

[Commentary by Fran Ridge](#)

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Scientist Fears Flying Saucers Portend a Worse 'Pearl Harbor'

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Not Balloons Dr. Anthony O. Mirarchi, former airforce scientist, uses a blackboard drawing at his Scituate, Mass., home to explain his theory on flying saucers. He disputes the explanation of a navy scientist that the objects people saw were plastic balloons used in radiation research.

Scituate, Mass., Feb 25 – (AP) – A former airforce scientist Sunday brushed aside the idea that flying saucers are just balloons and urged a full investigation of what he said may be experiments by “a potential enemy of the United States.”

Dr. Anthony O. Mirarchi, who was employed by the airforce as an air chemist in its geophysical laboratory, took issue with a recent magazine article written by Dr. Uner Liddel, navy scientist.

Liddel said what people have been seeing are plastic balloons sent into the upper air for radiation research.

Mirarchi said that if flying saucers are experimental missiles launched by foreign hands they could “lead to a worse Pearl Harbor than we ever experienced.”

“The navy report is erroneous, it lulls people into a false sense of security,” he said in an interview.

He said that as an assistant chief of a branch of the geophysical research organization, he conducted an investigation and recommended a “considerable appropriation” to press a study of the mysterious phenomenon.

At Washington, an airforce spokesman who was asked about Mirarchi’s contentions had this to say:

“In over 500 investigations we have made so far we have yet to find one concrete bit of evidence to back up these reports of flying saucers.”

However, the spokesman added, the airforce has not terminated the long study of flying saucer rumors. It is still to be carried on at the USAF air materiel command center at Dayton, Ohio, with Col. Harold E. Watson directing the studies.

Dr. Mirarchi said that after studying extensive files of the office of strategic information, covering hundreds of eyewitness reports of flying saucers or “fireballs,” he concluded the observations were consistent with “a missile programmed in advance.”

In other words, the objects had “maneuvered motion” as though guided by some mechanism. He said the descriptions of vertical and horizontal motions did not indicate any natural phenomenon like a meteor or erratic motion of drifting balloons.

He remarked that a number of “the fireball observations came from a certain region of New Mexico which is critical to the national interest.” In that region is the Los Alamos atomic installation.

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