

U.S. AIR FORCE BASE'S RADAR KNOCKED OUT BY A UFO

Steve Webbe

Special report for *Flying Saucer Review*. Mr. Steve Webbe is a former Pentagon correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*. — EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. — While publicly claiming to have long ago washed its hands of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), the United States Air Force privately exhibits considerable interest in them — and, reportedly, not a little concern about their intentions.

When three Air Force security policemen watched a brightly-lit object land in a restricted test range at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, in August 1980, investigatory personnel there reported the sighting to the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) at its Bolling Air Force Base headquarters in the District of Columbia.

This evidence of continuing Air Force interest in the mysterious UFO phenomena, along with an account of the sighting itself, is revealed in documents¹ recently released by AFOSI under the *Freedom of Information Act* to UFO researcher Barry J. Greenwood of Stoneham, Massachusetts. Surprisingly, they are uncensored.

Kirtland AFB, two miles south-east of Albuquerque, houses some highly secret installations, including Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and the Air Force Weapons Laboratory (AFWL).

Some Important Installations

For the past several years AFWL scientists have been examining the feasibility of using airborne lasers to shoot down surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles. SNL, operated by the Western Electric Co. Inc. for the Department of Energy, develops electronics for nuclear weapons and cryptological devices for the National Security Agency. Both SNL and the AFWL make use of Kirtland's restricted test range. Kirtland's Manzano Weapons Storage Area, moreover, is one of the largest nuclear weapons depositories in the country.

According to the report obtained by Greenwood, the three Kirtland security policemen were guarding this weapons storage area at 11.50 p.m. on August 8, 1980, when they spotted "a very bright light in the sky" some three miles away. Staff Sergeant Stephen Ferenz, Airman First Class Martin W. Rist, and Airman Anthony D. Frazier watched as the light "travelled with great speed" and "stopped suddenly" in the sky over the test range.

"The light landed in the Coyote Canyon area," writes AFOSI Special Agent Richard C. Doty in the report. "Sometime later, [the] three witnessed the light

take off and leave, proceeding straight up at a high speed and disappear," he continues.

The trio at first thought they had seen a helicopter, Doty relates, but quickly concluded that the object's strange aerial manoeuvres effectively excluded that possibility.

Three days later the Special Agent learned from Sandia Security staffer Russ Curtis that there had been another witness to the strange light. Apparently a Sandia guard had seen it at approximately 12.30 a.m. on August 9 while driving on the Coyote Canyon access road en route to check one of the specially alarmed buildings in the vicinity that contain nuclear materials.

Approaching the structure, he, too, saw what he took to be a helicopter, "But after driving closer, he observed a round disk-shaped object," Doty reports. "He attempted to radio for a back-up patrol but his radio would not work. As he approached the object on foot armed with a shotgun, the object took off in a vertical direction at a high rate of speed."

The Special Agent notes that the guard, a former U.S. Army helicopter mechanic "who wishes his name not to be divulged for fear of harassment," was certain he had not seen a helicopter.

Two weeks after the three security policemen made their sighting, three others also saw a brightly-lit object land in Coyote Canyon, Doty's report reveals. They did not see the object take off.

Then, on September 8, 1980, Sandia Security informed Special Agent Doty that another of its guards had seen an object land near one of the buildings containing nuclear components in Coyote Canyon during the first week of August. Fearing harassment, the guard had delayed reporting the sighting.

Perhaps suspecting that clandestine trials of some new U.S. aircraft accounted for the strange lights, Doty checked to see if the range was ever used for aerial testing. He was assured that only ground testing took place there.

Dr. Paul Bennewitz

Unknown to the Special Agent, an Albuquerque physicist was also watching the skies above Kirtland from his home nearby. Dr. Paul Bennewitz² was so concerned by what he saw that he contacted Doty and

on October 26, 1980, the Special Agent together with Jerry Miller, chief scientific advisor to the Air Force Test and Evaluation Center (AFTEC), which is headquartered at Kirtland, paid him a visit.

Bennewitz, who is also president of an Albuquerque scientific research firm³, confronted the two men with "photographs and over 2,600 feet of 8mm. motion picture film depicting unidentified aerial objects flying over and around Manzano Weapons Storage Area and Coyote Canyon test area," according to Major Thomas A. Cseh, commander of the Base Investigative Detachment at Kirtland.

According to Major Cseh's report, Miller, a former investigator for Project Blue Book, the Air Force's defunct UFO probe, concluded that Bennewitz's material "clearly shows that some type of unidentified aerial objects were caught on film".

As a Blue Book investigator, Miller had been assigned to the Air Force's Foreign Technology Division (FTD) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. Despite the official termination of Project Blue Book in 1969, Major Cseh states that Miller, "one of the most knowledgeable and impartial investigators of aerial objects in the South-West", informed FTD personnel of Bennewitz's film and photographs, and that they expressed an interest in seeing them.

The Albuquerque scientist again displayed his evidence on November 10, 1980, at a Kirtland AFB meeting chaired by Brigadier General William R. Brooksher, Commander of Air Force Security Police.

Accompanying General Brooksher were four colonels, AFWL Director Dr. William Lehman and Ed Breen, an AFWL instrumentations specialist. "I had a feeling they knew what I was talking about," says Bennewitz in a telephone interview. The assembled officers and scientists seemed "deeply concerned" by all they examined, Bennewitz recalls. The film and photographs actually left some of them "aghast", he insists.

Bennewitz informed then Senator Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.) of his sightings in 1980. The senator was sufficiently concerned to call Special Agent Doty and tell him that he would ask the Air Force to "look into the matter", according to Major Cseh's report.

Senator Schmitt, a former Apollo astronaut who was defeated in the Congressional elections of 1982, also called General Brooksher, since security police are responsible for the safety of the Manzano Weapons Storage Area. Reached in Albuquerque, Schmitt says he is uncertain what effect his calls had on the Air Force. Bennewitz seems to believe he might have pursued the matter more vigorously.

Radar knocked out

August 1980 was a trying time for Kirtland officials. On the 13th of the month, in the midst of the UFO sightings, they were faced with a further strange development

when a mysterious high frequency jamming knocked out the base's radar approach control equipment and its scanner radar.

According to documents provided by an Air Force source who has asked not to be identified, the jamming was so effective that between 4.30 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. the base suffered a total blackout of its entire radar approach system. Radar approach control back-up systems also went down.

Radio frequency monitors with the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA), which conducts electromagnetic research at Kirtland, traced the interference to an area north-west of Coyote Canyon. A search of the area by security police revealed nothing that could have caused the interference. No tests were being conducted in the area. At 10.16 p.m. on August 13 all radar equipment resumed normal functioning.

The incident left Kirtland specialists baffled. *DNA frequency monitors reported that the interference beam was widespread and of a type unknown to their electronic equipment.* An AFOSI investigation at Kirtland came to the conclusion that hostile jamming could not be ruled out and senior commanders requested briefings on the affair.

Raymond E. Fowler, a noted authority on UFO phenomena and national director of investigations for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), believes the Kirtland jamming was UFO-related. "Who else could do something like that?" he asks, suggesting that the jamming may have been designed to mask "some other operation".

Fowler, an author of several books on UFOs and a GTE Sylvania missile program supervisor from Wenham, Massachusetts, claims that UFOs frequently overfly U.S. Air Force bases.

In his 1981 book "*Casebook of a UFO Investigator*" he quotes instances drawn from logs of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), copies of which were obtained under the *Freedom of Information Act* by Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) of Phoenix, Arizona. According to one entry, at 2.55 a.m. on November 8, 1975, radar at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, home of the 341st Strategic Missile Wing, picked up one to seven UFOs heading south-south-west at 12,000 feet.

Five Sabotage Alert Teams — armed patrols in jeeps — assigned to the base's *Minuteman* missile launch facilities, spotted the UFOs. Two of the teams reported sighting one at a mere 300 feet.

An entry in the senior director's log for the 24th NORAD Region (which is based on Malmstrom) notes that on November 7 the launch control facility at Harlowtown, Montana, "observed an object which emitted a light that illuminated the site driveway".

The documents obtained by Ground Saucer Watch, which included material from the Central Intelligence Agency as well as the Air Force, disclosed that during

October, November, and December 1975, UFOs were repeatedly sighted over Strategic Air Command bases where intercontinental ballistic missiles and B-52 bombers are deployed.

Besides Malmstrom, the objects appeared over Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota; Loring Air Force Base, Maine; and Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan. They appeared to take a particular interest in nuclear weapons storage dumps, aircraft alert areas, and missile emplacements, the documents stated.

In 1981 former Air Force sergeant Stephen Eichner told a Washington, D.C. press conference that he watched as a reddish-orange disk-shaped UFO hovered over the nuclear weapons storage area at Loring AFB in 1975. He rejected the Air Force contention that the intruder, which he estimated to be three or four car-lengths long, was any sort of helicopter.

Such an incident would be reported to AFOSI headquarters at Bolling AFB, concedes Pentagon UFO spokesman Lieut. George Jamison. "But to my knowledge no further action would be taken. We're just not in the business of investigating UFOs."

The 1975 rash of sightings over U.S. Air Force bases is one of the central themes of a book entitled "Clear In-

tent" to be published in June 1984 by Prentice-Hall. The work of Barry Greenwood and fellow UFO researcher Lawrence Fawcett, it is subtitled "Military Coverup of the UFO Experience."

COMMENTS BY EDITOR, FSR

1. I am much indebted to Mr. Lawrence J. Fenwick of CUFORN (*Canadian UFO Research Network*) and to Mr. Tom Adams of Paris, Texas, the USA's leading investigator of animal mutilations, for furnishing me with complete photostatic copies of six of these documents which Mr. Barry J. Greenwood and/or others have winkled out of the U.S. Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) at Bolling Air Force Base, District of Columbia, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. I reproduce these six documents below. As will be seen, the report by the three Kirtland AFB security policemen who observed the UFO over the test range and saw it land in the Coyote Canyon area is the second of the six documents.
2. On Dr. Paul Bennewitz and the "interesting" attitude of the U.S. Air Force and of AFOSI to his observations and his discoveries, see documents Nos. 4, 5 and 6 reproduced below.
3. Name of firm deleted at suggestion of the author.

PRESS CONFIRMATIONS OF THE KIRTLAND BASE AFFAIR

Before seeing Mr Steve Webbe's account, we had already received several clippings from local New Mexico newspapers and from other sources, and had made a digest of these. And we had also received (thanks to Mr Bill Allan of Canada and Mr Tom Adams of Paris, Texas, the leading expert on cattle mutilations) photostatic copies of several of the actual documents about Kirtland that had been released to the Texas investigators by the U.S. Air Force under the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act*. (In view of their very great interest we reproduce them in full below.)

The release of these documents underlines in most remarkable fashion the work that is being done today by MUFON and its allies.

What follows immediately below is a summary of the press stories, as given in the *Albuquerque Tribune* (April 8, 1983) and elsewhere. For the original clippings we are variously indebted to FSR readers, and most especially to Mrs Giovanna Klopp of Ventura, California. — EDITOR

JUST-released Government reports document five sightings of unidentified flying objects during August 1980 over Kirtland Air Force Base.

The mysterious encounters, as described in Air Force reports and revealed through the Freedom of Information Act, were:

1. On August 8, "three security policemen . . . on duty in the Manzano Weapons Storage Area, sighted an unidentified light in the air that travelled north to halt over the Coyote Canyon area of the Department of Defence's Restricted Test Range on Kirtland Air Force Base", the Government reported.

The light travelled at high speed and stopped suddenly in the sky over Coyote Canyon and eventually landed in the canyon, according to the security policemen, who then witnessed it "take off and leave, proceeding straight up at a high speed, and disappear".

2. The next day, August 9, a security guard at Sandia Laboratories on the base observed a bright light near the ground behind a building in Coyote Canyon. As he drove nearer, he saw a round, disc-shaped object and tried to radio for help. But his radio would not work.

The guard, who did not want his name divulged, for fear of harassment, then walked up to the object armed with a shot-gun. Suddenly, it took off, going straight up at high speed.

The guard, a former Army helicopter mechanic, stated the UFO was not a helicopter.

3. The following day, August 10, a New Mexico State policeman saw a flying object land in the Manzano Mountains between Belen and Albuquerque.

When he reported the sighting to the Kirtland command post, he was told by the public relations office that the Air Force did not investigate sightings unless they occurred on an air base.

Three days later, on August 13, radar equipment at Kirtland and at the Albuquerque Airport experienced a total five-hour blackout from an "unknown cause".

An Air Force report concluded that "the presence of hostile intelligence jamming cannot be ruled out", but went on to say "no evidence would suggest this".

4. Nine days later, on August 22, three other security guards observed the same aerial phenomenon described by the first three guards two weeks earlier.

"Again the object landed in Coyote Canyon. They did not see the object take off," the report said.

5. *The final Kirtland document is dated October 28, 1980. In it, Air Force scientific adviser Jerry Miller concluded that a film taken by Four Hills resident Paul Bennewitz "clearly shows . . . some type of unidentified aerial objects" at Kirtland.*

Miller is a former investigator for Project Bluebook, the Air Force's massive investigations of UFOs that ended in 1969.

Dr. Paul Bennewitz

Bennewitz, president of a local electronics firm, lives adjacent to the northern boundary of Manzano Base.

He said it was on February 2, 1980, that he saw four "saucer- or hat-shaped objects lined up behind the outside fence" of the Manzano area.

"A black spot and a big blue halo appeared, establishing their force field. There was a flash under each one as they jumped off the ground in (one word corrupt) 300-400 ft., turned right and were gone to the south," he recalled.

He filmed the spectacle from about 2,500 yards away.

Bennewitz, according to the official Air Force report written months later, produced still photographs and 2,600 feet of 8mm. motion picture film "depicting unidentified aerial objects flying over and around Manzano Weapons Storage Area and Coyote Canyon Test Area".

But investigator Miller reported only that "no conclusions could be made whether these objects pose a threat to Manzano-Coyote Canyon areas".

On November 19, Bennewitz was told that the Air Force would not investigate the objects and "was not in a position to evaluate the information and photographs he has collected".

However, the sightings reportedly caught the interest of former New Mexico Senator Harrison Schmitt, who enquired why the Air Force refused to investigate, the report said.

Within the past year or so, Bennewitz, who is convinced the UFOs are alien ships, has called Kirtland to again request an investigation, said George Pearce, Kirtland PRO. Said Pearce: "Bennewitz said he was in contact with alien beings through his computer, and wanted us to investigate."

"I told him we don't investigate those things since Project Bluebook ended in 1969 after 22 years of investigation. Of course, he wasn't pleased with the answer."

Col. John Aday, chief of public affairs at Kirtland, said Project Bluebook concluded that UFOs are no threat to national defence.

He said he has "no idea" what the 1980 sightings could have been. "I could conjecture all day about what might have been going on out there, but won't."

He said that when the Air Force was investigating UFOs, it was often determined that they were weather balloons or the like.

"I'm not saying that what Bennewitz saw or what the security police saw was anything like that, but because of the record of our investigations, it seems likely that they were nothing dangerous to our national defence."

Bennewitz earlier this week in Albuquerque briefed a group of UFO enthusiasts on his personal three-year investigation into alien activities in New Mexico. He said he plans to put his observations into a book.

Alleged Alien Base

Among his conclusions are that there is an alien base inside an isolated mesa near Dulce, and that the aliens intend to enslave the earth.

He said his study includes a statement from a New Mexico woman who was taken hostage by the aliens near Cimmarron after she had seen them mutilating a calf.

Bennewitz said that he had seen the aliens on a video screen, and he described them as green and about 4 ft. tall, and "strong little bastards".

He told his audience at the UFO briefing session that the cattle mutilations are the aliens' source of supplies needed for the building of humanoids by gene-splicing. They take the organs and blood from the animals while they are still alive, in order to maintain a tremendous supply of DNA — the carrier of the genetic code — he said.

The Kirtland sightings in 1980 were mentioned in documents released by the Department of the Air Force in December 1982 to the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international UFO study group who have their headquarters in Texas.

Said Walter Andrus, International Director of MUFON: "This is an unusually large number of sightings — right there on the Base."

MUFON were obliged to file numerous applications under the *Freedom of Information Act* before they were able to secure release of these reports, said Andrus.

Andrus said that MUFON has more than 1,000 members, most of them scientists or people working in related fields. About a dozen of their members reside in New Mexico — six of them in Albuquerque itself. Several of them are employed in the Sandia Laboratories at Albuquerque.

Andrus said that MUFON had been well informed on the Kirtland affair at the time, but had kept the matter confidential until the release of the secret documents by the Air Force. He said MUFON's effort to gather documentary evidence has been "a tough, up-hill battle all the way with various branches of Government and with the military agencies. We call it our cosmic Watergate!"

DOCUMENT No 2

COMPLAINT FORM		Administrative Data	
TITLE	KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 8 Aug - 3 Sep 80, Alleged Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Lights in Restricted Test Range.	DATE	2 - 9 Sept 80
PLACE	AFOSI Det 1700, Kirtland AFB, NM	TIME	1200
HOW RECEIVED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONICALLY <input type="checkbox"/> IN WRITING	SOURCE AND EVALUATION	MAJOR ERNEST E. EDWARDS
RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS ADDRESS	Commander, 1608 SPS, Manzano Kirtland AFB, NM	PHONE	4-7516
CR	44	APPLIES	

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

- On 2 Sept 80, SOURCE related on 8 Aug 80, three Security Policemen assigned to 1608 SPS, KAFB, NM, on duty inside the Manzano Weapons Storage Area sighted an unidentified light in the air that traveled from North to South over the Coyote Canyon area of the Department of Defense Restricted Test Range on KAFB, NM. The Security Policemen identified as: SSGT STEPHEN FERRIZ, Area Supervisor, AIC MARTIN W. RIST and AMM ANTHONY D. FRAZIER, were later interviewed separately by SOURCE and all three related the same statement. At approximately 2130hrs., while on duty in Charlie Sector, East Side of Manzano, the three observed a very bright light in the sky approximately 3 miles North-North East of their position. The light traveled with great speed and stopped suddenly in the sky over Coyote Canyon. The three first thought the object was a helicopter, however, after observing the strange aerial maneuvers (stop and go), they felt a helicopter couldn't have performed such skills. The light landed in the Coyote Canyon area. Sometime later, three witnessed the light take off and leave proceeding straight up at a high speed and disappear.
- Central Security Control (CSC) inside Manzano, contacted Sandia Security, who conduct frequent building checks on two alarmed structures in the area. They advised that a patrol was already in the area and would investigate.
- On 11 Aug 80, RUSS CURTIS, Sandia Security, advised that on 9 Aug 80, a Sandia Security Guard, (who wishes his name not be divulged for fear of harassment), related the following: At approximately 0020hrs., he was driving East on the Coyote Canyon access road on a routine building check of an alarmed structure. As he approached the structure he observed a bright light near the ground behind the structure. He also observed an object he first thought was a helicopter. But after driving closer, he observed a round disk shaped object. He attempted to radio for a back up patrol but his radio would not work. As he approached the object on foot armed with a shotgun, the object took off in a vertical direction at a high rate of speed. The guard was a former helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army and stated the object he observed was not a helicopter.
- SOURCE advised on 22 Aug 80, three other security policemen observed the same

DATE FORWARDED HQ AFOSI: 10 Aug 80

AFOSI FORM # ATTACHED: YES NO

DATE: 3 Sept 80

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT: RICHARD C. DOTY, SA

SIGNATURE: Richard C. Doty

DISTRICT FILE NO: 80 178 93-0/29

INDEXED: YES NO

POSITIVE (SEE ATTACHED)

AFOSI FORM 1 PREVIOUS EDITION WILL BE USED

DOCUMENT No 1

COMPLAINT FORM		Administrative Data	
TITLE	KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 13 Aug 80, Possible Hostile Intelligence Intercept Incident, Frequency Jamming.	DATE	14 Aug 80
PLACE	AFOSI District 17, Bldg, Kirtland AFB, NM	TIME	0730
HOW RECEIVED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONICALLY <input type="checkbox"/> IN WRITING	SOURCE AND EVALUATION	[REDACTED]
RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS ADDRESS	[REDACTED]	PHONE	[REDACTED]
CR		APPLIES	

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

On 13 Aug 80, 1960 COMPSQ Maintenance Officer reported Radar Approach Control equipment and scanner radar inoperative due to high frequency jamming from an unknown source. Total blackout of entire radar approach system to include Albuquerque Airport was in effect between 1630-2215hrs. Radar Approach Control back-up systems also were inoperative.

On 13 Aug 80, Defense Nuclear Agency Radio Frequency Monitors determined, by vector analysis, the interference was being sent from an area (V-90 degrees or due) on DAF Map coordinates E-28.6. The area was located NW of Coyote Canyon Test Area. It was first thought that Sandia Laboratory, which utilizes the test range was responsible. However, after a careful check, it was later determined that no tests were being conducted in the canyon area. Department of Energy, Air Force Weapons Laboratory and DNA were contacted but assured that their agencies were not responsible.

On 13 Aug 80, Base Security Police conducted a physical check of the area but the use of the mountainous terrain, a thorough check could not be completed at that time. A later foot search failed to disclose anything that could have caused the interference.

On 13 Aug 80, at 2210hrs., all radar equipment returned to normal operation without another incident.

CONCLUSION: The presence of hostile intelligence jamming cannot be ruled out. Although no evidence would suggest this, the method has been used in the past. Communication maintenance specialists cannot explain how such interference could cause the radar equipment to become totally inoperative. Neither could they suggest the type or range of the interference signal. DNA frequency monitors reported the interference beam was wide spread and a type unknown to their electrical equipment. Another check of the area was being conducted by Technical Services, AFOSI.

High command interest item. Briefings requested IAW AFOSIR 124-4 be completed

AFOSI, 1700 [REDACTED]

CONTINUED FROM COMPL. FORM 1, DTD 9 Sept 80

aerial phenomena described by the first three. Again the object landed in Coyote Canyon. They did not see the object take off.

- Coyote Canyon is part of a large restricted test range used by the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, Sandia Laboratories, Defense Nuclear Agency and the Department of Energy. The range was formerly patrolled by Sandia Security. However, they only conduct building checks there now.
- On 10 Aug 80, a New Mexico State Patrolman sighted a aerial object land in the Manzano's between Belen and Albuquerque, NM. The Patrolman reported the sighting to the Kirtland AFB Command Post, who later referred the patrolman to the AFOSI Dist 17. AFOSI Dist 17 advised the patrolman to make a report through his own agency. On 11 Aug 80, the Kirtland Public Information office advised the patrolman the USAF no longer investigates such sightings unless they occur on a USAF base.
- WRITER contacted all the agencies who utilized the test range and it was learned no aerial tests are conducted in the Coyote Canyon area. Only ground tests are conducted.
- On 8 Sept 80, WRITER learned from Sandia Security that another Security Guard observed a object land near an alarmed structure sometime during the first week of August, but did not report it until just recently for fear of harassment.
- The two alarmed structures located within the area contains HQ CR 44 material.

DR JACQUES VALLÉE JOINS FSR

We are proud to announce that Dr Jacques Vallée, Ph.D., has also joined our ranks as a Consultant to FSR. All his books, *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*; *Challenge to Science*; *Passport to Magonia*; *The Edge of Reality* (with Dr Hynek); *The Invisible College*; and *Messengers of Deception*, are world-famous, and are consulted wherever "our subject" is studied.

DOCUMENT No 3

MULTIPURPOSE INTERNAL OSI FORM
(Complete only applicable items)

74 (4)

DO NO: 17/1VO	SUBJECT	FILE NO
DET NO: KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 8 Aug - 3 Sep 80		8017053-0/29
HEADQUARTERS	Alleged Sightings of Unidentified Aerial	TRANSMITTAL DATE
DO NO: 17/B1D	Lights in Restricted Test Range	28 Oct 80
DET NO:		SUSPENSE DATE
HEADQUARTERS		

REFERENCE

AFOSI Fm 1, 8 Sep 80, Same Title

MINOR DISCREPANCIES NOTED ARE LISTED BELOW.

YOUR DISTRICT IS DESIGNATED OFFICE OF ORIGIN

ATTACHED REQUIRES INVESTIGATION IN YOUR AREA

ATTACHED SUBJECTS NEED TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 1.4, PARAGRAPH 3

FORWARD RESULTS DIRECTLY TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN, OR TO:

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION CONTINGUATED

YOUR FILES REFLECT PRIOR INVESTIGATION BY _____ DTG _____ FILE _____ (A copy of this form is requested in further copies of prior investigation letter summary, if applicable, to _____)

REPORT OF PRIOR INVESTIGATION, SUMMARY ATTACHED

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AND YOU WILL BE FURNISHED FURTHER REPORTS

DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION FORWARD RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION ACCOMPLISHED

DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN LEAD REQUEST AND DEVELOPED INFORMATION ARE SET FORTH

REPORT OF COMMAND ACTION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED

REQUEST STATUS OF THIS MATTER AND/OR DATE REPORT MAY BE EXPECTED. (Whenever forward 2 copies of this form) (Recipient, see one received copy for further with proper signature in remarks section unless OSI directives state reply not required.)

REFER ATTACHED TO INTERESTED COMMANDER FOR INFORMATION OR ACTION IF NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

NEAR WORLD-WIDE LOCATION FOR BELOW LISTED PERSON OR SUBJECT

ATTACHED IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION

UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENTS _____ THE CLASSIFICATION ON THIS CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE

RETAINED DOWNGRADED TO _____ CANCELED MARKED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

If classification is retained, with or without attachments, indicate reason for security classification and grouping per AFR 281.1-3

On 24 Oct 80, Dr PAUL FREDRICK BENNEWITZ, Male Born 30 Sep 27, KS, Civ, SSAN: **b7C**
Albuquerque, NM, contacted SA RICHARD C. DOTY through Major
PHILIP E. EDWARDS, Commander, 1608 SPS, Kirtland AFB, NM and related he had knowledge and
evidence of threats against Manzano Weapons Storage area. The threat was from Aerial
Phenomena over Manzano.

On 26 Oct 80, SA DOTY, with the assistance of JERRY MILLER, GS-15, Chief, Scientific
Advisor for Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, KAFB, interviewed Dr. BENNEWITZ at his
home in the Four Hills Section of Albuquerque, which is adjacent to the northern boundary
of Manzano Base. (NOTE: MILLER is a former Project Blue Book USAF Investigator who was
assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB W-PAFB, OH, with FTD. Mr. MILLER is one of the most knowl-
edgeable and impartial investigators of Aerial Objects in the southwest). Dr. BENNEWITZ
produced photographs and over 2600 feet of 8mm motion picture film depicting unidentified
aerial objects flying over and around Manzano Weapons Storage Area and Coyote Canyon Test
Area. Dr. BENNEWITZ has been conducting independent research into Aerial Phenomena for
the last 15 months. Dr. BENNEWITZ also produced several electronic recording tapes.

AFOSI TVDS; File KIRTLAND AFB, NM	ATTACHMENTS	FILE STAMP AND/OR OTHER
THOMAS A. CSEH, Major, USAF Commander 16th Investigative Detachment OSI Form 96		80 17/19 3-0/29-1

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allegedly showing high periods of electrical magnetism being emitted from Manzano/Coyote
Canyon area. Dr. BENNEWITZ also produced several photographs of flying objects taken
over the general Albuquerque area. He has several pieces of electronic surveillance
equipment pointed at Manzano and is attempting to record high frequency electrical beam
pulses. Dr. BENNEWITZ claims these Aerial Objects produce these pulses.

- After analyzing the data collected by Dr. BENNEWITZ, Mr MILLER related the evidence
clearly shows that some type of unidentified aerial objects were caught on film; however,
no conclusions could be made whether these objects pose a threat to Manzano/Coyote Canyon
areas. Mr MILLER felt the electronical recording tapes were inconclusive and could have
been gathered from several conventional sources. No sightings, other than these, have
been reported in the area.
- Mr MILLER has contacted FTD personnel at W-P AFB, OH, who expressed an interest and
are scheduled to inspect Dr. BENNEWITZ' data.
- Request a DCII check be made on Dr BENNEWITZ.
- This is responsive to HQ CR 44.
- Command was briefed but did not request an investigation at this time.

DOCUMENT No 4

74 (4)

17 NOV 1980

ZNY

GT

FOR AFOSI ONLY

H 171130Z NOV 80

FM HQ AFOSI ROLLING AFB DC//1VOE

TO ~~SECRETARY OF DEFENSE~~

INFO 7602 AINTEG FT BELVOIR VA//INSH

FOR AFOSI ONLY

REF: REQUEST FOR ~~TELETYPE~~ INTERPRETATION YOUR MSG 292030Z OCT 80.

SUBJECT CASE NR: ~~AFOSI 17053-0/29~~

J. SUBJECT NEGATIVES/FILM WERE ANALYZED BY HQ 1VT AND 7602 AINTEG/IT AND THE
FOLLOWING RESULTS WERE FOUND:

A. NEGATIVE #1: DEPICTING C-5A AIRCRAFT ON APPROACH AND STREAKING UNIDENTIFIED
AERIAL OBJECT IN LOWER RIGHT PORTION OF FILM. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SIZE
DIFFERENTIAL WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH SIZE OF AIRCRAFT. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE

B. NEGATIVE #2: DEPICTING CYLINDER SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN UPPER
LEFT PORTION OF PHOTO. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. FILM SHOWED OBJECT TO BE
CONSISTENT WITH FIELD DEPTH AND CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS.
CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT. BOLTON REINFELD
METHOD DID NOT REVEAL VISIBLE MARKINGS ON OBJECT.

C. NEGATIVE #3: DEPICTING IRREGULAR SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN
SEVEN FRAMES OF 8MM FILM. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND APPARENT SPEED OF OBJECT
NO FURTHER CLASSIFICATION OR CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN. FILM SHOW TO BE
UNALTERED.

D. 34 INCHES OF 8MM FILM: DEPICTING APPARENT COLORED OBJECT MOVING IN FRONT
OF STILL CAMERA. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SPECTROGRAPHY REVEALED COLORS TO
BE BASIC PHOSPHOR. DEPTH ANALYSIS REVEALED OBJECT TO BE WITHIN 150MM OF
CAMERA. OBJECT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS OBSERVED
FOR SEVERAL SECONDS IN FILM. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE.

E. ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DEPICTING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED.
BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FIXED OBJECTS IN THE FILM, NO DEPTH ANALYSIS COULD BE PERFORMED.
BOLTON REINFELD METHOD REVEALED OBJECT TO BE SAUCER SHAPED, APPROXIMATE DIAMETER
7 FEET. OBJECT CONTAINED A TRILATERAL INSIGNIA ON THE LOWER PORTION OF OBJECT.
CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT.

F. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING HQ CR 44. THE FOLLOWING
IS PROVIDED: CAPT GRACE 7602 AINTEG/INS CONTACTED AND RELATED FOLLOWING: (S//INTEL)
USAF NO LONGER PUBLICLY ACTIVE IN UFO RESEARCH, HOWEVER USAF STILL HAS INTEREST
IN ALL UFO SIGHTINGS OVER USAF INSTALLATION/TEST RANGES. SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES, LED BY NASA, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE SIGHTINGS THROUGH COVERT
COVER. (S//INTEL/FSA) ONE SUCH COVER IS UFO REPORTING CENTER, US COAST AND GEODETIC
SURVEY, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852. NASA FILTERS RESULTS OF SIGHTINGS TO APPROPRIATE
MILITARY DEPARTMENTS WITH INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR SIGHTING. THE OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RESULTS OF PROJECT AQUARIUS IS STILL CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET
WITH NO DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AND WITH RESTRICTED
ACCESS TO ~~THE PUBLIC~~. NOISE ON BENNEWITZ IS BEING MONITORED BY NASA INS, WHO
REQUEST ALL FUTURE EVIDENCE BE FORWARDED TO THEM THRU AFOSI 1VOE.

REF YOUR REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE OF A CHANCE OF PUBLIC
DISCLOSURE, NO KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONNEL WITH (SP) WILL BE PROVIDED. CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
ASSISTANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN YOUR MESSAGE, MILLER, FUGATE. BECAUSE OF
THE SENSITIVITY OF CASE, REQUEST THEY BE THOROUGHLY DEBRIEFED AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

GRACE ~~SECRETARY~~

REMEMBER THAT NEW READERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.
UFO JOURNALS ARE DISAPPEARING ELSEWHERE.
DON'T LET IT HAPPEN HERE!

MULTIPURPOSE INTERNAL OSI FORM
(Complete only applicable items)

Page (7)

DC NO (SI) DET NO (SI) HEADQUARTERS DO NO DCT NO HEADQUARTERS	SUBJECT KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 8 Aug - 3 Sep 80. Alleged Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Lights In Restricted Test Range	FILE NO 8017093-0/29 TRANSMITTAL DATE 26 Nov 80 SUSPENSE DATE
REFERENCE AFOSI Form 96, 28 Oct 80, Same Title MINOR DISCREPANCIES NOTED ARE LISTED BELOW. YOUR DISTRICT IS DESIGNATED OFFICE OF ORIGIN ATTACHED REQUIRES INVESTIGATION IN YOUR AREA DEFERRED SUBJECTS ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY DIRM 124-1, PARA 2-4-3 FORWARD RESULTS DIRECTLY TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN, OR TO: NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION CONTEMPLATED OUR FILES REFLECT PRIOR INVESTIGATION BY _____ OFD _____ FILE _____ (By copy of this form in requested in furnish _____ copies of prior investigation summary, if applicable to REPORT OF PRIOR INVESTIGATION/SUMMARY ATTACHED INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AND YOU WILL BE FURNISHED FURTHER REPORTS DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION FORWARD RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION ACCOMPLISHED DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN LEAD REQUEST AND DEVELOPED INFORMATION AFE SET FORTH REPORT OF COMMAND ACTION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED REQUEST STATUS OF THIS MATTER AND/OR DATE REPORT MAY BE EXPECTED. (Requester, forward 3 copies of this form.) (Recipient, use the received copy for answer with proper signature in remarks section unless OSI directives state reply not required.) REFER ATTACHED TO INTERESTED COMMANDER FOR INFORMATION OR ACTION IF NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CHECK WORLD-WIDE LOCATOR FOR BELOW LISTED PERSON OF SUBJECT ATTACHED IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION _____ THE CLASSIFICATION ON THIS CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENTS: _____ CANCELED. <input type="checkbox"/> MARKED "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY." (If classification is retained, with or without attachments, indicate reason for security classification and grouping per AFR 201-1.)		
REMARKS 1. On 10 Nov 80, a meeting took place in 1606 ABW/CC Conference Room attended by the following individuals: BGEN WILLIAM BROOKSHER, AFOSP/CC, COL JACK W. SHEPPARD, 1606 ABW/CC, COL THOMAS SIMMONS 1606 ABW/CV, COL CHES BACA, 1606 SPOQ/CC, COL FRANK M. HUEY, AFOSI Dist 17/CC, LTC JOE R. LAMPORT, 1606 ABW/SJ, MAJ THOMAS A. CSEH, AFOSI Det 1700/CC, Dr. LEHMAN, Director, AFWL, ED BREEN, AFWL, Instrumentations Specialist and Dr. PAUL F. BENNEWITZ, President Thunder Scientific Laboratory, Albuquerque. Dr. BENNEWITZ presented film and photographs of alleged unidentified Aerial Objects photographed over KAFB, NM during the last 15 months. Dr. BENNEWITZ also related he had documented proof that he was in contact with the aliens flying the objects. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. BENNEWITZ expressed an interest in obtaining financial assistance from the USAF in furthering his investigation regarding these objects. DR. LEHMAN advised DR. BENNEWITZ to request a USAF grant for research. DR. LEHMAN advised DR. BENNEWITZ he would assist him in filling out the proper documents. 2. On 17 Nov 80, SA RICHARD C. DOTY, advised DR. BENNEWITZ that AFOSI would not become involved in the investigation of these objects. DR. BENNEWITZ was advised		
COPIES TO Dist 17/CC, File NAME AND TITLE SIGNATURE FRANK M. HUEY, Major, USAF Commander Base Investigative Detachment	ATTACHMENTS FOR-OFFICIAL-USE-ONLY	FILE STAMP AND/OR OTHER 8017093-0/29x2 Hand

AFOSI FORM 96 JUL 77 REPLACES OSI FORM 96 JUN 71 WHICH WILL BE USED

that AFOSI was not in a position to evaluate the information and photographs he has collected, to date or technically investigate such matters.

3. On 26 Nov 80, SA DOTY received a phone call from an individual who identified himself as U.S. Senator HARRISON SCHMIDT, of New Mexico. SEN SCHMIDT inquired about AFOSI'S role in investigating the aerial phenomena reported by Dr. BENNEWITZ. SA DOTY advised SEN SCHMIDT that AFOSI was not investigating the phenomena. SA DOTY then politely referred SEN SCHMIDT to AFOSI Dist 17/CC. SEN SCHMIDT declined to speak with 17/CC and informed SA DOTY he would request that SAF look into the matter and determine what USAF agency should investigate the phenomena.

4. It should be noted that DR. BENNEWITZ has had a number of conversations with SEN SCHMIDT during the last few months regarding BENNEWITZ'S private research. SEN SCHMIDT has made telephone calls to BGEN BROOKSHER, AFOSP/CC regarding the matter since Security Police are responsible for the security of Manzano Storage Area.

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JVCST

IN REPLY TO	AFOSI COMMUNICATION	DATE OF TRANSMITTAL 30 July 1981
TO AFOSI/CC CBB 26 Nov 80	SUBJECT Dr. PAUL FREDRICK BENNEWITZ Congressional Inquiry	
FROM AFOSI District 17/CC Kirtland AFB, NM 87117		
REFERENCE 8017093-0/29	ITEMS CHECKED ARE APPLICABLE TO ABOVE SUBJECT	
INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED AND REPORTS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS MATTER IS <input type="checkbox"/> PENDING <input type="checkbox"/> CLOSED. REQUEST REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN (AFR 124-4) NOTE RESTRICTIVE LEGENDS ON FRONT OF THE ATTACHMENT(S) REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS AS TO DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE LISTED BELOW. ATTACHED IS AN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT (IIR) TRANSMITTED ELECTRICALLY IN THE INTERESTS OF TIME-LINESS. NUMERICAL DESIGNATIONS IN THE IIR ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1. COUNTRY; 2. REPORT NUMBER; 3. TITLE; 4. PROJECT NUMBER; 5. DATE OF INFORMATION; 6. DATE OF REPORT; 7. DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION; 8. REFERENCES; 9. ASSESSMENT; 10. ORIGINATOR; 11. REQUEST EVALUATION; 12. PREPARING OFFICER; 13. APPROVING AUTHORITY; 14. SOURCE ATTACHED IS AN INFORMATION COLLECTION REPORT (ICR) WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER YOUR COMMAND. THE ICR IS FURNISHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY AND IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A FORMAL OR COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IF A FORMAL INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED, IT SHOULD BE REQUESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 124-4. THE ATTACHED REPORT HAS BEEN LOANED TO THE USAF BY ANOTHER AGENCY. DISSEMINATION OF THAT REPORT TO ANOTHER AGENCY OR ITS PERMANENT INCORPORATION INTO ANY USAF RECORDS SYSTEM WILL NOT BE MADE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE ORIGINATING AGENCY. WHEN THIS REPORT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE, IT WILL BE DESTROYED. NO RECORD OF THE REPORT IS BEING MAINTAINED BY AFOSI. WHEN ATTACHMENT(S) IS/ARE REMOVED, THE CLASSIFICATION OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE <input type="checkbox"/> RETAINED <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADED TO <input type="checkbox"/> CANCELED <input type="checkbox"/> MARKED "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY"		
OTHER/REMARKS On 30 Jul 81, the 1606th ABW IG contacted DO 17/BID and advised that Senator PETER DOMENICI desired to talk to SA RICK DOTY regarding the matter involving BENNEWITZ. After checking with Col HARVELL, Acting AFOSI/CC, it was agreed SA DOTY and DO 17/CC would meet with Senator DOMENICI. Senator DOMENICI was present in the IG's Office but departed immediately to meet with BENNEWITZ. A subsequent check with Mr. TIJEROS, Senator DOMENICI's Aide, in an effort to determine the Senator's specific questions, determined his sole interest was to know whether AFOSI had conducted a formal investigation of SUBJECT. Mr. TIJEROS was informed that no formal investigation of BENNEWITZ was conducted by AFOSI. Mr. TIJEROS stated that he assumed if any information were available, and was to be requested from AFOSI, it would have to be requested from our Headquarters. He was provided Col BEYEA's name and the Bolling AFB address of our HQ AFOSI in event he desired any further information. Mr. TIJEROS thanked us and indicated no further inquiries from the Senator regarding this matter are anticipated.		
NAME, GRADE, TITLE, SIGNATURE FRANK M. HUEY, Colonel, USAF Commander	ATTACHMENTS	COPIES TO HQ AFOSI/IVOS File

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POLISH GIRL, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT, 18 years old, greatly interested in UFO Phenomenon, seeks to correspond with other young people with similar interests. Write to: Miss Joanna Kuźmicka, Ugory 27c/82, 85-132, Bydgoszcz, Poland.

YUGOSLAVIAN RESEARCHER seeks correspondents. Please write to: Mr. Tomislav Radisavljević, President of Svetozarevo UFO Society, c/o Poste Restante, 35000 Svetozarevo, Serbia, Yugoslavia.

EDITOR OF FSR would like to hear from any reader in or near the Ayrshire region of Scotland who can assist us with a simple local enquiry. (NOT an investigation.)

Editorial by David Wightman in Uranus Vol. 2, No. 6 (June 1956)

THE AIR MINISTRY TALKS ON "FLYING SAUCERS"

ON the 9th of April I wrote to the Air Ministry in London requesting an interview with an officer who was conversant with the "Flying Saucer Mystery". Not so very long ago, the very idea of doing this would immediately have resulted in one being labelled "Daft". But time and an awful lot of very convincing reports of "U.F.O.'s" (Unidentified Flying Objects, the military term for "Flying Saucers") have changed things more than somewhat. In short, my request was granted and I travelled down to London in the (very) small hours of the morning full of optimism.

I had arranged to meet a fellow "Saucerer" on the Air Ministry steps at 10 a.m. We met as arranged, and marched boldly up the imposing looking steps and through the glass doors. We were directed to the left and came to a quite ordinary looking "enquiry desk". Our appointment was confirmed so we wended our hopeful way up an escalator, into a lift (self-operated) and up another four floors. On this floor we "encountered" another desk and here we had to fill in a form. This done to the gentleman's satisfaction we were taken along more corridors until we at last arrived at the office.

Inside was an ordinary (everything was ordinary in the A.M.) desk which was occupied by three or four telephones and a handsome-looking individual, dressed in "civvies". Somehow it wasn't quite what I had expected but we were invited to "pull up a couple of chairs and make ourselves comfortable."

So our interview, which lasted for over two hours, began. I WASN't "tongue-tied" as I expected to be, and the questions simply flowed out in orderly array. For me to recite all the questions we asked the officer would simply confuse the layman; they weren't technical questions but to anyone who hadn't made a study of saucer sightings they wouldn't mean anything at all.

My first question concerned a sighting which took place in Scotland only last October; October 28th to be exact.¹ The object came to within twenty yards of the observer at an altitude of only 50ft. I was especially interested in this sighting for I had investigated it personally. However, I was doomed to disappointment. I had sent all the details of the case I had obtained to the A.M. some time ago, but in answer to my question now regarding the result of their investigation I was told that the A.M. does not investigate "second-hand sighting reports". I was rather surprised at this for the A.M. had actually *asked me* for further details. We made arrangements to have photostatic copies of letters written to me by the person concerned, these would be forwarded to the A.M.; the red

tape would be cut and the wheels of investigation set in motion. I was promised that such results that COULD be released would be sent on to me. I had to be content at that.

We also had to be content with promises concerning two other sightings. We wanted the results of the A.M.'s investigation into the sighting made by young Steven Darbishire² who lives near Coniston in Lancashire. This sighting, you will remember, was remarkable because of the photograph Steven obtained. The second sighting was that made by a "part-time" R.A.F. flyer. He was Flt. Lt. Salandin.³ "The thing had a bun-shaped top, a flange like two saucers in the middle and a bun underneath. It could not have been very far off for it more than filled my windscreen." This was part of Salandin's statement. The "man from the A.M." didn't know the answer to either of these two sightings. We did get a promise of any forthcoming information however. I was beginning to feel a little disgruntled, we were doing all the talking and getting nowhere at all. Maybe we were giving HIM information?

I decided to stick to sightings, however, surely I would get an answer sometime. I asked about another "air-to-air" sighting. This time it involved the pilot and co-pilot of a Portuguese "Skymaster"⁴ which was flying between Dunsfold and Epsom. Following is the pilot's description: "it was long, shaped like a cigar and silvery as though made from aluminium. It flashed past, just under our nose and at tremendous speed."

I DID get an answer to this one, but it nearly resulted in my falling from my chair. "Yes, that sighting was investigated", I was told, "the A.M. is quite satisfied that what the pilot actually saw was one of those long toy balloons." To the layman this doesn't seem to fit: to the serious saucer student it sounds just plain "daft". I couldn't accept this and I made great haste to say so. I went at length into the details why I couldn't accept it. A restatement of the first reply was my only reward.

We tried two more sightings and the pattern changed somewhat. Answers we got all right but we were told we mustn't repeat them let alone print the information we had been given. This was because the answers contained secret material. The quotation regarding the Official Secrets Act was duly recited and there the matter ended.

I was still on sightings and I decided to try my luck

with the "Thing Which Blazed Over Britain"⁵ Many of you will remember this incident. It occurred on March 24th, 1955. It hit the headlines in many newspapers the next day. It was given various descriptions and was seen from many different parts of Britain. Quite a number of witnesses described it changing colours, "Red, turning blue or green" was the description given in the Manchester "*Daily Dispatch*". A certain amount of evidence tended to show that it changed direction. Arthur Constance was so convinced that he had something that he made up an 18,000-word report and presented it to the A.M. So, I popped the question. I received the answer I might have expected. It was a meteor, Greenwich observatory said so. I had no intentions of arguing with the Greenwich observatory at that moment so that too I let drop.

I tried just one more sighting: that which took place at the glider championships at Lasham in Kent.⁶ It hadn't been reported to the A.M.

I changed my method of attack (if you could call it that at its best).

The following are most of the replies to the other points we covered:

1) The A.M. do NOT co-operate with other countries on the saucer problem. I listed five other countries which had official investigations in progress. There was no comment from the A.M.

2) I asked for NUMBERS of cases solved and unsolved, so that some significance could be drawn from the percentages published by the A.M. Percentages by themselves, I remarked, meant nothing at all. "Numbers are not available," said the A.M.

3) There is NOT a separate body within the A.M. which investigates U.F.O.s

I was mildly surprised at one statement and this was that the Ministry were most anxious to avoid the development of a similar situation to that which prevailed in the U.S.A. at the moment.

I asked, out of curiosity more than anything else if he (the official) was privately interested in the subject. He replied in the negative but added that this was probably because he was so indoctrinated with official procedure. (He had held his present post since 1946.) He didn't know any other A.M. officials who were privately interested either.

He didn't think there was much chance of the report made out by the A.M. ever being made public.

Looking back on the whole interview; it was obvious that he hadn't told us all that he knew. Most of the answers came from "stock".

We were both reminded that to print anything we had been told not to could land us in serious trouble and, what is more, our chances of obtaining further interviews at the A.M. would be zero. One thing is certain: the A.M. ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE SAUCER PROBLEM, and they will continue to

investigate all reports of U.F.O.s

We were shown to the door at approximately 12.40 p.m. and left after being invited to "call again if you think we can help you". The promise of information on the three sightings we had asked about was also renewed. I am now anxiously awaiting those reports.

Editorial by David Wightman in Uranus Vol. 3, No. 3 (December 1956)

ON 21st April of this year your editor accompanied by Mr John Pitt visited the Air Ministry in London, an appointment having previously been obtained. The object of the visit was to obtain official information concerning sightings of U.F.O.s — reports, which have been made by experienced observers or have been seen under such circumstances as to render them unexplainable by the usual "stock answers". As has been evidenced in a previous issue of *URANUS* (June — Vol. 2, No. 6) little or no satisfaction was gained from a discussion which lasted over two hours — "long toy balloons" and "meteors" were the order of the day. The report, which did appear in this magazine, was purposely "mild": a much more critical write-up would have been a truer representation of both John Pitt's and your editor's reactions.

Information on a dozen or so apparently authentic sighting reports was sought — one of these was the much published "Brazier incident" which occurred on 28th October, 1955 — another, the best known of all English sightings and as far as can be ascertained the only English sighting to produce a really good photograph, the "Coniston Sighting". A third report was that concerning an R.A.F. fighter pilot, Flt. Lt. Salandin who, on 14th October, 1954, saw a Saucer from close range. These three sightings have been extensively investigated through one channel or another, the latter two by the A.M. themselves and the "Brazier Incident" by your editor. (Details of this amazing sighting were sent to the A.M. on request.) The point I want to make here is this — we were given no information at all on any of these incidents, *but* — the Air Ministry spokesman *promised to obtain such facts as he was able and forward the information on to your editor*. A considerable length of time was allowed to elapse before a letter of reminder was dispatched (20th June). Before that date and up to the last issue of *URANUS* (October) not a word which could be interpreted as an attack on the Air Ministry's attitude to the problem of Flying Saucers, had been written by J. Pitt or your editor — despite this, no word at all has been received from the A.M.

One does not expect promises to be broken or letters of reminder of such promises ignored. I think it is now time, six months after the original meeting, to

"expose" two wrong explanations given by the A.M. spokesman regarding two further sightings about which we requested information. Several other explanations were then, and still are, far from acceptable but this is not the time or place to discuss these. The two sightings we shall refer to here are first, the Portuguese Airlines "Skymaster" incident — this took place on 24th May 1955 and was fully described in "*Flying Saucer News*" — Summer 1955 issue. Briefly, the crew of the "Skymaster" saw and described the object as long and cigar shaped, being the colour of polished aluminium. "It flashed past under the nose of our aircraft at a terrific speed," said radio officer J. O. Almeida. The second false explanation was that in connection with "The Thing which Blazed over Britain". This much publicised affair took place on 24th March 1955.

The "Skymaster" incident was the first sighting we asked about to which we received a direct answer — and *what* an answer it was. "Oh yes, we did investigate this incident," said the spokesman, "we are quite satisfied it was a *long toy balloon*." All the people the writer has spoken to have laughed at this "explanation", Professor Filmer, in the October URANUS said, "A man piloting a plane who would say 'a long toy balloon — flashed past . . . at tremendous speed' would be both a fool and a liar." A student at Leeds University went further and proceeded to draw the plane and "balloon" in their respective positions as described by the observers — he went on to assume the plane's speed to be in excess of 150 knots and of course the "balloon" travelling at the velocity of the prevailing wind. He then propounded the law of triangle of velocities to show how impossible it was for the object to have been a balloon at the mercy of the air stream, no matter in what direction it was travelling.

The explanation we were given to account for the "Thing . . . etc" was, however, "a clanger howler of the first magnitude", to quote a well-known saucer book author. Even allowing for the fact that Arthur Constance's résumé of the evidence he had collected (see F.S.N. — Autumn, 1955) was a little tainted with over-elaboration and somewhat hasty conclusions, it is very evident that a meteor, which is what the Air Ministry say it was, possesses very few of the characteristics attributed to the object seen that 24th March by hundreds of people. *BUT* here is the real clanger — to back up their statement about it being a meteor, the A.M. claim that Greenwich Observatory said so. *Greenwich Observatory said nothing of the kind*. How do we know? — simple, your editor has a letter from the Royal Greenwich Observatory dated 25th May, 1956, which says, "We had some enquiries at the time concerning an apparition in March of last year, but

we were not able to comment or confirm as *no observations of the object were made here*".

So it seems the A.M. is caught out in a misstatement and if it can happen once it can happen again — maybe it *has* already happened. The authorities here have benefited greatly from officials' mistakes in America and have clamped down very firmly on the subject. They didn't clamp down soon enough, however, and the best made "joint" can spring a "leak" or maybe it leaks in an unexpected place. No one expected Captain Ruppelt to write his book *The Report on the U.F.O.* — but he did, and it contained a juicy little sentence which catches the A.M. in this country out once again. At the interview last May, J. Pitt and your Editor were told that there is no liaison between them (the A.M.) and other countries. There is evidence against this contained in Ruppelt's book, for in one chapter it is clearly stated that two R.A.F. officers visited the Pentagon and had with them six single-spaced typewritten sheets of questions about Flying Saucers which they required answering. Does this suggest liaison or not? We think definitely yes.

Notes & References (added by FSR)

1. See *Maurice Brazier Describes His Saucer*, in FSR Vol. 2, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1956).
2. See Leonard G. Cramp's *Orthographic Projections*, in FSR Vol. 9, No. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1963) showing the Stephen Darbishire photo and the Adamski "scout" photo. (date of the Darbishire photo, taken near Coniston, Lancashire, was February 15, 1954.) See also FSR Vol. 1, No. 1, rear cover.
3. See FSR Vol. 1, No. 1 (Spring 1955): *Week-End Pilot in Near-Collision with Flying Saucer*.
4. See Report on p. 31 of FSR, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July/Aug. 1955.)
5. See *Pilots Express Doubts About Flaming Meteorite*, in FSR Vol. 1, No. 2 (May/June 1955). Some of the R.A.F. pilots who tried to pursue the huge object said not only that it changed course but also that it accelerated.
6. Reported in *A New Pattern of Behaviour*, by Denis Montgomery, on p. 15 of FSR Vol. 1, No. 4 (July/August 1955). The UFO, "boomerang-shaped", was seen apparently observing the National Gliding Championships at Lasham, Hampshire, on July 26, 1955. Mrs Yvonne Bonham, Secretary of the British Gliding Association, said the UFO seemed to be about 40ft. wide and was hovering over the glider in which the British champion, Philip Wills, was soaring. The UFO was at about 3,000 ft. and, after pausing for a while, it made off at a very high speed. (Interestingly enough we published another report not so long ago, as will be recalled, of a UFO observed by British gliding experts again at Lasham.)

G.C.

FROM THE ARCHIVES 3

REPRINTED FROM FSR VOL. 2, NO. 5 (SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1956)
"TELL US PLEASE, MR BIRCH!" SAYS JOHN PITT

THE Air Ministry has been interested in u.f.o.s. since 1947. This has been admitted in a statement to the Press. It has been admitted also that information has been exchanged between the Air Ministry and the U.S.A.F. Air Technical Intelligence Center, better known perhaps as A.T.I.C.

The branch of the Air Ministry which deals with u.f.o. reports is, according to the *Sunday Dispatch*, September 28, 1952, known as D.D.I. (Technical). This Air Ministry equivalent of its opposite number at A.T.I.C. is, rather ironically, housed in an attic.

To date this country has failed to produce the counterpart of the ubiquitous Major Keyhoe, so it will remain a mystery to us whether D.D.I. (Technical) has at its command all the apparently vast and variegated staff whose functions have so vividly been described both by the Marine Corps Major and, later, by the U.S.A.F. Officer, Captain Ruppelt, who was in charge of A.T.I.C.'s "Project Blue Book".

I would like to remind readers that A.T.I.C. went to some considerable pains to obtain the information published last year in the "Project Blue Book" Report. It appears there is a complete Air Intelligence Squadron (4602), one of whose chief functions is to investigate u.f.o. sighting reports, that there were at one time flights of the U.S.A.F.'s swiftest fighter aircraft, stripped of all armament, whose mission it was to pursue and to attempt to shoot only camera film at u.f.o.s. reported within the area of the bases where they were held in immediate readiness.

It would be interesting to know whether this country can boast that it has taken the same interest. Some considerable interest must have been taken in 1952, for Captain Ruppelt describes how he met at A.T.I.C. two R.A.F. Intelligence Officers who, on an official visit, had brought six single-spaced sheets of typescript containing questions on u.f.o.s. to be discussed with their opposite numbers in the U.S.A.F.

It would be interesting to know whether the Air Ministry has at its disposal the same number of civilian experts. Captain Ruppelt describes, in his recently-published *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, what he calls "Project Bear". This project was launched to obtain further information from that gleaned by solely Service personnel under projects "Sign", "Grudge" and "Blue Book", and was staffed by rocket engineers, chemists, mathematicians, physicists, astronomers, statisticians, as well as a psychological section which worked in conjunction with the Psychology Department of an American University.

If the Air Ministry has *not* taken this u.f.o. mystery as seriously as its American counterpart, I would like

to know by what process of investigation it has been possible for the Air Ministry and the Under-Secretary of State for Air to state within a matter of weeks that flying saucers do *not* exist — according to an Air Ministry statement early in 1955 and, by the Under-Secretary of State for Air, in Parliament, in March the same year:

"Reports of flying saucers, as well as other abnormal objects in the sky, are investigated as they come in, but there has been no formal inquiry.

"About 90 per cent. of the reports have been found to relate to meteors, ballons, flares, and many other objects. The fact that the other objects are unexplained need be attributed to nothing more sinister than lack of data."

From the latter statement we deduce that 10 per cent. have not been explained; the figure upon which this percentage is based is not quoted but, according to my colleague, Ronald R. Russell, to whom most of the remainder of this article must be acknowledged, it was given as 15,000 from 1947-1954. This information, by the way, was solicited from an official at D.D.I. (Tech.) during a discussion held there by appointment in 1954.

At the time, therefore, of the Under-Secretary of State for Air's statement the estimated number of "unknowns" must have been slightly in excess of 1,500! This I think is a good starting point.

Brazier Sighting

In March this year I received a letter from David Wightman, Editor of *URANUS*, who invited me to accompany him on a visit to the Air Ministry. His purpose was to see what might be happening to these 1,500 plus unexplained u.f.o. reports and, in particular, to find out whether the Maurice Brazier ("Galloway") sighting had ever been investigated by the officials at D.D.I. (Tech.).

Readers will probably remember that this excellently reported sighting was published in the Nov.-Dec. issue last year of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* but, for the benefit of those who did not read this report, I would like to repeat that this was of a u.f.o. seen by Maurice Brazier, an ex-R.A.F. type, who was driving a van from Newton Stewart to his home, some time in October, 1955, on a fine moonlit night. Mr. Brazier watched this object for some time and made quite the most comprehensive report that I have yet had the pleasure to study.

The Public Relations Officer at the Air Ministry stated

that he had never heard of this sighting, saying that only reports which were sent by viewers themselves were investigated by the Air Ministry. He denied, by the way, that there was a separate branch in the Air Ministry that dealt solely with u.f.o. reports.

Slight Contradiction

During the discussion many sightings were discussed. A full account was written of this interview by David Wightman in the June issue of *URANUS*, and those who are interested should read the full story. My immediate interest was in the fact that we had been told that only sightings submitted by the persons immediately concerned were investigated. I therefore asked what had been the official statement on the u.f.o. seen on October 14, 1954, by Flt./Lt. J. R. Salandin. I was astonished to hear that this official had never officially been informed that this sighting had been reported.

Again for the benefit of readers who may not have heard this case, I would like to say that this pilot's report was submitted, together with a special recommendation from his Commanding Officer to Fighter Command Headquarters. The circumstances of this sighting are, briefly, as follows:

Whilst flying an R.A.F. Meteor, Flt./Lt. Salandin, of 604 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, had been watching two unidentified objects high over Southend. He was, by the way, completely sceptical about the existence of flying saucers. When these objects passed out of sight, travelling at some considerable speed, he turned to look again to his front and saw another strange object coming directly at him. Describing this object as having "a bun-shaped top, a flange like two saucers in the middle, and a bun underneath," Salandin said that it was travelling at tremendous speed on his own level and that, after closing in, it swerved and passed on his port side. His only regret, and ours, is that he did not have the presence of mind to press the button of his camera-gun.

I wonder how this Service report was explained and under what circumstances it had not officially come to the ears of the Air Ministry's official spokesman?

David Wightman was promised that, provided that the Maurice Brazier report was forwarded through the official channels, he, the P.R.O., would see that it went to the appropriate section. This, incidentally, after having previously informed us that there was no separate branch which dealt with u.f.o. reports.

Wightman and I discussed what we had been told during this long interview and he passed to me a letter he had received from Maurice Brazier in which a full description appeared, plus some illustrations, of the "Galloway" u.f.o. I had three photostat copies made of this letter and handed one copy to an official at D.D.I. (Tech.) itself. A second copy was sent by

hand to the P.R.O. at the Air Ministry, and a third, together with the original, went back to David Wightman, suggesting that Mr. Brazier should now write a covering letter to the Air Ministry and include this photostat copy. Whether or not Maurice Brazier had done so I do not know, but I do know that there are two copies in the hands of the Air Ministry.

I wonder how they have been classified — "Explained" or "Unexplained"?

Radar Trackings

So far I have dealt only with two reports which may or may not have been classified. My next case concerns a u.f.o. that was tracked on a radar screen, watched through the sighting telescope of the same radar set, and which, from circumstantial evidence, seems also to have been observed by the crew of an R.A.F. Vampire night-fighter. This case was reported by the War Office and by the R.A.F. aircrew concerned. This case, unlike the two I have discussed, has been "explained" by the Air Ministry, but more anon.

In November 3, 1953, Flying Officers T. S. Johnson and C. Smythe were flying over Kent at an altitude of some 20,000 feet when they saw very high above themselves an unidentifiable object travelling at a tremendous airspeed. On their return to base they made a full report and later were interrogated for an hour and a half by Intelligence Officers at Fighter Command.

This sighting took place latish in the morning. In the early afternoon Sergeant H. Waller, of 265 H.A.A. Regt., R.A., was operating an Army type 3, Mark VII, radar set at the barracks at Lee Green when he tracked on the screen a large "blip" moving slowly at 61,000 feet. This he said was an object "three or four times larger than the largest airliner." Using the sighting telescope attached to the set, he and four others observed a circular object which emitted intermittent flashes. This sighting was investigated by Derek Dempster and was first published under his name in the *Daily Express* on November 11, 1953.

The Air Ministry's rationale was that a radio-sonde meteorological balloon had been released at 2 p.m. that afternoon from Crawley, that it had drifted slowly over East Grinstead, and had descended slowly by parachute into the Channel near Eastbourne at 3.30.

Some Balloon!

That may well be so. *A radio-sonde balloon is, however, only some 12 feet in diameter. The "Skyhook" balloon, the largest Met. balloon in use, is only 75 feet in diameter. The object watched by Sergeant Waller would have been, according to his analogy, of some 350 to 450 feet in diameter! The object observed by the radar oper-*

ator was hovering over Kent for some considerable time, the radio-sonde balloon was drifting over Sussex! The object seen by the Vampire aircrew was also seen over Kent — although, in all fairness, it would be begging the question to assume that this was (i) the same object or (ii) that it had not flown out of the area in a south-westerly direction.

This latter question-begging is, I suggest, trivial in comparison to that which seems, in the face of fact, to have been indulged in by the Air Ministry!

I am reliably informed that there are three large wooden filing cabinets in the D.D.I. (Tech.) "attic." In each cabinet were three drawers, locked by Yale-type locks, and doubly secured by a hinged plate locked in turn by a large padlock. In these drawers, so he was informed in 1954, lay the 15,000 u.f.o. reports which had been investigated since work began in 1947.

I have worked in an Intelligence Branch of the War Office; oddly enough, its Headquarters are now on another floor in the same building that houses D.D.I. (Tech.). I am therefore sympathetic to D.D.I. (Tech.) in more ways than one. This sympathy, however, is confined only to the security side of D.D.I. (Tech.'s.) work.

It is virtually impossible to make head or tail of the Air Ministry where policy in this matter of u.f.o.s is concerned. It is patent that its left hand knoweth not what its right hand is doing. This is borne out by the

contradictions and rebuttals that volley back and forth in successive official Air Ministry statements.

Whether this might be part of the policy itself, necessitated perhaps by security, I know not, but I do know that it is not good intelligence. After some nine years of admitted and denied interest in existent and then non-existent flying saucers, I am beginning to understand the pedantic wag who, in a well-known reference work, divided the word "intelligence" into the two categories, "common" and "military."

It would be to the advantage of us all to know what steps are being taken to resolve this mystery. It would perhaps be the *coup de grâce* to quite a high percentage of those who profess to be in fuller possession of facts than even the Air Ministry. It would, however, restore the faith of this country's "Ufologists" in Air Ministry "Bumbledom" if some representative of D.D.I. (Tech.) or, better still, the Secretary of State for Air, Mr. Nigel Birch, would at this late date put us in the picture where Air Ministry u.f.o. research is concerned.

Until some such statement or report is made public, I recommend readers to this pithy observation by Thoreau:

"Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk."

PROPERTIES OF THE UFO PHENOMENON

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

(A paper recently given at a MUFON meeting)

THE CRUX of the argument between those who take the UFO phenomenon seriously and those who don't, reduced to its essentials, is whether the UFO phenomenon represents something really new to us and to science, or whether the contents of all UFO reports (regardless of the professional or technical expertise of the witnesses) can be explained in pedestrian terms and, therefore, all serious talk about UFOs is just a grand illusion.

New Empirical Observations

From the standpoint of the philosophy of science, as Professor Goudge, former Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, has pointed out (and as I have quoted him in *The UFO Experience*), the question is whether the contents of UFO reports represent new empirical observations, in the sense that the first observations of bacteria or the first observations of the induction of electrical currents, were new empirical observations which could not be

explained by the scientific paradigm of the day but required new explanation schemes and new concepts.

Now it is quite clear that the contents of many initial UFO reports emphatically do not represent new empirical information: the host of misinterpretations of balloons, aircraft, planets, meteors, advertising planes, etc. attest to that! The question is, are there *some* UFO reports ... it doesn't matter how many ... whose contents *do* represent something entirely new to us, in any area of human experience?

In asking this, we must not limit ourselves to asking, "Do UFO reports represent someone else's NASA, or are they from a parallel universe, or are they left over from some past Atlantean civilization?" We ask only: do the contents of some UFO reports represent something truly new ... new empirical observations?, as Professor Goudge has asked.

The contents of the UFO reports can indeed be regarded as something new if the properties ... in particular, the *combination* of properties ... of the UFO phenomenon do *not* match the properties, or combination of properties, of the things which are com-