
By Flying Saucer Specialist John A. Keel

HUSHED UP —

22 UFO SIGHTINGS

IN ONE DAY



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IS THIS FLYING SAUCER "D-DAY"?



AMATEUR photographer was lucky enough to catch this UFO as it hovered in the air for several minutes

ON Wednesday, October 5, 1960, a formation of unidentified flying objects was picked up on the sophisticated computerized radar screens of an early-warning station at Thule, Greenland. Its exact course was quickly charted. It appeared to be heading toward North America from the direction of the Soviet Union. Within minutes the red telephones at Strategic Air Command headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska, were jangling, and the well-trained crews of SAC were galloping to their planes at airfields all over the world. Atomic-bomb-laden B-52's already in the air were circling tensely, their crews waiting for the final signal to head for predetermined targets deep within the Soviet Union.

SAC headquarters broadcast an anxious signal to Thule for further confirmation. There was no answer. Generals chewed on their cigars nervously. Had Thule already been hit?

Suddenly the mysterious blips on the radar screens changed course and disappeared. Later it was learned that "an iceberg had cut the submarine cable" connecting Thule to the United States. It was a very odd coincidence that the "iceberg" chose that precise time to strike. But the mystery of unidentified flying objects is filled with remarkable and seemingly unrelated coincidences.

World War III did not start that day. But it might have. Weeks later, when news of the enigmatic radar signals leaked out, three Labor members of the British House of Commons, Mr. Emrys-Hughes, Mrs. Hart, and Mr. Swingler, stood up and demanded an explanation. The U.S. Air Force replied that the radar signals had actually bounced off the moon and had been misinterpreted. The story appeared in the *Guardian*, a leading newspaper in Manchester, England, on November 30, and a week later it was buried on page 71



IN ONE DAY

By JOHN A. KEEL

As if controlled by a single intelligence, dozens of UFOs suddenly appeared in the Midwestern skies, their lights blazing as they circled and swooped, terrifying thousands...

From UFOs: OPERATION TROJAN HORSE by John A. Keel. Copyright © 1970 by John A. Keel. Reprinted by permission of G.P. Putnam's Sons.

(above photo) then banked sharply and sped away at an incredible rate of speed . . .

of the New York *Times*.

Could modern military radar really convert the moon into a formation of flying saucers? I have excellent reasons for doubting it. In May, 1967, I toured a secret radar installation in New Jersey at the Air Force's own invitation, and I was extremely impressed by the complexity and efficiency of the equipment there. By pressing a few buttons, the radar operators can not only instantly detect every aircraft within range, but giant computers also provide complete and instant information on the speed, altitude, direction, and ETA (estimated time of arrival) of each plane. Even the plane's flight number appears on the radar screen! Unknown objects can be immediately picked out in the maze of air traffic, and a routine procedure is (Continued on page 92)

PAIR of flying saucers were spotted by hundreds of persons (at right) as they flew in broad daylight recently . . .



UFO'S

(Continued from page 31)

followed to identify them quickly. If these procedures fail, jet fighters are scrambled to take a look. It is improbable, if not impossible altogether, for the moon or any other distant celestial object to fool this elaborate system.

There have been frequent radar sightings of UFOs for the past twenty years, not only on military radar but on the sets of weather bureaus and airports. Often in these cases ground witnesses have also reported seeing the objects visually. When the Federal Aviation Agency tower at the Greensboro-High Point Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, picked up an unidentified flying object early on the morning of July 27, 1966, several police officers in the High Point-Randolph County area also reported seeing unidentifiable objects buzzing the vicinity. They said the objects appeared to be at an altitude of 500 feet and described them as being round, brilliant red-green, and appeared to be emitting flashes of light.

THE government's official position toward flying saucers has been totally negative since 1953, although a great deal of attention has been paid to the subject behind the scenes. Obviously any phenomenon which could possibly trigger off World War III accidentally has to be taken seriously.

An extensive flying saucer "flap" (numerous sightings occurring simultaneously in many widely scattered areas) broke in March, 1966, and the then Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, had been well briefed by the Air Force before the subject was interjected into a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 30, 1966. Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher of New Jersey, a state where scores of UFO sightings had been reported that month, asked Secretary McNamara if he thought there was "anything at all" to the flying saucer mystery.

"I think not," McNamara replied. "I have talked to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Director of Research and Engineering, and neither of them places any credence in the reports we have received to date."

WHEN I first decided to look into these matters, in March, 1966, I subscribed to several newspaper clipping services, and I was stunned by the results. I often received as many as 150 clippings for a single day! My immediate reaction, of course, was one of disbelief. I thought that all of the newspapers in the country had thrown objectivity out the window and were participating in some kind of gigantic put-on. It seemed impossible that so many unidentifiable things were flying around our sacred skies without being seriously noticed by both the military and

the scientific community.

It became apparent that the only way to properly investigate this situation was to travel to the various flap areas personally and interview the witnesses in depth, applying the standard journalistic techniques that I had learned from being a reporter and writer for two long decades. So in the spring of 1966 I began a long series of treks which eventually took me through twenty states, where I interviewed thousands of people, hundreds of them in depth.

AS I traveled, I naturally visited local newspapers and spent time with the editors and reporters who had been handling the UFO reports in their area. They were all competent newsmen, many with years of experience behind them, and when I met the witnesses whose stories they had written and published, I realized what a skillful and objective job they had done. So I developed a new respect for the clippings that were pouring into my mailbox. Most newspaper stories were reliable sources for basic information.

The witnesses, I concluded, have been giving honest descriptions of what they have seen, and their local newspapers have been giving objective accounts of what they reported. The nature and the meaning of what they saw is another matter. And the answer could not be found in newspaper clippings. However, it was possible that those clippings could supply some broad data about the overall phenomenon. None of the UFO organizations had made any effort at all to extract such data. The U.S. Air Force had tried in the early 1950's but had apparently given up in despair. So my next job was to translate the seemingly random clippings and reports of investigated cases into some form of statistical information.

More than 10,000 clippings and reports reached me in 1966 (in contrast with the 1,060 reports *allegedly* received by the Air Force during that same period). I had checked out many of these cases personally and had become convinced of their validity. Throughout 1967, I devoted my spare time to sorting this great mass of material, categorizing it, and boiling it down into valid statistical form. It was an enormous job, and I had to do it alone. I threw out most of the "lights in the sky" types of reports and concentrated on the Type I cases (sightings of low-level objects observed and reported by reliable witnesses). I obtained astronomical data on meteors, etc., for the year, and from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration I obtained information on all of the year's rocket launches. By checking the UFO reports against this data, I was able to sift out the possible or probable misinterpretations that were bound to occur.

MY first interest was to uncover whatever patterns or cycles that might exist in the flap dates. I ended up with two files: one containing the Type I sightings (730 in all, or 7.3 percent of the total); and the other, the best of the Type II sightings (high-altitude objects performing in a controlled manner and distinct from

normal aircraft and natural phenomena). There were 2,600 reports in the second group. Thus I was working with 33.3 percent of the total. (Radio and TV surveys which rule the industry work on a far smaller sampling, claiming that a survey of 1,500 TV viewers represents the viewing habits of the whole country.)

As soon as I had organized the sightings by dates, the first significant pattern became apparent. This was that sightings tended to collect around specific days of the week. Wednesday had the greatest number of sightings, and these were usually reported between the hours of 8 to 11 P.M.

Of the sampling used, .5 percent were not dated.

If the UFO phenomenon had a purely psychological basis, then there should be more sightings on Saturday night when more people are out of doors, traveling to and from entertainments, etc. Instead we find that the greatest number of sightings are reported on Wednesday, and then they slowly taper off through the rest of week. The lowest number occurs on Tuesday. This inexplicable "Wednesday phenomenon" proved very valid and was repeated throughout 1967 and 1968.

This does not mean that flying saucers are out in force every Wednesday night. But when there is a large flap, it nearly always takes place on Wednesday.

By carefully studying the geographical locations of the reported sightings during these flaps, we came upon another puzzling factor. The reports seemed to cluster within the boundaries of specific states. For example, during the flap of August 16 there were hundreds of sightings in Arkansas. These seemed to be concentrated into two belts which ran the length of the state from north to south. Yet we did not receive a single report from the neighboring states of Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tennessee, or Louisiana that night. Minnesota and Wisconsin, both far to the north of Arkansas, participated in that same flap. But the majority of the sightings seemed to be concentrated in Minnesota, and the UFOs seemed to confine their activities within the political boundaries of that state, too. Random sightings were also reported in distant New Jersey that night, and a few sightings were reported in South Dakota, right on the border with Minnesota.

Certainly if the UFOs were meteors or other natural phenomena, they would also be reported in adjoining states. Cross-state sightings are not as common as the skeptics would like to believe. In addition, the objects often linger for hours in one area. At Fort Smith, Arkansas, newsman John Garner took his KFSA microphone into the streets and broadcast a description of the strange multicolored lights that cavorted over the city for hours as great crowds of people watched.

IN my studies of several other flaps I have discovered this same baffling geographical factor. If the UFOs are actually machines of some sort, their pilots seem to be familiar not only with our calendar but also with the political boundaries of our states. They not only concentrate their activities on Wednesday

nights, they also carefully explore our states methodically from border to border.

Does this sound like the work of Martians or extraterrestrial strangers? Or does it sound like the work of someone who is using our maps and our calendars and may, therefore, know a great deal about us, even though we know little about "them"?

The skeptics try to explain away the published UFO stories by saying that a mass hysteria builds up in flap areas and that everyone starts seeing the things once a few reports have been published. This is patently untrue. Nearly all the published reports of flap dates appear on the same day. There is no time lag, no building up of reports. Random individuals in widely separated areas all apparently see unidentifiable objects on the same night and dutifully report their observations to their local police or newspapers, seldom realizing that anyone else has seen something that night. The next day the newspapers in several areas, or even several different states, carry the reports. The flap has come and gone in a single day. Even then, people reading the Arkansas *Gazette* never learn that other papers in other states have been filed with UFO accounts on that same day. Most UFO buffs, who depend upon one another and assorted friends for clippings, are never aware of the full extent of the flap. With the exception of the North American Newspaper Alliance, no news service assigns men to keep track of these things and tabulate them. So while an occasional sighting may be sent out by a wire service, data on the overall situation are simply not available.

In March-April, 1967, the published UFO sightings outstripped all previous years. I received more than 2,000 clippings and reports in March alone and was able to investigate many of them at firsthand. Yet the major news media ignored this flap, perhaps because none of the editors realized it was happening. Instead of the mythical censorship so lovingly expounded in some cultist circles, we have a lack of communication and a complete lack of research. The indifference so long fostered by the official government position has resulted in a general indifference.

The biggest flap in March, 1967 occurred on a Wednesday—March 8. Let's review briefly some of the sightings reported on that day:

1. Minnesota: "A strange object in the sky hovering around above our homes here is giving some of us folks the shivers. It's becoming such a mysterious light or flying saucer that we can almost work our imaginations into seeing it land some green men from outer space into our backyard. The thing moves with a gliding motion with brilliant light and sometimes just hovering and sometimes moving with utmost speed. It appears each night at 8 o'clock and stays for about one hour before it fades away." (Floodwood, Minnesota, *Rural Forum*, March 9, 1967.)

2. Michigan: "Police said they received eight reports that a UFO hovered over Liggett School about 8 P.M. Wednesday." The Air Force and Grosse Point Woods police were investigating

reports of a "burning orange oval" which had been photographed by two persons that week. "There was definitely something out there," said Major Raymond Nyls, Selfridge Air Force Base operations officer. "Too many people saw it." (Detroit, Michigan, *Free Press*, March 11, 1967.)

3. Oklahoma: At 8:45 P.M. on Wednesday night Mrs. Homer Smith stepped onto her back porch and "was astounded to see a twirling object with colored lights" going over Ninth Street headed south. She called her ten-year-old son, and he saw it, too. She said the UFO was traveling and twirling so fast that it was difficult to count the lights on it, but they were colored, and what she believed to be the rear of the ship had what looked like "spits of fire coming from it." (Henryetta, Oklahoma, *Daily Free Lance*, March 19, 1967.)

4. Arkansas: Mrs. Ned Warnock of Brinkley, Arkansas, viewed an object from her kitchen window that night. "It was a reddish orange," she said. "And it changed to a silver-white color just before it took off. It was round and pretty large. It was real low but gained height and speed as it took off. It was moving too fast for a star." She alerted her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Folkerts, and they also saw the object. (Clarendon, Arkansas, *The Monroe County Sun*, March 16, 1967.)

5. Maryland: Two residents and a police officer observed an object which appeared circular, with "a shiny gold bottom." When it hovered, the top glowed red. It flew an oval-shaped path, going back and forth from Fort Meade to Laurel three times before taking off. (Laurel, Maryland, *Prince George's County News*, March 16, 1967.)

6. Montana: Mrs. Richard Haagland of Stevensville, Montana, reported to the Missoula County sheriff's office that he had seen a circular flying object which "dropped three balls of fire before disappearing" at 8:20 P.M. Wednesday night. (Missoula, Montana, *Missoulian-Sentinel*, March 9, 1967.)

7. Montana: "Many people have seen unidentified flying objects in the Ekalaka, Lame Jones, and Willard areas. The report is that they seem to hover about a mile from the ground, 'fly' up and down, or in any direction that seems to pleasure them. They are lit up with red and green lights and are apt to be seen in the early night.

"The report to the *Times* office by Mrs. Harry Hanson of Willard relates that Stanley Ketchum has seen them at what seems to be a closer range than most, and any attempt at trying to get close to them makes them literally disappear into thin air." (Baker, Montana, *Fallon County Times*, March 9, 1967.)

8. Missouri: Mr. J. Sloan Muir of Caledonia, Missouri, observed a flashing light from his kitchen window at 7:15 P.M. last Wednesday and called his wife. They said it was "a shiny, metal, oblong globe, shaped something like a watermelon. Around the perimeter were many beautiful multicolored lights—green and red mostly, but also white, blue, and yellow, running into orange." They estimated that it was about 35 feet long and said they watched it for fifteen or

twenty minutes before it flew out of sight. (Bardstown, Kentucky, *Kentucky Standard*, March 16, 1967.)

9. Missouri: "In the past two and one half weeks 75 to 100 persons have reported sightings in the Osage Beach and Linn Creek areas." (Versailles, Missouri, *Versailles Leader-Statesman*, March 16, 1967.)

10. Missouri: Mrs. Phyllis Rowles of Bunceton, Missouri, reported seeing a multicolored object at 8 P.M. Wednesday. She described it as having flashing blue, green, and white lights. It hovered for two hours, moving in an up-and-down motion. Many others in the area had similar sightings, including Leo Case, a newsman for station KRMS. (Boonville, Missouri, *Daily News*, March 9, 1967.)

11. Illinois: Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Davis were driving on Route 30 around noon when "they saw a beam of light come from a wide-open area south of them." They stopped and observed a strange object for three or four minutes. "It was very brilliant," Mrs. Davis said. "And cast a red and blue color. It was circle-shaped. It seemed to come toward us but gained height until it went in back of a small cloud. We watched for about ten minutes more, but it never appeared again."

Ronald Kolberg of Aurora, Illinois, said he and other residents of his neighborhood "have noticed an unusual light in the sky west of their area every night for a few months." (Aurora, Illinois, *Beacon-News*, March 9, 1967.)

12. Illinois: Several witnesses in Pontiac, Illinois, reported sightings to the state police on Wednesday. They said a white light flashed occasionally with a less frequent red light and a periodic green light. The object appeared between 10 P.M. and midnight and moved up and down slowly. "More than a dozen people have seen the object this week." (Pontiac, Illinois, *Leader*, March 10, 1967.)

13. Illinois: Knox County Deputy Sheriff Frank Courson and twenty other persons watched a pulsating white and red circular object for several hours on Wednesday night. The object resembled an upside-down bowl and appeared to be about 2,000 feet off the ground. Deputy Courson added that "a similar object crossed over his car Monday as he drove along Interstate 74 near Galesburg, Illinois, but he "was scared to tell anyone about it then."

There were also reports of UFO sightings Wednesday night in Warren and Henry counties, west of Galesburg. (Associated Press story, widely circulated, March 10, 1967.)

14. Illinois: State police and scores of others watched UFOs near Flanagan, Illinois, on Wednesday night. A state trooper named Kennedy said he had followed the object to U.S. 51 where he met two Woodford County deputies who had been watching it approach Minonk from the east. The object was a brilliant bluish-white and red. (Bloomington, Illinois, *Pantagraph*, March 10, 1967.)

15. Illinois: "Flying saucer reports, one of them from a veteran policeman and pilot, flooded the Knox County sheriff's office in Galesburg Thursday. Dozens of similar reports poured into police

departments in Moline, Illinois." (Chicago, Illinois, *News*, March 9, 1967.)

16. Iowa: "On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights of last week unidentified flying objects were reported by several persons . . . including Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Tietz, Connie Dagit and her younger brother, Jack Chadwick, and John Kiwala. The UFOs west of Eldora were all reported at approximately the same time nightly, at about 8:30 P.M. UFOs have also been reported in the Steamboat Rock area." (Eldora, Iowa, *Herald-Ledger*, March 14, 1967.)

17. Iowa: A "saucer-shaped blue light" was observed Wednesday night hovering above Dam 18 north of Burlington, Iowa. Deputy Sheriff Homer Dickson said he thought it might have been a "reflection of a spotlight on the ice." "Wednesday's sighting was the latest of several reported in the Burlington area the past two weeks." (Burlington, Iowa, newspaper. Name obliterated. March 9, 1967.)

18. Iowa: Mrs. L. E. Koppenhaver reported seeing "a big red ball" sailing over her house at 9:45 P.M. Wednesday. "You know how the setting sun gets a red glow on it?" she said. "Well, that was



what this thing looked like. Only this object was very mobile, moving almost out of sight, the bright glow diminishing to a small light. I've seen satellites before, but this was nothing like them. It moved so fast and maneuvered so quickly." Her father, Walter Engstrom, said he also saw the same object. (Boone, Iowa, *News-Republican*, March 10, 1967.)

19. Kansas: Mr. Jake Jansonius of Prairie View, Kansas, was driving home about 10 P.M. Wednesday night "when the sky lit up and a bright blue object of some kind appeared." While he was watching it, it shot straight up in the air, and half of it turned fiery red as "three blazing tails reached toward the ground." It moved to the west and then dropped down, out of his line of vision. He drove a short distance when "the sky lit up poof in one big flash, and immediately ahead of me the saucer-shaped object began to spread apart—one half still blue, the other fiery red. As the distance widened between the two parts, a connecting band which appeared to be about one and a half feet thick formed, and while I watched, the object broke up and disappeared in a flash." (Phillipsburg, Kansas, *Review*,

March 16, 1967.)

20. Kansas: Several police officers in Marion, Kansas, watched an unidentified flying object Wednesday night between 8 and 8:30 P.M. Marion police dispatcher Sterling Frame and others viewed it through binoculars and stated it changed color: red, green, and yellow. "They all agree they saw it. There's no question about that." (Marion, Kansas, *Marion County Record*, March 9, 1967.)

21. Kansas: "Around nine o'clock Wednesday night, several Towanda youths were parked along the road northwest of town when they observed revolving red, white, and blue lights flashing in the sky above the Wilson field in the vicinity of a city water well." The boys fetched City Marshal Virgil Osborne, and he went with them to the area and viewed the lights himself. Osborne said, "The trees along the river were lighted up from the reflection as the mysterious object moved over them." A line of cars led by Osborne followed the object as it continued its course without changing direction or altitude until it was out of sight. (Whitewater, Kansas, *Independent*, March 9, 1967.)

22. Kansas: Sheriff G. L. Sullivan and Police Chief Al Kisner watched a hovering object for more than an hour on Wednesday evening near Goodland, Kansas. They said the thing resembled a sphere from 12 to 14 feet long with an object attached to the bottom which appeared to be about 12 feet in diameter. There were three lights on it—red, green, and amber.

A Goodland policeman, Ron Weehunt, reported seeing an oval-shaped, domed object about 50 feet long that same evening. He said it flew over the city at moderate speed and appeared at an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 feet. (Norton, Kansas, *Telegram*, March 14, 1967.)

THESE twenty-two reports are a mere sampling, but they provide an idea of what happened on a single Wednesday night in March, 1967. This was not an exceptional flap. It was, in fact, a rather ordinary one, and none of these incidents is of special interest. There were seventy-four flap dates in 1966, many of them much larger than that of March 8, 1967.

The flap of March 8 seemed to be largely concentrated in the states of Kansas and Illinois. In fact, much of the UFO activity in recent years has been focused on the Midwestern states. Until the fall of 1967, a simple pattern seems to have emerged: Less densely populated areas had a higher ratio of sightings than heavily populated sections. The Air Force discovered this odd fact back in the late 1940's. If this were a purely psychological phenomenon, then there should be more reports in the more densely populated areas. Instead, the reverse had been true. The objects still apparently prefer remote sectors such as hill country, deserts, forested areas, swamplands, and *places where the risk of being observed is the least*. As you will note from the sample cases mentioned previously, the majority of the sightings were made between 7:30 and 9:30 P.M. But throughout rural America, most of the population is at

home and planted in front of the TV sets at that hour, particularly on weekday nights. In other studies we have determined that the majority of the reported landings occur very late at night in very isolated locales, where the chances of being observed are very slight. In most farming areas, the people are early risers, and therefore most of the population is in bed before 10 P.M. It is after 10 P.M. that the unidentified flying objects cut loose. When they do happen to be observed on the ground, it is either by accident or *design*. And usually they take off the moment they have been discovered, or they inexplicably disappear into thin air!

Already we can arrive at one disturbing conclusion based upon these basic factors of behavior. If these lights are actually machines operated by intelligent entities, they obviously don't want to be caught. They come in the dead of night, operating in areas where the risks of being observed are slight. They pick the middle of the week for their peak activities, and they confine themselves rather methodically to the political boundaries of specific states at specific times. All of this smacks uneasily of a covert military operation, a secret buildup in remote areas.

Unfortunately, it is not all this simple. The first major UFO flap in the Midwest took place in 1897. There's something else going on here. If secrecy is "their" goal, then both our newspaper wire services and our government have happily been obliging them. What are the reasons? And, more important, what are the pitfalls? If strange unidentified flying machines are operating freely in our midst, I wonder if we can really accept what Secretary of Defense McNamara told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on March 30, 1966: "I think that every report so far has been investigated," he said. "And in every instance we have found a more reasonable explanation than that it represents an object from outer space or a potential threat to our security."

THE newspapers of March 9, 1967, quoted Dr. J. Allen Hynek as dismissing a number of the March 8 sightings as being the planet Venus. But I worry about the report of two Erie, Pennsylvania, policemen, William Rutledge and Donald Peck, who said they watched a strange light over Lake Erie for two hours on Wednesday, August 3, 1966. It appeared as a bright light when they first noticed it at 4:45 A.M. It moved east, they said, stopped, turned red, and disappeared. A moment later it reappeared and was now a bluish white. They watched it until 6:55 A.M. As the sun came up and dawn flooded the sky, the object ceased to be a mere light. It became a definite silvery object, possibly metallic, and finally it headed north toward Canada and disappeared.

Could all of these other strange lights in the sky also be silver metallic objects when viewed in daylight? If so, then we can forget about all of the theories of swamp gas, meteors, plasma, and natural phenomena that have been bandied about by the skeptics for the past twenty years.

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