

OBSERVATIONS

# Candle Balloon Construction and Observation Notes

By P. WAYNE LA PORTE

The birthday candle balloon IFO (Identified Flying Object) contributes much to the UFO "noise." A UFO investigator should construct and launch one in order to help separate real UFO reports from the "noise".

They are not in violation of FAA regulations, if not launched within 3 miles of an airport. However, they may be in violation of local laws. So check with local police before launching.

## CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

There are three commonly used techniques to fabricate these IFOs. All use a plastic (shirt size) laundry bag. First seal coat hanger opening with iron or scotch tape. 1. Scotch tape two straws end to end. Using two sets, make a 90° cross and tape. Trim straws so that you have a 16-inch span. Using a hobby knife, make three 1/4" long slots on each leg of cross. Melt bottom of candle and quickly insert in slots in straw. 2. Use 1/32" thick by 1/4" wide balsa strips. Glue to form 90° cross with 16" span. Melt bottom of candles and place on balsa on 1 inch centers from center of cross. 3. Unbraid a copper electrical wire. Make a 10" diameter loop. Make a cup of aluminum foil to hold sterno pellet. Use four strands about 6" long to hold foil cup. Fine wire must be used, or balloon will not rise more than a few feet. In all cases, attach bag to opening support by scotch tape.

## LAUNCH TECHNIQUE

Use propane torch to heat up air in balloon. Once balloon puffs out, light candles. Hold small propane torch inside balloon until plastic feels warm to touch. Then, release balloon. Successful launch requires two persons, and low surface winds. High surface winds are likely to blow plastic into candle flame. Also, allow at least 200 feet radius for balloon to clear trees or buildings. Have a fire extinguisher on hand.

Balloon rises quite rapidly. Candles can be seen plainly at a lateral distance up to 100 feet. The plastic bag can be seen visually up to about 300 feet. Color is yellow-white. About 600 feet, balloon starts to look yellow-orange. At 800 feet distance, balloon becomes medium orange. Balloon reaches altitude of about 2000 feet and last about 13-15 minutes. Distance traveled depends on wind velocity. Our balloons traveled about 1 1/2 to 2 miles.

At maximum altitude, balloon looks like Venus or Jupiter in visual magnitude and size. It is orange. It bobs, appears to hover, drifts, and darts about. Behavior is dependent on winds. Flight is erratic and uncontrolled. Sometimes IFO appears to flicker. Balloon "goes out" in the following ways: 1. Sudden extinguishing (sometimes a small glow is seen continuing for a few seconds). 2. Object flares, then goes out. 3. Balloon catches fire and burns which looks like "UFO" is burning up. 4. Balloon drops balls of fire. The ball dropping is similar to balls of light seen being ejected from authentic UFOs. This can cause confusion in sorting out UFOs from balloon hoaxes. Balloon balls are the result of candles falling off. They will drop fast and are visible for only about a 50 foot drop from balloon. If balloon is at maximum altitude, this is only about a 2% drop of the distance from the IFO to the ground. Long elevation drops are extremely unlikely as air flow puts out burning candle as the velocity of the candle increases. Likewise, for burning pieces of plastic straws. However, burning balsa debris will fall a long way. However, it is light, and slowly floats down drifting with the wind. Plastic balloons do not show up on radar. However, those with wire or hanging strips of tinfoil could cause a weak radar return. These balloons have almost no lifting power. They cannot lift railroad flares and drop them like aviation expert and UFO skeptic Phil Klass claims in his book "UFOs Explained". Also, pilots watching the balloon launches related that if a pilot with good eyesight passed within 100-300 feet and couldn't visually identify what he saw, then that pilot should not be flying. Finally, these candle balloons are a lot of fun to watch.

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### For Legal Reasons:

A.P.R.O. is interested in documenting the Non-availability of our book "Abducted". If you have encountered problems obtaining it would you please send details to A.P.R.O. Headquarters.

# the apro bulletin

VOL. 26, NO. 7

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1978

## UFO LOW OVER TUCSON

### Air Controllers Observe UFOs in the Azores

By JOSE FIGUEIREDO

Translated from *Insólito*, vol. 3, no. 21, February 1977, pp. 4-5, monthly publication of the Centro de Estudos Astrónomicos e de Fenómenos Insólitos (CEAFI), of Porto, Portugal.

We present a group of observations recorded in the Azores Archipelago the week of October 7 to 15, 1976, observations which seem to be a part of our current wave.

Both the local press, the *Diário dos Açores* newspaper (of Ponta Delgada--trans.) of October 14 and 15, and the national press reported these observations.

There is information that the Lages radar detected about 10 UFOs during this period. (Lages, also spelled Lajes, is on the north side of Terceira Island.--trans.) The accounts rest peacefully in the "confidential" files of the airport.

Of course, the official "authoritative" explanation was not lacking, and was published in the *Diário dos Açores* of October 19.

We thank the CEAFI group in the Azores for their collaboration in sending us reports and news clippings about these observations.

**Witnesses:** (a) Celestino Pacheco de Teves, age 65, proprietors (sic--was his wife also a witness?--trans.) of the Friagem Restaurant.

(b) Manuel José de Sousa, age 38, employee of the SATA aviation company.

(c) Dionísio de Melo Vales, forest ranger.

(d) Victor Manuel Figueiredo Sousa, TWA employee.

**Site:** Vila do Porto, Santa Maria Island, Azores.

**Date:** October 10, 1976.

**Time:** 21:00 (local time).

**Description:** The witnesses state that left of Facho Peak, toward the east, there were in the sky two luminous masses, of a very intense white light, without luminous rays, one smaller than the other. According to witness (c) the apparent size of the larger luminous mass would have been about that of a span.

Two or three minutes after the start of the sighting the smaller mass, round in shape, moved away toward the north.

(See Azores - Page Four)

Something strange certainly seems to have been going on in the early morning skies over Tucson on 19 January 1978. Reports from various parts of the city, made by several different parties of witnesses, indicate that a fairly large object with a row of white lights which blinked on and off in a regular sequential pattern, flew at less than 1,000 feet over the central part of Tucson, passing from east-southeast through to west-northwest and then, after changing the color of the lights from white to red, rose vertically into the overcast clouds above and disappeared. The sequence of events seemed to last from 06:50 to about 07:14, allowing for time differences between the instruments of the various observers.

The first report came from Kenneth Kmac (23). He and his younger brother Bill observed it while Ken drove Bill to Catalina High School, on his way to work as an accountant near the school. Personal interviews showed that Bill was in fact the first so far, among those reporting up to this time, to have noticed the strange craft in the sky. He had gone out to feed his chickens in the back yard, which looks west, and noticed that something strange was going on. The chickens were up too early and the rooster was crowing loudly and seemed agitated. The pigeons, who are normally still asleep at this time, were flying wildly around in their pen and crashing into the fence, obviously very disturbed. The guinea pigs, which are always up at this time were hiding in their cage and would not come out even when fed. It was ten minutes to seven then.

Kenneth's story is as follows:

*"I work for the Sunny Side School District as an accountant, and on my way to work I was going to drop my brother off at school. After leaving the house, we had gone maybe a block after turning west on Pima, when I noticed these lights in the sky to the left, about between Pima and Speedway. They were quite low, about 50 to 100 feet up, and seemed to be right around the Craycroft area. It was about 5 or 6 minutes after 07:00 and was still quite dark, and all I could see was these strange lights flashing on and off. I don't remember the color of the lights, but there was a row of them. Whatever the lights were on was big, like 60 to 70 feet long, and there was this long row of lights. I told my brother, 'we're going to catch up with that thing', and I speeded up and we almost caught up to it, enough so that I got a look*

(See Tucson - Page Two)

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*drew a picture of it. The lights seemed to be on the bottom and it was real long."*

Bill said that as they drove down Pima following the strange lights, he saw people out in front of the Circle K store on Pima, who were out in the street looking up and pointing up at it.

The next call came from Mrs. Beth Tompkins, who reported that shortly after 07:00 her husband John had looked out the door to see what the weather was like. He is a construction worker and wondered if the rain had stopped. He started yelling for her to come and see what he was looking at. Looking out, he had immediately seen to the west (their back door faces west) a row of strange red lights moving westward in the dark sky.

*"The lights were close together and were flashing but I didn't notice any particular pattern. The flashing is what caught my attention. It was a kind of strobe-light effect and they were red lights. They were together in a row. If I were to draw it on a piece of paper there would be one light, an inch, another light, an inch, another light, an inch, and so on. I came back in and got my wife and she came outside and looked, and she said aw, it's a plane, and I said no, it's flashing and it's not moving. I came back in and got a cup of coffee and went out to look again. And then I saw it farther away and it was like all four lights had merged together. It was west-northwest and seemed to be moving west. I took my camera, a Cannon, out to shoot a picture of it, and I set the aperture on the widest opening, and when I looked through it the needle didn't move and I knew I couldn't get a picture of it so I didn't shoot any. The cloud cover seemed to be just above it, or even like the top of it was in the clouds. Then it started to rise, over in the direction of the Tucson Mountains and then just disappeared." Mr. Tompkins is not a UFO fan and never really believed in them, but he said that this was something different and he thought somebody ought to be interested in it.*

Shortly after that a call came in from Mike Stern, a high school student in northwest Tucson. He reports that at about 07:00, or shortly after, he was walking south on Camino de los Padres toward Estevan to catch his school bus, when he noticed some strange lights in the dark sky over the city, in the direction of the University of Arizona. *"The row of lights were at first all white, but then they turned red when it started moving. The white lights went out and then a second later three red ones came on. It approached at an angle toward the northwest and passed a little to the north of me at an elevation of about 45 degrees above the horizon. I couldn't see any shape to it other than the row of lights which flashed on and off. They went on and off in a line. When one would go out, the next one came on, and when it went out the next, and so forth. The lights seemed to be in a curved line, like a part of a circle, but I couldn't see all of them, like some were behind a curved*

## Tucson

*(Continued from Page One)*

*at it for about 3 or 4 seconds. We got top within about a block of the lights and I slowed down and tried to get a good look at it. It was still dark and a little misty and the bright lights were flashing. That was right about in the vicinity of the Swan and Pima intersection, and it seemed like it slowed down for a moment, and then it started to rock the left and right edges up and down in a kind of see-saw motion, quite fast like so [demonstration timed at one cycle per second]. Then the right side went down and it slid a little to the right, then it slid back up to level and then the left side went down and back up the same way, for two or three times and then it started to rise and the lights got dimmer and it disappeared. When I got to work, I*

bottom. The row of white lights faded out and in 2 or 3 seconds the larger red lights came on like in the middle. When the white lights were on, they blinked on and off in a running line, which made them almost look like they were connected, like the running lights on some signs. It tilted side to side some so that I could see the lights on the other side too, and I noticed a green light at the rear. It was 3 or 4 minutes to seven when I was walking down Camino de los Padres and about 07:00 when I arrived at the bus stop and saw the lights turn from white to red. I got on the bus 3 or 4 minutes after 07:00. When I got on the bus, which was headed east, I walked quickly to the back and looked for the object and saw the lights rising quite fast and then it just disappeared. All of the kids at the bus stop were watching the lights as we waited for the bus."

Another call was received from Paul Klock who lives a very short distance from Mike Stern, and rides the same school bus. Paul was standing at the school bus stop at Camino de Los Padres and Estevan, and just happened to look up toward the southeast, facing the city, when he noticed several bright white lights moving in formation in his general direction. Paul reports that he at first saw 3 white lights and that they later turned red. On questioning he clarified that he saw the white lights in a row, and that they blinked on and off in a regular sequence. He did not see any object on which they might have been mounted, and thought that they were some kind of airplanes flying in a very close formation. Then the 3 white lights went out and 4 red ones, a little larger, came on in their place. He did not hear any sound. It seemed to be rising all the time he watched and it continued at the same rate of speed in a northwesterly direction. At that point Paul was looking south and the object was proceeding west-by-northwest. Upon questioning, he stated that he did see it rocking left and right part of the time, but that it stayed pretty much on course. The rocking motion was right wing down, then up as the left wing went down if the lights were all on the same object. In re-describing the positions of the red lights he thought that they were not in the same line formation as the white ones, and felt that they may have been 4 abreast with the two end ones slightly higher than the middle ones. He saw it moving west of him into the west-northwest and seemingly still ascending when he got on the schoolbus. He could not see it from his seat and gave up trying to see more.

Upon mentioning this to my neighbor's daughter, she told me that her mother had mentioned that another co-worker in the Tucson District One employ had seen something strange either that same morning or the next. Obtaining identification and telephone number of the new witness, I called Her to see if her data jibed with what I was recording. Miss Pat Till was jogging near Tucson National Country Club early in the morning of the 19th when her attention was attracted to some strange lights low in the sky over the east

side of Tucson. At first she thought they were jets from Davis Monthan AFB, but then she realized that there were too many lights and they were moving much too slowly to be airplanes in formation, and they couldn't be helicopters because there were too many of them too close together. The line of lights blinked on and off in a regular sequence, i.e. one would go off and another would come on, one after another. Miss Till guessed that there were perhaps between 12 and 18 lights in the row, and she recalled that they all seemed red. She does not remember seeing white lights during the sighting. The lights seemed to be in a row around the edge of something, and she felt that there were more lights, a few, near the middle, but the object or lights were too far away to be sure. The lights blinked in a regular sequence around a circle, like number 1 would go out and number 3 would come on, then number 5 etc., and then the next time around the alternate lights came on in sequence and went out again. The lights definitely went in a circular pattern, she said. They seemed to be around the edge of something, and there was something else in the center. It continued in a fairly steady motion from east to west, maybe changing speed a little, faster and slower, and when asked, felt that it might have rocked from side to side some because she definitely felt that she could also see the lights on the other side of it.

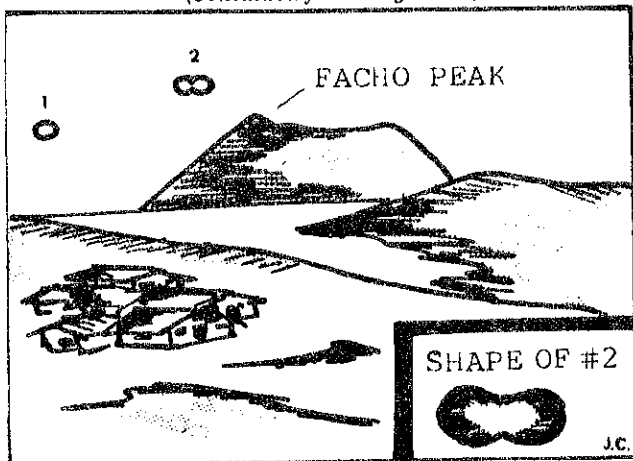
Miss Till also recalled that several weeks ago, on the Friday before Christmas (the 23rd), she had returned home very late at night, after midnight, and had seen the same thing in the sky, only very much closer. She decided not to tell anyone about that, or this one either, except that her friend had mentioned the similar sightings at about the same time.

Whatever it was that flew over Tucson between 06:55 and 07:10 on the morning of the 19th of January 1978, was quite large, between 30 and 70 feet in length or diameter, and had from 10 to 30 bright yellowish white lights in a circular pattern around the under side, and 4 larger red lights in the middle of the white ones. It flew steadily from the east side of Tucson across the city in a west-northwest direction toward the northern Tucson Mountains, crossing the intersections of Wilmot and Broadway and Swan and Pima, Country Club and Fort Lowell, and the Rillito Race Track, and continuing out to the south of Tucson National Country Club. Sometimes this large object rocked quite rapidly from right to left as it proceeded just below the bases of the thick rainclouds that morning, occasionally passing through the mist of rain areas. It disappeared by either slowly ascending into the overcast or by withdrawing into the distance and the mist. A light whooshing-humming sound was reported by the nearest witness.

W.C. Stevens

# Azores

(Continued from Page One)



The larger, with the shape of a peanut, but with a less pronounced central depression, stayed there about 15 minutes with many slight movements to the left and the right from time to time, later moving to the north and finally disappearing.

**Witnesses:** (a) Óscar de Jesus Pacheco Medina, age 50, air traffic controller.

(b) Dr. Duarte Freitas, age 60, physician.

(c) Gil Torres, age 42, business manager.

Other witnesses: a navy officer and many people in the neighborhood.

**Site:** Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores.

**Date:** October 13, 1976.

**Time:** 20:30 (local time).

**Description:** Witness (a): "Starting at 20:30 I discerned an object emitting intense white light, to the east of the island (São Miguel Island) over Barroca Peak.

"The luminous intensity varied from very strong to pale. With the help of binoculars two luminous satellites were seen near the main body. The body of the object, round in shape, had dark parts (brownish). I did not observe any important movement of the object but it did not always stay at the same height. Other observers declared they saw the object move in a horizontal direction. My observation was made with eyeglasses (spectacles) and with binoculars, both of low power." The people who saw it think that it is an unusual phenomenon.

**Witness:** José Domingos Caetano Martins, age 30, air traffic controller.

**Site:** Airport, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores.

**Date:** October 13, 1976.

**Time:** 20:30 (local time).

**Description:** "I observed a circular object, with an apparent size half that of the moon, emitting white light with an intense brightness. Located about 45 degrees above Barroca Peak.

"The object disappeared about 20:45, returning

to appear with a tonality and brightness less intense than before. At once the circular shape transformed to an oval smaller in size. It disappeared about 21:00.

"Later, between 22:30 and 23:00, I also observed two luminous points of low intensity over Galera Point, south of the island (São Miguel), about 80 degrees (it is not stated what this angle refers to, but is probably the elevation--trans.), moving northward, and disappearing at once.

"The entire observation was made by both the naked eye and binoculars, from the airport control tower."

**Witnesses:** (a) João Francisco Gago de Câmara, a worker with the Soleite company.

(b) Several other movie-goers at the Micaelense Theater.

**Site:** Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores.

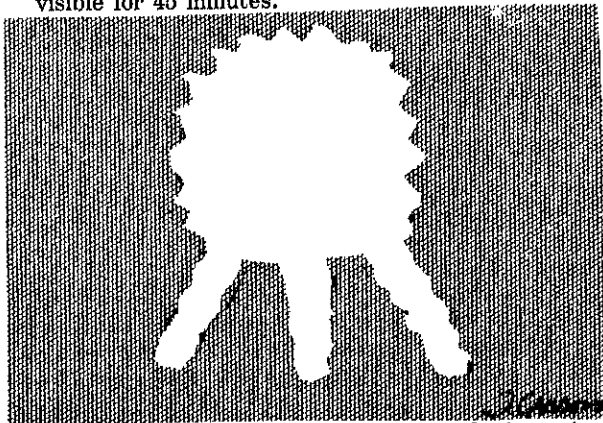
**Date:** October 15, 1976.

**Time:** 22:15 to 22:50 (local time).

**Description:** Statement made by witness (a) to the staff of the RTP, in the Azores (Ponta Delgada television station--trans.):

"One of the observers, Joao Francisco Gago da Câmara, tells us what happened:

"Indeed, according to what he revealed to us, yesterday about 22:15, being on the terrace of the Micaelense Theater during intermission, he saw above the Aguia de Pau Range a strongly illuminated object white in color (almost fluorescent, like the flash of a camera), with reds and blues inside. Placed at a height of approximately 1,500 meters (4,900 feet), the object disappeared suddenly without a trace for 40 seconds, re-appearing and then staying fixed and perfectly visible for 45 minutes.



The imprecision of the shape is due to the intensity of the light.

"Sr. João Francisco then immediately went to the mountain range in his vehicle, having the object always in his sight on the way. Then, from the top of the range he could observe the object much better, and he swears that 'it was at the height of an airplane for about 5 minutes or a little more before landing.' The shape of the object, according to the witness's drawing, was circular, with unclear edges due to the strong intensity of the light, and on the bottom it had three long

lines, also luminous." (The article omits the closing quotation marks, but they seem to go here.--trans.)

This observation happened two days after several observations in the archipelago verified by air control personnel of the Ponta Delgada airport and by various people on other islands.

Sr. J. Victor Soares (originally from the Azores, but now living in Brazil), sent me the clipping from the *Diário dos Açores* of October 14, 1976, which is translated below--

#### "UFOs" Seen on Sao Miguel? . . .

Luminous objects, of strange shapes and behavior, were observed over this city yesterday by many people who, curious, followed their evolutions for a long time.

One of them, the first to be detected, was round in shape and reddish in color, being "parked" over the pier of the dock at a considerable altitude. After some time it moved away toward the north, at the same time as there were noticed evident changes in its color and shape, which became an ellipse.

The other, lower in altitude, also had the reddish color and shape of the first.

No one can affirm that they were, in fact, objects classified as "UFOs" (Unidentified Flying Objects), of the type that has appeared all over the world, or if they were formations of "plasma" or other natural phenomena.

Translations by Richard W. Heiden

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## Those Mysterious Booms

Beginning in early December the Eastern Seaboard of the United States experienced a series of atmospheric "explosions" or "booms." At 10 A.M. on December 2nd South Carolina's shores were shattered by a blast so loud scientists said it would have taken the equivalent of one hundred tons of dynamite to duplicate it. At 3:45 P.M., a few hundred miles north, a similar blast occurred, on the New Jersey shore, toppling knick-kocks off shelves and causing needles on earthquake meters 50 miles inland to jump wildly.

But there was no earthquake, and an airline pilot reported seeing a flash of green light in the afternoon sky.

The next blast was heard and felt by people in Connecticut on December 20th. Then on December 21st and 22nd, New Jersey experienced the phenomenon again.

Less than a month later, on January 12th, walls rocked and windows were broken when a blast shook the Charleston, South Carolina area.

The most recent blast took place on the night of Thursday or Friday, January 19th or 20th (exact date not known) off New Jersey. A TWA pilot reported seeing a blue flash in the air accompanied

by concussion and an explosion sound which was followed by an orange flash on the ground, and accompanied by a power black-out over a two square mile area which lasted a few seconds.

This last incident was carried on ABC-TV and APRO is currently attempting to contact the pilot and learn more of the incident.

Although several theories have been offered (sonic booms from aircraft, meteor showers, thunderclaps) no one has come up with a suitable answer to the puzzle. Dr. Stanley Klemetson of Colorado State University said the blasts were the result of dumping treated wastes and garbage in the ocean. He said this could produce gasses such as hydrogen and methane which collect, break loose to the surface and become ignited by static electricity.

However, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency disputed that theory, saying the gasses could only develop in the absence of oxygen and the coastal waters contain considerable oxygen.

Scientists have still not come up with a suitable explanation for the blast and President Carter has asked the Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Interior Department to investigate.

It has been learned that similar unexplained blasts were heard and felt in 1890 in India, Australia, Scotland, New York, and Connecticut.

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## New Book

"The Walton Experience", Berkley Press #0-425-03675-8, is now available in your bookstore. A paperback, it is priced at \$1.95. The book is the story of Travis Walton, the young woodcutter who, in the company of his six co-workers, sighted a UFO on November 5, 1975. Walton approached the object and was knocked to the ground. Panicked, his companions hurriedly left the area and when they overcame their fright and returned, Travis was gone. He showed up, miles from the "abduction" site, five days later. "The Walton Experience" is a diary of the incident and subsequent happenings. It clears up the many questions raised by skeptics and will be reviewed in an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin*.

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## If You Don't Tell Us

We have no way of knowing your new address. We frequently receive letters from members who wonder why they haven't been receiving any Bulletins. They haven't notified us of their change of address. We mail them to the address of record (their previous address) and the Post Office discards them.

## UFO Related Information from the FBI File

### Part III

by DR. BRUCE S. MACCABEE  
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#### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The order by Hoover to cease UFO investigation was apparently very effective for a year or so. In the portion of the FBI file which I obtained (presumably the "best" portion, as explained in the first paper of this series) there are only 4 documents of note that were filed between October 1, 1947 and September 1, 1948. One of these is a single witness report that was written as a letter to a Senator who forwarded the letter to the FBI. The FBI, in turn, forwarded the letter to the Secretary of the Army. The date of the sighting, which was of a silvery "streak" that left a vapor trail that apparently traveled along with the object, was March 13, 1948. The other three documents were correspondence within the FBI concerning an Air Force Directive from the Air Defense Command (ADC) in which was stated "Investigations will be coordinated with the FBI office concerned in accordance with instructions contained in letter, this headquarters, D 333.3 EX, subject, 'Cooperation of FBI with AAF on Investigation of Flying Disc Incidents', 3 Sept. 1947". (The headquarters referred to was ADC, Mitchel Air Force Base, New York.) As a result of the interoffice correspondence regarding this AF directive, Special Agent Reynolds of the Liaison Section of the FBI contact Lt. Col. C. P. Martin of the Intelligence Division of the Air Force. Col. Martin stated that "apparently the Air Defense Command at Mitchel Field was not aware of the fact that the Bureau was no longer conducting investigations regarding flying discs." He further stated that he would take the necessary actions to "straighten out the Air Defense Command as to the present policy regarding incidents of flying discs."<sup>29</sup> The date of the ADC directive was 4 Feb. 1948.<sup>30</sup>

Thus by the middle of 1948, as far as the FBI was concerned, UFO's were "gone", though not forgotten. There is no indication in the files that I have that anyone in the FBI felt that the FBI should re-enter the UFO arena, so presumably the FBI was perfectly content to let the Air Force handle the flying discs. On the other hand the Air Force had apparently forgotten that the FBI wished to remain uninvolved. In the middle of September the FBI received a request from the Air Materiel Command (AMC, MCIAXO-3) to analyze, in the FBI laboratory, a sample of soil said to have been "taken from a depression reputed to have been caused by a 'flying saucer' described as being

approximately two feet in diameter and one foot thick which supposedly settled gently to the ground, rebounded to a height of twenty feet and then continued on its journey."<sup>31</sup> On October 7 J. E. Hoover sent back a letter stating that a microscopic analysis had failed to reveal anything unusual about the soil.<sup>32</sup> In neither of the above documents was there any reference to the date or location of the sighting associated with the soil sample.

Near the end of December, 1948, the main FBI office received a teletype message in which it was stated that several people had discovered a "flying disc" at an airport in the Mohave Desert.<sup>33</sup> The FBI agent subsequently interviewed the people involved and proved beyond all doubt what had already been stated in the original teletype, namely that the disc was a toy that had been abandoned.<sup>34, 35</sup> The only importance of this report is to indicate that despite Hoover's order, the agents would still investigate cases and send the information to the home office.

It is of interest to compare this "dry" period for the FBI (October 1947 to January 1949) with events that were occurring within the Air Force. For a reasonably detailed overview, see Jacobs' book<sup>10</sup>, *The UFO Controversy in America*, pages 43-51. Although the influx of reports diminished greatly during the latter part of 1947, the interest on the part of the Air Force did not wane. Lt. Gen. Twining was apparently convinced that something real was being seen, and recommended a special group to study the phenomenon.<sup>36</sup> Thus project Sign was "born" on December 30, 1947 at what is now Wright-Patterson AFB. The Mantell case, in which a pilot crashed after chasing a "saucer", January 7, 1948, gave an added impetus to the Sign investigation, since it seemed to suggest that the discs were still flying around. According to Jacobs,<sup>37</sup> the Sign investigators tried very diligently to discover whether or not the discs were of Soviet origin, but they failed at every turn. (This inability to obtain information indicating the discs were Russian provides a very interesting contrast to statements made in a paper in the FBI file which will be quoted shortly.) Finally, after the Chiles-Whitted sighting of July 24, 1948 (pilot, copilot, passenger, and perhaps ground observers saw glowing object with "windows" speed toward and past them), the Sign investigators apparently 'bit the bullet' and wrote an "estimate of the situation". The "estimate" was that UFOs were interplanetary vehicles. The "estimate" was passed through channels all the way up to Gen. Vandenburg, the Chief of Staff, who bounced it back for lack of proof. (See Jacobs, page 47, and especially the reference to Ruppelt given by Jacobs.) Subsequently the ETH (extra-terrestrial hypothesis) lost ground in favor of the "anything else but . . ." approach and from then on the Sign (and later Grudge and Blue Book) investigators favored the misidentification, hoax, hallucination hypotheses, although the secret weapon hypothesis was not thrown out.



Project Sign came to an end on December 16, 1948, when its name was changed to Project Grudge. This change was noted in an FBI memorandum dated March 22, 1949. This is the first indication in the Bureau files (at least in the portion I have) that anything had changed as far as the Air Force investigation was concerned. I will refer to this memorandum again in its natural temporal sequence. But first, I wish to present a document which may be of profound importance in understanding why the Air Force continued its investigation, why the first two special UFO investigatory projects (Sign and Grudge) received a high security rating, and why UFO related information was classified even into the 1950's. (I don't think this document provides a reason for classification beyond the early fifties; I think AF records on UFO investigations were classified during the fifties and sixties, and even to the present time despite the end of Bluebook, because a "tradition" had been established during the late forties. As will be seen the reason for the establishment of the "tradition" was probably a fear of Soviet weapons.)

On January 10, 1949, C. C. McSwain, the Special Agent in Charge in Knoxville, Tennessee, sent to the Director a message concerning "Flying Saucers Observed over Oak Ridge Area; Internal Security-X". The document began with a report of a sighting and photographs taken by a Mr. Presley in July of 1947. The existence of the sighting and photographs was made known to the FBI by a Mr. John(?) Rathman, Chief Investigator, Security Division, Atomic Energy Commission, and by Mr. E (name cannot be determined from the available records since it has been well covered up), Resident Engineer, Air Materiel Command, United States Army. Mr. E was described as the "principle army technician at the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft Research Center at Oak Ridge". The photographs mentioned were subsequently shown by analysis at Wright-Patterson AFB to have "images" which were, in fact, flaws in the negative,<sup>38</sup> so the UFO report contained within the document is not important. What is important in the information passed on to the FBI, in the "utmost confidence", by Mr. E. In reading this, the reader should keep in mind what was stated in the preceding two paragraphs about the way the Project Sign investigators felt about UFO reports, and the reader should also keep in mind the statements by Gen. Schulgen that were made in the summer of 1947 (parts I and II of this series). Leaving out the section on the UFO report of July 1947, I now present Mr. E's statement to the FBI, as copied by agent McSwain:<sup>39</sup>

*Mr. E predicated his remarks concerning 'flying saucers' or 'mystery missiles' by stating that he knew nothing of an official nature concerning them, other than the fact that they were believed by air force intelligence officials to be man-made missiles, rather than some natural phenomenon (different type as emphasis by present author). It was his further belief that a great deal of information had been compiled concerning these missiles by air force intelligence, and that research on the matter*

*was being done extensively at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio (i.e., Wright-Patterson AFB - note by this author). He also expressed the opinion that information at the disposal of the United States Army Air Force Intelligence had, in all probability, been made available to the Bureau at Washington, D.C.*

*Mr. E then continued with his own ideas as to what might be the nature of these discs, which ideas he had formulated through review of those known facts and theoretical conjectures of himself and other scientists concerning the nature of flying discs and methods of propulsion for such type of aerial mechanism. According to him, flying discs have long been a theoretical possibility and, in fact, a possibility which would indicate one of the best means by which to break through the barriers of the supersonic area. Scientists have, for many years, been attempting to develop this kind of aircraft. (This author's note: see Jacobs<sup>40</sup> for a reference to the Navy's "Flying Flapjack", a circular plane project that had been scrapped. This may be what Mr. E was referring to.) Some experimentation has been done even in the United States, but insofar as is known the United States at the present time, there have never been any practical developments. As a second factor of consideration, Mr. E stated that insofar as known to U.S. scientists at this time, there is no chemical fuel which would make possible tremendous range of flight such as is ascribed to the reported "flying saucers". There is only one possible fuel which could be utilized which is in accord with present theory, and that is the utilization of atomic energy. (This author's note: at this point in the manuscript someone has written in the margin, "ATOMIC ENERGY MISSILE".) As further evidence of this possible means of propulsion, Mr. E called attention to the vapor trail and gaseous corona described as a ball of fire, which he states might give some evidence to the fact that a radioactive field is present. He explained that the corona, or exhaust, has what appears to be layers of intensity which are circular rather than elongated and have no tendency to trail at the extremities, as would be the case if a normal type of exhaust from a combustion engine was being utilized in the propulsion of these aircraft. He continued that the vapor trail left by the missile appears to be one single line of uniform intensity which is extremely slow in dissipating. It was pointed out by him that in the case of a normal vapor trail being left by an aircraft moving at extremely high altitudes, the vapor trail usually will be from the wing tips and/or the exhaust of the engines, thus presenting several lines. But, in any event, even though only one line were visible, it would be rather quick to dissipate. This indicated to him that the vapor trail represents some atmospheric change along the path of the missile, which would not be the case were it any presently known type of aircraft. (Note by this author: it should be obvious to the reader that Mr. E, who worked in a research group that was trying to develop atomic powered planes, had spent a considerable amount of time studying the*



available information on exhaust trails from "flying saucers". Clearly Mr. E, and those who supported his work, did not ascribe to the belief that UFO reports were all hoaxes, delusions, and misidentifications.)

He continued that the information furnished by him should be treated with the utmost confidence, in that he was not speaking officially, but as a matter of personal cooperation. (Note: this line was underlined in pencil on the original text.) He stated that the matter was being given absolutely no dissemination by the air force or other military personnel, and they had not deemed it advisable to advise him of all information pertaining to the missile (bold emphasis by present author; note the implication of the existence of information that was "above top secret"; i.e., that required a specific need to know). He continued, however, that in his conversation with representatives at Wright Field and in reading reports returned to this country by foreign agents (bold emphasis by present author), he had gathered together certain information which might be of assistance in determining whether or not these so-called missiles were authentic, usable and of danger to the United States. First, he pointed out that knowledge of such a possible aircraft is not by any means new, it having been known as early as four years ago (bold emphasis by present author; the approximate date referred to is 1944-1945) that some type of flying disc was being experimented with by the Russians. In addition thereto, he stated that more recent reports have been received from representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency in Southern Europe and Southern Asia to the effect that the Russians were experimenting with some type of radical aircraft or guided missile which could be dispatched for great distances out over the sea, made to turn in flight and return to the base from which it was launched (bold emphasis by present author; the reader should note especially the reported ability of this "missile" to return to its base). This fact was extremely worthy of notice as experiments in this country have so far only developed to the point where we are concerned with delivering a missile to the required point of impact, and no consideration has been given to imparting to that missile the ability to return. Secondly, he stated that it is a known fact that the Russians are attempting to develop some type of nuclear energy, that they received a wealth of information concerning nuclear energy at the time of their occupation in Germany, and that they too have at their disposal the limited supply of the necessary fissionable materials. He stated that insofar as any opinion as to whether or not they have the ability and scientific knowledge to create such a nuclear powered missile is strictly a matter of conjecture, and that he would hesitate to make any definite statement. He pointed out, however, that the Russians have some very capable scientists in the field of atomic energy and that, in addition thereto, they took into their custody some of the most advanced and capable scientists of the

German Nation.

He also stated that a peculiar fact concerning missiles exists from reports he has received which is worthy of notice, and that is that from all appearances, they have usually approached the United States from a northerly direction and have been reported as returning in a northerly direction. None have ever been known to crash, collide or disintegrate over American soil, but it would appear that they come to the United States, cruise around, and go back over the North Pole. He states that insofar as is known to him, there has never been any piece of one recovered from any source whatever in order that analytical study of its nature could be made. Insofar as was known to him, the only actual material which would be of any value in determining its nature are telephoto photographs, which are now in the possession of engineers at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio (bold emphasis by present author; said bold emphasis is understandable in view of the repeated claim that there are no photographs of true UFOs). How detailed and how clear these photographs are, he was unable to state. He stated that one report has been received concerning a collision of these missiles with another aircraft. This report, according to him, took place a short time prior to the report of numerous discs over the United States, and the report emanated from Czechoslovakia (bold emphasis by present author; bold emphasis is understandable in view of the claim that all reports following Kenneth Arnold's - June 24, 1947 - were either attempts to become famous or were the result of suggestibility of the American people; said bold emphasis is also understandable in view of the early claims by scientists that UFOs - "flying discs" - couldn't be real because the only reports were from the USA and one would expect them to be seen throughout the world). This report was that a Czechoslovakian transport had collided with some unidentified missile while in mid-air over the ocean, and that said missile and said transport had been completely disintegrated without recovery of parts or survivors from either. It was the belief of Mr. E. that this undescribed missile was perhaps the same type of thing as the flying saucer. Another factor of notice, according to Mr. E. and as is portrayed by the photographs (bold emphasis by present author; this may refer to the previously mentioned telephoto photographs), it would appear that the missiles can be maintained at a certain altitude above the contour of the ground (note by this author: this is "reminiscent" of our present day - 1970's - "cruise missiles"). This could be done by means of some type of radio altimeter or radio control. Naturally, the path of the missile is not in exact parallel to the contour, as its purported great speed would create considerable lag in its flight. Another factor worthy of note, according to Mr. E., is that it is normally reported as being seen at tremendously high altitudes and always traveling in a straight line. (Author's note: why were they never seen to turn in preparation for the journey back over the

North Pole? Mr. E. seems to ignore this factor in his attempt to identify "saucers" with returnable Russian missiles.) He stated that he himself observed, on one occasion, a single vapor trail coming from some type of aircraft at unbelievably high altitude, which vapor trail extended from horizon to horizon in a perfectly straight line. He observed the vapor trail while it was in the process of formation and states that it was completely unlike any vapor trail he had ever observed before in all his experience with the air force. It was his judgement that whatever created the vapor trail was traveling at an unbelievably tremendous speed. This, together with reports that when close to the ground, the missile travels at speeds which make possible visual observation of its actions, would reflect that there is some ability to control the speed of these missiles as well as the altitude."

Mr. E. concluded that this matter, while still purely a matter of guesswork, is nevertheless a source of great concern to the military establishment of this country. Great efforts have been expended by the service to determine just what the nature of these missiles might be and, upon so determining, decide whether or not an adequate defense can be established. He also stated that it has given impetus to the research being done by the air force in their own program of nuclear energy for the propulsion of aircraft to develop guided missiles (bold emphasis by present author; apparently the existence of "flying saucers" acted as an inspiration for the Air Force). He also advised that insofar as was known to him, there was absolutely no connection between these missiles and the fact that they were observed close to Oak Ridge, Tennessee (note: this refers to the report associated with the photos that Mr. E. and Mr. Rathman submitted to the FBI). He stated that this was perhaps, and probably, a matter of coincidence and they were seen in this area merely as they were seen in forty-six of the forty-eight states of the United States during the month of July when so many reports were being received.

This information is being submitted to the Bureau for whatever value it may be, and no further action in the matter is being contemplated by this office, unless advised to the contrary.

Apparently the information furnished by the Resident Engineer, Mr. E., was of some value to the FBI. About two weeks after the above was written, D. M. Ladd summarized the above information for the Director.<sup>41</sup> Many of the sentences of Ladd's summary were underlined by hand (i.e., not by a typewriter), suggesting that the summary was read quite closely, with special attention to sections concerning the comments on nuclear powered missiles and the information from the CIA. That the information made an impact on the FBI can be inferred from the presence of the following paragraph in a letter sent to all the Special Agents in Charge on March 25, 1949<sup>42</sup>:

"For your confidential information, a reliable and confidential source has advised the Bureau that

flying discs are believed to be man-made missiles rather than natural phenomenon. It has also been determined that for approximately the past four years the USSR has been engaged in experimentation on an unknown type of flying disc."

This bulletin, and the Air Force information form that was attached, will be referred to again. However, the point presently of interest concerns the importance that the FBI gave to the information supplied by Mr. E. It would seem that this was the first time that the FBI got any "straight dope" from the Air Force on flying discs, and even this was unofficial. In the following years the information received from the AF concerning the official opinion of the AF on flying discs varied considerably from that expressed by Mr. E. However, the one thing which persisted was the clear implication that the AF treated UFO reports, especially those from trained observers, very seriously, even though the official opinion fluctuated from one type of explanation or explanations to another. To be explicit about this, I will now present short segments of various documents that present the AF impression of "flying saucers" during the years for which I have information from the FBI file. Many of these documents will be referred to again in greater detail as I progress through the history of the "FBI-UFO" connection.

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41. FBI document written 1/24/49
42. FBI bulletin dated 3/25/49

Another segment of Dr. Maccabee's series will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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#### NOTICE

None of the Lorenzen books are available from the A.P.R.O. Office. However, steps are being taken to have them republished. When they are again available there will be an announcement in the Bulletin.