

The 'Westchester Wing' UFO sighting

NIGHT SIEGE: THE HUDSON VALLEY UFO SIGHTING — By Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno, with Bob Pratt, Ballantine Books, \$6.96, 208 pp.

By **GEORGE W. EARLEY**

It's an hour until you leave for work so you step outside for a squint at the sky. It's a clear, crisp, starspangled March night. You suck in a breath of clean air... and then you see it! Drifting into view is a V-shaped string of lights. Nearly soundless — you can hear a low drone — it is clearly a solid object as it obscures stars while moving slowly over your neighborhood.

As a professional pilot, you know of nothing like it flying today, yet there it is.

Back inside, you call the FAA and get the brushoff. "It's those light plane pilots again, playing 'Martian.'"

The police are equally uninterested... and imply you've been drinking.

That scene, varied only as the sighters — who have ranged from housewives to scientists, engineers, and formerly skeptical police officers — has been repeated

scores of time in New York's Hudson River Valley and adjacent Connecticut towns since December 1982. And the sightings are still going on.

In this year of best-selling UFO books ("Communion," "Light Years" and "Intruders"), "Night Siege" is a UFO book with a local angle. It is the account of the Hudson River sightings and the people who have seen the "Westchester Wing," as this UFO has been nicknamed. Over 1,500 people, many of them eyewitnesses to the numerous flights of the "Wing," crowded into a Brewster, N.Y., high school two years ago to exchange sighting reports and ask UFO investigators about their investigations.

They also had hoped to query representatives of the officially uninterested Federal Aviation Agency but the FAA declined to send anyone. Also present, though claiming they were there because of personal interest and not in any official capacity, were several U.S. Air Force officers and a member of the hush-hush National Security Agency.

Videotapes of the mystery object were shown during the conference. The accompanying audio

track clearly demonstrated the virtually noiseless flight of the "Wing." Witnesses were emphatic in their ability to distinguish between the UFO and a noisy group of night-flying light planes which, they said, tried to imitate the "Wing."

Throughout the book, the authors pinpoint instance after instance when federal representatives stonewalled queries about the "Wing," or supplied false and misleading information.

But for reasons not made clear in the book, Imbrogno and his team of investigators failed to enlist the aid of state and federal politicians in the request for answers.

The news media also failed to investigate the sighting reports adequately.

Winter, the time when the "Wing" usually flies, is almost with us. No one knows if the "Wing" will reappear but until (or if) it does, reading "Night Siege" is a fascinating way to prepare yourself for a chance encounter with this strange denizen of the night sky.

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