

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

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## Sightings, Saucers, and Stranger Things

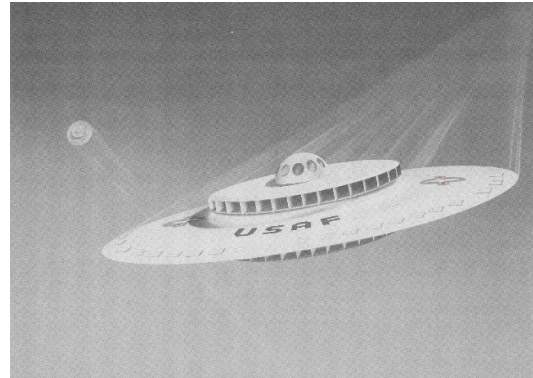
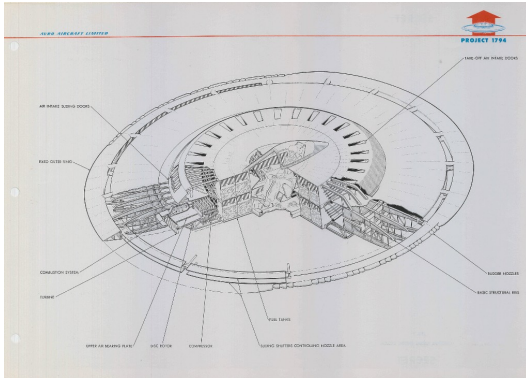
Like many of you, we are fascinated by the mysteries of the universe and the search for life beyond Earth. In fact, the National Archives is home to several collections of documents from the United States Air Force related to the investigation and analysis of “flying discs,” popularly known as “unidentified flying objects” (UFOs).



The Air Force studied sightings of UFOs under Project Sign, [Project Grudge](#), and [Project Blue Book](#) between 1947 and 1969. A total of 12,618 sightings were reported to Project Blue Book during this time period. Of those, 701 remained “unidentified.” The project — once headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio — officially ended in 1969.

In addition to these unidentified objects, the National Archives also hold records of *identified* flying objects. Did you know that the Air Force tried to build their own flying

saucer? Taking inspiration from 1950s sci-fi movies, the Air Force contracted with the Canadian company, Avro Aircraft Limited, to construct a disk-shaped craft for Project 1794.



The craft was designed to be a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) plane designed to reach a top speed of Mach 4, with a ceiling of over 100,000 feet, and a range of over 1,000 nautical miles. You can find the project report with drawings and photographs in [Project 1794 Final Development Summary Report](#). In 1957, a second report was issued by Avro Aircraft Limited, [Program Planning Report](#), [Project 1794 Extension Program](#), detailing further development of the aircraft concept, including cost estimates and scheduling.

Although this project never quite got off the ground, you can read more about the construction, development and testing of these disc-shaped vehicles on the [Unwritten Record](#) blog.



Avrocar Continuation Test Program and Terrain Test Program

What do you think? We're curious to know what today's aerospace engineers would make of these plans and films!

## And a Yeti...

AIR POUCH PRIORITY		UNCLASSIFIED (Security Classification)	DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE						
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH		75 DISP. NO.	031-00900/11-3017						
FROM :	American Embassy, Kathmandu	TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.						
DATE:	November 30, 1959	REF :	Embassy, New Delhi, Despatches 1475, June 22, 1959 and 374, September 30, 1958						
ACTION	DEPT.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>REC'D</td> <td>ARMY-1, IRC-8, L-2, H/O-1, H/O-P-1, ICS-5, KA-11, S/SA-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>OTHER</td> <td>CIA-10, NS/A-10, OSD-4, OCB-1, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-1</td> </tr> </table>		1	REC'D	ARMY-1, IRC-8, L-2, H/O-1, H/O-P-1, ICS-5, KA-11, S/SA-1	2	OTHER	CIA-10, NS/A-10, OSD-4, OCB-1, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-1
1	REC'D	ARMY-1, IRC-8, L-2, H/O-1, H/O-P-1, ICS-5, KA-11, S/SA-1							
2	OTHER	CIA-10, NS/A-10, OSD-4, OCB-1, ARMY-4, NAVY-3, AIR-1							
12/7									
SUBJECT:	REGULATIONS GOVERNING MOUNTAIN CLIMBING EXPEDITIONS IN NEPAL - RELATING TO YETI								
<p>There are, at present, three regulations applicable only to expeditions searching for the YETI in Nepal. These regulations are to be observed in addition to the 15 clauses as listed in <u>Mountaineering and Scientific Expeditions in Nepal</u>.</p> <p>The three regulations are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royalty of Rs. 5000/- Indian Currency will have to be paid to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for a permit to carry out an expedition in search of 'Yeti'.</li> <li>In case 'Yeti' is traced it can be photographed or caught alive but it must not be killed or shot at except in an emergency arising out of self defence. All photographs taken of the animal, the creature itself if captured alive or dead, must be surrendered to the Government of Nepal at the earliest time.</li> <li>News and reports throwing light on the actual existence of the creature must be submitted to the Government of Nepal as soon as they are available and must not in any way be given out to the Press or Reporters for publicity without the permission of the Government of Nepal.</li> </ol>									
FOR THE AMBASSADOR:									
<i>Ernest H. Fisk</i>									
Ernest H. Fisk Counselor of Embassy									
<p>1959 DEC 3 AM 1 12</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED</p> <p>UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p>ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE</p> <p>The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R Fisk with an endorsement of action taken.</p>									
JRC JRClingerman: [initials] REPORTER		<p>031-00900/11-3059</p> <p>EMW</p> <p>DEC 9 AM 11 20</p> <p>RECEIVED MESSAGE CENTER</p>							

We can't have a newsletter about UFOs and not include another record from the strange and unidentified. This is a [1959 despatch](#) from the American Embassy in Kathmandu regulating mountain climbing expeditions in Nepal relating to sightings of Yeti. We love the three regulations included in this message to the Department of State:

- Royalty of Rs. 5000/- Indian Currency will have to be paid to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for a permit to carry out an expedition in search of 'Yeti'.
- In case 'Yeti' is traced it can be photographed or caught alive but it must not be killed orshot except in an emergency arising out of self defence. All photographs taken of the

animal, the creature itself if captured alive or dead, must be surrendered to the Government of Nepal at the earliest time.

3. News and reports throwing light on the actual existence of the creature must be submitted to the Government of Nepal as soon as they are available and must not in any way be given out to the Press or Reporters for publicity without the permission of the Government of Nepal.

## Transcription Mission

COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: September 18, 1947

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Philadelphia

SUBJECT: Flying Object Reported Over Philadelphia  
August 6, 1947  
SUBOTAGE

Re: airtel August 7 last.

Miss [redacted], Philadelphia, who is employed by the GEORGE B. ORSHOFF SHIRTS/CURTAIN COMPANY, 1821 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, advised as follows:

EXPERIENCE BEHOODING

Between 10:30 and 10:45 p.m. on August 6, 1947, she was sitting on the steps of her home with [redacted]. She was facing north and observed a large white object traveling at a very fast pace of speed to the south. There was a humming sound, not too loud but plainly audible, just after this object passed through the air. This white object left in its trail a thin streak of smoke, which was grayish in color.

Miss [redacted], Philadelphia, who is employed by the FREEMAN & GORMAN COMPANY, INC., Room 1140, P.F.A. Building, Philadelphia, stated she was sitting on the steps of Miss [redacted] home on the evening of August 6, 1947, around 10:45 p.m. engaged in conversation with Miss [redacted] when Miss [redacted] abruptly stopped in the middle of her conversation and appeared to be frightened. Miss [redacted] at that time was sitting in a position in which she was facing south. She did not see any object in the sky after seeing Miss [redacted] change of expression, but she did hear a slight humming sound.

[redacted], Philadelphia, an insurance agent, who was a former pilot of Bell's in the Army Air Corps, advised as follows:

He was sitting on the steps of his home around 10:45 p.m. on August 6, 1947, with his wife and his neighbors, the [redacted] family, were sitting on their steps next door to the residence of [redacted]. All of the above parties were facing east. [redacted] noticed at this time an object, emitting a bluish-white flame, passing quickly through the air. The object was traveling from northwest to southeast. Using his experience in the Army Air Corps as a guide, [redacted] estimated the above object was between 1000 and 3000 feet in the air and traveling at a rate of between 400 to 500 miles an hour. This object did not lose elevation as it passed through the air and left other smoke or a condensation trail in its former path, which lasted for about two seconds. A distinct sound accompanied the passing of this object. This sound was moderate and not nearly as loud as the noise accompanying the passage of a rocket ship.

REPORTED BY  
[redacted]  
SAC PHIL

UNCLASSIFIED

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 4 March 1956	2. LOCATION Maula, Wisconsin	10. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Lead Out 05/0200Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION XXX Ground-Visual D Ground-Radar D Air-Visual D Air-Intercept Radar	<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Jetcraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Unmanned <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Unmanned <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Unmanned
5. PROBES D Yes D No	6. SOURCE Civilian	<input type="checkbox"/> Was Announced <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Announced <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Announced
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 1/2 hour	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS three	9. COURSE circling
11. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Three round objects, white color, size of shirt button. Low flying. Disappeared as though it was a light and someone turned it off.	12. COMMENTS Possible a/c sighting. However objects remained in area for 1/2 hour. During this period witness should have been able to give some detail. Insufficient data for analysis.	

ATTC FORM 338 (REV 24 SEP 50)

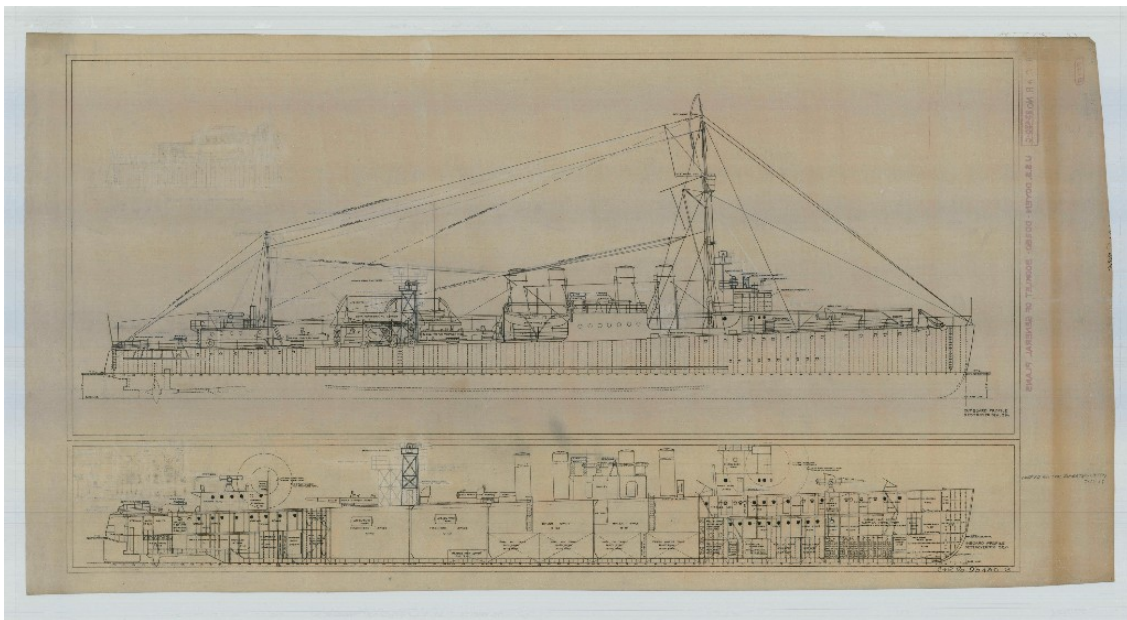
Live long and transcribe! Help us transcribe information the Air Force gathered about specific UFO sightings from the series [Sanitized Version of Project Blue Book Case Files on Sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1947 - 1969](#).\*\* Each case file relates to one sighting or to a group of closely related sightings. The files contain reports from UFO observers, correspondence between these observers and the Air Force, newspaper and magazine clippings, and reports of analysis of photographs and physical evidence. Some reports were submitted by letter or telegram, but most reports of sightings were submitted on an Air Force questionnaire which contains the name and address of the observer, the date and hour of the sighting, and a description of what the observer saw. Each case file contains a control sheet which summarizes the sighting report and shows the Air Force explanation and conclusions for the sighting.

## Get Started Transcribing!

**\*\*What does *sanitize* mean in in the title of these records?** The Department of the Air Force deleted the following information to protect the privacy of observers of unidentified flying objects and others who furnished information to the Air Force: the names, addresses, and other information which identifies the observers and portions of investigative reports which identify persons who provide information about the observers and which include information of a personal and private nature, chiefly medical and financial data, that was gathered about the observers.

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## New in the Catalog



### [Alphabetical Series of Ship Engineering Drawings, 1919 - 1940](#)

This series consists of measured engineering drawings. They are almost always a part of or make up the entire "Booklet of General Plans". The booklet includes inboard and outboard profiles sections and deck plans. The ships included are a wide variety of vessels constructed after the range of the "dash file" (post 1909) and before the universal use of the engineering drawing categories. Hull construction, mechanical and electrical drawings are rarely included.

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The "Write" Stuff event invites upper elementary students through adults to discuss research in writing and illustrating with award-winning authors **Gennifer Choldenko**, **Christopher Paul Curtis**, **Jim Murphy**, and **Brian Floca**. Have your questions ready for the Question & Answer session! This event is FREE!

Engage with these award-winning authors through Author/Illustrator spotlights and hands-on activities that explore methods and unveil strategies they use to integrate research in their work.

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<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/event/the-write-stuff-author-conversations-0>



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