

~~#275~~
Copy!

THE MYSTERY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS--
A PRELUDE 1896-1949

A survey of persons, places, and events, prior to the year 1949 with emphasis on the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

Loren E. Gross

September, 1971

Revised in July, 1973 - This writer wishes to express his thanks to the famed Fortean author Vincent Gaddis, who kindly gave me his newspaper clipping collection covering the years 1946 - 1947, which made possible some thirty additional items of interest.

Center for UFO Studies
P. O. Box 11
Northfield, IL

Points of Interest

- 1.) The most complete and accurate story of the 1896 airship flap yet compiled. Accounts are taken from small town newspapers. pp.9-44.
- 2.) The UFO swamp gas explanation. Used for the first time in 1896? pp.16,26.
- 3.) Perhaps one of the most important UFO sightings on record. Two ministers, in 1896, see a UFO on the ground at a distance of only two hundred yards. p.19.
- 4.) History's first newspaper cartoons mocking a UFO. p.24-A.
- 5.) William Randolph Hearst's influence on the 1896-97 airship controversy. pp.41-42.
- 6.) The remarkable inquiry of detective William Ahern who claimed that the 1896 California "airship" was a craft from the planet Mars. p.44.
- 7.) A poem written in honor of the 1896 UFO. p.46-A.
- 8.) A UFO flap over Nebraska -Dec. to Feb. 1897? p.47.
- 9.) Why the LeRoy, Kansas, case of 1897 might have been a fake. pp.55-66.
- 10.) Did multi-millionaire John Jacob Astor inspire Charles Fort? pp.65-67.
- 11.) UFOs over Tacoma, Washington in 1908. An original newspaper account. pp.89-91.
- 12.) What did a Fortean Society membership card look like? p.100-B
- 13.) UFOs over England in 1938? p.125.
- 14.) UFOs over the German-Polish border in 1937? p.126.
- 15.) The significance of the Fortean manuscripts "X" and "Y". pp.88,103,157.
- 16.) Was Dr. H.P. Robertson a chance choice for the controversial 1953 CIA UFO panel? And, was Dr. D. Menzel active in the official investigation of UFOs as early as 1946? Similarly, was Dr. E.U. Condon active in the official investigation of UFOs as early as 1946? pp.133-221.
- 17.) UFO fragments found at Sundavall, Sweden, 1946? pp.176-177.
- 18.) The problem of physical evidence. How the "Swedish New Explosive Theory" was supposed to explain matters. pp.176-177,188,205.
- 19.) Was the United States' "airrocket" meant to be an anti-UFO weapon? pp.183,241.
- 20.) UFO censorship. First imposed in August, 1946. pp.196-197,200,214.
- 21.) The remarkable editorial comment in Amazing magazine in the publication's July, 1946, issue. p.206.
- 22.) Where and when did George Adamski get his zany contactee idea? pp.206-209,228-231.
- 23.) A secret U.S.-Russian military confrontation over UFOs in 1946? pp.211-213.
- 24.) On January 7, 1947, the Portland Oregonian asked: "...who on earth --or the moon --is upstairs anyway? Why? p.234.
- 25.) The world discovers Charles Fort. p.263.
- 26.) The remarkable timing of writer Vincent Gaddis. pp.238,324.
- 27.) The term "flying saucer" is coined in the office of the East Oregonian. p.246.
- 28.) Four reasons why the Kenneth Arnold sighting broke open the UFO story. p.247.

- 29.) The Moses Lake, Washington, sighting and the Ubatuba fragments. How valid is the Swedish "New Explosive Theory"? pp.188, 205, 251-252.
- 30.) A UFO with a "mast" -similar to the Trent photo? pp.258-259.
- 31.) Fears of a Russian attack in July, 1947. A possible national panic? pp.259-261.
- 32.) An unpublished UFO sighting. Lodi, California, July 6, 1947. p. 264.
- 33.) San Francisco's Ole J. Sneide proves that Erich Van Daniken is a "Johnnie-come-lately". pp.264-265.
- 34.) Did the "powers-that-be" attempt to plant a U.S. secret weapon rumor in July, 1947, only to withdraw it and try again later? pp. 261-262.
- 35.) UFOs cavort over Tacoma, Washington, on July 7, 1947. Original news accounts. pp.266-267.
- 36.) Flying Saucers "just a fad" says Orson Wells on July 3, 1947. p.269.
- 37.) UFOs over Bombay, India, June 7, 1947. p.27.
- 38.) A gentleman "encounters saucer pilots" in July, 1947. p.273.
- 39.) Kenneth Arnold finally admits the flying saucers might indeed be spaceships. p.273.
- 40.) The U.S. Air Force told Arnold it knew of the UFOs since April 1947. p.274.
- 41.) The Tacoma "slag hoax" and the Swedish ghost rockets -a comment. p.275.
- 42.) Edward Ruppelt and British intelligence methods -a comment. pp.276-277.
- 43.) Was there a big UFO flap in Belgium in April, 1947? p.279.
- 44.) A UFO over Peking, July 14, 1947. p.279.
- 45.) The forgotten USS Ticonderoga sightings. p.280.
- 46.) Dr. C.C.Wylie's "Sky Patrol" appeal to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1947. p.283.
- 47.) Whatever happened to Meade Layne? pp.285-287.
- 48.) What we can learn from the Gary Powers U-2 episode. pp.294-295.
- 49.) Who controls the real official UFO files? Some new speculations pp.288-305.
- 50.) Isaac Asimov's bold thinking mirrors Charles Fort's idea of a Super-Rome. pp.308-309.
- 51.) A look at Fate magazine's 1948, UFO edition. pp.310-312.
- 52.) Captain Mantell's last moments as witnessed by a resident of Franklin, Kentucky. p.316.
- 53.) UFO reports made in 1948 as reported by Doubt magazine. pp.322-323, 331, 345-346.
- 54.) Vincent Gaddis sets the stage for the writings of Donald Keyhoe. p.324.
- 55.) Cycles of UFO activity noticed as early as 1948. p.331.
- 56.) A remarkable likeness between the official Project Sign report of Dr. James Lipp and the Fortean speculation of Norman Markham pp.338-341.
- 57.) Was the Los Alamos green fireball conference obstructed and misdirected? pp.334-345.
- 58.) What ever happened to the Fortean Society? pp.350-355.
- 59.) Did Dr. D.Menzel have any close ties with the Air Force? pp.151, 167, 220-221, 285.

Table of Contents

Chapter One	De Libris Revolutionum Narratio
Two	The Amazing Airship of 1896
Three	The "Airship" Moves East
Four	The Madbrained Genius
Five	A Book about the Damned
Six	A Society of Forteans
Seven	Military Intelligence Takes Over
Eight	Rockets, Radar, and Atomic Energy
Nine	"Are Men From Mars Knocking?"
Ten	Pandemonium
Eleven	A Question of Security
Twelve	Air Force Intelligence is Purged
Epilogue	
Index	

PREFACE

In the publication: The U.F.O. Investigator, printed by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, there appeared the following:

"On Aug. 7, 1966, readers of the Washington "Star" had a big surprise --in fact, several surprises. Before then, a serious discussion of UFOs in the "Star" was almost unheard of. But there in the Sunday edition was a full-page fact piece on "flying saucers."

Surprise No.2: The article was written by Lt. Col. Charles Cooke, USAF, Ret., founder and editor of the Air Intelligence Digest. Col. Cooke, refusing the official explanations, calmly set down his conclusions that the UFOs are real and from somewhere in outer space.

Colonel Cooke's Air Force service record has other surprises linked with UFOs. In World War II, he was intelligence officer for a bombardment group in Europe, where he heard first-hand reports from pilots who encountered the mysterious 'foo fighters.' In 1948-1952, at the Pentagon, he became the founder and editor of 'Air Intelligence Digest' --the worldwide AF intelligence publication. Later, in Tokyo, he became editor of FEAF --the 'Far East AF Intelligence Roundup.' During all this time, 'information copies' of steadily increasing UFO reports flowed across his desk....'No one in the USAF assembly line down which the reports passed read and pondered them more absorbedly, more dedicatedly, than I. I duly noted the myriad 'Explanations' given out by the Blue Book staff-widely referred to as 'The Little Blue Boy Blues' or 'The Little Blue Boys' --of sightings which they evaluated as mistakenly identified stars, planets, meteors ---birds, reflected lights, mirages, marsh gas --or as delusions, hoaxes, publicity stunts, ect.'

In discussing the massive UFO evidence, Col. Cooke corrects one of the most widespread false beliefs: That UFO sightings began on June 24, 1947, with Kenneth Arnold's famous report of flying discs over Mt. Ranier. ...'Far from having begun in 1947, 'says Col. Cooke, 'reported UFO sightings go way, way back.'

Commenting on the new(1966) Frank Edwards book -- 'Flying Saucers -Serious Business' --Cooke says 'Edwards book gives me great joy in its attention to Pre -1947.' Citing one famous case related by Edwards --a bishop's report of a torpedo-shaped body hovering above a building --Col. Cooke wryly asks 'I can't help wondering what Project Blue Book's 'explanation' of this report would have been. Marsh gas?' "