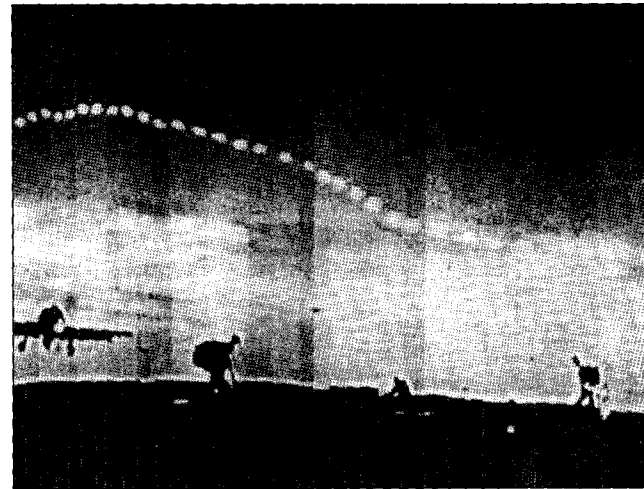


But this is much more than a book about terminology used to describe aerial phenomena observed during World War II. *Strange Company* reveals the UFO – flying saucer-phenomenon was very much alive prior to and during the intense conflict raging around the world. In all theatres of operations, many sightings describing lights in the skies of various colours and sizes were reported. Some sightings, however, were truly remarkable. Witnesses described disc-shaped aircraft capable of extraordinary flight characteristics that were able to reach speeds of thousands of miles per hour. One possible explanation for these aircraft is that they were not manufactured on Earth; that they were extraterrestrial in nature. And it was this possibility that some veterans feel offers the best explanation.

Strange Company is the first in-depth accounting of wartime unconventional aircraft and other aerial phenomena sightings reported by witnesses serving with the Allied Air Forces. Included are responses by Allied command, which record that consistent confusion had become increasingly prevalent within their air intelligence memoranda. In addition to the sightings, *Strange Company* introduces two other important elements that are significant: 1) scientific personnel who became associated with aerial phenomena investigations and 2) the air intelligence gathering missions designed to recover enemy documentation, facilities, and personnel. There is reason to believe that intelligence obtained by these missions includes much information regarding aerial phenomena is still classified by the perspective agencies involved, or the records are still buried at various archives awaiting discovery by researchers. Regarding the wartime scientific personnel, there is a major connection between them and the UFO phenomenon. Known as the Robertson Panel, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) obtained the services of some very prominent scientists who met in Washington during January 1953 to review the best UFO evidence and determine whether the UFOs were a threat to the United State's national security. Most importantly, two, and most likely three, scientists attending the CIA meeting were involved with the investigations of the foo fighters during the war, including the Chairman: Howard Percy Robertson.

Though addressed very briefly, foo fighters were mentioned in the Robertson report. Under the report's section entitled "A Lack of Danger," there is one profound and significant sentence that can't be understated: "If the term 'flying saucers' had been popular in 1943-1945, these objects would have been so labelled." This is an incredible statement. That sentence is reason alone to suggest the United States armed forces was not dealing with only natural and celestial phenomena sightings, but with apparent unconventional aircraft. The Robertson Panel report stands, in my mind, as the most significant document pertaining to the war-time

phenomena sightings, and was the one official document that sparked my desire to whole-heartedly investigate the topic. The other inspiration for my investigation was U.S. 5th Force veteran, UFO researcher and author, Leon Stringfield. His incredible sighting during August 28th, 1945, stands as a premier UFO sighting of the war, even though it occurred not long after the Japanese had surrendered and the war was over.



While the 60th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting and the Roswell incident is upon us, it can be suggested that a UFO investigation was already in place when these two famous events occurred. As a side-note, we may learn one day that Project Sign was not the first code-named operation regarding unconventional aircraft, otherwise known as UFOs. In fact, we may discover that contrary to current thought, Roswell was handled by an element of the government that has been working behind the scenes since its inception during the war or before. This same investigative group may be the same one that has eluded many researchers who feel Project Sign, Grudge, and Blue Book were nothing more than a filtering operation for a much more secretive investigative branch. Though this statement is mere speculation, many researchers may agree that the Project Blue Book documentation is not complete and there is information that suggests the possibility that many UFO cases were funnelled elsewhere for investigation, destroyed, taken as souvenirs, or misfiled.

Hopefully, *Strange Company* will become the foundation for a more robust dialogue with researchers around the world, bringing their efforts together for an even clearer picture of the wartime UFO phenomenon. I invite the reader to go back in time and revisit a part of UFO history that has been neglected. There is much research ahead and our window of opportunity to speak with first-hand witnesses is closing faster with the passing of 1,500 Second World War veterans each day.

An interview with Keith Chester by FSR

FSR: from your research, when do you think the foo fighter phenomenon proper began? Some people suggest the heavy strategic bombing raids of 1943 through to early 1944 in the European theatre saw in the beginning of this phenomenon.

Keith Chester: the UFO phenomenon started before the war began. In *Strange Company*, I start with the "mystery planes", "ghost aviators", and "phantom fliers" of the early 1930s. If I had to cite an actual date the "foo fighter" phenomenon began, it would have to be on the evening of November 27, 1944 when Lt. Edward Schlueter of the American 415th Night Fighter Squadron filed his report. Though his sighting is in

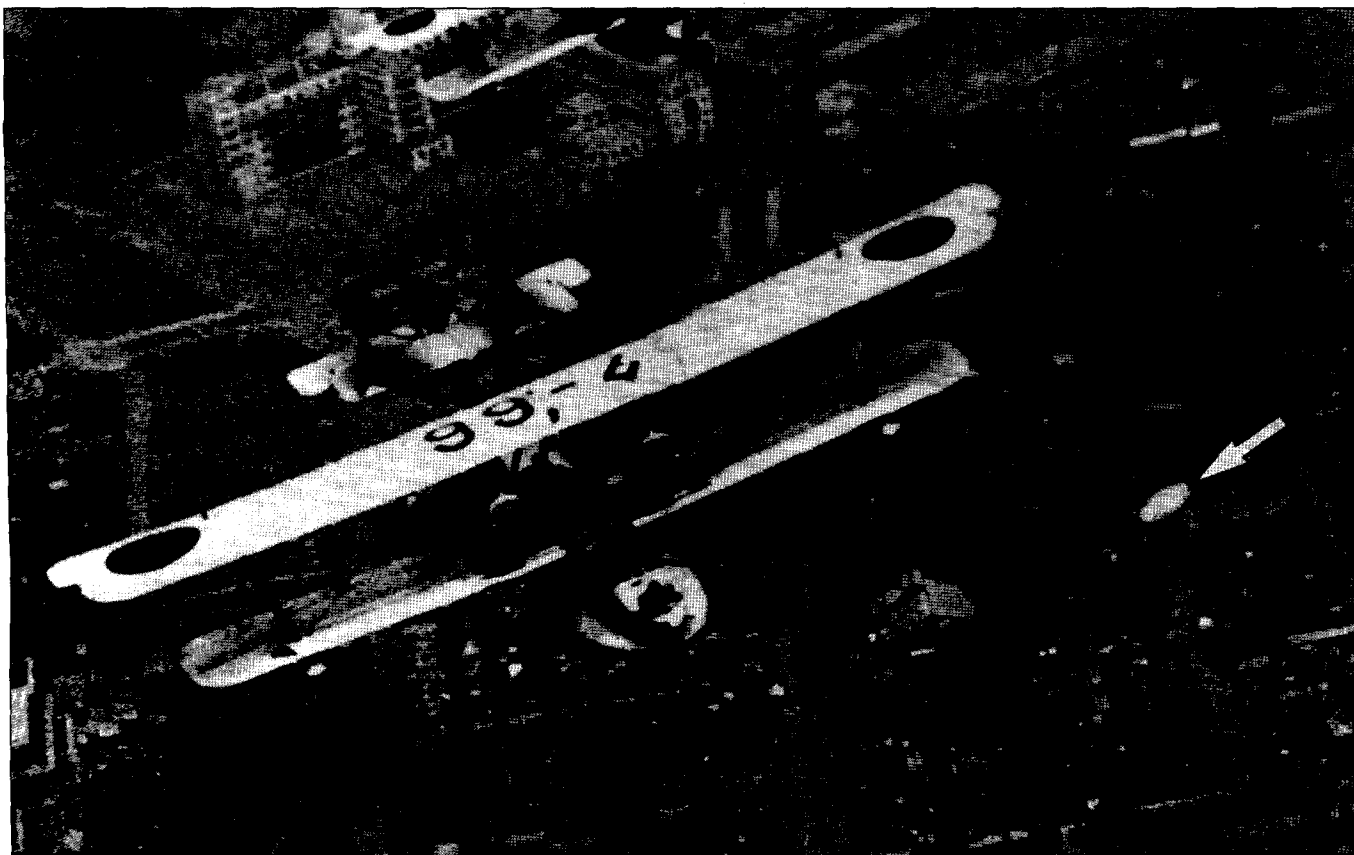
official records, it should be noted, we are in essence talking about aerial phenomena that existed prior to Schlueter's sighting and known by a host of different names.

Regarding the strategic bombing raids in 1943, this period has gained prominent attention due to "discs" observed during missions over Germany, primarily on September 14 and October 14; known respectively as the Stuttgart and Schweinfurt raids. The fact is those reports were not about unconventional aircraft, as has been thought by many until fairly recently, but something far different and smaller. The observations pertained to enemy anti-aircraft ordnance. According to official records, the "silvery-coloured discs

also known by a variety of names in U.S. air intelligence memoranda, including "flying doughnuts", that were reported months earlier by crews with the Northwest African Air Forces. But there is a more important issue I feel we are dealing with, and the question is: though the official records indicate crews were observing nothing more than German anti-aircraft ordnance during their missions, were some of the reported "discs" in actuality unconventional aircraft seen at a distance? And, because of the conditions by which these reports were made - combat, stress, and weather - did some of those unconventional aircraft sighting reports get inadvertently placed in the same categories as ordnance "discs?" And were those highly unusual reports funnelled elsewhere. From what I have ascertained through my research so far, I feel the answer is yes on all counts. The point I'm trying to emphasize to readers of Strange Company is that the UFO phenomenon was far more prevalent during the entire Second World War than has been suspected. Many aerial phenomena sightings, those that were unconventional aircraft and had escaped censorship, were listed by different names under several categories within U.S. and British records.

FSR: when did the foo fighter phenomenon reports appear in the Far Eastern war? Some people suggest it appeared later, in the last year of the campaign 1944-45.

Keith Chester: In the Pacific Theatre of Operations, the official records I've come across indicate they were not called "foo fighters." It seems "balls of fire" was the primary term used to describe the Pacific sightings, of which air intelligence assumed were Japanese secret weapons of some type: piloted suicide aircraft, remote-control devices, and rockets. Here again, there was consistent confusion among the air intelligence staff, especially General Curtis Lemay's crack team with the U.S. 21st Bomber Command. When the term "foo fighter" was used in official reports, it was referencing the objects observed in the ETO operations. Interestingly, "balls of fire" was the term used by the British in the ETO to describe what the Americans were calling foo fighters. The Royal Air Force felt they were dealing with rockets, yet months of investigations had not successfully provided a satisfactory explanation for those objects; there were too many variables. So, here again you can see how terminology was a very important aspect of the sightings that became problematic when air intelligence tried to explain what was observed.

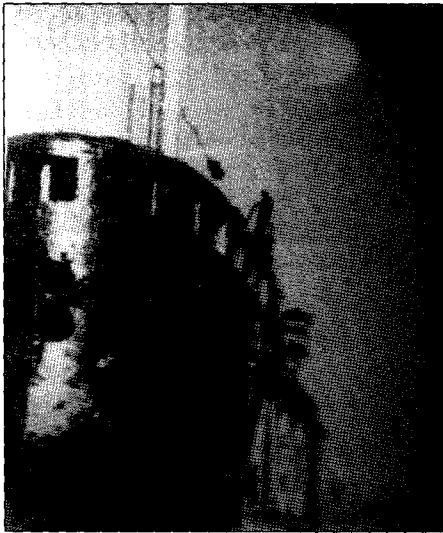


FSR: What foo fighter case most affected you, or has aroused most interest? Old ufologists often talk about blue ribbon witnesses, who were the highest ranked servicemen to witness this phenomenon?

Keith Chester: Since we are talking about reports mentioning foo fighters, there are few reports uncovered thus far. My investigation was inspired by Leonard Stringfield's daytime sighting on August 28, 1945, only days after the surrender of Japan. At the time, Stringfield called the objects foo fighters because he had read about them in intelligence memoranda. He was with the U.S. Fifth Air Force in an intelligence capacity, and this is where he learned about the European sightings. Many researchers know the details of Stringfield's sighting, but for those who have not, it was a very unnerving experience for him. While en-route to the Atsugi Airdrome on Japan's main island of Honshu, Sergeant Stringfield and others were being

transported in a C-46 between Ie Shima and Iwo Jima. Out of a cloudbank, he spotted three "phosphorescent", circular objects flying in formation. They were the size of a dime at arm's length. Suddenly, the C-46 developed engine trouble and the crew prepared to ditch the aircraft in the ocean. Moments later, the three objects returned into the cloud bank and disappeared, and simultaneously control of the C-46 was regained. Landing on Iwo, Stringfield was unable to get to the pilots because of his responsibilities. He did notice that the side he was sitting on, and saw the objects, was the side where the engine had developed trouble. He saw oil had leaked and streaked all along the side of the C-46. Later, upon arrival at Atsugi, the crew was whisked away for debriefing. Again, Stringfield had again missed his opportunity to talk with the pilots.

Regarding the highest ranking veteran who witnessed the



phenomenon and reported it, I would have to say was Major Harold Augspurger, Commanding Officer of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron. Getting back to the issue of foo fighters, I need to stress that term does not define the good UFO sightings of the war. For only three or four months the term foo fighters was used, but it

was those sightings that impacted UFO history due to the unexpected major media attention. The story broke on January 1, 1945. This was years after extraordinary objects, in most cases far more exotic than the foo fighters, were observed.

FSR: How many reports have you uncovered from the second world war?

Keith Chester: I have uncovered dozens of suspicious sightings in the official records, but very few cite "foo fighters." In fact, incredible sightings, those describing a classic UFO, such as disc-shaped aircraft performing highly advanced manoeuvres and achieving remarkable speeds, are not in the official records. I've seen one example, however, where two official reports discussing one sighting are different. The sighting occurred on the evening of November 28/29 over Turin, Italy. British

Researchers Andy Roberts and Dr. David Clarke uncovered the two page document in the Public Records Office. It was stated that a British Lancaster bomber crew observed a large zeppelin-like aircraft with rows of windows. That sighting was discussed by RAF's No. 5 Group intelligence personnel who were investigating rocket-phenomena at the time. A brief cover sheet noted that "the crew refuses to be shaken in their story in the face of the usual ridicule and banter". Interestingly, the Flak Liaison report of the mission noted nothing unusual was observed during the mission. This indicates a probable attempt at sanitizing sighting reports was in place, suggesting the more remarkable sightings were scrutinized by another air intelligence faction. This can be compared to Project Blue Book working on the front lines while another group, or groups, operated behind the scenes studying the more remarkable cases for study. Add the possibility of manipulation air intelligence for whatever reason, and we have a situation reminiscent of the "dark days" during the Project Grudge period in 1949.

FSR: Have you sought or received any official explanation for these foo fighter encounters?

Keith Chester: I have not attempted to FOIA any military organization or government agency. My main reason is lack of time, but I think the military response would be nothing more than a blanket response, far less informative than what we get from the Air Force in response to UFO sighting requests. The key point to remember is that since the term foo fighter was invented by a couple witnesses, and not by the allied commands. I feel nothing will be located under that term because the sightings are listed within official records as something else: balloons, flares, rockets, jets, natural and

celestial phenomena.

FSR: Have you found any living witnesses who can describe their encounters?

Keith Chester: Yes, I have personally interviewed about dozen witnesses, most of which are included in my book. Since the majority of my time was spent with archive research, contact with wartime veterans has suffered. I wish I had more time because time is a very significant factor with my research, especially affecting this era of UFO history. In my own experience while writing *Strange Company*, more than half the veterans I personally interviewed have either passed away or are now in too poor of health to continue communicating with me. But, I'm not giving up. With the release of my book, I'm hoping it will motivate some of the remaining veterans to come forward with their stories. I'm working on this aspect of research a little more aggressively now.

FSR: What have you uncovered with regard to the effect of opening fire on the foo fighters?

Keith Chester: I have uncovered no official records that indicate the "foo fighters" were fired upon, although veterans I've interviewed have told me attempts were made to engage the objects in combat and shoot them down, but it proved very difficult. The objects out-performed the bomber and fighter aircraft. The objects could avoid radar detection and disappear in an instant. One of the most famous foo fighter type sightings that is not in the records occurred on June 2, 1942. Wellington bomber pilot Lt. Roman Sabinski and crew encountered and fired upon something. While over Zuid Zee, after departing the coast of Holland, Sabinski's crew observed a round, copper-coloured ball, about the size of a full-moon on the approach.

The object manoeuvred around them, forcing Sabinski to order his gunners to open fire. Incredibly, two machine gunners were making simultaneous hits on the object, but no effect. Both guns could follow their line of fire to the object by tracer rounds. The shells entered the object, but there was no sign of exit; the object had literally swallowed the ordnance. Moments later, the object sped upward at an incredible speed until out of sight.

FSR: During your research did you find many other reports of UFOs with classic configurations such as flying saucers or cigars?

Keith Chester: During the war, the unconventional aircraft UFOs, were primarily reported as being circular, spherical, zeppelin-like, disc and cigar-shaped. One official night sighting actually described a triangle of lights. These classic designs continue to this day.

FSR: We have a reliable witness, who claims to have some cine footage of groups of saucers filmed from world two American bomber formations; did you pick anything up on this in your research?

Keith Chester: In *Strange Company*, I recount a story of an officer with the British Special Air Service (SAS) who was operative working for the British Psychological Warfare Branch. The witness claims to have seen footage kept by the Italian archives of United Nations News (UNN). The footage showed UFOs flying among bomber formations. And the footage was crystal clear, shot on 35mm film, and extremely detailed. Film footage is of great interest to me. There is no doubt in my mind that much wartime footage showing UFOs exist. It is well known that much gun camera footage was taken. One needs only watch a year's worth of the history channel to realize an extensive photographic accounting of the aerial

exists. Many aircraft sported cameras, even hand-held types. I refuse to accept that unconventional aircraft, especially the kind defying aerodynamic principles of the day, were not aggressively sought out and filmed whenever possible. There were photographic reconnaissance units constantly operating, documenting weather, combat, combat damage, geographical locations, and literally everything you can imagine. Just like the documentation, film footage showing UFOs is not available in the records repositories, especially those allowing civilian access. If those records are available in the public archives, they are yet to be located.

FSR: He also saw Nazi saucer footage, where do you stand on this?

Keith Chester: I feel Nazi saucer footage is most likely just as extensive, if not more, since they were at war since 1939. There is no reason to doubt that the Germans had collected just as much footage as everyone else, if not more. Who knows, sightings of these unconventional aircraft may have instigated a serious effort on the German's part to investigate the phenomenon, and this effort is responsible for the Nazi flying saucer-type aircraft program to have flourished, as believed by other researchers.

FSR: Did you ever hear of Foo fighters entering aircraft through bomb doors, or entering installations? Has anyone ever signalled to them or achieved a form of communication?

Keith Chester: I have never heard those stories before, not unless we are talking about St. Elmo's fire. Whether communication with the foo fighters was attempted, I'm unaware of such instances. I would not be surprised however to learn there were attempts. The problem is that most sightings were during times of combat. Many times they were seen at night when radio silence was in effect.

FSR: Do you think foo fighters themselves were objective manufactured metallic structures or did they resemble holographic anomalous lights?

Keith Chester: If we are talking about the foo fighters primarily reported by the 415th NFS and other night fighter units, it appears they were nothing but solid light. Whether there was a structured aircraft within the light remains unknown, but I

suspect there was in many cases. I can say that one of the crews with the 415th NFS reported a foo fighter and caught a glimpse of a solid aircraft doing a wing-over and diving. The aspect of an aircraft being surrounded by a light that completely camouflages the aircraft's structure needs to be addressed by someone other than me who is more scientifically adept. The impression I get from the witnesses is that in most cases they feel the objects were intelligently controlled and they were seeing more than a light, even though they could not discern any structure. However, throw in the light there one second, gone the next, is very intriguing.

FSR: What do you think they were? Do you advocate that they may represent the activity of a non human intelligence monitoring the global conflict?

Keith Chester: In my opinion, there are enough cases that suggest the wartime UFO phenomenon represented something extraterrestrial in nature. Whether the objects were aircraft, drones, or some other surveillance aircraft, I'm still hunting for answers. These sixty year old sightings are nearly impossible to investigate unless a cache of great documentation surfaces. Whatever the objects were, and from wherever they came from, the UFOs of the 1930s and 1940s are very significant regarding twentieth century sightings. Some feel the phenomenon is very complex and can't be explained as being "nuts and bolts" in nature. But can we totally rule that possibility out because it seems so simplistic? What if the objects were, and are, "nuts and bolts" aircraft? Man will one day accomplish space travel on a greater scale, and may be seen by occupants of another world who call our spacecraft UFOs. Just because there are many elements of the UFO sightings we don't understand, and those elements defy our current scientific and engineering knowledge, does not rule out they are aircraft piloted by extraterrestrial beings from another world conducting surveillance, experiments, and abductions, with no intent of making themselves known. Whether the UFOs of the Second World War were aircraft with crews, who were monitoring our global conflict, remains the big mystery. Whatever the case, I feel it is very possible that the wartime UFOs were part of a monitoring exercise conducted by an extraterrestrial intelligence due to so much aerial activity by man in the skies around the globe, and that monitoring was probably an extension of something that has been in place during the whole of mankind's existence.

Dragon lights part 2. Russell Kellett

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In FSR 51.4, I described eyewitness accounts of the story of the Flying saucer crash-landing in the Berwyn Mountains of North Wales on the night of the 24th January 1974. This trail of evidence has accumulated over 10 years of my research to get to the source of events that may have crucial significance on how we see the Flying Saucer phenomenon developing in the UK up to this day.

In part one of this article I described the five main witnesses; a shadowy group of gentlemen known to my friend J.W. He told me he first met the men unexpectedly late one night, and that he immediately thought they were acting very strange, as if they were scared. The group did not want any publicity; J.W. knew most members and he told me that they were not the kind to make up stories.

Right: Kellett pictured during one of his special Welsh presentations on the Berwyn case.

I received a witness statement from the group, a map of the area and two metal objects from Capel Curig where the incident took place. This was a second stage turbine blade from a Pegasus engine used in a Sea Harrier jet. The second piece of metal (currently being analysed) resembles a melted piece of non-ferrous sliver metal. I exchanged information and documents with a chap named Richard who

