

For the First Time Ever . . .

Air Defense Chiefs Admit: We Tracked UFO on Radar and Scrambled Fighter Jets to Intercept It

The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) has admitted it tracked an Unidentified Flying Object on radar and then scrambled two American F-106 fighter jets to intercept the mysterious object.

Although the jet fighters failed to make contact with it, several other mysterious objects were spotted from the ground the same morning hovering in the skies over Ontario, Canada. But strangely, only one UFO was picked up on radar.

Among the dazzled witnesses to the spectacular sightings last November 11 were seven police officers, military personnel from the NORAD radar base at Falconbridge, Ontario, and civilian residents of the area.

Capt. Gordon Hilchie, director of public affairs for the 22nd NORAD Region Control Center at North Bay, Ontario — the Canadian headquarters for NORAD — told The ENQUIRER:

"This is the first time that NORAD has been on the record as saying, 'Yes, we saw this so-called UFO at the same time people outside were saying they saw it, too.'"

Lt. Col. Brian Wooding, director of the 22nd NORAD Region Control Center, told The ENQUIRER:

"We get quite a few UFO reports but to my knowledge this is about the only one we've actually seen on radar, and the only time we've gone to the point of scrambling interceptors."

"The jets were scrambled because the indications were there was something very evident to a large number of people, and because we did manage to get some sort of radar sighting."

Del Kindschi, a spokesman for NORAD headquarters in



JET SCRAMBLES: Two American F-106 fighter jets, like this one, took off from Michigan base to intercept UFO that had been tracked on radar.

Colorado Springs, Colo., told The ENQUIRER that the jets were scrambled from Selfridge Air Force Base near Detroit, Mich., at 10:45 a.m., November 11.

He said the UFO was tracked intermittently on radar for six hours.

Asked if it is normal procedure to scramble jets after



MAP shows where UFO was spotted, about 30 miles south of the Falconbridge radar site in Ontario. Dotted line from Detroit area indicates the northerly route U.S. jets took to intercept object.

UFOs, Col. Wooding replied: "Only if we have something that indicates a chance of making a possible interception."

Since 1969 — when the U.S. Air Force officially dropped Project Blue Book, its investigation of UFO phenomena — the Pentagon has denied that UFOs have been tracked on radar or that jets have been sent up to intercept them.

Capt. Hilchie told The ENQUIRER that the UFO tracked on radar was first spotted 25 to 30 miles south of the radar site. He said it zoomed upward from 26,000 feet to 45,000 feet, "stopped awhile, and then moved up very quickly to 72,000 feet."

First reports of the eerie-looking lights in the sky came at 3 a.m. from residents of Sudbury, Ontario, 15 miles southwest of the Falconbridge radar station.

Excited callers reported to police that the brilliant lights, hovering low in the sky, suddenly shot straight upward at tremendous speeds. Regional



RADAR SCREEN at NORAD radar base, Falconbridge, Ontario, Canada, on which a mysterious UFO was tracked. The commanding officer, Major Robert Oliver (standing, right), says that he and five others at the base watched three bright yellow objects through binoculars but only one was picked up on radar.

Police Inspector Frank Singer said two of his officers sighted four objects, three stationary and one moving in a jerky, circular motion.

Two other policemen spotted an object so bright that it lit up the clouds in the area, he said.

With binoculars they got a closer look.

"It appeared to be cylindrical in shape and traveling in circles," Inspector Singer said. "They observed this object until 7 a.m."

"It remained in the sky and was still visible after the sun had risen, although all the stars had disappeared."

Three other police officers also reported sighting the

bright objects in the sky that morning, Singer said.

At Falconbridge radar station, the commanding officer, Maj. Robert Oliver, told The ENQUIRER that he and five others at the military base saw three mysterious objects in the sky.

"We saw the same things many of the local citizens saw," said Maj. Oliver. "I got a call from my operations officer about 6 a.m. and we went up the hill, and lo and behold, there were three bright yellow objects."

"We viewed these objects through binoculars and weren't able to make any identification at all."

Maj. Oliver declined to discuss the reports of sightings he had received from local police and citizens of the area.

"I feel it is important that we receive reports on unidentified objects, and I don't want to turn people off by talking about them," he explained. "I think both the United States and Canada collect this information, and I do believe they investigate the more serious ones."

Told that the U.S. government claims it no longer investigates UFOs since Project Blue Book was disbanded in 1969, Maj. Oliver said:

"I find that very strange, because in accordance with the normal procedures I classified the UFO report going to Colorado Springs as secret."

"A little while later U.S. Air Force Gen. Daniel (Chappie) James, commanding general of NORAD, came back through channels and asked me to declassify the report."

"Apparently General James wanted to provide the information to people who were interested in it."

Here's One That Didn't Get Away

PASADENA, Calif. (UPI) — So-called unidentified flying objects reported Monday night by more than 100 persons Tuesday turned out to be an exercise in psychology by some inventive Caltech students. Police caustically referred to the balloons, to which flares had been attached in ingenious fashion, as "identifiable unidentified flying objects." The students conceded they launched the balloons over a period of two weeks to see what reaction they would get in view of the flareup of UFO reports. A Caltech official said no disciplinary action was intended against the students.