observation was 10:45 a.m.

"About this time the Minister of National Defence instructed the Defence Research Board to co-operate with the services in reporting unusual celestial occurrences.

The latest report on flying saucers came from RCAF Station, North Bay, where two veteran airmen last Saturday saw a "bright amber disc" scudding across the night sky.

Four months earlier a similar phenomena was seen over the same air station.

RCAF intelligence officers said they were investigating both reports.

Yesterday Canada's top scientist, Dominion astro-physicist Dr. Peter Millman, Atomic Energy Control Board Chairman Dr. C. J. Mackenzie and Defence Research Board president Dr. O. M. Solandt agreed that the reports of the flying saucers could not be dismissed off as nothing and that further investigation would be continuing.

All said they were keeping an mind.