

Tell Me Why!



When Was the First U.F.O. Sighted?

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By A. LEOKUM

UFO stands for "unidentified flying objects," or, as many people call them, flying saucers.

The first report of flying saucers was received in 1947. That year an airplane pilot claimed to have seen nine saucers playing tag around Mount Rainier. Since then the United States Air Force has received thousands of reports of flying saucers. The largest number were received in the late 1950s after the first satellites were launched.

Many people believed that the saucers were spaceships that had flown to the earth from other planets. Strange beings were supposed to be aboard them. The Air Force set up a file of reports of UFOs. It investigated the reports, and it proved that the UFOs were many things — but not spaceships from other worlds.

What are they then? Everyone who reports a flying saucer has seen something — but what has that been? In some cases the "something" has been a weather balloon, a satellite, a cloud, a meteor, a star, or even a bird. In other cases, when investigated, the UFO has turned out to really be a comet, a planet, or fireworks. It has also been what is called sun dogs, that is, images of the sun reflected through ice crystals.

Studies of saucer reports show that UFOs are very different from one another in shape, size, color, how they move, when they are seen and so on. Scientists say that if saucers were really spaceships, there would be a certain pattern in the reports. But there is no such pattern — and that's because people are not seeing spaceships but many other things.

So despite what some people still believe about UFOs, there

is no evidence that we are being visited, watched, or invaded by intelligent beings from other worlds.