

Air Force Discounts All Flying Saucer Reports

Evidence Declared Lacking

Dayton, Ohio. (AP)—The Dayton Journal Herald Wednesday quoted a top official of the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) as discounting all reports of so-called flying saucers.

The official, who declined to be named, told the newspaper the Air Force has found no evidence of flying saucers in the last 10 years.

He said the Air Force investigated 5,700 reported sightings of flying saucers between 1947-57. And he said not one single landing impression or footprint of any so-called flying saucer or crew member has ever been found.

The ATIC, the Air Force's main filter center for reports of unidentified flying objects, is located at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The official also said, in all seriousness, the Air Force has never, and is not now, holding any little men from space as some flying saucer writers have hinted.

He said conclusions regarding the validity of saucer sightings are reached by independent scientists under contract to the Air Force and not by Air Force personnel.

FILED 'UNKNOWN'

It's true that about 3 per cent of sightings are filed under "unknown," he continued, but that all of these would be identifiable if complete reports and data could be secured.

He said Russia's two space satellites, Sputniks I and II, have done much to stimulate sightings where nothing might otherwise be seen.

Recent sightings of unknown objects in North Texas and Springfield, Ohio, will almost certainly be explainable when investigators have concluded inquiries now being conducted, the officials said.

The spokesman said the Air Force does not question that persons reportedly seeing saucers have seen something.

THE BREAKDOWN

But he said what they have seen is practically never identified as what they think they have observed.

Of 768 flying saucer or unidentified objects (UFO) reports received and checked by the Air Force in 1956, the official gave this breakdown of what he said they really were:

Balloons, 26.1 per cent; aircraft, 24.6 per cent; astronomical (clouds or meteors), 26.3 per cent; lights or in some cases outright hoaxes, 6.7 per cent; objects that couldn't be checked out because of insufficient data, 14.1 per cent; unknown, 2.2 per cent.

Saucers Called Just 'Hot Air'

Cambridge, Mass. (INS)—"Hot air bubbles" was the answer Wednesday of Dr. Donald H. Menzel of Harvard Observatory to reports space saucers have been sighted in various sections of the country and by the Coast Guard cutter Sebago in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Menzel 10 years ago debunked flying saucers in a book
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and he still contends they are reflections of light—mirages.

Reports from Texas of auto lights dimming, radios dying out and engines stalling, he said were merely coincidences.

He admitted observers see something, but that what they see are mirages. He added:

"I have seen them—all kinds. I can see them any time I want to go out and look for them. I saw the daddy of them all—one with flashing red and green lights and a little propeller on top."

He said he saw that one while returning from the North Pole in an Army bomber and was able to identify it as an image of the star Sirius, millions of miles away.

Dr. Menzel related:

"The illusion in Texas is a nice example of a flying saucer caused by a layer of heated air close to the ground which acts as a lens. This lens can form the image of

an object 50 to 100 miles away very vividly. Such conditions are very prevalent throughout the West."

Such an air bubble, he said, can cause a visible and radar impression at the same time.
