

In five of the six cases, the probability is less than 1 per cent that the distributions are the same. In the sixth case, Light Brightness, the classifications are too nebulous to be of real value. However, these tests do not necessarily mean that the UNKNOWNNS are primarily "flying saucers" and not aircraft, balloons, or other known objects or natural phenomena. The UNKNOWNNS might still be unidentified KNOWNNS if either of the following cases occurred:

- (1) The characteristics which were observed for the UNKNOWNNS were different from those observed for the KNOWNNS because of the psychological make-up of the observer or because of atmospheric distortion. This assumes the distribution of objects in KNOWNNS and UNKNOWNNS is the same.
- (2) The UNKNOWNNS may be known objects in different proportions than the group identified as KNOWNNS. (That is, a greater percentage of the UNKNOWNNS could be aircraft than the percentage of aircraft in the identified KNOWNNS.)

The second case is the more probable one. In this connection, it is interesting to note the factors which contributed to a large chi square result in the tests made above:

(1) Color

The major contribution to chi square in color is from the color green. There is a large excess of green sightings among the KNOWNNS over the UNKNOWNNS. Of the 130 known objects in this classification, 98 are astronomical, and are due mostly to the green fireballs reported from the Southwest U. S.

(2) Number

The large chi square is due to a greater proportion of UNKNOWNNS in the multiple object classification. Apparently these are harder to identify.

(3) Shape

In this case, there is a higher percentage of UNKNOWNNS in the rocket-aircraft-shape classification. These might be familiar objects for which unusual maneuvers were reported.

There is a higher percentage of KNOWNNS in the flame and in the meteor- or comet-shape category, which in both cases appears to result mainly from excesses of astronomical sightings.

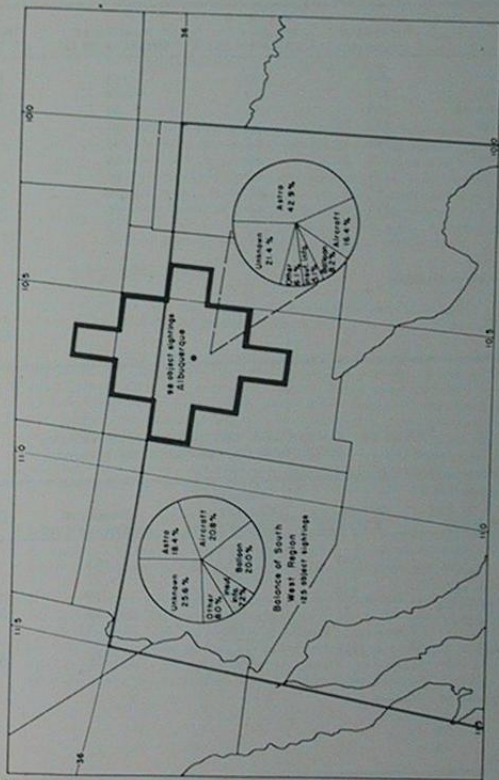


FIGURE 37 COMPARISON OF EVALUATION OF OBJECT SIGHTINGS IN THE STRATEGIC AREAS OF THE SOUTH WEST REGION

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