

Starship down

U.S. jet

fighter

LASER beam blasted the F-15 out of the sky in a burst of blinding light. 'It's like Star Wars,' said the pilot. 'The UFO must be protected by a force field. I didn't even scratch it.'

On the morning of January 18, a U.S. Air Force F-15 jet fighter was blasted from the skies over the Bering Strait during a blazing dogfight with a seemingly invincible foe — a starship from outer space!

By MICKEY McGUIRE

And because of data relayed to Earth by an orbiting spy satellite, the U.S. not only has photographs of the historic aerial battle, but a tape-recorded conversation between the jet pilot and the alien commander.

Although top-ranking Pentagon officials flatly declined to acknowledge that the incredible battle occurred, portions of the American pilot's conversation — including his verbal description of the battle — were obtained through clandestine sources.

The ill-fated jet encountered the UFO somewhere over the icy waters of the Bering Strait as the pilot — believed to be a civilian working for the CIA — homed in on a secret base in Alaska.

Because of the F-15's 1,600 m.p.h. speed and 2,000-plus-mile range, the pilot probably was returning from a hush-

flight over the Soviet Union's Chukchi Peninsula, and was only allowed to communicate with the orbiting satellite. The unidentified pilot apparently switched on his satellite transmitter moments after his initial sighting of the alien starship.

"I have visual contact with unknown target bearing 046 degrees, altitude 37,000 (feet) approximate," the pilot said.

"Range two miles and closing fast... Holy Toledo! What the hell is it? Executing 90 degree roll to port for a good look-see 'cause I don't believe what I think I'm seeing."

"My God! It is... it's a UFO. Damn! It's right there... it's just sitting there. Man, I gotta be dreaming. This just ain't happening."

As the amazed pilot maneu-

vered for a closer fly-by, the satellite picked up another voice. It was an unusually deep voice, but with distinctly human characteristics.

"You are imposing a critical threat to our craft and you are advised to abort your action and depart this area immediately," the voice warned.

"Who the hell are you and what are you doing here?" the pilot demanded, his voice clearly revealing his terror. But he began giving a detailed description of the alien craft to the satellite recorder.

"This thing... whatever it is... is shaped like a... like an upside-down Chinese coolie hat with a hill in the center top. It's a silvery metal... not like aluminum, more like stainless steel.

"It has flashing red, amber, blue, green and white lights that just seem to glow from different points. The thing is spinning at a high rate of speed, but it's not moving. It's just hovering in one spot..."

His description was sud-

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denly interrupted by a strange voice from the ship.

"This is your final warning," the alien commander declared. "You now have 10 seconds to begin departure. If you fail to do so, you will be annihilated. The choice is yours."

But the intrepid pilot continued with his description of the space ship. But his time ran out and, without further warning, a glowing beam of red light spit from the UFO and passed within scant feet of the jet, following it as it cleaved the cloudless sky at more than 900 m.p.h.

"My God in heaven! The UFO fired a laser at me. God! I could feel the heat all around me. Am initiating evasive action and preparing for attack."

"Tracking system on... weapons armed. Making overhead approach. Target now tracked... locked on... weapons launched."

The F-15 fired four Sidewinder missiles at the unmoving space ship. They were quickly followed by four Sparrow missiles. But the four non-nuclear weapons exploded harmlessly a half-mile from their intended target.

"Damn!" the pilot muttered. "It's like 'Star Wars.' The UFO must be protected by a force field. I didn't even scratch it."

Those were the last words recorded by the satellite. But the photographs its cameras transmitted back to Earth explain why. As the jet fired its rockets, another laser beam from the UFO began its lethal arc, this time approaching the jet from the rear.

The laser beam zeroed in on the F-15 and in a burst of blinding light, the jet blew up.

When the blinding glare faded, there was no trace of the F-15. Seconds later, the starship vanished.