

Doc No : 9501425

Clerk : st

Type:

Letter

Status: Complete

Date Sent : 11/14/95

Date Rcd : 11/21/95

Due Date : 12/1/95

To: Dr. John Gibbons

Congress.ID :

Date Completed : 12/5/95

TO SCHEDULE?

From : Gordon, Stan; Private Citizen; Greensburg, PA

Topic : Writes re: incident that occurred on 12/9/65 near kecksburg, PA-involving an object passing thru the sky(UFO).

Action: None

Division(s) Director's

Administration

Assnd1 :

Copy1 : Tanya Felder

Assnd2 :

File : Tech/UFOs

Remarks :

64

STAN GORDON



November 14, 1995

John H. Gibbons, Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of Science And Technology Policy
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am a researcher who has spent many years investigating the circumstances surrounding an incident which occurred on December 9, 1965 near Kecksburg, (Acme) in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The event involves an object that was observed by many people as it passed through the sky, then reportedly dropped slowly into a wooded ravine near this small rural community at approximately 4:47 P.M..

There exist numerous witnesses, including news media representatives who were on the scene, and verify that military personnel and equipment quickly responded to the incident. An Army flatbed truck observed entering the area of the alleged impact with no cargo, was later that evening seen by many people exiting the area with a military jeep escort, and it was carrying a large bell shaped object covered by a tarpulin.

The next day the official explanation was that a meteor was seen over the area, and that nothing was found. There are several people who saw the actual object semi-buried in the ground before the military arrived on site. One explanation for the object involved could have been a Soviet Venus probe designated as KOSMOS 96 which the U.S. Space Command verifies re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, on this same date, but at 3:18 A.M. in Canada.

For many years searches for records and documents that pertain to this incident and the military involvement have turned up little information. I do have in my possession the Project Blue Book report that concerns the event. It does verify that three men from the 662nd Radar Squadron, which was an Air Force unit from Pittsburgh was involved with the search. The report went on to state that the search was called off around 2 A.M. and nothing was found. Both reports from the public and newsmen involved verify an Army presence at the scene and involved in the search operation.

There exists much contradictory information concerning this event. For example, in May, 1995, Congressman Frank Mascara wrote me that he had made some inquiries into the matter. The letter states "I have contacted officials from the Pentagon including representatives from the Air Force and Army. Officially, the military has completely denied any involvement either directly or indirectly with any events surrounding the Kecksburg area on the evening of December 9, 1965."

WFO 11/21/95 SB
called him
(1) it's his
hobby.
(2) explained
we have no
records; +
our job is
R+D
budgets -
(ok)

rec'd 11/20/95

Felder Researcher

Phone & Fax

Can you
write something
The effort
Not the of the
Conduct of
Critic of
research

9501425

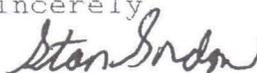
The numerous eyewitness accounts including those of many radio and TV news reporters, the local and national news stories which describe military involvement, and the Air Force report itself confirms such activity. We are approaching the 30th year anniversary of this event, yet there remains many unanswered questions about what occurred and what the object was that reportedly was removed from the site by the military. This incident has drawn much national and international interest, and those who were involved, and the public in general would like to have these questions answered.

There are many witnesses of the event who are willing to be interviewed about what they experienced in 1965. What could have been recovered 30 years ago that needs to be kept so secretive today? Why does the Pentagon deny any involvement when it is well documented that there was military activity. Early press reports, and witnesses later discussed the possibility that radiation was a concern at the site.

I am asking for the assistance of your office to investigate the circumstances of this event, and inquire about the conflicting statements from the Pentagon in regard to the Kecksburg incident. I also would appreciate copies of any documents or information which your office may have on file in regard to the December 9, 1965 event. I am enclosing some material concerning this incident.

Your help is greatly appreciated in regard to this matter.

Sincerely,



Stan Gordon

ARMY ROPES OFF AREA—

'Unidentified Flying Object' Falls Near Kecksburg

An "unidentified flying object"—possibly the same one reported seen streaking across seven northeastern states and Canada late Thursday afternoon — apparently fell to the earth in a secluded wooded area near Kecksburg in Westmoreland County.

The area where the object landed was immediately sealed off on the order of U.S. Army and State Police officials, reportedly in anticipation of a "close inspection" of whatever may have fallen.

A spokesman for a team of radar experts from the Army's

662 radar squadron in Pittsburgh said, "We don't know what we have yet."

Tribune-Review Staff Writer Robert Gatty reported from the scene that "no one is being allowed near the object." State Police officials there, he said, ordered the area roped off to await the expected arrival of both U.S. Army engineers and, possibly, civilian scientists.

The Army engineers, he said, were scheduled to arrive late Thursday night or early Friday morning. Scientists were expected to be brought in some time today.

Unable to talk to anyone who

had actually seen the object Gatty reported that the consistent explanation of the security measures is that the object—whatever it is—may be contaminated with radioactivity.

Shape Mystery

The "unidentified flying object" (UFO) was sighted falling to the earth by Mrs. Arnold Kalp of Acme RD 1 and her two children. Mrs. Kalp, Gatty reported, was not available to talk Thursday night, apparently because of the throng of newsmen and spectators, who began arriving in the Kecksburg area shortly after word of the sight-

ing was reported.

Although no one has indicated the size or shape of the object, Gatty said he talked to one farmer in the area—Dale Howard, who lives about a mile from the scene of the reported landing. Howard reported "feeling a vibration" and "a thump" about the time the object reportedly fell.

The near-exact location of the object, Gatty determined, is 500 feet off Legislative Route 642A in Mt. Pleasant Township, about one-half mile east of Kecksburg.

Excitement caused by the apparent landing, the Tribune-Review

reporter said produced a massive traffic jam on the small roads winding around the small community of Kecksburg. Many of the just-curious spectators, he said, left the scene when informed by police that they could not get near the object.

Newsmen Wait

Newsmen, however, were holding tight, for the most part, to await some official word from either the U.S. Army or the State Police officials in charge.

The obvious excitement aroused by the apparent landing stems, in part, from dozens of

"sightings" all over parts of the northeastern part of the United States and Canada.

Pentagon sources in Washington, D.C., according to a United Press International dispatch, indicated the flash could have been a meteor.

Earlier reports, the UPI dispatch said, indicated the flash could have been a high altitude test rocket fired over Lake Erie. But National Guard and Air Force officials told UPI reporters that no rockets had been fired.

The UPI dispatch went on: "Eric Johnson, a reporter for an Erie, Pa., television station,

said, "It flashed across the lake north northwest of the Erie airport leaving a kind of cloud of smoke behind it."

"Raymond Wallings, a private airplane pilot from Painesville, Ohio, said he was flying over the lake when he saw the "fireball" and kept his eye on it until it plummeted into the lake.

"U.S. Coast Guard officials reported a flying object exploded over the Detroit-Windsor area. Four vessels were dispatched onto Lake St. Clair but were unable to find any trace of the object."



The Tribune-Review

VOL. 80. NO. 261.

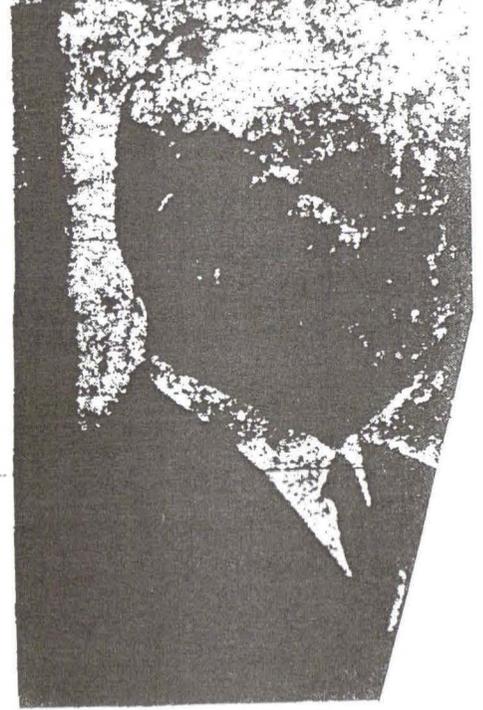
COUNTY EDITION

16 Cents Single Copy
50 Cents Per Week Home Delivered

GREENSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1965.

Red Power Shuffle Spawns New Chief

MOSCOW (UPI) — Soviet of his largely ceremonial post the Russian secret police



Blaze Probed Near Kecksburg Brilliant Fireball Seen Over Pennsylvania

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9 (AP) — A brilliant fireball flashed across the sky over Lake Erie near dusk, and particles of the unidentified object apparently were the cause of fires at scattered points in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The bright flash was seen in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Some small grass fires broke out in a wooded area at the west edge of Elyria, about 20 miles west of Cleveland. A small fire in woods just outside Kecksburg, near Mt. Pleasant, in southwest Pennsylvania, also was under investigation.

10 Fires Reported

At Elyria, the fire department said there were about 10 fires in an area of about 1,000 square feet. Lt. Jack Trumbull said the pattern led him to believe they could have been touched off by a fireball or meteorite which shattered as it hit the ground. The fires were extinguished quickly and there was no major damage.

Mrs. Ralph Richards, who lives nearby, said she saw a fiery object fall among the trees shortly before the fires erupted. She said it was of volleyball size.

In Pennsylvania, where state police had been swamped with calls about the "burst of light" seen late in the day, Air Force investigators headed for the fire.

Maj. Hector Quintinella, in charge of the Air Force's office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, for investigating unidentified flying objects, said a team had been dispatched from the Pittsburgh area.

Erie, Pa., residents far to the north of Kecksburg, reported seeing a flash of light followed by a bright trail of "smoke." Federal Aviation Agency spokesmen there said it was probably a meteor.

'Fireball' Lands Near Pittsburgh; Seen in 7 States

Pittsburgh Special to The Inquirer
PITTSBURGH, Dec. 9.—A brilliant ball of fire which was seen streaking across seven states and Canada Thursday night crashed into woods 20 miles south of here. Flaming objects falling from it touched off fires in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The Army and State Police sealed off the wooded area with the explanation:

"There is an unidentified flying object in the woods."

The fireball was seen by airplane pilots and residents of Canada, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania.

FIRES NEAR CLEVELAND

The object apparently landed in woods near Kecksburg. Other early reports indicated it touched off a series of small grass fires in woods 20 miles south of Cleveland and deposited two "small stacks of shredded foil" in a swamp near Lapcer, Mich.

Coast Guard officials reported from Windsor, Ont., that a flying object "exploded" over the Windsor-Detroit area. Pilots in the area saw a flash and felt shock waves on the fuselage of their planes.

In Washington, the Pentagon announced that whatever it was, it was not a military aircraft. It could have been a meteorite, the Pentagon said.

In Pennsylvania, State Police

ORANGE FIRE FLASH SEEN OVER 6 STATES

A flash of orange fire streaked across the sky over a wooded area near Kecksburg, Pa., Thursday night, and a small fire broke out in a wooded area at the west edge of Elyria, Ohio. The fireball was seen in seven states and Canada. The cause of the flash is being investigated by the Air Force and State Police. The fireball was seen in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia, New York and Canada. The fireball was seen in the sky over a wooded area near Kecksburg, Pa., about 20 miles south of Cleveland. The fireball was seen in the sky over a wooded area near Kecksburg, Pa., about 20 miles south of Cleveland. The fireball was seen in the sky over a wooded area near Kecksburg, Pa., about 20 miles south of Cleveland.

Army, Police Seal Off Woods In UFO Probe

PITTSBURGH (UPI)—U.S. Army officials and the Pennsylvania State Police last night sealed off an area in southwestern Pennsylvania explaining there "is an unidentified flying object in the woods."

A spokesman for a team of radar experts from the Army's 652 Radar Squadron here said, "We don't know what we have yet."

After sealing off a wooded, isolated area at Kecksburg, Pa., about 20 miles south of here, officers said Army Engineers were being called to the scene.

The object was found after a flash of orange fire streaking across the sky was reported by airplane pilots and residents in seven states.

Pentagon sources indicated the flash could have been a meteorite.

State Police went to the Kecksburg, Pa., area after a woman reported seeing a "round, smoldering object crash to the earth."

Earlier reports said the flash could have been a high altitude test rocket fired over Lake Erie but National Guard and Air Force officials denied any rockets had been fired.

Eric Johnson, a reporter for an Erie, Pa., television station said, "It flashed across the lake, north northwest of the Erie Airport leaving a kind of cloud of smoke behind it."

Raymond Wallings, a private airplane pilot from Painesville, Ohio, said he was flying over the lake when he saw the "fireball" and kept his eye on it as it plummeted into the lake.

Notes: Read American 12-10-65

Kecksburg UFO seen at AF bases

By Sharon Santus

Twenty-five years ago today, a UFO reportedly landed in a wooded area near Kecksburg in Mt Pleasant Township, N.Y., for the first time, witnesses say they saw the object at two separate highly-secure Air Force bases in Ohio just days afterward.

The witnesses, who are requesting anonymity, say they were instructed by the military not to discuss what they saw. It all began on Dec. 9, 1965, a bright orange fireball streaked across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Erie. The object continued its descent and was spotted over Westmoreland County skies. Witnesses said it glided to earth at a rate of speed in a wooded area near Kecksburg.

According to some accounts, dozens of military personnel converged on the area and ordered spectators away.

Witnesses said a flatbed truck was driven to the landing site and left sometime later with a tarpaulin-covered object in the back.

The official report from the United States Air Force is that a meteor passed near the area and was not seen again. State police from Greensburg said they searched the area that night and the following day and found nothing.

Two witnesses, including James Romanczyk of Perry center forward several weeks ago and I said they saw the object on the ground that night in Kecksburg.

Stan Gordon, who heads the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said the witnesses — in separate interviews — described it as "bronz-colored



KECKSBURG OBJECT?

This is an artist's rendering of the object allegedly seen by an Ohio truck driver at Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton on Dec. 12, 1965.

iron shaped object about 12 feet long and 10 feet in diameter. Each said it was wrapped with a band of unintelligible markings.

Despite the men's accounts, some in Kecksburg insist the reports are nothing more than fabricated nonsense. They say an object might have passed through

the sky that day, but it never fell anywhere near Kecksburg.

The Kecksburg UFO incident gained national attention in September on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries." Disbelievers, many of whom own land in the area where the object reportedly landed, tried unsuccessfully to have the

program canceled.

Since the broadcast, more than 100 people telephoned "Unsolved Mysteries" to offer additional information.

Among them is a Westmoreland County man who was a member of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Lockborne Air Base near Columbus, Ohio, in December 1965. Robert Adams (not his real name) said the facility was placed on "red alert" during the early-morning hours of Dec. 10, 1965.

A member of the air police, Adams said his unit was immediately dispatched to a hangar where they assumed guard positions. He said a flatbed truck with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back entered the hangar and superior officers ordered the police to shoot to kill anyone who attempted to enter without top security clearance.

Adams said the truck had entered the base through the rear gate, which he said was highly unusual since the gate is located on an extremely remote area of the compound.

He said the truck passed a few feet in front of him and the object on the back appeared to be twice the size of a Volkswagen.

Adams said he was relieved of guard duty at 6 or 7 a.m. and learned later the truck still carried the object to the base at 7:30 a.m. at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, 100 miles west near Dayton.

He said he was discharged from the Air Force a year later and returned to Westmoreland County where he learned of the Kecksburg case.

Because of the timing of the incident — the day after the Kecksburg crash — and because of the top secret nature of the situation,

PLEASE SEE UFO/A10

UFO FROM/AL

I have no doubt in my mind the object taken inside the hangar that morning at Lockborne was the same object that came down in Kecksburg," Adams said. "President Kennedy came to the base while I was at Lockborne and there wasn't as much security as I saw that morning."

Another witness, Ohio truck driver John Cummings (not his real name), said he actually saw the object inside a building at Wright Patterson on Dec. 12, 1965, just three days after the alleged landing.

Cummings, who made deliveries for a Dayton-area building supply company, said a high-ranking military officer arrived at the firm on Dec. 11, 1965, and ordered a special radiation-, moisture-resistant brick for construction of a protective room inside a building at Wright Patterson.

Cummings said he and a cousin delivered 8,500 bricks to Wright Patterson the next day after being instructed by their boss not to discuss anything they might observe at the compound.

"We were unloading the bricks onto pallets and me and my cousin decided to sneak inside to see what all the secrecy was about," Cummings said. "Guards immediately ordered us out... but not before we saw it."

Cummings said he saw a dark bronze, bell-shaped object about 14 feet wide at the base and about 12 feet high.

He said scaffolding surrounded the object, which was covered on three sides with parachute-like material that hung from the ceiling. According to Cummings, 10 to 15 men with white, protective suits, wearing rubber boots, rubber gloves and gas masks were attempting to open the object.

"They took us outside and told us to forget what we had seen," Cummings said. "We were told that in 20 years, the object would be common knowledge."

Cummings said that a few days later he learned that other truck drivers had seen a flatbed military truck with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back traveling from the Pittsburgh area west on Route 40 toward Wheeling, W. Va., and then on to

Columbus and Dayton.

He said that information along with his own experience convinces him that the object he saw at Wright Patterson was the same as that which allegedly fell in Kecksburg.

Cummings has been interviewed extensively by Len Stringfield, a nationally known UFO investigator and author of *Situation Red: The UFO Story*, published by Doubleday.

"I've talked with (Cummings) numerous times and I have every reason to believe he's telling the truth," Stringfield said. "He had no previous interest in UFOs and doesn't want any publicity about his experience."

Stringfield said Kecksburg holds as much importance as the infamous Roswell, N.M., UFO retrieval case. Many researchers believe the U.S. government retrieved bodies of alien beings after one and possibly two craft fell in the desert near Roswell in 1947.

"With the amount of information Stan Gordon has gathered on Kecksburg, I would place it just behind Roswell as the most significant UFO retrieval case in history," Stringfield said.

Gordon, who has gathered government documents and compiled thousands of pages of research in the Kecksburg case, said new information is surfacing almost daily.

"We have several new witnesses who have come forward since the 'Unsolved Mysteries' segment aired in September," Gordon said. "Many of them are Kecksburg residents who were in the area that night."

Gordon continues to gather research and asks that anyone with information contact him by writing: The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

Gordon said there can be no doubt an object landed 25 years ago today in Kecksburg.

"It made turns, it hovered, it definitely was not a meteor," Gordon said. "Was it an alien spacecraft or a highly advanced aircraft from the United States or a foreign country? We can't be sure. The one thing we do know is that the government continues to draw a cloak of secrecy around the entire incident. What could they be hiding?"

Cover Photo: The Times-Register; Photos: The Times-Register; Photo: Robert Adams