

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Committee
Set Up to Deal with "Flying Saucers"
24 April 1952

COMMITTEE OF OPERATIONS
JUL 3 1952
Dom. Observ

- Chairman: Dr. P.M. Millman Dom. Observ
- Members: Lt.Cdr. J.C.L. Annesley D.N.I.
S/L L.P.S. Bing J.I.S.
F/L V.L. Bradley D.R.B.
Mr. W.B. Smith D.O.T.
W/C N.W. Timmerman D.A.I.
Lt.Col. E.H. Webb DMO&P.
- Secretary Mr. H. C. Oatway D.R.B.

For the benefit of those who were not present at the general meeting held on April 22nd, the Chairman opened the meeting with a brief resume of discussions leading to the formation of this Committee and the terms of reference. He then tabled three books by Kehoe, Scully and Heard dealing with Flying Saucers sightings as worthy study as they give a fairly useful summary of the most important publically recorded sightings. These can be used in addition to newspaper reports.

S/L Bing tabled a report by the RCAF relative to the USAF project on Flying Saucers. This report is to be duplicated by the RCAF and copies passed to the Secretary for distribution to the Committee members.

The question of the security classification of the work of the committee was then discussed. It was agreed that CONFIDENTIAL was sufficient, but that members should be cleared to SECRET to facilitate any exchange of information from international sources.

The Chairman stated that it would probably be better to divorce this work from the questionable title of "Flying Saucers", and thought that some name entirely without meaning such as "Project Theta" should be adopted. The Committee agreed in principle to this suggestion, with the exception that the project name is not to be used during exchange of information of an international character. Such "exchanges" are to be effected through established channels only. There being no further suggestions acceptable, the name "Project Theta" was adopted, subject to investigation by the Secretary as to the validity of the use and possible duplication of the name.

The possibility of obtaining U.S. data on a reciprocal basis was considered desirable and the Secretary was instructed to have a formal approach to this effect made through the DRB Member in Washington.

Consideration was given to the interrogation form presently in use by the RCAF. After discussion, it was agreed that the form should immediately be revised with accompanying instructions for its use. The revised form (copy attached) was drawn up and copies are to be distributed by the Secretary prior to the next meeting. The preparation of the instructions was divided among the members as follows:

D.O.T.....	Balloons
	Reflections
	Halos and mirages
R.C.A.F.....	Aircraft
	Rockets and missiles
Dom.Observ....	Meteors
	Planets
	Aurora

All Members to contribute to items 12, 13
and 18.

The Committee agreed to meet again on May
6th to finalize the interrogation form and pertinent
instructions.

UNCLASSIFIED

At all times.

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

PROJECT

SIGHTING REPORT

(A separate form is to be used for each observer.)

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS
JUL 3 1968

A .. Details of Observer

1. Name of observer:

Surname:-----Initials----

2. Address of observer:

Street-----City-----

Province-----

3. Occupation and previous relevant experience:

4. Age: -----

5. Has observer seen "flying objects" before, and if so, briefly, when, where, and circumstances:

6. Was observer wearing glasses?

B.. Details of Observation:

7. Date and local time:

8. Position of observer (as accurately as possible)

9. General description of sighting:

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

10. Number of objects: -----

11. Length of time observed: -----

12. Position : *in which first seen:-*

Direction:-----

Elevation:-----

13. Position in which last seen:

Direction:-----

Elevation:-----

14. General description of any changes in course:

15. Detailed description of apparent shape:

16. Detailed description of apparent brightness:

17. Detailed description of colour:

18. Apparent size (e.g. angle subtended)

19. Description of exhaust or vapour trails, if any:

20. Description of noise, if any:

21. Weather conditions:

- (a) Clouds:
- (b) Visibility
- (c) Precipitation
- (d) General remarks:

22. Was the object flying above, below or in and out of cloud?

23. Did anyone else see the object? If so names, and addresses:

24. Is there other contributory evidence: (Photographic, or electronic--etc)

25. Any other details: (including sketch if possible)

Details of Interrogator

26. Interrogator:

Surname: -----Initials//-----

Position held:-----

27. Date and Place of Interrogation:

28. Interrogator's opinion of the reliability of the observer.

Signature of Interrogator

DEFENCE RESEARCH BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting to Discuss "Flying
Saucers" Sighting, 22 April, 1952.

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

JUL 3 1968

Chairman: Dr. O.M. Solandt (DRB)

Present: S/L L.P.S. Bing (JIS)
F/L V.L. Bradley (DRB)
Col. G.M. Carrie (DRB)
G/C D.M. Edwards (DAI)
Mr. A.J. Langley (DRB)
Dr. P.M. Millman (Dom. Observ.)
Cdr. J.C. Pratt (DNI)
Mr. W.B. Smith (DOT)
Lt. Col. E.H. Webb (DMO & P)

Secretary: Mr. H. C. Oatway (DRB)

The Chairman opened the meeting with a brief reference to the more frequent occurrence of "Flying Saucer" sightings. The frequency and persistency of the sightings would tend to discount the theory of 'hallucinations'. This, coupled with an aroused public interest in these sightings, tended to call for a more active stand on the matter. At present the gathering of reports was rather haphazard and the reaction of the Services was passive. It is thought that a more active and intensive effort should be made to obtain these data on an organized basis, and all reports investigated and analysed. The objects of the meeting were then to determine if a more serious effort is justified and, if so, ways and means of implementing an organized effort. Organizations such as the Observer Corps might be enlisted for the job of sighting. If nothing else, this could serve as a useful training for the Corps. An examination of the theories might prove useful in giving a lead to the best locations for sighting. It was fortunate that proponents of the theories of terrestrial and extra-terrestrial origins were in contact with the D.R.B. and their data could be examined first hand.

The Air Force representatives then briefly outlined the work done by the USAF up to a year or so ago. As these efforts consistently resulted in 'nil returns' their project, in so far as the press and public were concerned at least, had been discontinued. Very recently, however, this investigation was re-opened, but is now classified.

In the discussions which followed, it was pointed out that precise and realistic details were lacking in all known reports. If observers such as the Rangers, watchers on ship board and the Observer Corps, which incidentally is really still in the paper organization stage, are to be enlisted some well planned guidance would be necessary. A small booklet illustrating typical celestial phenomena would result in more intelligent observation and eliminate many erroneous impressions. It was considered desirable to obtain information from U.S. interviews obtained under proper interrogation procedure, but to avoid the U.S. analysis of these

interviews which was often unacceptable to some members of this Committee.

Mr. Smith briefly outlined the extra-terrestrial origin theory. A plot of the frequency and timing of sighting related to the opposition of the planet Mars to the earth was displayed. Sightings occur at approximately six week intervals, but the frequency is much higher during periods when the planets are nearing each other such as in the present month. The more reliable observations place these objects at heights of 100 to 300 miles moving with velocities in the order of 1000 - 2000 mph. Terrestrial bodies making use of airfoils could not operate at these heights. Size and power limitations also negate earthy origins. The brilliance of sighting after sunset could be explained by reflections from the body at these altitudes of the sun's illumination, or in daylight by frictional heating or other magnetic heating effects. Considering the orbital velocities of the earth and Mars (18 and 15 miles per second respectively) and their nearest positions (e.g. 52,000,000 miles on May 8th) with a continuous acceleration of 2 g for 3 or 4 days, these distances could be traversed.

Mr. Langley stated that no electronic reports had been received of flying saucers. It was generally agreed that no electromagnetic radiations had ever been found which could not be traced to terrestrial origin. If electronics are associated with these objects, their frequencies are outside the presently usable ranges. Mr. Smith then elaborated on the work of the ionosphere stations which had been asked to report any unusual findings, but with 'nil returns' to date.

The Chairman outlined in broad terms the theory of terrestrial origin, namely a new type of aircraft (presumably Russian) as expounded by Mr. Frost of the A.V. Roe Company. This theory had some discrepancies, but the aerodynamics were worth following as, even if of extra-terrestrial origin, the bodies would have to follow aerodynamic theory within the earth atmosphere. Also a new high speed aircraft design might be evolved. The theories outlined should give an impetus to the flying saucer investigations.

It was generally agreed that a more active investigation should be undertaken. The Chairman believed that the function of the D.R.B. should be mainly advisory as the collecting of reports could best be done by field organizations. The representatives of the Services agreed and will use their discretion in the choice of their more suitable sections to use for observers.

It was decided that a Committee should be formed to give a lead in this activity and to standardize procedures, etc. Accordingly the following were nominated and agreed to act: Dr. Millman (Chairman) G/C Edwards, Lt. Col. Webb, Cdr Pratt, F/L Bradley, and Mr. Oatway (Secretary) This committee was to prepare a brief of instructions for observers; examine interrogation procedures to get a consolidated and pertinent series of questions;

and to establish a standard method of recording and indexing for subsequent analysis.

Finally G/C Edwards suggested that the RCMP might prove to be a valuable addition as observers. This organization has the added advantage of having trained interrogators.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and for their willingness to aid in these investigations.

26 April 1952
O T T A W A .