

MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERY IN

RUSSIAN FIGHTER JETS attempted to intercept the object described as a "shiny black disc with flashing lights on its edges." A stunned pilot said the object was as "big as a soccer field."

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Soviet icebreaker

The crew of a Soviet icebreaker played cat and mouse for more than 72 hours with a mysterious underwater object that was later described as being big as a soccer field, East German sources report.

The nail-biting confrontation began when the Soviets spotted the object — allegedly a black disc surrounded by flashing red lights — on sonar in the Kara Sea.

The object reportedly did not respond to Soviet radio transmissions ordering it to surface.

And it is believed by offi-

cialists that depth charges, occasionally used to break up heavy ice floes, were dropped on the disc with-

out effect. At least one Soviet sailor is said to have been washed overboard when the object crashed

through the polar ice and vanished into space.

The East German sources also said the icebreaker

suffered superficial damage from huge chunks of ice that fell off the disc when it made its ascent to the heavens.

"It is my understanding that the object hovered over the ship for 20 minutes after it emerged from the sea," said one source, who requested anonymity.

"It was described as being shiny black, like onyx, and having red, flashing lights on its edges. Curiously, nothing was said about it making any noise, even though it seems like an object that big would have to."

The source said Soviet fighter jets scrambled from



Cat-astrophe?

Nicole Pitts, 4, and Bridget Delamang, 7, reach for a fearless feline named Bonjangles. Nicole, of Quincy, Mass., adopted the wandering kitty last year when he was found on her doorstep with a broken leg.

THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

DEPTH CHARGES were dropped off the massive ship's stern.

SONAR EQUIPMENT first recorded starship's presence.

SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE was sustained when the "black disc" broke free of polar ice.

SOVIET ICEBREAKER cruising the Kara Sea used sonar to locate the bizarre object.

matches wits with UFO

a base in Siberia failed to intercept the object as it traveled south, then north, and then suddenly vanished into space.

Soviet military spokesmen have angrily denied that any such encounter took place. The Kremlin bosses added that the icebreaker could have had "an encounter with a pod of sperm whales."

But a Swedish ham radio operator, Lars Gundersonn, told newspapers that he heard the Soviet pilots

72-hour standoff ends when starship crashes through polar ice cap!

discussing the object during the chase.

"They said they were in pursuit of a flying disc," said Gundersonn. "One of them said it was as big as a soccer field.

"Another one said: 'Don't

shoot. We mean to do you no harm.'"

The sighting of the object follows a year of unprecedented UFO activity in and around the Kara Sea. Asked to comment on the alleged Soviet encounter,

French UFO researcher Andre Pointot said: "There is reason to believe something is going on up there."

Now UFO researchers are speculating on what the UFO was doing. Some believe aliens from space

were collecting samples of earth underwater life in the cold seas of the Arctic Circle. Others think the UFO may have hidden under the ocean in order to make emergency repairs.

— WILLIAM SCHANDLER

