

Enquirer Awards \$5,000 to Helicopter Crew for 1973's Most Valuable UFO Evidence

By ALLAN A. ZULLO

A four-man U.S. Army helicopter crew that experienced a terrifying midair encounter with a UFO has won a \$5,000 award from The ENQUIRER's Blue-Ribbon Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects.

"It's an extraordinary exciting case which has posed a most impressive challenge to science," said the panel, which awarded the money to the crew for supplying the most scientifically valuable UFO evidence for 1973.

The panel — composed of five leading scientists and educators — met in New Orleans April 20 to consider five claims, out of hundreds submitted to The ENQUIRER, for the \$50,000 reward offered for the first positive proof of the existence of UFOs.

The panel members agreed unanimously that none of the claims merited the \$50,000 award, but all voted in favor of giving \$5,000 to the helicopter crew for their UFO experience.

Panel member Dr. Frank Salisbury, professor of plant sciences at Utah State University, explained: "The only thing that holds us back from awarding the \$50,000 prize is that although this is one of the strongest sightings we've come across, it is purely a witness sighting without tangible evidence, such as photographs."

The bizarre incident occurred on the night of Oct. 18, 1973 — about 50 miles south of Cleveland. Major Larry Coyne, the helicopter pilot, was shaken up by the appearance of a UFO. "The UFO was dangerously close," Coyne said.

In the December 16 issue of The ENQUIRER, they described the UFO as a 60-foot-long cigar-shaped, metal-

lic gray object with a dome on top, and said it hovered over the helicopter for a few seconds.

At the moment the UFO had swooped overhead, the helicopter was at an altitude of 1,500 feet and going down. But when the UFO vanished seconds later, the chopper was at 3,800 feet. Such a rate of ascent is impossible for a helicopter that takes a full minute to climb 2,000 feet under maximum power.

The Army has taken an uncharacteristic interest in this incident:

"We have no reason to doubt the truthfulness of Major Coyne's report," admitted Lt. Col. Andrew Sullivan, Army spokesman at the Pentagon in Washington. "Major Coyne and his crew were the people closest to the object and they have reported their findings to us. The incident is described in our records as the sighting of an unidentified flying object."

Panel member Dr. James Harder, professor of engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, said: "I can't find any holes in their story."

Added panelist Dr. Robert Creegan, professor of philosophy at State University of New York in Albany: "Their instruments confirm that they encountered this strange phenomena. I think it is one of the most challenging cases to science that I have ever seen."

The caliber of witnesses "is above reproach," said panelist Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, associate professor of psychology at the University of Wyoming.

Panel member Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Dept. of Astronomy at Northwestern University, said: "It's utterly out of the question that they would endanger their careers and pensions by falsifying this encounter."



AWARD WINNERS: Four members of U.S. Army helicopter crew hold their ENQUIRER award checks. They are (from left): Sgt. John Healey, Lt. Arrigo Jezzi, Major Larry Coyne and Sgt. Robert Yanasek.

\$50,000 REWARD

The ENQUIRER is continuing its offer of \$50,000 to the first person who can prove that an Unidentified Flying Object came from outer space and was not a natural phenomenon.

Send us your evidence. The reports will be screened by our editors and Jim Lorenzen, international director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc., and Jack Acuff, president of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. The best ones will be forwarded to The ENQUIRER's Blue-Ribbon Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, composed of five of the country's top scientists and educators. The panel will examine the evidence thoroughly, and if they agree unanimously that the UFO is not a natural phenomenon

and came from outer space, this newspaper will give a check for \$50,000 to the person who supplied the evidence.

The ENQUIRER also offers awards of up to \$5,000 to anyone judged by the panel to have supplied the most scientifically valuable evidence on UFOs, though not the proof required for the main award.

If several informants are involved in any one case, the panel will decide on how the award money should be distributed.

This offer is valid throughout the world. It shall not be construed as an inducement to betray any military secrets of the United States. Mail evidence to: UFO Reward, NATIONAL ENQUIRER, Lantana, Fla. 33462.