Burned by a Flying Saucer

April 19 1953
American Weekly

The amazing story of a man who chased mysterious lights and came face to face with the terror of the unknown

by Marta Robinet

I'd heard about Sonny DesVergers' encounter with the flying saucer. The whole country had. The news had flashed out from West Palm Beach, Florida, the night of August 19, 1952—a 30-year-old scoutmaster had entered a palmetto forest to investigate strange lights and, after 40 terrifying minutes, had come staggering back, his arms burned, mumbling dazedly of a weird, dome-shaped craft hovering above the ground and a creature that spewed fire at him from an open hatch.

It was another saucer story, stored away by the Air Technical Intelligence Center, forgotten within 24 hours after it found its spot in the news.

Hoax? Psychological aberration? Hallucination? Publicity stunt? Or none of these? Was it one of those unaccountable saucer experiences reported by honest, reputable persons which even the Air Force, checking relentlessly, cannot puncture?

I was in West Palm Beach to find out. Six months had passed since DesVergers' brush with the unknown. How much could he remember of it now? Had it had any effect on him? What did it feel like to be so close to a flying saucer that you could reach up and actually touch it?

I saw Deputy Sheriff Mott Partin, who'd been there when Sonny DesVergers staggered from the woods. He was a small, alert, practical man, leather-faced and friendly. Did he think DesVergers had been acting?

"If he was, it was the best darned acting I ever saw," Partin answered, shaking his head. "In 19 years of law enforcement, I've never seen anyone as upset as he was."

He said he would drive me down the Dixie Highway that afternoon to talk to DesVergers. Then we'd go on to Boynton to see Bobby Ruffing, one of the three Boy Scouts DesVergers had been driving home when *it* had happened. After that, Partin promised, he'd drive me over and let me have a look at the spot off Military Trail where DesVergers had stumbled on the saucer.



Sonny DesVergers points to where his arm was blistered by the fireball. The sparks also burned his cap.

"Was the grass in the woods really scorched?" I asked.

"Lady, I only know what I saw," Partin said. "It was burned in patchy areas."

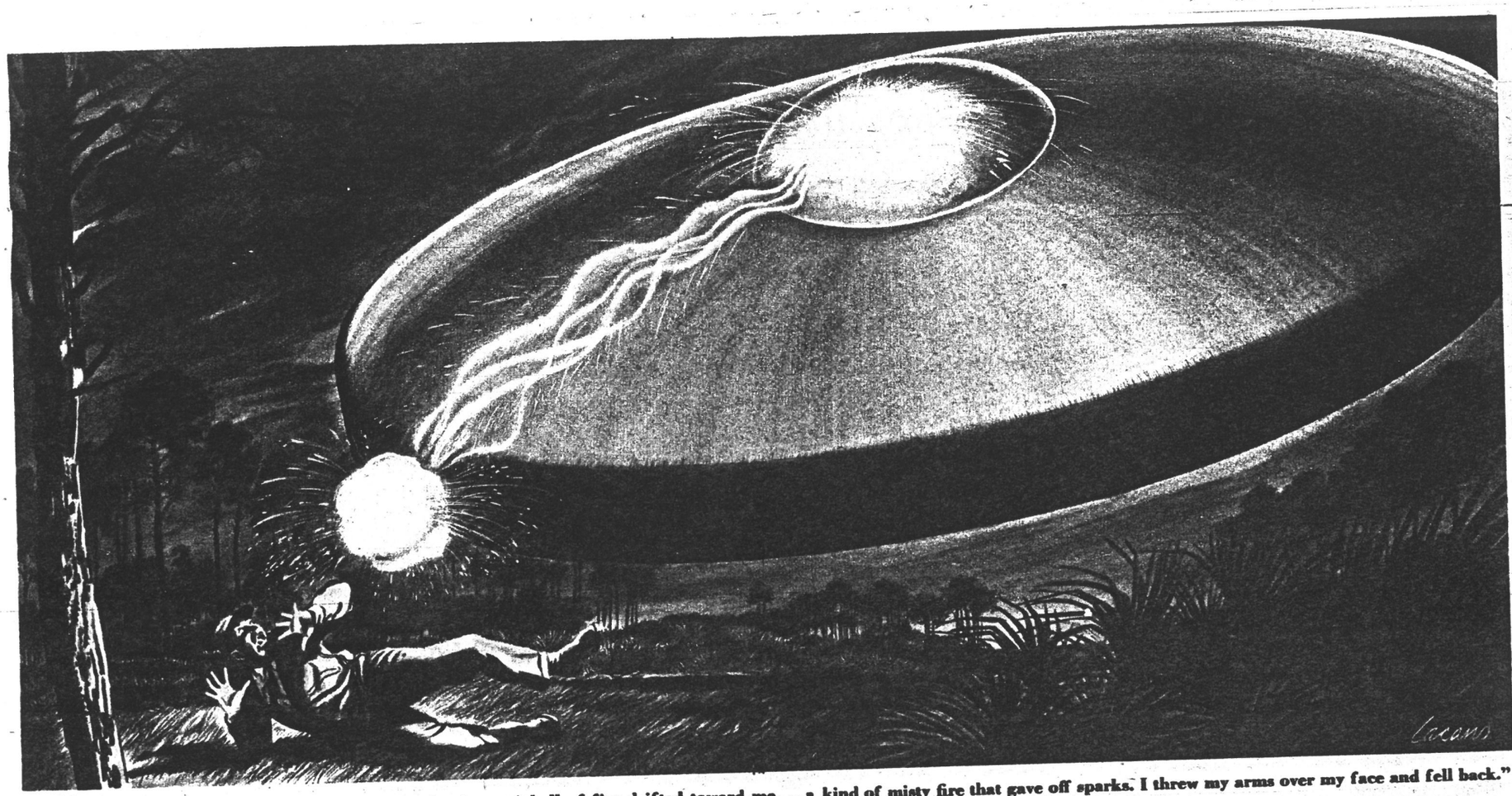
And the burns on DesVergers' arms? The hair had been singed off and the skin was red. That much he could vouch for, Partin said.

We drove to the shower door factory where DesVergers was sales manager. He came forward to meet us, a tall, slim man with a boyishly earnest face and a clean, scrubbed look. He and Partin pumped hands.

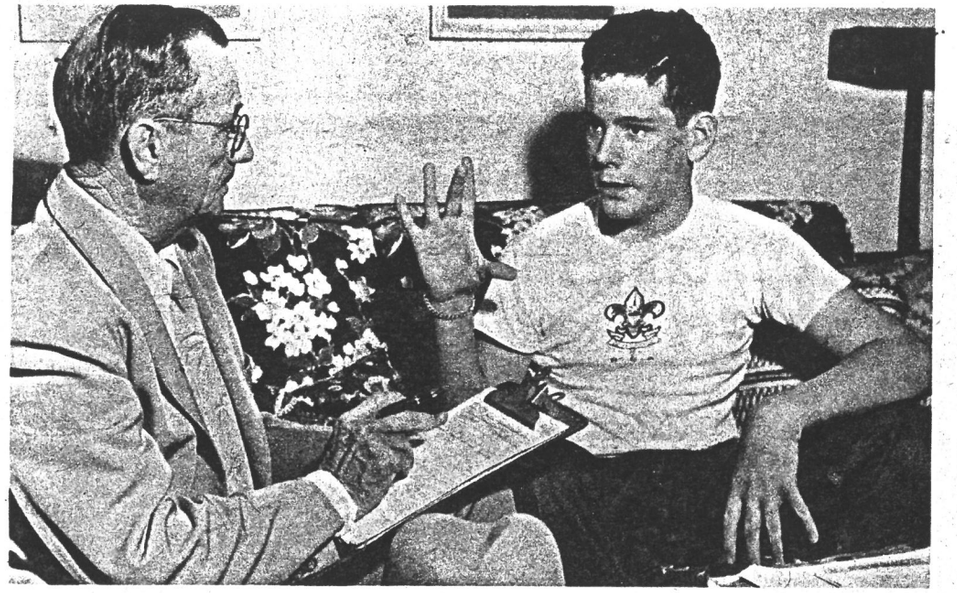
I was introduced. DesVergers hardly looked old enough to have served as a Marine in the last war. He wore a wedding band on his left hand. I'd heard there was a year-old son.

I told him I wouldn't detain him then, but would like to interview him at his home that evening. He complied cordially, but suddenly the boyish look was gone. A grim, unhappy expression took its place, as if my request had resurrected memories forcibly buried. Haltingly, still trying to be pleasant, he explained that he didn't want to bring his family into this again. He said there'd been "...well, social changes," and I realized with a pang of pity that a certain amount of ridicule and perhaps ostracism would be bound to follow in the wake of such an experience.

"I wish it had never *(Continued on page 6)*



"An opening suddenly appeared in the dome. A ball of fire drifted toward me. . . a kind of misty fire that gave off sparks. I threw my arms over my face and fell back."



Bobby Ruffing and two other Boy Scouts saw the same lights as DesVergers. Bobby, who says, "I wish it had never happened," reluctantly shows Deputy Sheriff Mott Partin the size of the lights. There were about six, strung out.

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(Continued from page 4)

happened," he said solemnly. "I like my job. I have six mouths to feed." Six? That surprised me. I asked him, "How come so many?"

His eyes crinkled. He ticked off the list on his fingers. "Me, my wife, boy, dog, bird, goldfish."

We laughed. Then Partin asked, "Did you ever get your cap back from Washington?"

Sonny appeared startled to have this mentioned in front of me.

Partin said, "This will interest you. His cap was burned. They sent it away for analysis."

Sonny said no, he hadn't gotten it back yet. We set the time for the interview and left.

"Those people who scoff should have seen the cap," Partin said, when we were under way again. "It was a yachting cap. The hole in the bill hadn't burned through, but two in the cloth had. He said that when the thing shot at him there were sparks."

We came into the town of Boynton, turned into a homey residential street and stopped again. We spoke to Mrs. Ruffing first, explaining why I was there. A quiet-spoken, attractive woman with a sincere, level glance, she was frankly hesitant as she peered out at us from behind her screen door.

"Bobby has been in bed with the flu," she explained, then added: "I'll see if he wants to talk."

She reappeared and led us into a room charming with bright chintzes. Bobby was on a davenport, under covers.

"He's an intelligent lad," Partin had told me before we arrived. "He's older than the other two Scouts. I was particularly impressed with the way he gave me his story that night."

Bobby's reticence to discuss the affair was marked. He kept looking toward his mother.

"Sonny had been in the habit of bringing Bobby home after Scout meeting," she began for him. "When Bobby didn't get home that night, we were terribly worried. It didn't help much when we got the call that they were at the sheriff's office."

"Why don't you want to talk about it?" I asked.

He looked straight at me. "I've been teased at school," he said simply. He studied his hands. "I wish it had never happened," he said, word for word Sonny's statement.

They'd been driving down Military Trail toward Boynton, he said, when Sonny first saw the lights. There were six or so of them, strung in a level row, like the windows of an airliner, and they

plunged right into the woods. Sonny thought it was a plane crashing. Excited, they talked of investigating the strange sight.

A quarter of a mile further on, Bobby saw the lights again. Now they seemed to be right in the tree tops, back about where they'd first been spotted. Sonny turned around and went back a quarter of a mile.

He got out his lantern, pocket flash and machete —for hacking through the underbrush.

"If you don't hear from me in 10 minutes, go back up the road to that house and call the sheriff's office," he told the three Scouts. Then he plunged down the road embankment and off into the woods, his lantern bobbing between the trees.

When he failed to return, Bobby and the other two boys ran to the house and called the sheriff's office. Partin, who was cruising nearby, was contacted by radio and reached the scene about half an hour after Sonny's departure. While he was trying to get a story from the boys, Sonny suddenly appeared at the bottom of the embankment.

He was white-faced and shaking and kept repeating: "I'm coming, here I am!" His lantern was gone, but he still had his machete.

"He was a sorry sight," Partin put in. "He was talking a blue streak but he didn't make any sense. I backed away from him. That machete . . ."

Mrs. Ruffing said she'd seen Sonny's singed arms. He'd come down the next evening to apologize for making Bobby late. She'd seen a seeping blister near his watchband and he had mentioned a tingling feeling in his arms.

We said good-by to the Ruffings and drove back down Military Trail. We stopped, just before sunset, where Sonny had stopped that night. We went through the woods —those lonely, dismal palmetto thickets—to the clearing where Sonny had known terror. I saw where his lantern had been found, where his elbows had made an imprint when he fell to the ground and where the burned patches had been.

It was good to leave that grim place. Three hours later, I sat with Sonny DesVergers in his neat living room. His little son was in bed. His wife and dog were absent. I studied his honest face. Here was a man reluctant to relive an unpleasant experience, yet determined not to run from it. He warned me *(Continued on page 20)*



Photographs by Angela Calomiris

DesVergers, in the clearing where he encountered the gray disc, tries to reconstruct for Deputy Partin the size of the strange object. He also showed Partin patches of burned grass in the area to substantiate part of his amazing story.

BURNED BY A FLYING SAUCER *(Continued from page 7)*

in advance that there were some details he would withhold. "I'm not here to challenge," I said. "Just tell me your story."

He had run into the woods with his lantern and machete, he said, leaving the boys by the car. He looked up at the stars for his bearings.

"I went about 200 yards," he said. "In Florida there are apt to be swampy areas and quicksand. When thick palmetto growth stops abruptly you can step into anything. When I realized I was in a clearing, I kept my eyes on the ground. I walked about 20 feet into the clearing and stopped."

He stopped talking and looked at me. "It was a funny thing. I had the feeling I wasn't alone. Nothing to account for it. Just a feeling. And suddenly the atmosphere was insufferably hot.

"I looked up at the stars. Darned funny... it was black up there. There were no stars. I shone my lantern upward. About four feet above my head there was a dirtyish gray metal surface. It couldn't have been more than a few seconds I stood looking, but it was all so clear. I remember noticing that the metal's grain ran north to south and there were no seams."

"You'd walked in under it?" I asked.

"I could have touched it with the machete. My whole body tightened up with fear. I remember thinking, 'Get out of here!' I must have been very close to the outer rim of the thing because, when I hurriedly backed off, I was in the open and the thing seemed to be backing off from me at the same time. Like it was taken by surprise. I could see the silhouette against the sky . . . dome-shaped with a flat bottom, about 30 feet across. There were no lights. The rim began to tilt up."

He stopped again, groping for some way to go on.

I remembered the original story. "Did you see someone?" I asked.

He thought about that. "Yes," he said, at last.

A living creature? He nodded slowly.

Would he describe what it looked like? No, he said emphatically, that was one of the things he wouldn't tell me. People would think . . . well, he'd just rather not.

"I saw it when an opening suddenly appeared in the dome," he said. "It was like a hatch that flew open. And at the same time that I saw it, a ball of fire drifted toward me from the opening. It's hard to describe . . . it was a kind of misty fire that gave off sparks. It seemed to float toward me and envelop me and a stench filled my nostrils and throat. I threw my arms up over my face. Then I staggered and fell and everything went black."



***DesVergers*—"I thought I was dead. I couldn't even feel the ground. My whole body was numb."**

When he came to, the thing was gone. Just black stillness. He was dazed and his arms hurt and his throat was raw.

"I was afraid I was dead," he told me. "Really," he emphasized, as if fearful I would not believe him, "I thought I was dead. I didn't seem to be walking on ground. I couldn't even feel the ground. My whole body was numb. All I could think of was the kids, waiting for me out by the car. I ran into the woods, feeling my way in the darkness. I made it to the car. I don't remember what I said. Afterwards they told me I still had my machete. Everything was kind of hazy."

He sat there, his story ended. I made some small talk about the bird and the goldfish. I wanted to leave, so Sonny's wife (who had left us alone during our interview) could come home and they could turn out the lights and go to bed and forget once more. And though he said nothing, I could feel his yearning to be believed, his desperate, unspoken plea for my faith.

I shook his hand and thanked him and went out. The stars were bright and symbolic of all the mystery of the future. I thought of Sonny DesVergers' story, and what Bobby Ruffing had said, and the supporting testimony of Mott Partin. I thanked God that I was not a judge and jury charged with ruling on whether the scoutmaster did or did not actually come face to face with a flying saucer. I had only to set the facts down, as I have done here.

But I will tell you this: I have complete faith in the integrity of all three—DesVergers, Bobby and Partin.

unbroken windows. Above is the result of her window-

'Saucer' Eludes Cal. Jet in Sky Chase

L.A. H-E. JAN 30 '53

A fiery orange object seen streaking across the sky at Long Beach and El Toro was pursued by a Marine Corps pilot in a jet interceptor last night until it swung out to sea and vanished, marine officials disclosed today.

Sent on the high speed chase by observers in the El Toro Marine Air Base tower who spotted the mysterious amber-hued object at 9:20 o'clock last night, Major Harvey Patton raced after it until he ran low on fuel.

"I chased something. I don't know what it was," Harvey said.

First spotted at 9 p. m. northeast of the Long Beach Municipal Airport by Edward S. Downs, control tower operator there, the object appeared to be a mile away at about 1000 feet.

Three minutes later it appeared due west at 2000 feet and disappeared.

Patton, who is stationed at El Toro, was preparing to land at 9:20 when T-Sgt. W. R. Meredith of Santa Ana radioed from the control tower to investigate a "large disc-shaped object" flying low near the field.

"I sighted an amber-colored object and turned to pursue it," Patton said.

"I would estimate I had it in sight for the next three or four minutes as I picked up speed toward Newport Beach. Then it turned and swung northwest along the coast toward Long Beach.

COULDN'T GAIN

"I couldn't gain on it, although it seemed to be only two or three miles in front of me. During the chase we flew at 3000 or 4000 feet altitude.

"My radar operator, Sgt.

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 2)

s[illegible] or ground troops.

So. Cal. Saucer Chase

Disc Eludes Marine Jet

L.A. H-E. JAN 30 '53

(Continued from Page 1)

Rothblatt, watched it too, but we had to give up the chase because my plane was running out of fuel. He said it finally swung out to sea.

Another strange light in the sky was sighted earlier by Patton as he was flying at 20,000 feet over Corona, 20 miles east of El Toro at 7:55 p. m. well over an hour before the chase.

"There was something like an explosion at high elevation. It was a brilliant amber color."

Fearful that a companion plane was in trouble, he contacted the other pilot, who radioed back that he, too, saw the "explosion."

Patton couldn't say what the object might have been.

POSITIONS CHANGED

"It couldn't have been a star because it wasn't high enough and was moving," Patton said of the object he chased.

"During the chase the object appeared to be in a horizontal position part of the time and then would change to a vertical position."

Patton said he had visual contact with the glowing object throughout the chase but declined to comment on radar findings.

Patton described the object as giving off an orange light "something like a jet exhaust." The veteran pilot has had 11 years flying for the marines.

Jets Race 'Saucers' In Japan

Detroit F. Press 2/1/53

Ace Loses 'Em At 35,000 Feet

A U. S. AIR BASE, NORTHERN JAPAN—(AP)—Strange clusters of red, white and green lights flying at blinding speed have been chased twice by United States jet pilots over Northern Japan, the Air Force said Wednesday.

The hurtling, rotating clusters were seen the nights of Dec. 29 and Jan. 9 over Northern Honshu, the main island of Japan.

The Japanese Government recently complained of flights over Hokkaido Island just north of Honshu by Russian fighter planes from Jurile and Sakhalin Island bases.

* * *

COL. DONALD J. M. Blakeslee in his F-84 Thunderjet chased the lights the night of Dec. 29, at 35,000 feet. They headed west and out of sight. In that direction lies Russian Siberia.

The night of Jan. 9 the mysterious lights were picked up on the radar screen of a F-94 night jet interceptor.

"Radar contact for approximately two minutes was verified" by the pilot, Lt. Melvin E. Conine, and Radar Observer Lt. Walter D. Lawley, Jr., of Tuscaloosa, Ala., an Air Force report said.

Conine immediately had started in pursuit, but quickly lost contact.

The flying lights were seen by other airmen aloft and by various ground personnel, said Col. Curtis R. Low, commander of the Northern Division of the Japan Air Defense Force.

* * *

BLAKESLEE, of Fairport Harbor, O., World War II ace and commander of an escort fighter wing here, was given permission to try to intercept the lights, after he had spotted them while he was flying at 27,000 feet.

He observed the lights for approximately seven minutes, and as he set his course of pursuit "he noted that the object

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Jets Spot 'Saucers' Over Japan

● **Continued from Page One** ●

obviously was increasing in size," the report said.

Blakeslee extinguished all the lights of his aircraft "to make certain he was not getting some reflection from his canopy surface."

After losing the lights, Blakeslee turned southeast and "after five minutes he noted the object again at 35,000 feet, level with him and flying what appeared a parallel course" to the right of him.

* * *

AFTER MORE than four minutes' observation, the lights headed west and disappeared, the report said.

The clusters also were seen by two crew members of an F-94 interceptor for about 40 minutes, by two crew members of a B-26 bomber for approximately seven minutes.

Japanese fishermen just released from Soviet captivity said Wednesday they saw Russian fighter planes and ground guns shoot down a United States B-29 Superfort last Oct. 7 off Northern Japan.

One fisherman said he saw two Russian fighter planes chase the B-29, heard gunfire and then:

"Black smoke started to stream from the American plane and it crashed into the sea at a tremendous speed."

* * *

The United States hotly protested the incident to Russia, demanded compensation for the "wanton and unjustifiable attack" and warned of possible grave consequences from the "reckless practice."

Before the protest was filed, the Soviets charged the B-29 had violated the Russian frontier.

There was no hint the Superfort was violating Russian territory.

1

Pilot Observes 8-Inch 'Saucer'

Detroit Times 1/27/53

U. S. AIR BASE, NORTHERN JAPAN, Jan. 27 (AP)—The U. S. Air Force today reported a small, metallic, disc-shaped object made a sweeping pass at an American jet fighter-bomber and was observed at very close range by another pilot.

The air force said the sighting was made over northern Japan at 11:20 a. m. March 29, 1952, by Lt. David C. Brigham of Rockford, Ill.

It was a bright, cloudless day. Brigham said he got a good look at the object from about 30 to 50 feet for about 10 seconds.

The pilot described it as:

"About 8 inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projections and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said it caught up with an F-84 Thunderjet, hovered a few moments and then shot out of sight. The F-84 pilot, whose name was not revealed, did not see it.

It was the second disclosure in a week by air force intelligence of mysterious flying objects over northern Japan near the Russian-Siberia area.

On Jan. 21, the air force disclosed that "rotating clusters of red, white and green lights" had been sighted over northern Japan by American airmen.

Polka-Dotted Apparition Seen in Skies

Detroit Times 1/26/53

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 26. — (AP) — Strange goings-on in the evening sky last night were reported in a flurry of calls to the Grand Rapids Air Raid Filter Center. Officials said, however, none were confirmed by radar.

All observers were agreed on one point. The object or objects were multi-colored, changing from red to green to blue to yellow.

The most graphic description was given by an observer who followed the light from some 15 miles west of here.

The light was described as about four times larger than a star, with what appeared to be a halo from which five beacons shot out like fiery arms. It changed from green to red to blue "like the reflection of light on a diamond" before sinking behind a hill, the observer said.

* * *

Skeptical Editor Sees Object in 2 Colors

PETOSKEY, Mich., Jan. 26.—(U.P.)—Dick Allgire, managing editor of the Evening News, a skeptic on "strange objects in the skies," said that last night, when the stars appeared in normal colors, he spotted an object which appeared red and blue through field glasses.

"Thirteen others have reported seeing it and some of them reported it moved, disappeared, reappeared and then disappeared again," Allgire said.

'Disks' Elude Chase by Jet

4

Other Pilots Report Fiery Objects in Sky

Detroit News 1/30/53

SANTA ANA, Calif., Jan. 30.—(U.P.) — Pilots' reports of disk-shaped objects streaking through southern California skies were under investigation today by Air Force, Marine Corps and Civil Aeronautics officials.

Four such objects were reported to have been seen flying in apparent formation by the three-man crew of a Northrop Aircraft Co. plane yesterday afternoon.

A Marine jet pilot said he chased a fiery object for nearly 25 miles Wednesday night before he was forced to turn back when he ran low on fuel. Control tower operators at Long Beach municipal airport reported they saw an "eerie orange flame" in the sky at the same time.

Light Frolic In Sky Over, Says Expert

The only people likely to see saucers tonight will be those in their cups—or at least that's the way the Weather Bureau figures it.

The meteorologists base their prediction on two points:

1. The atmosphere is undergoing a change over the bay area; the "inversion pattern" that supposedly "reflected" light in the sky is vanishing, and

2. There's fog in the offing tonight.

MIRROR IN SKY

This leaves the saucer situation in a kind of multiple-choice position. The viewer may conclude:

(a) There is no possibility of saucers tonight; (b) If you see one, it could be a real saucer or maybe there's something on your bifocals, or (c) It might be Dan Cupid. This IS Valentine's Day.

The theory of the mirror in the sky came from Professor Otto Struve, a major league saucer expert and head of the University of California's astronomy department.

As he explained the phenomenon that has had thousands in the bay area goggle-eyed for two nights:

Sometimes, when a temperature inversion occurs under precisely the right temperature and atmospheric conditions, the warm air layer in the inversion has the ability to reflect ground lights.

WARM AIR SANDWICH

A temperature inversion, he explained, is where a cold air mass is topped by a warm air layer, which is in turn capped by another cold "lid."

The Weather Bureau said this is, indeed, what we've been having the past couple of nights. The cold mass on the bottom was at 3,500 feet. It was surmounted by a 600-foot layer of hot-er-warm air, and crowned with another frigid layer.

If all this is confusing, don't get an inferiority complex, because a civil defense ground corps observer watched the light in the sky for 23 minutes last night and said it had the sound of a dull throb. Three of his fellow watchers said "Amen."

PHONES BUSY

This is undoubtedly the first case on record of a "throbbing reflection."

Newspaper and police switchboards took an awful beating as thousands of people called in their independent observations. They ranged from cops to housewives and all described the thing in much the same way:

The consensus was it looked something like a light globe and that it was traveling north, south, east and west at varying speeds in a somewhat drunken and irresponsible manner. Its altitude was estimated at from 3,000 to 10,000 feet.

SAN FRANCISCO CALL BULLETIN.

AF Bares Latest in Disks

Detroit Free Press

* * *

This One's 8 Inches Across, Thin, Shiny, And It Buzzes Jets over Japan

1/28/53

AMERICAN AIR BASE, NORTHERN JAPAN—(AP)—An American pilot saw at close range a mysterious flying disk make a pass at a Thunderjet over Central Japan, then speed away, the Air Force reported Tuesday.

The hitherto secret report from intelligence files said the disk was seen at 6,000 feet on a bright, cloudless day, just before noon last March 29, by Lt. David C. Brigham, of Rockford, Ill.

Brigham said the disk was about eight inches in diameter and that it closed to within 20 feet of the Thunderjet before shooting up out of sight.

* * *

IT WAS the second disclosure in recent days of mysterious objects zooming through the skies over Japan, near Russian-held territory.

Last week, the Air Force made public intelligence reports of "rotating clusters of red, white and green lights," sighted Dec. 29 by American airmen.

The Air Force issued the two reports without comment.

Brigham was flying a reconnaissance plane when a Thunderjet pulled alongside. The Thunderjet pilot was not identified.

Brigham said the disk swept up behind the Thunderjet, maneuvered in apparently controlled sweeps, then pulled up and shot out of sight.

He estimated that he watched the object for about 10 seconds from a distance of 30 to 50 feet at the closest point. The Thunderjet pilot did not see the disk.

* * *

BRIGHAM described the object as "about eight inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projections and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said there were no markings on the disk but there was a "ripple in the metal skin."

He estimated it was flying at about 200 miles an hour.

Brigham's report to intelligence said:

"It closed rapidly and just before flying into the Thunderjet's fuselage it decelerated to his airspeed almost instantaneously. In doing so it flipped up on its edge at approximately a 90-degree bank.

"Then it fluttered within 20 feet of his fuselage for perhaps two or three seconds, pulled away and around his starboard wing, appearing to flip over as it hit the slipstream behind his wing tip fuel tank.

"Then it passed him, crossed in front of him and pulled up abruptly, appearing to accelerate, and shot out of sight in a steep, almost vertical climb."

Brigham said the disk "rocked back and forth at approximately 40-degree banks at approximately one-second intervals throughout its course."

Grand Rapids Sets Milk Price Cut

GRAND RAPIDS—(AP)—The retail price of standard milk will be cut one cent, to 20 cents a quart, effective Feb. 2, spokesmen for local daires announced.

Producers have agreed to a reduction of 40 cents per hundred pounds in the wholesale price which now stand[illegible]

Two Days in Succession:

Flying Saucers Seen on Coast

Detroit Times 1/30/53

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 (INS)—Flying saucers zoomed back into the news here today with two incidents of mysterious sky objects reported on successive days.

Rex Hardy Jr., a Northrop aircraft test pilot who was a lieutenant commander in the naval air service during the war, said he saw four saucers, flying in formation, near Malibu yesterday. Malibu is on the coast, west of Los Angeles.

Hardy asserted:

"I'm a firm believer in saucers now."

2 CONFIRM STORY

Two men who were with him in a plane 9,000 feet above Malibu confirmed Hardy's story. They are Chester Mathews, another test pilot, and Jim Wilkinson, a Northrop photographer.

Earlier, officials at the El Toro Marine Corps Base, southeast of Los Angeles, reported one of their jet interceptor planes chased a large fiery, disc-shaped object Wednesday night but was outdistanced.

Several persons in the Los Angeles area reported sighting what apparently was the same object.

Hardy related the objects he saw were flying two above and two below.

LARGE AS A B-36

He said:

"The saucers were about the size of a B-36, but circular in shape. They clearly were defined. They were of aluminum color and in a definite flight pattern. Their speed was around 1,200 miles an hour and they definitely were not balloons or any type of aircraft I have ever seen."

Hardy reported the saucers were flying at an altitude of 20,000 feet in a southeasterly course toward Riverside, where they disappeared. One of the nation's largest air centers, March Air Force Base, is located just outside Riverside.

The test pilot added:

"If they had been balloons they wouldn't have been moving and their shape was not that of any aircraft. Their speed was terrific—they went 100 miles in five minutes."

MAJOR CHASES OBJECT

Maj. Harvey Patton, the El Toro jet pilot who chased the saucer Wednesday night, reported about an hour earlier he saw an unexplained "brilliant explosion of amber color" about 20,000 feet above the town of Corona.

Maj. Patton said he was about to land at El Toro when the sergeant in the control tower asked him to investigate a "fiery amber disc" the air base had sighted.

The pilot gave chase as the object moved toward Long Beach, but Patton had to turn back before he could carry on the pursuit because he was running short of fuel.

U. S. PILOTS CHASE THEM IN VAIN

Mystery Light Clusters Fly Over Japan

Detroit News 1/21/53

UNITED STATES AIR BASE, Northern Japan, Jan. 21.—(AP)—Mysterous flying objects—"rotating clusters of red, white and green lights"—have been sighted over Northern Japan by American airmen, the Air Force disclosed tonight.

Intelligence reports placed the sightings close to Russian territory in the Kurile Islands and Sakhalin.

Col. Curtis R. Low, commander of the northern division of the Japan Air Defense Force, said the flying clusters were seen by fighter pilots and ground personnel and were tracked on radar. He released official intelligence reports on the sighting.

The reports were similar to those describing "flying saucers" in the United States. One said the lights appeared to hang motionless at times, and at other times disappeared with blinding speed.

Col. Donald J. M. Blakeslee, World War II ace and commander of an escort fighter wing, took detailed observations on one rotating cluster and tried in vain to intercept it in a jet.

Sightings were made by many persons at many points over Northern Japan Dec. 29. On Jan. 9 a rotating cluster was spotted by two fighter pilots and was tracked on radar.

The intelligence report said Blakeslee, of Fairport Harbor, O., sighted a mysterious object twice on a night flight Dec. 29.

The report said Blakeslee closed on the object after extinguishing all the lights on his aircraft "to make certain he was not getting some reflection from his canopy surface. When all lights were out, he noticed no change in the appearance or brilliance of the object and its color scheme."

The object increased speed and vanished in 30 seconds.

Blakeslee made a second approach, five minutes later, with all lights on. This time the object disappe[illegible]

Flying Saucer Shoots Light Over Sunland

(Continued from Page 1)

as she watched, the five bursts of bright light flashed out, continued for a moment, then were shut off and the disc hurtled eastward and was out of sight in about a second, she said. The object was under observation for a total of about two minutes.

Today, Tom Durkin of 13103 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys, reported sighting a bright object hovering over the mountains north of the Valley just after sun-up. It disappeared, came slowly back into view, then vanished again over the ridges, he said.

It made no sound and created no vapor trails.

Flying Saucer Sends Light Flashes Over Sunland Area

A flying saucer that cast a 200-foot shadow on the ground, then emitted five distinct bursts of bright light as it zipped out of sight, was reported today by a Sunland housewife.

The woman, who asked to remain unidentified, said the saucer appeared to be a huge metal-colored disc with five bulges evenly spaced around its edge. It was from these bulges, she said, that the bursts of light came when the object suddenly shot away in a flat flight path at terrific speed.

She said she had gone outside Wednesday to inspect a small tree which the heavy wind had blown down in her front yard on Wheatland Ave. when her attention was drawn to the circular shadow which fell over her.

She assumed it was caused by a storm cloud, she said, but glanced up and saw the disc hovering almost directly overhead. She estimated its altitude at approximately 1000 feet.

She pointed it out to a three-year-old girl for whom she was caring and said the youngster was enchanted by "the pretty kite."

Neighbors on either side failed to hear the woman's calls. Then,

(See Page 2, Column 8)

LOS ANGELES TIMES
JAN 28TH

Disk Made Pass at Jet Plane, Air Force Says

Mysterious 8-Inch Object Sped Away Over Central Japan, Secret Files Show

A U.S. AIR BASE IN NORTHERN JAPAN, Jan. 28 (Wednesday) (AP)—A U.S. pilot saw at close range a mysterious flying disk make a pass at a Thunderjet over Central Japan, then speed away, the Air Force reported yesterday.

The hitherto secret report from intelligence files said the disk was seen at 6000 feet on a bright, cloudless day, just before noon last March 29 by Lt. David C. Brigham, Rockford, Ill.

Brigham said the disk was about 8 inches in diameter and that it closed to within 20 feet of the Thunderjet before shooting up out of sight.

Second Disclosure

It was the second disclosure in recent days of mysterious objects zooming through the skies over Japan, near Russian-held territory. Last week the Air Force made public intelligence reports of rotating clusters of red, white and green lights, sighted Dec. 29 by U.S. airmen.

The Air Force issued the two reports without comment.

Brigham was flying a reconnaissance plane when a Thunderjet pulled alongside. The Thunderjet pilot was not identified.

Brigham said the disk swept up behind the Thunderjet, maneuvered in apparently controlled sweeps, then pulled up and shot out of sight.

He estimated that he watched the object for about 10 seconds from a distance of 30 to 50 feet at the closest point. The Thunderjet pilot did not see the disk.

Thin and Round

Brigham described the object as "about 8 inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projections and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said there were no markings on the disk but there was a "ripple in the metal skin."

He estimated it was flying at about 200 m.p.h.

Brigham's report to intelligence said the disk "closed rapidly and just before flying into his (the Thunderjet's) fuselage it decelerated to his airspeed almost instantaneously.

"In doing so it flipped up on its edge at approximately a 90-deg. bank," he added. "Then it fluttered within 20 feet of his fuselage for perhaps two or three seconds, pulled away and around his starboard (right) wing, appearing to flip over as it hit the slipstream behind his wing tip fuel tank.

Out of Sight

"Then it passed him, crossed in front of him and pulled up abruptly, appearing to accelerate, and shot out of sight in a steep, almost vertical climb."

Brigham said the disk "rocked back and forth at approximately 40-deg. banks at approximately one-second intervals throughout its course."

Sightings of the light clusters were made at several points over Northern Japan on Dec. 29. On Jan. 9 a rotating cluster was tracked by radar from two F-94 jet interceptors. The radar actually locked on the cluster and steered the jets toward it. Radar will not lock on lights alone.

THE ATLANTIC

Professor Describes Fourteen

By John P. Bessor

ACCORDING to Ralph de S. Childs, Professor of Humanities at Cooper Union, and an authority on phantom ships, there are at least fourteen ghost ships plying the Atlantic coast, extending from Labrador to New York.

"They have a common behaviour," the professor says. "All you have to do to tell whether a vessel is a ghost ship, or a real one, is to apply five simple tests.

"One is, they tend to sail against the wind, or at high speed with no wind at all. The second is, they have no crews, or their crews are statue-like and inactive."

(An exception to this latter rule can be found in the repeated appearance of a frost-encrusted phantom ship, on the North Platte River, observed by three different persons, near Douglas, Wyoming, in the years 1862, 1887 and 1903; the crew of this ship not only being active, but acting out a drama relative to unrelated tragedies occurring in its proximity; the whole well presented in an early issue of "Fate.")

"A third test," continues Professor S. Childs, "is that a number of the ships are 'fire ships.' Fourth, they are prone to appear on fixed dates after suffering disaster. And, fifth, some seem to be under the age-old curse of never being able to make port."

Prof. Childs says that they all are sailing ships. He knows of no phantom steam or oil-burning ships.

"Of the 14 I have found," Prof. Childs continues, "eight sail against the wind, five have no (observable) crew, eight reappear only on fixed days, five are 'fire ships,' and three never make port at all."

The fourteen mystery craft are identified by Prof. Childs as follows:

(1) The English troop ship Le Naufrage Anglais, one of eight that sank during a tempest in Gaspe Bay, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the year 1711.

(2) The St. Martins, which met with disaster in the Bay of Fundy, is quite frequently observed, and is always on fire. It is one of the "fire ships."

(3) A fully-rigged but so far unidentified sailing ship which is occasionally seen sailing majestically and magnificently in the air over New Brunswick.

(4) A whale boat laboriously being rowed by a Dutchman, tentatively identified as Rambout Van Dam, of Spuyten Duyvil, New York—a task supposedly assigned to him for his sins.

(5) An unidentified mystery slave ship, which legend says was the scene of a mass smothering of slaves, whose bodies were cast overboard into the sea, and whose ghosts, it is said, climbed aboard and took charge.

(6) The schooner named Breeze, whose captain, it is said, carried off a pretty nun, and was condemned to sail throughout eternity for his act, without ever making port.

BALL OF FIRE

(7) The packet ship Light, often seen in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, first as a ball of fire emerging from the sea, swaying around and expanding, finally assuming the appearance of a furiously burning vessel, then sinking, and again vanishing into the mysterious depths from whence it emerged.

(8) The White Rover ship, observed sailing against the wind off the coast of New Hampshire.

(9) Another unidentified "fire ship" seen in the Bay of Chaleur, at New Brunswick.

(10) The Palatin Lightship, which met disaster off Block Island in the year 1752 while carrying immigrants to America. The appearance of this ill-fated sailing vessel, it is said, foretells severe weather.

(11) The "Storm Ship," an old Dutch sailing boat which invariably sails against the wind, up the Hudson River, and has been sighted from Hoboken to Fishkill.

(12) The Alice Marr, which is observed cruising the outer bay, off Cape Ann, Massachusetts.

(13) The "Dead Ship of Harpswell," which haunts Casco Bay, Maine, and which many believe to be an omen of portending death.

(14) An unidentified seventeenth century phantom ship, observed out of Salem. It was seen only once—a June day in 1647—sailing up New Haven harbour against the wind.

FIRE SHIP

"Now take the case of the St. Martins," says Prof. Childs. "She's a 'fire ship,' usually seen in September or October, and almost always in the Bay of Fundy. Miss Margaret Evans, librarian and archivist of the New Brunswick museum, writes as follows:

"'As to the Phantom Ship of St. Martins, I have never seen it. But I have talked with at least six persons who have seen it. One was a woman of eighty, who had seen it several times coming up the Bay of Fundy, all afire. She even added that at times she could distinguish men leaping from the flaming deck into the sea.

"'Once a group of persons was standing talking on a bluff at St. Martins. Two of the group saw the ship plainly. The others saw nothing!'"

Why some people are privileged to view phantom ships, and others are not, is a matter Prof. Childs has not been able to explain.

"One night a lady telephoned me from Connecticut and said she had seen a burning ship two nights in succession. She invited me up to see it with her on the third night. Though we waited up until all hours, it didn't appear.

"Two months later the lady had a heart attack and died. Some people say that she was able to see it because she was about to die. They explain that my inability to see it in the same way was because I was not about to die."

But, whether Prof. Childs has seen a ghost ship or not, he is still vitally interested in their appearance.

Flying Disc Makes Pass at Yank Jet Over Japan

Pilot Reports

30-Ft. View Of Object

By Associated Press

UNITED STATES AIR BASE, Northern Japan, Jan. 27.—The United States Air Force tonight reported a small, metallic, disc-shaped object made a controlled, sweeping pass at an American jet fighter-bomber and was observed at very close range by another pilot.

The report, from air force intelligence files, said the sighting was made over northern Japan at 11:20 a. m., March 29, 1952, by Lieut. David C. Brigham, of Rockford, Ill.

It was a bright, cloudless day. Brigham said he got a very good look at the object from about 30 to 50 feet for about 10 seconds.

The pilot described it as "about 8 inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projects and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said it caught up with an F-84 Thunderjet, hovered a few moments and then shot out of sight.

It was the second disclosure in a week by air force intelligence of mysterious flying objects over northern Japan near the Russian-Siberia area.

Brigham was flying a prop-driven reconnaissance craft at 6000 feet when an F-84 Thunderjet draw alongside.

Then, he said, he saw the disc to the right of and just behind the thunderjet. He said it appeared to be traveling 30 to 40 miles an hour faster than the F-84, which was going 150-160 miles an hour.

"It closed rapidly and just before it would have flown into his fuselage it decelerated to his airspeed almost instantaneously. In doing so, it flipped up on its edge at approximately a 90 degree bank. Then it fluttered within 20 feet of his fuselage for perhaps 2 or 3 seconds, pulled away and around his starboard (right) wing, appearing to flip once as it hit the slipstream behind his wing tip fuel tank.

OFF WITH THE OLD, on with the ne
While actress Rita Hayworth was hea
him in Reno, Aly was casting a spec

U. S. pilot tells seeing disc make pass at jet

L A Daily News
Jan 27/53

TOKYO, Jan. 27.-(U.P.)-An American pilot saw a small metal disc make a "sweeping pass" at a U. S. F-84 Thunderjet in northern Japan last March, the Air Force disclosed today, nearly a year after it happened.

A spokesman for the Far East Air Forces said details of the incident are contained in an intelligence report filed last April.

He said Lt. David Brigham of Rockford, Ill., saw a disc sweep by a jet on a routine patrol mission in the same general area where American pilots and radar experts reported earlier this month seeing clusters of colored lights.

Brigham said in his report that the disc was about eight inches in diameter, very thin, round and shiny. It left no vapor trails such as jet planes do.

He said the disc zoomed within 20 feet of the Thunderjet, hovered for two or three seconds, and then flipped around the right wing. It cut in front of the jet and vanished from sight in a steep climb.

The disc was seen March 29, 1952, at about noon on a bright day. Brigham said he got a look at the object from as close as 50 feet and that it showed up clearly against the background of the Thunderjet.

He said the object "pulled up abreast" of him and he caught a ray of light. Then he saw it maneuver around the F-84, traveling faster than the jet.

Brigham said the disc had a slow, fluttering motion, rocking back and forth as it flew.

The spokesman for FEAF would make no official comment on the credibility of the report, but he pointed out that the object was seen in daylight.

Col. Curtis Low, commander of the northern division of the Japan Air Defense, disclosed last Thursday that trained radar observers and U. S. pilots have seen mys-

(Continued on Page 29, Col. 1)

Pilot tells seeing disc

P. 29 col 1

(Continued from Page 1)

terious balls of colored light maneuvering within a few minutes' flying time off Soviet air bases in the Kuriles and Sakhalin Islands north of Japan.

The "lights" were observed Dec. 29 and Jan. 9 and appeared as far south as northern Honshu, where the flying disc reportedly was spotted.

You can select a good Used Car now at a saving by referring to the listings of the reliable dealers in the Daily News Classified Section.

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over

Big News at Court Dinner?

NEW YORK—Princess Martha or Norway (remember her?) is back in the United States with her children, not for lend-lease this time but for a physical checkup.

Dr. Victor Nef, Swiss Minister to Canada, slated to replace Dr. Charles Bruggmann as his country's representative in Washington, D. C. Bruggmann is a brother-in-law of Henry Wallace.



Walker

Air Force boss Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg expected to give out with interesting news at the dinner for Arthur Godfrey given by the Air Service Post of the American Legion at the Commodore Dec. 4.

A video film series based on the late Chaim Weizmann's life already being planned by Albert Black, to be made in Palestine. Black produced "The Colonel of Rivington St., based on the life of Col. David Marcus, Israel soldier-hero, which was shown on video here.

Lauritz Melchior to try a new kind of concert in January, a tour of 100 cities with duo-pianists and young solo singers, singing everything from Wagner to Hit Parade tunes.

Patricia King, sister of the Texas cut-up, Sheppard (Abdullah) King), quit her singing career in the cow towns practically before she got started, but will fly to Hollywood for a screen test Dec. 1.

* * *

PAMELA CHURCHILL, former daughter-in-law of the Prime Minister, and Italian auto heir Gian Agnelli have made up and will wed as soon as he recovers from a recent serious auto accident. (He's the Fiat heir.)

Fred Pittera, director of the World Motor Sports Show due at the Garden in February, has signed a contract to bring here Italy's newest and flashiest sports car, the Flying Disc, built by Alfa-Romeo. The car's trial run proved it could make better than 160 miles an hour.

Gary Cooper's teen-age daughter, Maris, has notified her pop that she plans to become a movie star.

RCA-Victor will record "My Darlin' Aida" with the stage cast.

* * *

RUDOLF BING and Josh Logan holding preliminary talks, suggesting that Logan may stage some of the Met's new productions.

A Manila opera company, organized by Philippine sugar baron Arthur Fitzpatric, to make its bow next fall.

Billy Daniels to be signed to play the role of Shelton Brooks, composer of "Some of These Days," in Columbia's film version of Sophie Tucker's life story.

Claude Jarman, Jr., who just finished "Hangman's Knot" in Hollywood, has returned to the Montgomery Bell Academy Prep in Nashville, where he is the star quarterback.

Jean Clerc, said to be the film industry's oldest actor, just died in France at 84. A French gardener, he was filmed watering the lawn in a movie titled "The Sprinkler," in 1895—his first and last movie.

Comic Dictionary

MOVIE STAR

A woman in the mink of condition.

Visitors From Planets Possible, AF Admits

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP)—The air force said today it had no evidence that beings from some other world had visited this planet, but added it would be unreasonable to deny such a thing could happen.

The air force released its statement in response to a question from a magazine as to whether visitors from outer space had landed on the earth from flying saucers. The magazine said that two recent books contained such statements.

The air force reply, in part:

"As limited as man is in his knowledge and understanding of the universe and its many forces, it would be foolhardy indeed to deny the possibility that higher forms of life existed elsewhere.

"It would be similarly unreasonable to deny that intelligent beings from some other world were able to visit our planet, at least to travel within our atmosphere.

"However, the air force desires to reiterate emphatically there is absolutely no evidence to indicate this possibility has been translated into reality."

DISC BUZZES JET OVER NORTH JAPAN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fog slows L. A. air, land, sea traffic

SEVEN STAR

Daily News

FLASH NEWS

LOS ANGELES 54

No. 18,102

TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 1953

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER FOR INDEPENDENT PEOPLE

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TEN CENTS

TELEPHONE RICHMOND 6565

U.S. Pilot Reports Disc Buzzed Jet Over Japan

Citizen News Jan 26/53

TOKYO. (U.P.) — An American pilot saw a small metal disc make a "sweeping pass" at a U.S. F-84 Thunderjet in Northern Japan last March, the Air Force disclosed today, nearly a year after it happened.

A spokesman for the Far East Air Forces said details of the incident are contained in an intelligence report filed last April.

He said Lt. David Brigham of Rockford, Ill., saw a disc sweep by a jet on a routine patrol mission in the same general area where American pilots and radar experts reported earlier this month seeing clusters of colored lights.

Brigham said in his report that the disc was about eight inches in diameter, very thin, round and shiny. It left no vapor trails such as jet planes do.

He said the disc zoomed within 20 feet of the Thunderjet, hovered for two or three seconds, and then flipped around the right wing. It cut in front of the jet and vanished from sight in a steep climb.

The disc was seen March 29, 1952, at about noon on a bright day. Brigham said he got a look at the object from as close as 50 feet and that it showed up clearly against the background of the thunderjet.

He said the object "pulled up abreast" of him and he caught a ray of light. Then he saw it maneuver around the F-84 traveling faster than the jet.

Brigham said the disc had a slow fluttering motion, rocking back and forth as it flew.

The spokesman for FEAF would make no official comment on the credability of the report, but he pointed out that the object was seen in daylight.

Col. Curtis Low, commander of the northern division of the Japan air defense disclosed last Thursday that trained radar observers and U.S. pilots have seen mysterious balls of colored light maneuvering within a few minutes flying time off Soviet air bases in the Kuriles and Sakhalin Islands north of Japan.

The "lights" were observed Dec. 29 and Jan. 9 and appeared as far south as Northern Honshu, where the flying discs reportedly was spotted.

'FIERY DISC' PURSUED BY EL TORO MARINE JET PILOT

EL TORO (AP) — A large, fiery, disc-shaped object was sighted last night from the control tower of the Marine Air Base here, the base public information office reported today.

A jet night fighter was sent up to investigate but it was unable to get close enough to the fast-moving object to identify it, the spokesman said.

Edward S. Downs, tower controller at the nearby Long Beach Airport, also reported seeing a fiery object about 9 p.m.

It appeared several times at an altitude of 1,000 feet one mile northeast of the airport, Downs said. It was traveling west at high speed, he added.

The object was visible for six minutes, Downs said.

Citizen News Jan 29/53

FLYING DISC CHASES U.S. JET NEAR RUSSIA

U.S. AIR BASE, Northern Japan, Jan. 27 (AP)—The U.S. Air Force tonight reported a small, metallic, disk-shaped object made a controlled, sweeping pass at an American jet fighter-bomber and was observed at very close range by another pilot.

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It was a bright, cloudless day. Brigham said he got a very good look at the object from about 30 to 50 feet for about 10 seconds.

The pilot described it as "about eight inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projections and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said it caught up with an F-84 Thunderjet, hovered a few moments and then shot out of sight. The F-84 pilot, whose name was not revealed, did not see it.

It was the second disclosure in a week by Air Force intelligence of mysterious flying objects over Northern Japan near the Russian-Siberia trea.

Brigham was flying a prop-driven reconnaissance craft at 6000 feet when an F-84 Thunderjet drew alongside.

Then, he said, he saw the disk to the right of and just behind the Thunderjet. He said it appeared to be traveling 30 to 40 miles an hour faster than the F-84, which was going 150-160 miles an hour.

"It closed rapidly and just before it would have flown into his fuselage it decelerated to his airspeed almost instantaneously," Brigham said in his report to intelligence officers. "In doing so, it flipped up on its edge at approximately a 90-deg. bank. Then it fluttered within 20 feet of his fuselage for perhaps two or three seconds, pulled away and around his starboard (right) wing, appearing to flip once as it hit the slipstream behind his wing tip fuel tank.

"Then it passed him, crossed in front of him and pulled upward abruptly, appearing to accelerate, and shot out of sight in a steep, almost vertical climb."

"An unusual flight characteristic was a slow fluttering motion. It rocked back and forth at approximately 40-deg. banks at approximately one-second intervals throughout its course."

When it pulled away, "it did so more sharply than a plane could have done.

"Its maneuvering throughout was always clear and precise."

On Jan. 21, the Air Force disclosed that "rotating clusters of red, white and green lights" had been sighted over Northern Japan by American airmen.

The sightings were reported in frozen, ice-locked territory, already tense from harassment by Russian aircraft based on Soviet islands just north and northeast of Japan's northern island, Hokkaido.

Disks Over Southland? Jet Pilot Chases One

Four Saucers Reported Flying in Formation; Fifth Described as Fiery

L.A. Times JAN 30/53

A jet fighter plane from El Toro Marine Air Base gave fruitless chase to a fiery disk-shaped object in the skies Wednesday night and the crew of a Northrop Aviation Corp. plane reported sighting four flying saucers in formation over Chatsworth yesterday afternoon.

The jet fighter pilot chased his fiery disk from Newport Beach to Long Beach and control tower operators at Long Beach Municipal Airport said they saw "an eerie orange flame" at about the same time.

The three-man crew of the twin-engined plane from Northrop did not attempt to chase the four saucers they claimed they saw. They said they watched the four disks—flying in formation—two above and two below—until they vanished beyond San Jacinto Peak.

Hard to Describe

The crew kept the disks in sight for nearly five minutes, Pilot Rex Hardy Jr. said. With him in the plane were Pilot Jay Mattis and Photographer Jim Wilkinson.

Hardy said Wilkinson wasn't able to photograph the objects because, just as they appeared, he was preparing to take motion pictures of a test plane about to fly alongside their own plane. Wilkinson had no telescopic lens with him, Hardy added.

"The disks are very hard to describe except to say they were like nothing any of us had ever seen before. We first sighted them when we were near Malibu. They seemed to be near Chatsworth. They stayed at the same altitude as we followed them toward Los Angeles but we lost sight of them as they headed east toward Mt. San Jacinto."

Couldn't Gain On It

The Marine pilot, Capt. Harvey Patton of Salt Lake City, was en route to El Toro at about 9 p.m. Wednesday when he and his radar operator saw the fiery object.

It was of amber color, like a distant jet exhaust, and was south of Santa Ana blimp base, he said. El Toro control tower instructed Patton to check on the object.

He said he chased the object but could not gain on it.

"It appeared only two or three miles ahead," he said. "It kept the same bearing and somewhere over Newport

Turn to Page 2, Column 4

DISKS JAN 30/53

Continued from First Page

Beach it turned up the coast to Long Beach.

"For several minutes we kept it in sight. But we were low on fuel and had to turn back at Long Beach. The object was still visible, slightly seaward."

Boy Says He Saw It, and He Ought to Know

Max B. Miller saw it, too—the saucer.

But that figures because Miller is president, he says, of Flying Saucers International. Miller and his fellow club members do not fly saucers. They look for them.

Purpose of Flying Saucers International, explains Miller, who is 15, is to "investigate and evaluate sightings of flying saucers."

Anyway, young Miller reports he saw the saucer—presumably the one chased by a Marine flier from El Toro Marine Base—when he was a few doors away from his home at 1420 S Ridgeley Drive.

The weird object, Miller reported, appeared in the sky to the south about 20 deg. above the horizon.

SKYWAYS

Those Saucers Aren't Cosmic

BY MARVIN MILES, Times Aviation Editor

Well, they're with us again—at least they were—the flying saucers, we mean.

We've stated our position before, but we'll summarize it again. Someone is seeing something, that's for sure, but we don't believe the object's sighted are spaceships or mysterious military craft (controlled missiles, etc.), either our own or those of some other power.

Until we come across some sliver of proof, we'll go on meteorological phenomena, standard aircraft, research planes or weather balloons seen under unusual conditions or in unusual attitudes; overzealous imaginations, alcoholism, mass psychology or the desire for publicity or profit.

Flight of C-97s

In last weeks sightings, the four saucers in formation, as far as we and the Santa Monica CAA tower operators are concerned, were a flight of C-97s that disappeared beyond San Jacinto. The tower men identified them—same time, same place—through binoculars.

Furthermore the 27th Air Division (Defense) responsible for continual radar scanning of this area had no reports that would tie in with the sightings, either from the radarscopes or from the official Ground Observer Corps.

Nor had the Radar Bomb Scoring Plot at Maywood, where the scopes are working most of the time.

Flood of Reports

It's amazing, though, how a flood of reports will follow the first report, particularly after the imaginative have a chance to read or hear of the sightings and then get on the bandwagon.

We've been looking for a long time, but we haven't seen a disk yet. Perhaps tonight's the night!

★

Saucer Ahoy! Disc Seen by Ex-Sailor Over Hollywood

That elusive enigma of the sky, a flying saucer, paid Hollywood a visit this morning and, according to William Coull, 4619 Clarissa Ave., the shiny visitor put on quite a show.

Coull, an ex-Navy corpsman, observed the disc at about 10:10 this morning over the Hollywood Hills. "It remained in one spot, rotating like a giant wheel for several minutes," Coull said, "then dipped in a circular sweeping movement and sped toward downtown Los Angeles."

"I feel like a fool making a flying saucer report, but I saw it," Coull affirmed.

"It was large, round and very shiny, like it might have been made of aluminum."

Hollywood police had no record of any other saucer report this morning.

Saucer Season

LA Times 7/3/53

These flying saucers may not be real but the anxiety and mystification they have produced among the public certainly are. It would be difficult for the Devil himself to devise a more effective method of diverting attention from the grave and tangible problems of the nation.

There appears no valid reason to doubt the sincerity of the official agencies most concerned when they protest that they are as puzzled as anybody. Gen. Vandenberg, the Air Force Chief of Staff, says flatly:

"I don't believe there is any such thing as a flying saucer. But apparently there are physical phenomena which make people say they have seen the saucers."

He added the Air Force has had teams of experts investigating all reports of this nature since the end of World War II and they never have found anything to substantiate existence of such things as flying saucers.

On the other hand, if the Air Force were 100% convinced of its own verdict it would presumably close the investigation, which it has not. And while many reports can be explained away as atmospheric phenomena or human fancy, some of the "eyewitnesses" stick to their stories with obvious conviction. Radar and photographic evidence is inconclusive.

Never having seen a flying saucer ourselves, we intend to keep our feet on the ground—and our eyes on the sky. But we think Candide's final retort to the philosophic Dr. Pangloss is in order:

" 'Tis well said; but we must cultivate our gardens."

Stanley 7-3471

A DAILY PAPER FOR THE ENTIRE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Vol. 17—No. 123 Friday, January 30, 1953 Every afternoon except Sunday 24 5c a Copy 24 PAGES

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Film Giant 'Saucer' Flying Over Calif.

Valley Times
San Fernando
1/30/53

1,500-Foot Disc Nears Four Planes

A mammoth "flying saucer," estimated to be 1500 feet in diameter, has been sighted and photographed over Southern California, it was reported today.

The unconfirmed claim says pilots of four planes flying in formation sighted the object and shot 10 minutes of motion picture film. The planes were at an altitude of about 43,000 feet. The disc was said to be more than 15,000 feet above them.

The four planes deployed their formation so as to be able to take "fixes" on the saucer from different angles. From the data thus obtained, the altitude, speed and size of the disc was calculated. It was at approximately 60,000 feet, was roughly 1500 feet in diameter, was moving through the air on edge like a giant wheel at a speed of about 400 miles per hour. It showed clearly on the motion picture film, the report claimed.

On the heels of this rumor came two other sightings by veteran pilots, one of whom declared: "I'm now a confirmed believer in the 'saucer' or, whatever you want to call them."

Those were the words of Rex Hardy Jr., former Navy pilot and now a test pilot for Northrop Aircraft Co. He and two crewmen in the twin-engined plane he was flying spotted a formation of four "saucers" yesterday afternoon over the Chatsworth area of the Valley.

Hardy and his companions, Pilot Jay Mattis and Photographer Jim Wilkinson, said the objects were in a formation of two above and two below and were travelling at

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