Analysis of the Project Blue Book Report No. 14

by Dr. Leon Davidson

The Blue Book Report No. 14 is reproduced in the pages following this analysis. The press release on page D-5 (which when issued was accompanied by the Summary of the Blue Book Report, pages vii to ix of the original text) gives the background of the Air Force's investigations which led to the writing of Report No. 14 and its release on October 25, 1955.

A good history of the earlier Air Force investigations of the "saucers" (which include Project SIGN in 1947-48 and Project GRUDGE in 1949-50) is given in the book "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" by Edward J. Ruppelt (Doubleday and Co., Inc., New York, 1956).

It will probably be evident to careful readers of the Report No. 14, even in its full original edition, that the Air Force "analysis" will not bear careful scrutiny. Throughout its "investigations", the Air Force has withheld information from the public. As a result, it is impossible for interested members of the general public to find out all that has been reported about flying saucers. The public has not had access to all the photographs and other evidence which the Air Force has amassed on the subject. Under these conditions, the public has not been able to draw the correct conclusions about the nature of the "saucers".

At the end of this analysis, before the body of the Blue Book Report, will be found several paragraphs headed "Suggestion to the Reader". Thoughtful persons who wish to learn the facts about flying saucers may find these suggestions of interest.

The analysis below will be in question-and-answer form.

[1] What percentage of the saucer sighting cases remain "Unknown"?

The press release on the facing page, and the Summary from the report, were the only material made readily available to the public by Project Blue Book. The full text of the report was essentially unavailable to the public, as shown in the Record of Hearings of the House Subcommittee on Government Information (Rep. John E. Moss, Chairman) for Nov. 15, 1956. One might wonder whether the Air Force had actually wanted to keep the full report from the public, and if so, why?

The answer may be found by reading the text and tables of the report, and comparing this with the Summary, distributed publicly with the press release. The key to the answer is contained in Fig. 8 (orig. p. 24) and Tables A1, A2, and A3 (orig. pp. 107 and 108). Fig. 8 shows that Unknown sightings constitute 33.3% of all the object sightings for which the reliability of the sighting is considered "Excellent". Tables A1--A3 agree with this; even if sightings of lesser reliability are included, the percentage of Unknown sightings is not less than about 20%. Note that the information in the main body of the report covers the years 1947--1952.

(analysis continues on page D-7)



**NEWS RELEASE**
**PLEASE NOTE DATE**

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AIR FORCE RELEASES STUDY ON
UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

The results of an investigation begun by the Air Force in 1947 into the field of Unidentified Aerial Objects (so-called flying saucers) were released by the Air Force today.

No evidence of the existence of the popularly-termed "flying saucers was found.

The report was based on study and analysis by a private scientific group under the supervision of the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Dayton, Ohio. Since the instigation of the investigation more than seven years ago, methods and procedures have been so refined that of the 131 sightings reported during the first four months of 1955 only three per cent were listed as unknown. (A summary of the report is attached.)

Commenting on this report, Secretary of the Air Force Donald A. Quarles said: "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States. I feel certain that even the unknown three per cent could have been explained as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data had been available.

"However, we are now entering a period of aviation technology in which aircraft of unusual configuration and flight characteristics will begin to appear.

"The Air Force and the other Armed Services have under development several vertical-rising, high performance aircraft, and as early as last year a propeller driven vertical-rising aircraft was flown. The Air Force will fly the first jet-powered vertical-rising airplane in a matter of days. We have another project under contract with AVRO Ltd., of Canada, which could result in disc-shaped aircraft somewhat similar to the popular concept of a flying saucer. An available picture, while only an artists' conception, could illustrate such an object. (Photograph is available at Pictorial Branch, Room 2D760, Ext. 75331).

"While some of these may take novel forms, such as the AVRO project, they are direct-line descendents of conventional aircraft and should not be regarded as supra-natural or mysterious. We expect to develop airplanes that will fly faster, higher and perhaps farther than present designs, but they will still obey natural laws and if manned, they will still be manned by normal terrestrial airmen. Other than reducing runway requirements we do not expect vertical-rising aircraft to have more outstanding military characteristics than conventional types.

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