

# JUST

# CAUSE



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## A UFO OVER THE MOON?

Over the years we have been regaled with stories of UFO sightings by astronauts, particularly during lunar missions. The accounts have ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. A number of the book-length treatments of alien bases and industrial activities on the moon have been an insult to the intelligence of amateur and professional astronomers who have spent their lives studying the lunar surface.

Indeed there have been reports of occasional unidentified lights by astronauts but none could be called evidence of alien machines. During research for CLEAR INTENT an attempt was made to verify the more vivid sightings allegedly made by lunar astronauts. No evidence was uncovered for any of the claimed encounters. However, we have left the door open for future consideration. After all, we may not have seen everything as was the case with other military sightings investigated. It would be pure folly for us to take a totally negative stance on this since it might discourage potential witnesses, either astronauts or other NASA employees, from speaking to us.

One individual who wrote to us was a former NASA employee. Bob Davis (pseudonym) was a Safety Inspector at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. His job was to patrol IMCC (Integrated Mission Control Center) Building #30 with another inspector and check all key areas of the building for safety and fire hazards. As it turned out, one of Bob's patrols was to prove memorable for him!

We will first let him describe in his own words the area of his patrol. It is quite important to picture this for the rest of the story:

"(The) viewing room is glassed in, has two telephones on one side, (for newsmen), a large screen television for the news' convenience, about six rows of orange upholstered seats, and two entrance/exits.

When you look out the front, you can see the very large map of the world, split up, and strung out on a wide scale. Across the map are drawn lines, which represent the flight, or position of the spacecraft at any given point in time. Attached to this wide angle map is a very large panel, empty most of the earlier flights, but put to use after the Apollo flights. It was in fact a very large television screen. The operation, as far as I have been

able to research, is this. A signal is captured, run through a computer, broken down into equal parts, then the computer sends a signal to a bank of cameras located at the back of the TV screen. If you have ever walked back of the screen, you will have noticed that the bank of cameras put out a large amount of heat."

We have been informed by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON and one who is familiar with the Johnson Space Center, that Davis gave a "very accurate description of Building #30." He also affirmed Davis' description of the area behind the TV screen, an area normally not seen by the public.

Now to the thrust of Bob's tale:

"Mike Brown (pseudonym) and I had been assigned to patrol on the flight. I do not remember which flight, but I can tell you that it was the one which had the astronauts going down into Hadley Rille, and as was our habit, after inspecting the fire alarm panel at the back of the viewing room, we sat down and lit up our pipes.

About ten minutes after we went into the room, several men, one of which was the director of JSC, came in and were excitedly motioning toward the big TV screen in the control room. Naturally, Mike and I looked at the screen to see what had excited them so much. The camera on the front of the Lunar Rover was pointed into the sky (?) over the area where the astronauts were supposed to be. In the center of the screen was a shiny object, which I thought was the Command Module. It was hovering there in the black, a brilliant speck, with the camera on the Lunar Rover focused on it. Now, you've got to understand that I thought it was the Command Module, and that it had come down to observe the grounded astronauts, or that it might be coming down on a rescue mission. However, it started moving towards screen right, and the camera on the Rover followed it. That camera had been focused on our men in Hadley Rille, as a means of keeping tabs on them, and here it was following an object in space above the moon's surface!

I watched the whole episode, and when the object had made a complete circuit of the area, it left at a very high rate of speed straight up. Now, I opened my mouth and stammered, 'What the \_\_\_\_\_ was that?'

It was at this time that we were noticed, and all of the men there whirled around, one of them demanding to know what we were doing in the room and how did we get there. I told the man (and I might be wrong but I think it was Dr. Kraft) that we had been in the room the whole time because we had been taking our break after inspecting the alarm panel.

I again asked him what we had been watching and another man butted in with the most illogical answer I have ever heard an intelligent man make. He said, 'That was an oil bubble on the camera lens at the rear of the screen there.', and pointed at the very large screen attached to the map.

I looked him straight in the eye and asked him how come the camera on the Lunar Rover had followed the drop of oil if it was supposed to be on the camera at the rear of the screen? He took my clearance card, which was hanging from my shirt flap, and said, 'Mr. Davis, I said it was an oil drop on the

camera lens at the rear of the big screen there, and that is what it was! Now get your asses out of here, keep your goddamn mouths shut or you might not have a job tomorrow.' With that threat, Mike and I left, exiting through a very well guarded door."

The "Hadley Rille" mission was Apollo 15, launched July 26, 1971, for a 12-day excursion to the moon. The command module pilot was Al Worden and the astronauts who landed on the moon were David Scott and James Irwin. The flight was the first to use the LRV, or Lunar Rover, to travel extended distances on the lunar surface.

It would be easy to write this off as just another in a series of tales about UFOs on the moon but there is a difference here. I believe I recall seeing some of this on television as it was happening!

My recollection is that I was home and preoccupied with paperwork and TV at the same time. The networks often interrupted their regular programs with special live broadcasts from the moon. One had come on with a report on a lunar rover excursion. The rover camera was pointing at the astronauts working some distance away inspecting and collecting soil samples. There was a dark sky in the upper left of the TV screen and a mountain to the right, which took up a good portion of the right screen background.

From the upper left part of the screen I noticed a small, bright object slowly moving in a straight path from left to right across the top of the screen. I was puzzled by it's appearance and thought it might have been the orbiting Apollo capsule at first. With the brightness of the foreground scenery and the lack of visible stars in the sky, the object seemed to have been much too bright to have been the capsule. It showed no detail, simply a very distinct, small, roundish, bright spot, as bright as the moonscape in sunlight that was visible during the coverage. It moved across toward the mountain and then blended into the brightness of the mountain top. I could not say whether it went behind or in front of the mountain. At that point it was lost.

The astronauts did not notice it but the ground controller at Houston made a remark as the object was moving. Without remembering exact words, I recall a short comment like, "What's that?" The astronauts were alerted by the comment but they appeared not to look in the right direction as the object moved away. No allusion was made to UFOs and nothing more was made of it during the broadcast. The scene did not cut away from the astronauts' activities after the object had vanished and I don't recall the camera following the object. There may have been a few more remarks by the ground controller and the astronauts but nothing substantive.

I remembered being puzzled also by the fact that despite the broadcast having aired over national TV, no mention was made of the sighting on the news. The object was there, was noticed by the people observing at Houston, and was not explainable at the time.

Perhaps several days later, a newscast stated that the object was caused by a piece of ceramic molding that had burst from internal air pressure on the rover antenna. I saw no other pieces fly off from the direction of the rover. No tumbling motion as one might expect from a hurled fragment was noted either. Additionally, the object seemed to move too slowly (in view about 30 seconds) to have been caused by an explosive action.

When I phoned Davis to discuss my viewing of the broadcast, he felt that I had seen at least part of what he saw and was amazed that it went over the air. He was extremely relieved that I had seen it, fearing that he would sound like a "nut" telling this story with-

out backup. I told him that I could not recall the object suddenly moving straight up and disappearing, which would have conclusively proved it's strangeness. Neither could I recall any altering of the broadcast. There was only one camera there during the event and it stayed riveted on the astronauts. We could not explain the discrepancy after discussion but, nevertheless, we agreed on most details and I know what I saw on TV that day.

I feel that footage certainly exists of the broadcast. It would require our pinning down the correct time, which is very uncertain to me at this point. I'm not sure a tape of the event would show much detail of the object. It looked like the classic "light-in-the-sky" so common in UFOlogy. On the moon though it is not so easily explained.

This is my contribution to UFOlogical moon lore! Does anyone else recall seeing this on TV?

NEW STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASE

The Department of State has released a 143-page file on UFOs as a result of a request filed by CAUS in March 1985. The documents cover incidents in such locations as Afganistan, Sri Lanka, Barbados, Argentina, Morocco, Tunisia and Kuwait. Some of the records were known to us already but others were new. The fact that this request took 18 months to fill speaks volumes about the increasing lack of responsiveness by government agencies under the FOIA. We can easily see requesters throwing up their hands in frustration over the massive delays they will encounter.

The most interesting reports of the lot told of strange radar trackings off Barbados in the early morning hours of April 12, 1984. At about 210 hours, The air traffic control radar at Grantley Adams International Airport showed a series of UFOs on it's screen. The objects were configured in four loose but distinct formations about 30 miles to the southeast, and tracking toward the airport at 90-100 knots per hour. Altitude uncertain. The Barbadian police and the Defense Force were notified.

At 220 hours, the formation split, with two objects to the west coast and two to the east coast of Barbados. The main body left behind divided into three loose formations. The objects closed to within four miles of the island and then moved off in a northerly direction at 330 hours. At 400 hours, radar still tracked nine objects over the northern portion of Barbados. At 410 hours, all objects disappeared toward Martinique.

The Barbadian government inquired of the United States if any military exercises were being conducted near the island. We answered that no U.S. exercises were ongoing and added that while the Soviet Navy was conducting exercises in the Carribean, they were not in the area of Barbados.

A further cable added that two unnamed tower personnel had seen "tails" up to five miles long on their radar screens. Two commercial aircraft left similar tails as they passed over the island however. It was learned that a Russian cruise ship was in the area, as well as a French aircraft carrier, but they could not be connected with the sightings.

The American embassy stated, "At this time, there appears to be no generally accepted explanation for this phenomenon." Malfunction of equipment, or operators (!), and a temperature inversion were offered as possible explanations but these were rejected by the Barbadian government.