

The Canadian UFO Scene

by

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Abstract

Canada has had many reports of UFO sightings, several UFO groups, at least two official government sponsored investigative bodies and has also managed to cover up significant UFO information. The Access to Information law has been used to obtain a good deal of data though much more about what government has been doing has apparently been hidden or destroyed. Public interest in a scientific approach appears to be strong. The National Research Council file of a few thousand reports is ripe for detailed investigation by serious researchers able to devote considerable time and effort to the pursuit of more information since the NRC itself has done essentially no investigation of "non-meteor" sightings.

Introduction

It is not surprising that many aspects of ufology in Canada are quite similar to those in other countries. There have been Canadian sightings, landings, physical trace cases and radar observations. Canadians have been abducted. The Canadian government has kept much information classified and misrepresented the facts of its activities to the public. A number of courageous investigators have dug into Canadian sightings and some cultist and amateur groups have flourished and died off.

As an American (my wife is a Canadian) living in Canada since 1980 and having visited Canada since 1965, I am aware that many Americans think of Canada as being just like the USA but further North. The languages of the two countries are (leaving out Quebec) generally the same. But there are some very important differences that have a bearing on the UFO question:

1. Canada covers a larger land area than the USA (actually second only to the USSR) but has a population only 1/10th that of the USA and most of that is in a narrow band within 200 miles of the US border. Winters are long and harsh. The number of people per square mile available to observe UFO's is thus greatly reduced compared with Europe, Asia, the USA etc.
2. Canada has a much smaller military presence than does the USA and the rest of the NATO alliance.
3. Canada did not, until the past 5 years, have anything even close to a Freedom of Information Act. Access to Information is new and does work (\$5 per request) but there are many exemptions.

Because much of Canada's cultural and political heritage is from the UK, NOT from the USA, there is much more of a Government-knows-best attitude than in the USA.

4. Canadians, in general, have far more respect for authorities, especially for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police than do Americans. The extensive but very incomplete National Research Council UFO files have very little contamination with what might be described as kook reports. RCMP investigators frequently were involved and people here usually (if not involved in crime) do NOT lie to the RCMP, and don't think of police as "pigs". Military people are respected and usually are careerists rather than short termers.

5. Because of the great size of the country and the weather, it is comparatively more difficult to have well organized investigative groups.

Personal Activities

On a personal basis having lectured at dozens of campuses (some 3 times) and to many other groups in 8 of the 10 Canadian provinces and appeared on many radio and TV programs, I can say that there is a great deal of interest in a scientific approach to the UFO problem coupled as would be expected with a general lack of awareness of the mountain of work done by investigators and organizations such as MUFON. I have had many overflow crowds at my lectures and many columns of favorable newspaper coverage. I have also had my troubles with the major newspaper, the Toronto Globe and Mail, and with Phil Klass's noisy negativist associate, Henry Gordon, who did three separate columns on me in the Toronto Star, (Ref. 2) each one loaded with misrepresentation, as one might perhaps expect from a magician member of the self appointed Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

At least the Star published portions of two letters in response to the misinformation in Gordon's columns and has carried a large overview article. The Globe and Mail actually lied to the Ontario Press Council which did give me a hearing in my complaint about false statements in a summary front page G&M article. The OPC found against me, however, with 2 of their three counts being demonstrably false. It reminded me of the strong anti-UFO attitude of the Los Angeles Times for many years, a sort of "Don't bother us with the facts our mind is made up. If there were anything to UFOs, we would know about it. We don't know any such thing, and anybody who says there is something to UFOs is some kind of a nut".

There were sightings in Canada in 1947 as well as much earlier and have been ever since. Of the 853 UFO sightings reported in Ted Bloecher's compilation of reports "Report of the UFO Wave of 1947" from June and July 1947, 18 were of Canadian origin as observed by a total of 52 witnesses. Judging by other efforts to expand Bloecher's compilation, there were many more cases reported in local newspapers but not collected by Bloecher. There were at least 2 publicly acknowledged official investigative efforts: Project Magnet and Project Second Story. A key figure in both was Department of Transport Engineer, Wilbert B. Smith. I never met Smith prior to his untimely death of a brain tumor in the early 1960s, but I have communicated with his wife and met his son and talked to many people who knew him. Also, Arthur Bray has been kind enough to provide copies of a number of items from Smith's files. As with the great majority of Canadian research activities, Smith's work was very much on a shoestring budget. Since an excellent overview of the UFO situation in Canada is presented in the book by Bondarchuk (Ref. 2) I will not duplicate the information he provides.

Smith was clearly a serious professional who was awarded Canada's highest broadcasting engineering award, often visited the USA and knew Donald Keyhoe of NICAP and Frank Edwards as well as having had through the Canadian Embassy an association with Vannevar Bush who apparently was the key figure in the top secret US UFO effort after the Roswell Incident (Ref. 3) in July, 1947. Bush also had headed the Office of Scientific Research and Development during World War 2 as a kind of Science and Technology Czar having established the Manhattan Project as well as a myriad of other joint military-industry-university technology projects aimed at winning the war. He also organized and was the first head of the postwar Joint Research and Development Board (JRDB) which later became the RDB, served on the War Council, had headed prewar the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA which later became the NASA) had very close ties to James Forrestal first head of the Department of Defense and many meetings with presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower. His association with MJ-12 member Donald Menzel goes back to 1934 and Bush was Menzel's staunchest defender at Loyalty Hearings held in May 1950. I have elsewhere (Ref. 3) quoted the startling statements from Smith's 3 page Top Secret memo "Geomagnetis" discovered by Canadian Researcher Mr. X (legal name for a most unusual researcher, sort of a Canadian Charles Fort) but will repeat the key comments here (November 21, 1950): "I made discreet enquiries through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

a) The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.

- b) Flying saucers exist.
- c) Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.
- d) The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance."

Some sceptics have tried to pass Smith off as a kook because of his interest in paranormal phenomena apparently not knowing that there is quite a file of supporting material.. especially classified correspondence with Arnauld Wright and Gordon Cox and other Canadian Government employees. Also I managed to have released under Access to Information the files of the Defense Research Board.. roughly the equivalent (on a much much smaller scale) of the US Research and Development Board which was the evolutionary remnant of the Joint Research and Development Board. The DRB had established a committee on UFOs which met on a number of occasions in classified session, strangely at the same time the public was being told that nothing official was being done and that Wilbert Smith's activities were just a hobby as part of his membership in NICAP!!

The 300 page DRB file is not for the most part of very great excitement including newspaper articles and letters in response to public inquiries. It also however, includes a 1.5 page summary of government UFO involvement, dated October 1958. Here are some very provocative items from that history:

at E. A. Bernard (Confidential - declassified May 25, 1984)
Defense Research Board.

1. Past History

U.S. "Project Saucer" was completed about 1950 and it was found desirable to solicit Canadian reports. At the 220th meeting of the JIC (Joint Intelligence Committee) on the 12, April, 1950, UFOs were discussed and the following decisions were reached

- a) DSI (Directorate of Scientific Intelligence) and DAI (Directorate of Air Intelligence) were to collaborate in preparing a questionnaire to be distributed to field intelligence officers of the three services and the RCMP.
- b) DAI is to coordinate the investigation arrangements in the field.

c) All field reports were to be passed to DSI for official examination on behalf of DND (Department of National Defense).

2. Action by DRB/DSI

A tabular record of reports of sightings dating back to 1954... is kept in this office and is classified SECRET. The last entry is a sighting of 8th June 1956. A file is also kept here which contains a multitude of press articles, sightings, etc. DRB file 3800-10-1-1 (3 vols.) contains a large number of sighting reports dating back to 1947. The last report in the DAI files was dated July 1958. DAI did not appear to be aware of earlier policy as explained in paragraphs 2 and 3 above."

I naturally filed an Access to Information request for the specific items noted. The response, which was prompt, was also very disappointing since it stated that copies of all these items had all been destroyed. From my own background of 14 years work with classified documents I simply do NOT believe that these were the only copies but have no way of establishing where the others are, though I am still working on it.

I located some of the individuals listed as attending the meetings. A couple of people responded that so far as they were concerned the information was still covered by the Official Secrets act and refused to say any more. I did manage to locate and meet with Dr. Omand Solandt who was the first Chairman of the DRB and sort of the Vannevar Bush of Canada... though much younger. He recalled Wilbert Smith, but denied knowing that there was really a huge US coverup. He serves still on many committees and keeps very busy in retirement. He was not interested in getting back into the UFO controversy.

The National Research Council has had an important and unusual involvement in UFOs since the mid 1960s after Smith's death. On the one hand it has been the official collection agency for public reports and had received thousands from the military, the police, and the general public. However, it unlike the US Project-Blue Book, has had a very low public profile and does practically no investigations on its own. Each report is given a number and filed chronologically on file cards maintained in a small office. One can view the files, usually by appointment, but cannot make copies though notes can be taken. Since about 5 years ago thanks to the efforts of Mr. X and some effort on my part the early files were transferred to the Public Archives and put on microfilm. Each year the 100-200 cases received the previous year are added to the Archives collection where they can be viewed and hard copies made. These are crying out for investigation. Essentially the only effort made by the NRC is to subdivide into "meteor" and "non meteor" categories. The NRC is interested in the meteor reports and follows up on them in the interest of science. They do nothing about the non-meteors which are, of course, of far more interest to ufologists. There is no cross

filing by geography, type of report, whether radar is involved or a landing occurred etc. Two NRC people, Dr. Peter Millman an astronomer and Dr. MacNamara have made public anti-UFO statements. There are no classified sightings in the NRC files though it is clear that the Canadian side of the North American Air Defence Command does make radar observations and does report to HQ NORAD per the terms of JANAP-146 and its successor regulations. There are still in place regulations for military and civilian pilots to make reports of unknown aerial objects, unknown missiles, unknown aircraft, etc.

Individuals

My first contact with Canadian ufology was way back in 1968 when William K. Allan a teacher of physics in Calgary had the courage to bring me in to speak at the Jubilee Auditorium. Bill kept me busy with the media and we had a crowd of 1200 paying attendees. The profit went to help Bill's group "UFO Anonymous" put out an excellent LP record which included both sounds of UFOs and interviews with witnesses including commercial pilots. Bill is retired and living in Kelowna, BC. and has done a great deal through the media to make the study of UFOs respectable.

John Musgrave had the courage to apply for and accept a grant from the Canada Council to study UFO abductions and toured all over North America in his quest. I was very disappointed in his final report (Ref. 5) and never could understand why it was so negative and in places inaccurate until April, 1987 when John was involved in the CBC TV Man Alive program "The ET Connection". The program which set new standards for careful advance research thanks to Director-Producer David Cherniack, focused on abductions. It turns out John may himself have had an abduction experience when young and seems to be fighting dealing with it at all trying to pass it and other abduction experiences off as dreams. Apparently if he admits that other actual abductions have occurred, he would have to face up to his own which apparently is too difficult.. sort of a classic case of denial. John heads a small group in Edmonton, Alberta.

Arthur Bray of Ottawa, has published two books on UFOs, is an ex Navy officer and has managed to obtain a portion of the files of Wilbert Smith. Because of his input at the Toronto MUFON Conference in 1982, I was put on to Dr. Robert Sarbacher whom I was able to locate in Florida and to visit. Sarbacher was a quite remarkable scientist who served on a number of wartime and post war research committees and was the source of some of Smith's comments about UFOs as quoted above according to Smith's handwritten notes after the meeting. Sarbacher was a boy genius according to a Saturday Evening Post article and made major

contributions to the technical side of winning World War 2... I don't know why Arthur hadn't looked for him. His yacht in Palm Beach, Florida, was quite impressive and he was in the phone book as well as in various professional directories.

Still active in Canada are people such as Chris Rutkowski of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and employed by the University of Manitoba. Chris publishes "The Swamp Gas Journal" and has compiled an extensive computerized file of hundreds of Manitoba UFO sightings. He has been involved in various research projects concerned with observations from satellites. Gene Duplantier of Toronto has been a long time distributor of UFO publications. Henry Magor of British Columbia published a Canadian UFO report for several years and has written at least one book. David Haisell of the Toronto area has also written a book and was an active investigator for several years. There are still active UFO groups in Toronto and Waterloo and Stratford all in Ontario. Dr. Don Donderi is a Professor of Psychology at prestigious McGill University in Montreal and was very active in UFO Quebec as well as courageous enough to introduce me at 2 of my overflow McGill lectures.

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UFORI BOOK LIST

1. **FLYING SAUCERS AND PHYSICS**, S.T. Friedman, 20,000 words, 69 Ref., June 1974. Provides details on why UFOs do NOT violate the laws of physics in star travel or air flight. Includes some public opinion polls. PH \$4.00
2. **THE CASE FOR THE ET ORIGIN OF FLYING SAUCERS**, S.T. Friedman, 20 pg., 24 ref., March 1995. Makes the case for some UFOs as ET Spacecraft. ET \$4.00
3. **FLYING SAUCERS: 4 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS**, S.T. Friedman, 32 pg., 2 col., (1) "Science Fiction, Science and UFOs," 1977, (Asimov, Bova, Clarke, etc); (2) "Fiction, Fact and Flying Saucers," 1979; (3) "A Scientific Approach to Flying Saucer Behavior," 1975 (Why??); (4) "The Case for the ET Origin of Flying Saucers," 1979. References and tables. SCI \$4.00
4. **THE ZETA RETICULI INCIDENT**, Terence Dickinson, 32 pg., Full Color Reprint of 1974 ASTRONOMY article and later letters by Sagan, et al. Covers Marjorie Fish's very important work on Betty Hill's star map; lists all close sun-like stars. ZRI \$5.00
5. **ZETA RETICULI UPDATE**, T. Dickinson, 1980. Demolishes objections to M. Fish's work. UP \$1.00
6. **THE COSMIC WATERGATE**, S.T. Friedman, 38 pg., 1998. Censored government UFO Documents CW \$4.00
7. **FINAL REPORT ON OPERATION MAJESTIC 12**, 108 pg., May 1990. This report includes the exciting TOP SECRET /MAJIC EYES ONLY MJ-12 document and many other supportive items and provides a solid, well-researched basis for my conclusion that the three primary MJ-12 documents are indeed genuine despite the anti-arguments. MJ \$10.00
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9. **RECOLLECTIONS OF ROSWELL**, Fund for UFO Research, 105 minutes. Testimony from 27 witnesses regarding crashed saucers in New Mexico in July, 1947, including Glenn Dennis, Walter Haut, Dr. Jesse Marcel, Loretta Proctor, Dr. John Kromschroeder, Sappho Henderson, etc VIDEO RR \$15.00
10. **UFO CONTROVERSY**, four 1/2-hour interviews with Stanton Friedman for cable TV. (a) Crashed Saucers, (b) Majestic-12, (c) UFO Technology, (d) Why?? (visit, coverup, no open contact? VIDEO UFC \$15.00
11. **Flying Saucers ARE Real Vol. 1** Video 84 minutes. Filmed at Kennedy Space Center. 1993. Vol. 2, '75 Minutes. much info and review of Alien Autopsy. FSAR \$15.00
12. **STATEMENT ON UFOs**, Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor of Physics, to U.S. Congressional Hearings, 71 pg., July 1968. One of the best UFO papers ever done: 41 cases. J. McDonald interviewed 500 witnesses! JMC \$10.00
13. **ROSWELL INCIDENT, USAF, AND N.Y. TIMES**, S.T. Friedman, 9/26/94, 27 pg., Detailed critique of USAF Roswell "explanation", and the N.Y. Times grossly misleading article about the stupid MOGUL Balloon Explanation AFN \$4.00
14. **TOP SECRET/MAJIC**, S. T. Friedman, 7/96, 272 pg., STF's detailed investigation of the Majestic 12 documents, including new ones. Hardcover Book, Marlowe and Company. Copy autographed by STF. 10page Bibliography. List 22.95 TSM \$15.00



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After seven years of both official and

"I Believe Flying

JUL 6 1957

By Alan Phillips

IT IS 10 YEARS now since a private-airline pilot, Ken Arnold, reported nine huge silvery disks flying in formation at fantastic speed near Mount Rainier, Washington. Similar disks have since been seen by thousands of people. But official investigations, on this continent at least, dismiss them as light reflections on clouds, meteors, mist, missiles, balloons, birds, other planets, or red corpuscles crossing the retina of the eye.

To a number of prominent citizens of Washington, D.C., these explanations strain credulity more than the theory that "flying saucers" are space ships from some other planet. They've formed an organization called NICAP — National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena — to act as the central intelligence for what, in effect, is a world-wide network of amateur detectives intent on solving what they think is the most significant mystery of our time.

NICAP is acting on a belief that the truth about UFOs (unidentified flying objects) is being concealed from us by our governments. If the

Saucer sighting in
the Transport
that "in 10 sec

UFOs are only mistakes or illusions, NICAP asks, why are they being chased through the skies by U.S. Air Force pilots? Why, after a decade of debunking, are they still investigated by more than 20 governments?

Recently the Bomber Command radar post at West Freugh, Scotland, picked up "a strange object" and tracked it on their screens for "some considerable time." Why, since the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Administration has labelled all UFO radar sightings as atmospheric reflections, was every radar station in Britain alerted to watch for this strange flying object?



Puzzled, Defence Research Board chief, Dr. O. M. Solandt, had committee set up "to see if we can make anything out of these flying-saucer reports."

Killed when his fighter disintegrated as he chased a strange object over Kentucky, was Capt. Thomas Mantell. Hundreds saw unexplained things in the

U.S. and in Canada. Donald Keyhoe, director of U.S. civilian sighting organization. He believes this may be the operating base for the saucers.

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unofficial investigation this informed Ottawa engineer still says . . .

Saucers Come From Outer Space"

"Quite definitely this was no freak," said the officer in charge at West Freugh, Wing Cmdr. W. Whitworth. "It was an object of some substance and no mistake could have been made." He would say no more, since "the matter is now in the hands of the Air Ministry."

This veil of secrecy also shrouds the subject in Ottawa, where a public-relations officer at R.C.A.F. headquarters, after checking with intelligence, told me, "There is a section set up to handle flying-saucer reports. About 70 per cent are not authentic."

I asked if the work was classified and was told it was "classified aspects." Just what aspects were not classified the P.R.O. didn't know. I wasn't allowed to talk to the "one man who co-ordinates the section," an intelligence officer. And I couldn't see the reports of saucer sightings. "They're studied for authenticity," the P.R.O. said. "The details are passed on to Mr. W. B. Smith, the Canadian member for a continental steering committee for UFOs in the United States."

had not yet received any, he told me in Ottawa.

From NICAP's Washington office I got the Philadelphia phone number of Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney, NICAP chairman. It was Fahrney who coined the phrase "guided missiles" in World War II. After the war he headed the U.S. Navy's guided-missiles program.

Fahrney, now retired, says: "There are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. No agency in this country or Russia is able to duplicate the speeds and accelerations which radar and observers indicate these flying objects are able to achieve." Because of the way they fly "it appears

that there is an intelligence directing them."

For information on NICAP, Admiral Fahrney referred me to Keyhoe, a former U.S. Marine pilot, one-time aide to Charles Lindbergh. Keyhoe, said Fahrney, was "a sound objective reporter."

NICAP had just got moving in February, Keyhoe told me. "The way it's growing now we expect to have well over 100,000 members by the end of the year. We're getting the heads of businesses, doctors, lawyers, researchers, teachers, a lot of pilots."

Members are asked to report all saucer sightings. Some airline captains have agreed to send in reports. The public is being

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around Wilbert B. Smith in the Transport Department, where he is head of radio regulations, a tall, crisp-talking electrical engineer with wiry grey hair. He said his NICAP connections weren't as clear-cut as the air force implied. He had simply told his friend, Maj. Donald Keyhoe, director of NICAP and author of three well-documented flying-saucer books, that he'd pass on any new information he got. He



Mysterious photo taken in 1954 by English boy, Stephen Darbishire, 13, while playing in a field with his cousin, Adrian Myers, 8, showed saucer.

Canadian-designed saucer is shown in this aerial view, taken by A. V. Roe Canada, Ltd., at Malton, Ont. U.S. Air Force took over the project from the Canadian Government. The interceptor would operate near the sonic barrier, maintaining a collection of air streams around its rim.



Rear-Admiral D. S. Fahrney believes that "an intelligence directs" the unexplained objects in the atmosphere.



Evaluation of U.S. saucer-sightings is conducted by a panel of experts that includes General Albert Wedemeyer.



Confirmed believer, ex-Spitfire pilot Desmond Leslie, is co-author of book called *Flying Saucers Have Landed*.



Aim of Lt.-Gen. William Kepner and other U.S. experts is to lift secrecy surrounding reports of flying saucers.

Visitors from another planet are a cartoonist's delight, yet some experts are not laughing

"Flying Saucers Come From Outer Space"

(Continued from Preceding Page)

asked to co-operate. "Eventually," Keyhoe says, "we should be getting as many sightings as the air force, if not more."

Each sighting is checked by a local panel of experts — pilots, astronomers, radar technicians. If genuine, it's air-mailed to Washington for analysis by the central evaluation panel, which includes Gen. Albert Wedemeyer, U.S. Army (Ret.), Lt.-Gen. William Kepner, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Col. Robert Emerson, a nuclear physicist, and Frank Edwards, a nationally-known radio commentator. Their conclusions, plus all details of the sightings, will be published in a 32-page monthly magazine starting this month. NICAP's aim is to bring the facts into the open. It thinks that investigation is hampered by secrecy.

two officers had seen "a bright amber disk . . . which seemed to stop in mid-air, hovered for a brief time, and then zoomed away at terrific speed from the direction in which it had come (southwest) . . ."

A few days later Harold Oatway, an aeronautical engineer for the Defence Research Board, telephoned Smith. The board's chairman, Dr. O. M. Solandt, had directed him to get a committee together, "to see if we can make anything out of these flying-saucer reports."



weather balloon with aluminum. In the centre they fastened a huge aircraft flare, timed to ignite at 5,000 feet.

They released it on a summer's evening in 1953, a time when Ottawa newspapers were asking for reports of strange flying objects. Thousands of people were in the streets, on their way to a ball game at Lansdowne Park. The man-made disk rose slowly above them in an arc, brilliantly glowing for fully 15 seconds. "We thought we'd be flooded with calls," Smith says. "Not one person reported it. People just don't watch the sky."

The Project Magnet group had also worked out a method for judging the chances that someone had seen what he said he did. "There's a whale of a difference between what someone actually sees and what he thinks he saw," Smith says. "You have to proceed at first as though you believe everything you're told. Then you have to proceed as though they're all liars and crooks."

The Project Magnet method was to rate each sighting, so many points for each of 28 questions. Occupation, for instance, rated 15 points if the witness was a professional observer. A scientist rated five to 10, a layman five. "We weren't over-generous," Smith says. "If

THE contention is borne out by Canada's saucer investigations. They began in 1950 with Wilbert Smith, then a delegate to a North American broadcasting conference in Washington. Smith had spare time between meetings and saucers were in the news. He suggested to his superior, John Baldwin, Deputy Minister of Transport, that if something were really going on, Canada ought to know about it, and Baldwin agreed.

The U.S. investigations were now top-secret. In 1948, Capt. Thomas Mantell, a U.S. Air Force pilot, had been ordered to give chase to an immense circular object seen by several hundred people over Madisonville, Ky. As he climbed at top speed toward it Mantell radioed that it "looks metallic . . . tremendous . . ." Then his plane disintegrated and he was killed.

Soon afterward the U.S.A.F. set up Project Sign to investigate flying saucers. In 1949 a Project Sign press release had suggested that the UFOs might be space ships from Mars or Venus or, more likely, from some other solar system, though they carefully pointed out that there was no proof. Eight months later they put out another report debunking the first one, and declared that investigations had ended.

Smith found out only that the air force was still investigating (under another name, Project Grudge, later Bluebook). Back in Ottawa he began to collect newspaper reports of saucers.

They'd been seen that year, 1950, from the Yukon to Little Bartibog, N.B. "So many reliable people are among the witnesses," the Fort William Times-Journal had written in April, "it is no longer possible to ignore entirely the possibilities that some aerial survey of the earth is being taken by personalities from some other part of the universe." A poll in July of that year by the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion showed "that half the adult people of Canada believe that these mysterious disks are not just imagination and that they are not just a natural phenomenon."

Several engineers in Smith's office offered to help him analyze sightings. But the facts they needed were nearly always missing from news accounts. With the Deputy's permission, Smith asked Transport engineers across Canada, who monitor radio broadcasts and study the upper atmosphere, to report any UFOs they might see. This was Project Magnet.

In January, 1952, an orange-red disk was seen manoeuvring high over the air force base at North Bay. Another came over in April; an air force statement said



Optical illusions caused by light rays bouncing off warm air are probable explanation of saucers, noted astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel told Ottawa group.

The committee included army, navy and air force intelligence officers and Dr. Peter Millman, a government astro-physicist. They devised simple methods, to help people who saw the UFOs judge their speed, height and size and they sent out intelligence officers, sometimes R.C.M.P. men, to question them. This was Project Second Storey.

Some objects were easily explained as meteors and planets; balloons were more difficult. One "saucer" was a bright, fast-racing ball of ionized gas. Another was a comet no bigger than a grapefruit, a tiny packet of cosmic dust the shape of an ice-cream cone hitting the upper atmosphere. But there were 25 cases in 1952 for which the committee could find no explanation.

Some skeptics on the committee thought that if flying saucers were real more people would have seen them. Smith's group in Project Magnet had a theory about that. They built a "flying saucer" by sheathing a

someone was in a vehicle when the sighting was made and the vehicle was moving we cut the points for that question in half." They checked the weather, the witness's eyesight, reliability. The totals were combined, and the net result, says Smith, "was that there was a 91 per cent chance that the sightings were real objects, and a 60 per cent chance that these objects were alien vehicles — alien meaning not from this earth."

These conclusions contrasted sharply with a 1953 report by the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Administration. It explained the UFOs as temperature inversions, a layer of warm air above a layer of cold air. Light waves bounce off the warm air, creating an optical illusion, a theory given popularity by a famous Harvard astronomer, Dr. Donald Menzel.

At a scientific gathering in Ottawa in 1953 Smith challenged Menzel to explain some actual sightings by this theory. Weather reports at the time of these sightings showed temperature inversions of one or two degrees. For the sightings to be optical illusions, Smith figured, the inversions would have had to be 1,000 or 2,000 degrees. "Menzel refused to discuss any sightings in detail," Smith says. "I insisted to the point of rudeness and finally he admitted he couldn't explain any."

LATE in 1953, beside the Transport Station at Shirley Bay 10 miles west of Ottawa, Smith equipped a small building with electronic devices to detect objects overhead. At 3:01 P.M. on Aug. 9, 1954, the station's gravimeter showed a deflection more pronounced than that made by even the largest aircraft. Smith, who happened to be present, hurried outside for a look, but the clouds were low and heavy that afternoon. The deflection remained unexplained.

It was "just a shot in the dark," Smith said then of the Shirley Bay post, just an unused research hut which he had hauled through the fence from neighboring Defence Research property. But it was hailed in news reports all over the continent as "the world's first flying-saucer observatory." It has since been disbanded.

By this time a news blackout had descended on U.S. saucer sightings. American military pilots everywhere in the world were under orders to report UFOs at once by radio, but not to reveal their sightings under penalty of court-martial. And such secrecy, choking off informed speculation, invited instead a rash of stories from people who claimed to have talked (Continued on Page 22)

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pen-mesh covering that's
d gentle. Only new Kotex
this Wondersoft covering
fitness you thought you'd
ave; complete open-mesh
on that never fails; and a
ct fit that can't ever pull
out of shape.

Choose from three sizes:
Regular, Junior,
Super Kotex. Buy a
Wonderform Belt, too.
With its new flexible
clasp, it's safe,
comfortable—goes
with new Kotex
perfectly.

"Flying Saucers Come From Outer Space"

(Continued from Page 4)

to the space creatures, usually by telepathy, though last month a British Columbia man said the one he met had a Ronald Colman accent.

In these stories the space men are usually small, though they come in a wide range of covering: hairy, metallic, zebra-striped, lizard-like. One cult believes they're already among us in disguise, preparing to take over Earth. Another believes they're from Venus, where everything is beautiful, even human nature, and that they have come to Earth to bring peace.

An Ottawa electrical engineer and inventor, Osmond Kendall, caught a revealing glimpse of this cult aspect two years ago on a business trip to Hollywood. He visited a man named Kessner in Tarzana, near Los Angeles. Kessner headed a group supposedly in contact with the Venutians. Probing, Kendall found "it all centred around stories given out by a radio mechanic. He was the medium communicating with the space craft for this group. He was feeding them back information which he said he got from the space people."

One of the things the mechanic told the group was how to construct a health ray that would cure rheumatism. Kendall asked if he could see it. He was shown a lamp with three filters. "It had no properties whatever," Kendall says. "I asked Kessner if any funds were going to this mechanic and he told me his group was actually paying the man money. Later I heard the mechanic had been exposed as a fraud."

The resemblance to spiritualism, in vogue before the war, is unmistakable. Here is the medium, the go-between, bringing back from a better world a message of hope — for a price. Here is man's familiar dream of Utopia, his semi-religious hunger for the unknown, his wish for a short cut to perfection. Thousands of Americans now invest their religious longings in the novel trappings of science fiction.

Association with this sort of thing was too much for the Transport Department. In October, 1954, it dropped Project Magnet. And with Transport engineers across Canada no longer sending in sightings, the Defence Research committee known as Project Second Storey died a natural death through lack of nutrition. "It still exists in name," Harold Oatway says, "but we haven't met for a year or more. We decided we couldn't do anything with the kind of information we were getting."

THE Canadian government's attitude was now the same as (and perhaps influenced by) the U.S. government's: flying saucers did not exist. Anyone who said or acted as if he thought they did came under the shadow of discredit. Thus, although Wilbert Smith got permission to go on investigating in his spare time, his colleagues in Transport dropped away one by one, in part because the novelty had worn off the chore, in part for fear that the stigma of "crackpot" would jeopardize their jobs.

"There's been a fantastic amount of plain undiluted garbage written on this subject," Smith says with a trace of bitterness. "Naturally the few people still working with me here are anxious to remain anonymous. I'm also in touch with people in Australia, New Zealand, France and South Africa. We're working on the basic physics involved in propulsion. Most of our experiments are to confirm or deny conventional experiments in physics. We've found quite a few anomalies. Some could have a bearing on how saucers operate. I don't know. But I do know this: In 10 years we'll know how to build one of these machines. In 25 years we'll have one."



Long before this — in two to five years — the U.S. Air Force expects to have a rocket circling the moon, equipped with TV, recording and photographic equipment. In five to six years they expect to achieve a landing. Within 10 years they hope to go on to Mars, where astronomers have recently seen strange lights, unusual bluish clouds, and what one Japanese astronomer thinks is an atomic explosion.

"We can speculate that Mars is the operating base for the saucers," says Donald Keyhoe, director of NICAP. Some of the NICAP group think that creatures from outer space, probably friendly, are taking pictures of us and recording our broadcasts with the intention of making contact with us. There is evidence that this survey has continued, on and off, for several hundred years, and is now intensified because of our rocket-testing, high-powered radio transmissions, and atomic explosions.

"Sightings are fairly steady," Keyhoe says. "It's hard to judge because we don't get the air force's sightings. But if the ratio of military sightings is about the same as civilian sightings there are probably about 300 or 400 a month I'd consider authentic. We're getting an increasing number from solid citizens, people who say they've never told anyone before for fear of being ridiculed. We think we'll soon have enough members of this type, including some very influential ones, to make people realize this is a serious investigation. We'll try to wipe out the lunatic fringe and expose every hoax we can. We'll get the discussion out into the open and make it respectable."

BY this week NICAP will cover all 48 states of the U.S. "We think we'll soon have good-sized units in England, France, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa," Keyhoe says. "We'll try to get members in all the Canadian cities. You might mention in your article that anyone who is interested can write to 1536 Connecticut avenue, Washington."

In Ottawa, shortly after a letter from Keyhoe describing NICAP, Wilbert Smith formed a flying-saucer club. I went to the first meeting last month at Smith's home in City View, an incorporated suburb of which he is board chairman. "You people," Smith told the four or five couples present, "have from time to time asked me about flying saucers. From the weight of the evidence I think they come from outer space. But I can't prove it. The best I have is data on which you can put a probability figure."

Smith outlined the Project Magnet analysis. "Look at it this way," he said. "If a stock promoter told you that there was a 60 per cent probability that a certain stock would go up, I don't think you'd invest with him. But if the weatherman told you there was a 60 per cent probability that a hurricane was going to hit your area, I think you'd hurry up and bring in the lawn furniture. It's a question of viewpoint. You have to make up your own mind how significant you think the matter is." ✓

WEEKEND Magazine Vol. 7 No. 27, 1957



THE FLEET

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Date: Thu, 06 Feb 1997 16:16:12 -0500
To: updates@globalserve.net
From: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
Subject: UFO UpDate: Historical File - Smith, Wilbert B.(rockhouse)
(1910-62)

From: Errol Bruce-Knapp
Subject: Historical File - Smith, Wilbert B.(rockhouse) (1910-62)
Date: 11-10-95

Canadian Ufologists

Smith, Wilbert B.(rockhouse) (1910-62)
Canadian Radio Engineer and Ufologist.

from material by Arthur Bray, David Haisell and Greg Kanon, edited by
Errol Bruce-Knapp, November '95

Smith was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, graduated from University of
British Columbia in 1933 with a B.Sc. in electrical engineering and
went on to obtain his M.A.Sc in 1934 at the same university. After
graduation he became chief engineer for radio station CJOR in
Vancouver.

Smith did much to encourage improvements in the technical side of
broadcasting facilities in Canada, and took a strong personal interest
in the formation of the Canadian Association of Broadcast Consultants,
which often advised the federal Department of Transport (DOT) on
frequency allocation and other technical matters. He also played an
important role in liaison between that department and the Canadian
Radio Technical Planning Board. In 1939, he joined the federal
Department of Transport. He was engaged in engineering Canada's
war-time monitoring service and, in 1947, was in charge of establishing
a network of ionospheric measurement stations, several of which were in
isolated parts of the North.

At the time of his death, he was superintendent of Radio Regulations
Engineering with the Department of Transport, responsible for the
engineering aspects of all matters concerning the use of radio in
Canada, including equipment standards, radio relay systems (micro-wave),
broadcast facilities and interference studies.

Smith's area of research was in radio wave propagation, a study which
eventually led him into fields such as auroras, cosmic radiation,
atmospheric radio-activity and geo-magnetism. It was the latter of
these fields which really attracted his attention and caused him to
speculate that the potential energy of the Earth's magnetic field
might be extracted and used. He had already progressed to the stage
of developing a crude experimental model to demonstrate his theory,
and successfully tested the unit which, in his words, "demonstrated
the soundness of the basic principles in a qualitative manner and
provided useful data for the design of a better unit." 1

Smith's curiosity got the better of him when he read a magazine article
on 'Flying Saucers' in the late 1940s and from then on he took a great
interest in investigating flying saucers or UFOs. In DOT, he was
engaged in research on the collapse of the Earth's magnetic field as a
source of energy. As Smith believed that flying saucers may be
operating on magnetic principles, it seemed that this work of DOT might
explain their operation.

He believed, quote: "that we are on the track of something which may-

SMITH

tivity and to
standardize procedures, etc.¹¹ From the minutes of this meeting we
read, "This committee was to prepare a brief of instructions for
observers; examine interrogation ; and to establish a standard method
of recording and indexing for subsequent analysis." ¹² (And if I may
be permitted, I would like to note that thirty years later, we are
still doing the same thing!) It was also decided that "the function
of DRB should be mainly advisory as the collection of reports could
best be done by field organizations." ¹³

Two days later, the newly formed committee assembled, classifying its
work as 'confidential', and identifying themselves as 'Project Theta'.

On May 19, 1952 they met for a second time and among other things,
re-named themselves 'Project Second Storey' since 'Theta' was
apparently not on the list of valid names for projects of this type.

On June 25, 1952 Smith submitted an interim report on Project Magnet in
which he stated that it appeared evident that flying saucers are
emissaries from other civilizations and actually operate on magnetic
principles, magnetic principles which we have failed to grasp due to
our not paying enough attention to the structure of fields in our
study of physics. ¹⁴

On July 31, Project Second Storey held their third meeting where, among
other items of business, a letter containing several of Smiths motions,
presumably based on his progress in Magnet, was tabled and discussed.
Also, the final form of the 'Project Second Storey Sighting Report was
approved, and distribution of same was determined.

There was no mention in the minutes of any reference to Smiths decisive
statement in his interim 'Magnet' report.

The fourth meeting of Second Storey was not held until November 17,
followed by the fifth on March 9, 1953. Smith had been working on
some 'weighting factors' to be applied to witness testimony to help
arrive at some measure of report significance. At the fifth meeting
his system was adopted temporarily without alterations. At this
point, though, it was probably felt irrelevant since Chairman Millman

noted "that evidence to date (and note that this was not Second Storey's evidence to which he was referring, since they had so far only managed to standardize their procedures) did not seem to warrant an all out investigation by the Canadian Services but it might be well to continue to collect at some central location all forms which may be submitted to the Services." 15 Millman reached this conclusion following discussions with the chairman of DRB on the future activities of the committee. They seemed to be again ignoring Smith's statement in his preliminary report on Magnet; or were they trying to play it down?

And as it turned out, Millman's conclusion was based on activities in the U.S. in the wake of the Robertson Panel, which is now known to have been a CIA whitewash. So here is further evidence of top level U.S. Canadian inter-relationship in the UFO field, and if we assume this inter-relationship continued after the Robertson Panel, it is safe to assume that investigation of UFOs in Canada was placed under the control of some branch of Canadian Intelligence. We can only guess that Smith's interim 'Magnet' report probably played a significant part in this assumed decision.

In concluding the fifth meeting of Second Storey, it was agreed that a further meeting would take place after the Department of Transport had completed its analysis. That is, after the Magnet Report was finished. This was accomplished on August 10, 1953 but there are no minutes available of any further Second Storey meetings, although there is evidence that further meetings did take place. One wonders why the minutes were not made public. Recent correspondence between Canadian ufologist Arthur Bray and Dr. Allen McNamara (without even having been asked the question) that the Project Magnet report was submitted to Second Storey in 1953. (This from a letter dated July 25, 1979.) 16 So it was 26 years before any indication of further Second Storey meetings surfaced.

During the summer of 1953, Wilbert Smith obtained approval from the Department of Transport (DOT) to set up some UFO detection equipment at Shirley's Bay, near Ottawa, and by the end of October the installation was complete. The instruments included a gamma-ray counter, a magnetometer, a radio receiver (to detect the presence of radio noise, and a recording gravimeter. 17

-----This line is 70 characters-----
News of Magnet finally leaked to the media presumably because of the conspicuous nature of the Shirley's Bay installation. 18 As expected, denials were attempted; on the very day the station went into operation Dr. Solands was quoted as saying reports of the station's
- table
true. However.

down on this, but later, Smith actually had only said that such a station was not being operated by his department, and that he personally had no knowledge of its existence. 19 Even this was difficult to accept since the installation was located next to DOT's Ionosphere Station on Defence Research Board (DRB) property, and in fact, the building was loaned to Smith by DRB. 20

Public awareness of this project was to be a source of frustration, annoyance and embarrassment to DRB and DOT, and it put Smith in an awkward position since he was still officially a member of the Second Storey Committee. This was probably a contributing factor to the contents of Millman's November 21st summary report of Project Second Storey. He announced that Project Second Storey's forms and instructions for filing of sighting information were available for any government department seriously interested in pursuing the matter further, but the committee felt that, owing to the impossibility of checking independently the details of the majority of sightings, most of the material did not lend itself to a scientific method of investigation. 21

Could it be that they were not aware of the scientific study being conducted in the U.S. at that time by the Air Force on UFO reports collect from June 1, 1947 to December 31, 1952? The study was initiated in 1952 and continued through 1954, and proved beyond a doubt the existence of an unidentified phenomenon, even though the conclusions were worded in such a way as to divert attention from the evidence. The study to which I am referring was known as 'Project Blue Book Special Report #14' which is probably the most constantly referred to in the literature of Stanton Friedman, and more recently was the subject of a paper by Bruce Maccabee in the Journal of UFO Studies, Vol. 1, No. 1, entitled the 'Scientific Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects'.

It is difficult to believe Millman's statement, and perhaps his remarks were designed to appease 'somebody' in the event Smith's association with Second Storey eventually became public knowledge, and also to save face in view of the Adamski & contactee activity now the public eye.

At 3:01 in the afternoon of August 8, 1954 the instrumentation at the Shirley's Bay installation registered an unusual disturbance. In Smith's words "the gravimeter went wild", 22 as a much greater deflection was registered than could be explained by conventional interference such as passing aircraft. Smith and his colleagues rushed outside only to find a heavy overcast. Whatever was up there as hidden in the clouds. The only evidence they had was the deflection registered on the chart recorder paper.

Two days later the controller of Telecommunications issued a form letter, which was also authorised as a press release, admitting that the DOT had been engaged in the study of UFOs for three and a half years, that considerable data had been collected and analysed, but it had not been possible to reach any definite conclusion, and since new data simply confirmed existing data, there seemed little point in carrying the project any further on an official level. This, despite the fact that "new data... confirmed existing data", which is what one would expect of a positive scientific experiment!

Project Magnet was to be dropped, but Smith would continue to receive and catalogue data on an unofficial basis. 23 In Smith's words, Magnet went "underground" 24 probably joining Second Storey.

The detection of 'whatever it was' two days before had evidently inspired rapid action. Does it seem likely that a project, which had
it was looking for would

terminated? Justification for changing to a 'Top Secret' classification perhaps... It is apparent that pressure was applied to Smith to down-play or even deny the Shirley's Bay incident.

Researcher Greg Kanon writes: "In an abrupt about face, Smith announced, before the May 17th 1955 session of the Commons' Special Committee on Broadcasting, that no UFOs had ever been detected at the Shirley's Bay Station. At about this same time, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt (who earlier served as chief UFO investigator for the 'S. Air Force) was reportedly told by RCAF Intelligence officers that only 'officially' had the Shirley's Bay Station produced negative results. These developments led some UFO researchers to conclude that Smith had been successfully silenced by officials." 25

Whatever the case, Smith kept busy over the next few years, and we get a glimmer of what he was up to from a presentation he gave about five years later to the Illuminating Engineering Society's Canadian regional Conference during which he stated:

"We know that gravity is not all Newton visualised. Far from being a basic force in nature, it is really a derived function, and is the consequence of a dynamic condition, not a static one. We know what goes into its makeup; we know its formula and we have a pretty good idea of how to go about bringing it under control. We have conducted experiments that show that it is possible to create artificial gravity (not centrifugal force) and to alter the gravitational field of the Earth. This we have done. It is fact. The next step is to learn the rules and do the engineering necessary to convert the principle into workable hardware." (26) That statement was made in 1959. The question is, what has been achieved since then?

It has been claimed by some that Smith turned away from orthodox scientific work to the more metaphysical aspects of what he termed 'the new science'. Such was not the case. He carried on his normal scientific work and at the same time delved into the science of metaphysics as a possible answer to the UFO mystery, which apparently produced some concrete results in the laboratory. In the realm of purely orthodox science, Smith was working on the development of an anti-gravity device and believed himself to be on the verge of an important breakthrough just prior to his death.

In the area of metaphysics, Smith claimed to communicate with 'occupants' of UFOs through a contact who provided him with certain information. One instance pertained to areas of reduced binding in our atmosphere. All matter is held together by forces which are not clearly understood and are known as 'binding forces'. Smith was informed that there are areas of reduced binding and that many air crashes were due to entering such regions, where the planes literally fell apart. He was told that means of detecting such areas were easily available to us and that suitable instruments could be constructed. By building a 'binding meter', according to the principles given to him, he was able to locate regions of reduced binding. He recommended to the government that further investigation be conducted, but because of the unorthodox source of his information, he was unable to obtain official recognition of this work and his letters were added to the 'crank file'.

The last ten years of Smith's life were devoted to intensive thought and study. He formulated several of his ideas into a book titled, 'The Smith Road of Cancer on December 27, 1962. The respect he commanded New Science'.

Keith H. Rogers - Special Engineering Award for dedicated service in the advancement of the Technical Standards in Canadian Broadcasting. This award, presented by the Canadian General Electric Company, was well deserved. Smith was one of the foremost thinkers of his time - a well respected ufologist - one of the first of our breed.

1. Memorandum to the Controller of Telecommunications,
W.B. Smith, Nov. 21, 1950, p.2.
2. ibid, p.2.
3. ibid, p.3.
4. ibid, p.4.
5. ibid, p.4.
6. Project Magnet, program, W.B. Smith, p.2.
7. Ottawa Journal, April 16, 1952.
8. Toronto Globe & Mail, April 16, 1952.
9. Ottawa Journal, April 17, 1952.
10. 'I Believe Flying Saucers Come From Outer Space', by Alan
Phillips, Weekend Magazine, V.7, #27, 1957, p.4.
11. Minutes of a DRB meeting to discuss flying saucers, April 22, p.1.
12. ibid. p.1.
13. ibid. p.2.
14. Interim Report on Project Magnet, W.B. Smith, 1952.
15. Minutes of the 5th Second Storey meeting, March 9, 1953, p.2
16. The UFO Connection, Arthur Bray, Jupiter Publishing, 1979, p.69
17. The UFO Connection, Arthur Bray, Jupiter Publishing, 1979,
p.63.
18. Sudbury Star, Nov. 12, 1953.
19. Toronto Daily Star, Nov. 14, 1953.
20. Letter from Dr. N.M. Millman, Sept. 24, 1968, NRC files.
21. Project Second Storey - Summary Report, Dr. P.M. Millman,
chairman, Second Storey Committee, Nov. 21, 1953. Bray, p.63.
22. Form letter signed by the Controller of Telecommunications,
DOT, Aug. 10, 1954.
23. 'Project Magnet - The Canadian Flying Saucer Study', Topside,
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24. Canadian UFO Report, Vol.3, No.6, p.23.
25. 'Sputniks, Saucers and Spacecraft', W.B. Smith, - a paper
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Walton, Bruce A. *A Guide to the Inner Earth*. Jane Lew, WV: New Age Books, 1983.

SHAYER, RICHARD SHARPE. See Shaver Mystery.

SMITH, WILBERT BROCKHOUSE (1910-1962)

The most famous Canadian ufologist of all time was also one of the most curious figures in UFO history, occupying a role no one had ever filled before and no one is likely to fill again. Wilbert B. Smith was a Canadian government engineer who possessed a high security clearance. He also had a keen scientific interest in the UFO phenomenon and was involved with a government UFO study into the subject. He was, moreover, a friend of Donald E. Keyhoe, an aviation writer and retired U.S. Marine Corps major, and a member of the Board of Advisors of Keyhoe's conservative **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena** (NICAP). Though Keyhoe and NICAP were vehemently critical of contactees (persons who claimed to be in regular contact with benevolent extraterrestrials), even to the extent of demanding the resignation of an employee who let her sympathies be known, Smith candidly acknowledged his conviction that he had experienced repeated communications from space beings whom he affectionately nicknamed the "boys from topside."

Smith was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1910. He attended the University of British Columbia, from which he received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1933 and an M.S. the following year. He worked professionally in the technical side of broadcasting, and in 1939 he moved to Ottawa to join the government's Department of Transport (DOT), where he worked as a radio engineer. In 1947 he directed the setting-up of a network of ionospheric measurement stations across Canada.

Around this time, according to Robert Achzehner, an American UFO enthusiast who would later befriend



Wilbert B. Smith, a Canadian government engineer, headed Project Magnet, which sought to gather high-quality UFO data via instrumentation and laboratory analysis. Smith was also fascinated with the claims of contactees.

him, Smith began receiving mental messages from space people (Achzehner, 1989). These messages would continue to the end of his life, but at first Smith kept the matter private even as he carefully monitored the growing literature on UFOs. In 1950 he read Keyhoe's *True* article and the book that followed soon after with the same title, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*. Of particular interest to him was Frank Scully's best-seller *Behind the Flying Saucers* because of its claims that UFOs flew along "magnetic fields of force"—an idea Smith himself had been entertaining.

strange
no correspondence

Smith, Keyhoe, and the projects. That fall he and his boss at DOT, John Baldwin, went to Washington on business. There Smith met Keyhoe, and the two spent much time discussing UFO questions (Keyhoe, 1953). Smith also attended a classified briefing with physicist Robert Sarbacher of the U.S. Defense Depart-

← ?

ment's Research and Development Board. According to Smith's notes of the meeting, which occurred on September 15, when Smith asked if there was any truth to Scully's story (which was that the American government had recovered crashed saucers and alien bodies), Sarbacher replied, "The facts reported in the book are substantially correct." He added that UFOs exist and "it's pretty certain they didn't originate on earth." The subject "is classified two points higher even than the H-bomb. In fact, it is the most classified subject in the U.S. government at the present time." He would say no more (Good, 1988). In the 1980s, when investigators located Sarbacher, he confirmed that such a conversation had taken place, though apparently his reference was to the general truth of crashed-disc claims, not Scully's particular version (see Scully Hoax and Crashes of UFOs, 1947-1959).

Word of this remarkable meeting surfaced only in the decade after Smith's death, when ufologist Arthur Bray found Smith's memo (Bray, 1982), and if he ever confided the story to Keyhoe—which the security-conscious Smith probably did not do—neither man left a record of it. But Smith was determined to do something about UFOs when he got back to Canada, and with the support of Baldwin and other DOT engineers (and, according to Achzezhner, at the suggestion of the space people [Achzezhner, *op. cit.*]), he put together a plan to use DOT laboratory and field facilities during off hours to gather high-quality UFO data. The effort would also involve a "systematic questioning of all our basic concepts in the hopes of turning up a discrepancy which might prove to be the key to a new technology" (Smith, 1954a). On December 2, 1950, Cmdr. C. P. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, approved Smith's proposed operation, called Project Magnet.

In April 1952, in an effort to do something about Canadian UFO sightings, including those by Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, the government's Defense Research Board announced it was forming a UFO-study group. Its proceedings and even its name would be secret for many years. It is now known that Project Second Storey, formed by O. M. Solandt, chairman of the Defense Research Board, met at least five times, possibly more. The last recorded meeting occurred on March 9, 1953. Chaired by astrophysicist Peter M. Millman of the Dominion Observatory, the

committee consisted of representatives of military and military intelligence bodies. It had one representative from the DOT: Smith.

Second Storey seems to have done little except talk about UFOs. It did send two of its representatives to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio to talk with Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, who headed the American UFO project, and prepared a sighting questionnaire (Nixon, 1973). But the only interesting ideas generated with Second Storey were from Smith, who proposed a "weighting factor system"—one he was using in his own on-going Magnet work—in which the various constituent elements of a report could be analyzed to determine its significance. At another point, on the evening of September 6, 1952, Smith and DOT associates launched a large weather balloon, with attached magnesium flare over Ottawa. Smith intended this as an experiment; he wanted to see how many "UFO" reports the sight would generate and how closely eyewitness testimony corresponded to the true stimulus. Unfortunately for Smith, the balloon and flare inspired not a single report.

By early 1953 he was drafting a report on Project Magnet's work for the DOT. In April he wrote Keyhoe:

Our report is well along in the draft stages.... [W]e are coming [sic] out definitely with the conclusion that the saucers are PROBABLY alien vehicles since there is no other explanation which fits the facts. We are recommending that an Authority be established to study the physics and technology of these devices, and that funds and staff be made available. Of course, I don't know how far we will get with our recommendations, since we will have to overcome a great deal of inertia (Smith, 1953b).

When the report was finished in August, Smith wrote, drawing on the 1952 Canadian sightings that were the focus of the study, that "it can be deduced that the vehicles have the following significant characteristics. They are a hundred feet or more in diameter; they can travel at speeds of several thousand miles per hour; they can reach altitudes well above those which would support conventional aircraft or balloons; and ample power and force seem to be available for all required manoeuvres. Taking these factors into ac-

count, it is difficult to reconcile this performance with the capabilities of our technology, and unless the technology of some terrestrial nation is much more advanced than is generally known, we are forced to the conclusion that the vehicles are probably extra-terrestrial, in spite of our prejudices to the contrary" (Smith, 1953a). The report was classified.

Smith went to his superiors at DOT and suggested that an electronic station be set up to maintain a "24-hour watch for flying saucers" on the theory that something could be learned about their technology. To Smith's surprise the request was approved, and a small station was set up in a DOT-owned hut at Shirley's Bay, 10 miles west of Ottawa in a remote area along the Ottawa River. Equipment included an ionospheric reactor, electronic sound-measurement devices, a gamma-ray detector, a gravimeter, a magnetometer, and a radio set. Whenever any of these was disturbed, presumably by the presence of a passing UFO, an alarm would go off. Two men associated with the Defense Research Board, theoretical physicist James Wait and John Hector Thompson of the Telecommunications Division, were to participate in the effort, along with the University of Toronto's J. T. Wilson and G. D. Garland of the Dominion Observatory. The result was enormous newspaper publicity via Associated Press and United Press International coverage and a quick denial from Solandt that the Defense Research Board had anything to do with the "flying saucer observatory" ("Flying Saucers Project," 1953). In fact, all participants were working on their own time.

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the Smith family home in City View, an Ottawa suburb. Achzehner lived there until November.

During that time, with members of the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club, which Smith started in 1956 and continued to head, and two Royal Canadian Air Force officers, the two conducted occasional "saucer watches" in parks and rural areas. On occasion they spotted meandering nocturnal lights which would "flutter around, swoop down, then zip straight up and out of sight," according to Achzehner. At 12:30 one night the group, including Smith's wife Murl and the couple's three children, saw an "Adamski-type saucer" which was visible for five minutes (Achzehner, *op. cit.*).

In his last years Smith devoted himself to metaphysical writings and investigations. In May 1962 he was diagnosed as having intestinal cancer. He died on December 27.

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SPACE ANIMALS

"Unknown, luminous things, or beings, have often been seen, sometimes close to this earth, and sometimes high in the sky," **Charles Fort** wrote in his 1931 book *Lo!* "It may be that some of them were living things that occasionally come from somewhere else" (Fort, 1941). On June 1, 1933, as climber Frank Smythe was heading for camp at 27,500 feet on Mount Everest, he was startled to see "two dark objects floating in the blue sky. In shape they resembled kite balloons, except that one appeared to possess short squat wings. As they hovered motionless, they seemed to pulsate in and out as though they were breathing." Fearing that he was hallucinating, Smythe looked away and studied the familiar landscape around him, noting that it, at least, looked the same. When he glanced upwards again, the strange objects were still there. A minute or two later they disappeared behind mountain mist and were gone when the mist blew away not long afterwards (Smythe, 1937).

On July 7, 1947, John Philip Bessor, a Pennsylvania man keenly interested in psychic phenomena, wrote the Air Force to offer his own theory about the flying discs being reported in the wake of **Kenneth Arnold's sighting**. In his view the objects were neither

machines nor illusions but "a form of space animal, or creature, of a highly attenuated (ectoplasmic?) substance, capable of materialization and dematerialization, whose propellant is a form of telekinetic energy." Bessor thought these creatures may even be carnivorous, noting the "many falls of flesh and blood from the sky in times past" and mysterious disappearances of people presumably eaten by hungry UFOs (Bessor, 1955).

Speculations like these, with or without the psychic overlay, have mostly vanished from the UFO literature but once had a degree of popularity. At one time even conservative proponents, such as those associated with **Civilian Saucer Intelligence**, held that at least some of the aerial phenomena being reported as UFOs could be living creatures whose home was either in outer space or in the earth's upper atmosphere (Fuller, 1955; Laprade, 1985), and in fact this was the theory favored by Arnold himself (Arnold, 1980). Other early "space-animal" theorists included David W. Chase, Desmond Leslie, René Fouéré, Walter Karig, and Alfred Loedding ("Who 'Discovered'," 1957). Perhaps the earliest literary treatment of the theme was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's science-fiction story "The Horror of the Heights," published in the November 1913 issue of *The Strand Magazine*.

Pwdre ser. The idea that organic matter exists in space is an old one, predating the UFO era by many centuries. Historically this material has been called either "star jelly" or *pwdre ser* ("rot from the stars")—a jellylike substance that is believed to have fallen from the sky. In 1541 the poet Sir John Suckling wrote, "As he whose quick eye doth trace/ A false star shot to a mark't place/ Do's run apace,/ And, thinking it to catch,/ A jelly up do snatch." In 1679 John Dryden related, "When I had taken up what I supposed a fallen star I found I had been cozened with a jelly." In 1712 the Rev. John Morton of Emmanuel College burned some *pwdre ser*. When all the moisture in it had evaporated, according to an account by Cambridge botanist T. McKenny Hughes in *Nature* (83:492-94 [1910]), "there was left a film like isinglass, and something like the skins and vessels of animal bodies." Scientists unable to accept the existence of gelatinous meteorites theorized that the substance was nostoc (blue-green algae) or bird vomit and that only error and superstition led some observers to

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SMITH, WILBERT BROCKHOUSE (1910-1962)

The most famous Canadian ufologist of all time was also one of the most curious figures in UFO history, occupying a role no one had ever filled before and no one is likely to fill again. Wilbert B. Smith was a Canadian government engineer who possessed a high security clearance. He also had a keen scientific interest in the UFO phenomenon and was involved with a government UFO study into the subject. He was, moreover, a friend of **Donald E. Keyhoe**, an aviation writer and retired U.S. Marine Corps major, and a member of the Board of Advisors of Keyhoe's conservative **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena** (NICAP). Though Keyhoe and NICAP were vehemently critical of **contactees** (persons who claimed to be in regular contact with benevolent extraterrestrials), even to the extent of demanding the resignation of an employee who let her sympathies be known, Smith candidly acknowledged his conviction that he had experienced repeated communications from space beings whom he affectionately nicknamed the "boys from topside."

Smith was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1910. He attended the University of British Columbia, from which he received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1933 and an M.S. the following year. He worked professionally in the technical side of broadcasting, and in 1939 he moved to Ottawa to join the government's Department of Transport (DOT), where he

worked as a radio engineer. In 1947 he directed the setting-up of a network of ionospheric measurement stations across Canada.

Around this time, according to Robert Achzezhner, an American UFO enthusiast who would later befriend him, Smith began receiving mental messages from space people (Achzezhner, 1989). These messages would continue to the end of his life, but at first Smith kept the matter private even as he carefully monitored the growing literature on UFOs. In 1950 he read Keyhoe's *True* article and the book that followed soon after with the same title, *The Flying Saucers Are Real*. Of particular interest to him was Frank Scully's best-seller *Behind the Flying Saucers* because of its claims that UFOs flew along "magnetic fields of force"—an idea Smith himself had been entertaining.

Smith, Keyhoe, and the projects

That fall he and his boss at DOT, John Baldwin, went to Washington on business. There Smith met Keyhoe, and the two spent much time discussing UFO questions (Keyhoe, 1953). Smith also attended a classified briefing with physicist Robert Sarbacher of the U.S. Defense Department's Research and Development Board. According to Smith's notes of the meeting, which occurred on September 15, when Smith asked if there was any truth to Scully's story (which was that the American government had recovered crashed saucers and alien bodies), Sarbacher replied, "The facts reported in the book are substantially correct." He added that UFOs exist and "it's pretty certain they didn't originate on earth." The subject "is classified two points higher even than the H-bomb. In fact, it is the most classified subject in the U.S. government at the present time." He would say no more (Good, 1988). In the 1980s, when investigators located Sarbacher, he confirmed that such a conversation had taken place, though apparently his reference was to the general truth of crashed-disc claims, not Scully's particular version (see **Sarbacher Episode**, **Scully Hoax**, and **Crashes and Retrievals of UFOs in the Twentieth Century**).

Word of this remarkable meeting surfaced only in the decade after Smith's death, when ufologist Arthur Bray found Smith's memo (Bray, 1982), and if he ever confided the story to Keyhoe—which the security-conscious Smith probably did not do—neither man left a record of it. But Smith was determined to do something about UFOs when he got back to Canada, and with the support of Baldwin and other DOT engineers (and, according to Achzezhner, at the suggestion of the space people [Achzezhner, *op. cit.*]), he put together a plan to use DOT laboratory and field facilities during off hours to gather high-quality UFO data. The effort would also involve a "systematic questioning of all our basic concepts in the hopes of turning up a discrepancy which might prove to be the key to a new technology" (Smith, 1954a). On December

2, 1950, Cmdr. C. P. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services, approved Smith's proposed operation, called Project Magnet.

In April 1952, in an effort to do something about Canadian UFO sightings, including those by Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, the government's Defense Research Board announced it was forming a UFO-study group. Its proceedings and even its name would be secret for many years. It is now known that Project Second Storey, formed by O. M. Solandt, chairman of the Defense Research Board, met at least five times, possibly more. The last recorded meeting occurred on March 9, 1953. Chaired by astrophysicist Peter M. Millman of the Dominion Observatory, the committee consisted of representatives of military and military intelligence bodies. It had one representative from the DOT: Smith.

Second Storey seems to have done little except talk about UFOs. It did send two of its representatives to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio to talk with Capt. **Edward J. Ruppelt**, who headed **Project Blue Book**, and prepared a sighting questionnaire (Nixon, 1973). But the only interesting ideas generated by Second Storey were from Smith, who proposed a "weighting factor system"—one he was using in his own on-going Magnet work—in which the various constituent elements of a report could be analyzed to determine its significance. At another point, on the evening of September 6, 1952, Smith and DOT associates launched a large weather balloon with attached magnesium flare over Ottawa. Smith intended this as an experiment; he wanted to see how many "UFO" reports the sight would generate and how closely eyewitness testimony corresponded to the true stimulus. Unfortunately for Smith, the balloon and flare inspired not a single report.

By early 1953 he was drafting a report on Project Magnet's work for the DOT. In April he wrote Keyhoe:

Our report is well along in the draft stages. . . . [W]e are coming [sic] out definitely with the conclusion that the saucers are PROBABLY alien vehicles since there is no other explanation which fits the facts. We are recommending that an Authority be established to study the physics and technology of these devices, and that funds and staff be made available. Of course, I don't know how far we will get with our recommendations, since we will have to overcome a great deal of inertia [Smith, 1953b].

When the report was finished in August, Smith wrote, drawing on the 1952 Canadian sightings that were the focus of the study, that "it can be deduced that the vehicles have the following significant characteristics. They are a hundred feet or more in diameter; they can travel at speeds of several thousand miles per hour; they can reach altitudes well above those which would support conventional aircraft or bal-

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Since the early 1950s Smith had corresponded with A. David Middleton, an engineer who worked at the atomic research

installation at Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Middleton was friends with Arizona-based contactee George Hunt Williamson, a fringe archaeologist and one of the six "witnesses" to Adamski's initial contact in the California desert on November 20, 1952. Through Middleton another contactee-oriented ufologist, Robert Achzehner, an electrical engineer, met Smith, and soon he was looking him up whenever business or other interests took him to Ottawa. In July 1959, Achzehner says, the two were so deeply immersed in UFO-related concerns that Smith asked him to move into the Smith family home in City View, an Ottawa suburb. Achzehner lived there until November.

During that time, with members of the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club, which Smith started in 1956 and continued to head, and two Royal Canadian Air Force officers, the two conducted occasional "saucer watches" in parks and rural areas. On occasion they spotted meandering nocturnal lights which would "flutter around, swoop down, then zip straight up and out of sight," according to Achzehner. At 12:30 one night the group, including Smith's wife Murl and the couple's three children, saw an "Adamski-type saucer" which was visible for five minutes (Achzehner, *op. cit.*).

In his last years Smith devoted himself to metaphysical writings and investigations. In May 1962 he was diagnosed as having intestinal cancer. He died on December 27.

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SMITHSONIAN UFO DEBATE

On September 6, 1980, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., UFO proponents and debunkers squared off for a day-long debate on the merits of the case for UFOs—a debate for which debunkers had long lobbied, convinced that it would show up the weakness of the ufologists' case. Proponents were **Bruce Maccabee**, an optical physicist employed by the U.S. Navy, **J. Allen Hynek**, Northwestern