

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
Plans & OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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12 September 1947

Lt. General Twining  
Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright Field, Ohio

Dear General Twining:

On behalf of the Advanced Study Group I wish to thank you and your staff for the considerable time and effort devoted to us during our visit to the Air Materiel Command last week. Everyone we contacted was most cooperative and did his best to help us in accomplishing our mission during the short time available. Our original schedule called for two days; we soon extended it to three, but quickly found that our interests could and should be absorbed for a much longer period than that. We hope that it may be our privilege to continue the visit in the not too distant future.

We particularly valued our discussion with you and were sorry that we did not see you again before we left. Our talk with General Chidlaw was most interesting and he gave us plenty to think about.

The major portion of our time during the succeeding two and one-half days was spent in the Engineering Division. We made a short visit to T-2 on Friday afternoon. We were unable to visit several activities that we should have visited such as the Aircraft Laboratory, the T-4 Division, the T-5 Division, and the All Weather Project at Clinton.

Our initial conference in the Engineering Division was with General Crawford, General Putt, Colonel Maier, Colonel Davis and Colonel Wold. This fruitful conference provided a background for a visit with the Engineering Division laboratories. We first went to the Power Plant lab where Colonel Minty and Colonel O'Keefe ably presented the facts of life about power plants and then showed us some of the work being done. The functioning of a ram-jet engine was very impressive.

Colonel Jarmon made a very clear presentation of the armament picture. Colonel Davis gave a most instructive talk on some aspects of celestial navigation.

General Rives and his staff, particularly Mr. Keto, reviewed the activities of the Electronics Lab and were most helpful in indicating future trends. The presentation was well organized and General Rives, with his staff, was most helpful in answering any questions that we had to ask.

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Our Group was amazed at the magnitude and variety of projects carried on in the Equipment Division under Colonel Dent. Although he covered a vast amount of ground and had generated many ideas, we knew that he still had many projects and ideas that he had been unable to mention. He suggested that we go with him on his visit to Alaska next January in order to get a better appreciation of Arctic problems. We are seriously considering accepting this offer.

The Display Room in the Aircraft Projects Laboratory was most helpful. During our talk with Colonel Smith he gave us many important concepts which would have been difficult to get anywhere else. We appreciated the proximity of the guided missiles display and during our talk with Lt. Col. Ross we were able to readily compare, in a general way, airplanes and guided missiles. Col. Ross exhibited a thorough knowledge of his field and was most helpful in clarifying our minds.

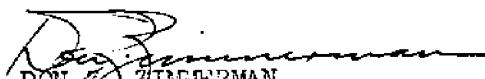
We had a brief though intensely interesting talk with Col. McCoy. We were most impressed with his outline of the T-2 organization, the work that his division is undertaking, and the enthusiasm with which he is tackling his job. It was most gratifying to find real progress on the critical matter of intelligence.

Major Zabriskie was much more than an efficient escort. His over-all knowledge helped greatly in tying various activities together.

Again, may I say, we were only able to scratch the surface on many matters of interest to us within your command and many others were not touched upon at all. We fully realize that much more time will be required before our level of information will approach that which we hope to have. We enjoyed our visit thoroughly, found it to be of great value, and were most pleased with the way we were treated.

Please accept our best regards.

Sincerely yours,

  
DON Z. ZIMMERMAN  
Colonel, GSC  
Chief, Advanced Study Group

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HEADQUARTERS  
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH  
COMMUNICATION AND EN-  
VELOPES TO COMMANDING  
GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL  
COMMAND, ATTENTION  
FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

TSDIN/HMM/1g/6-1,100  
WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO

SEP 23 1947

TSDIN

SUBJECT: AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs"

TO: Commanding General  
Army Air Forces  
Washington 25, D. C.  
ATTENTION: Brig. General George Schulgen  
AC/AS-2

1. As requested by AC/AS-2 there is presented below the considered opinion of this Command concerning the so-called "Flying Discs". This opinion is based on interrogation report data furnished by AC/AS-2 and preliminary studies by personnel of T-2 and Aircraft Laboratory, Engineering Division T-3. This opinion was arrived at in a conference between personnel from the Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2, Office, Chief of Engineering Division, and the Aircraft, Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of Engineering Division T-3.

2. It is the opinion that:

a. The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious.

b. There are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to appear to be as large as man-made aircraft.

c. There is a possibility that some of the incidents may be caused by natural phenomena, such as meteors.

d. The reported operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft and radar, lend belief to the possibility that some of the objects are controlled either manually, automatically or remotely.

e. The apparent common description of the objects is as follows:-

- (1) Metallic or light reflecting surface.

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Basic Ltr fr CG, AMC, WF to CG, AAF, Wash. D. C. subj "AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs".

- (2) Absence of trail, except in a few instances when the object apparently was operating under high performance conditions.
- (3) Circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.
- (4) Several reports of well kept formation flights varying from three to nine objects.
- (5) Normally no associated sound, except in three instances a substantial rumbling roar was noted.
- (6) Level flight speeds normally above 300 knots are estimated.

f. It is possible within the present U. S. knowledge -- provided extensive detailed development is undertaken -- to construct a piloted aircraft which has the general description of the object in subparagraph (e) above which would be capable of an approximate range of 7000 miles at subsonic speeds.

g. Any developments in this country along the lines indicated would be extremely expensive, time consuming and at the considerable expense of current projects and therefore, if directed, should be set up independently of existing projects.

h. Due consideration must be given the following:-

- (1) The possibility that these objects are of domestic origin - the product of some high security project not known to JC/AS-2 or this Command.
- (2) The lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects.

- (3) The possibility that some foreign nation has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear, which is outside of our domestic knowledge.

3. It is recommended that:

a. Headquarters, Army Air Forces issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification and Code Name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data which will then be made available to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JRDB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, and the RAND and NEPA projects for comments and recommendations, with a preliminary report to be forwarded within 15 days of receipt of the data and a detailed report thereafter every 30 days as the investi-

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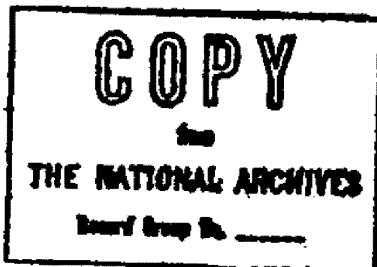
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gation develops. A complete interchange of data should be effected.

4. Awaiting a specific directive AMC will continue the investigation within its current resources in order to more closely define the nature of the phenomenon. Detailed Essential Elements of Information will be formulated immediately for transmittal thru channels.

*N. F. Twining*

N. F. TWINING  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding



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RG 18, Records of the  
Army Air Forces

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AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

REPLY ADDRESS BOTH  
COMMUNICATION AND EN-  
VELOPE TO COMMANDING  
GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL  
COMMAND, ATTENTION  
FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL

TSDIN/HDD/1g/6-4100  
WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO

TSDIN \_\_\_\_\_

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N. F. TWINING  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

*This letter was coordinated by:*

*Col. Moore - ch. Aircraft Lab*

*Mr. D.A. Bieby - ch. Propeller Lab*

*Gen. D.L. Pitt - Eng. Div*

*Col. Masty - ch. Power Plant Lab*

*Gen. Brentnall - T-3*

*22-10-52, CG*

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