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Citizens Against UFO Secrecy

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EDITORIAL

The original purpose of this newsletter was to update readers of CLEAR INTENT on government secrecy developments and document releases on UFOs subsequent to the book's publication. Due to the efforts of a small band of researchers, there is now a much clearer picture of what governments have done with the UFO phenomena. The numbers of documents obtained after CLEAR INTENT appeared has more than doubled, though none of them can settle the controversy. Nothing has been seen in the paperwork to verify claims of crashed-saucer and UFO abduction advocates.

Whatever the UFO phenomena turns out to be, it is at the very least part of the debate over the existence of extraterrestrial life in the universe, an issue which has been rather large this year (see later article). It is also a very fragile subject, manipulated at the whim of its proponents and opponents to the point that reality has become almost secondary to the "business" of UFOlogy. So many of us know there are problems working in this subject, lots of problems. Recently lawyers in criminal cases have resorted to attempting to prove insanity in clear-cut instances of guilt by saying that their clients were at one time or presently in contact with extraterrestrials who made them do nasty things, in some cases horrible murders. The lawyers aren't saying this is real, they are saying that believing such is madness. Why continue in a field like this some would say....and some have said?

UFO research was serious once and it would be nice to steer it back in that direction once again. By examination of the existing government reports released it becomes apparent that we don't know everything about government UFO activities yet. There is still much to be known about the early years of Projects Sign and Grudge to give a small example. Some documentation is missing. Does proof of aliens lie in what we haven't seen yet? Maybe, but we can't assume that it does based upon wishful thinking.

The alien craze is at full tilt now with numerous exploitative media programs feeding the public's hunger for stories about ET contact/invasions. This will run its course and we will be back once again arguing whether or not aliens are real.

It is still of importance for those with time available to help us fill the gaps in the history of UFO research by checking sources unique to your areas, local press, libraries; etc., and let us know what is found so that straight answers can be given.

~~RESTRICTED~~

PAGE _____

NAVPERS 134 (REV. 11-45)

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

UNITED STATES SHIP CHIPOLA

Saturday 6 September, 1947
(Day) (Date) (Month)

20-24 Steaming as before. 2140 Sighted unidentifiable luminescent phenomena, bearing 055°T, position angle: 10°, range less than 5 miles. 2 groups of about 8 blueish, oval shaped each moving at about 5 knots in opposed banked turns away from ship. Visible for 8 seconds. Witnessed by LTJG. SIMONS, USN, ENS. J.B. FERRIS, USN, and LISNIESKI, J.A. CM3, USN
Average Steam: 440 Average RPM: 83

R.L. Simons
R.L. SIMONS
LTJG., USN

APPROVED:

EXAMINED:

F.Z. Heilandt
F.Z. HEILANDT, CDR., U.S.N.

COMMANDING.

R.G. Laurie
R.G. LAURIE, LT., U.S.N.

NAVIGATOR

TO BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1945-O-574197

NAVAL UFO REPORTS: WHERE ARE THEY?

Look at the insert above this article. It is something you don't see very often. It is a U.S Navy deck log entry on a UFO report from 1947 (thanks to one of Jan Aldrich's visits to the National Archives for his Project 1947). It is not an obviously explainable report and presents us with an interesting puzzle. However the purpose here is not to microanalyze this report but to raise a larger issue.

In all the years that CAUS had filed FOIA requests, remarkably little has come from the Navy. While we can measure Air Force, FBI or CIA records in feet, we have only a few inches of material obtained directly from the Navy. They have always explained this lack of substantive UFO records by saying that since the Air Force had had primary responsibility for investigating UFO reports, any naval reports would have been sent to the Air Force for processing (letter from Naval Intelligence Command, 2-28-78). And indeed naval reports do appear in the Project Blue Book case files. Other reports would have been routinely destroyed to "maintain the currency of files" (letter NIC, 2-28-78).

However, upon checking the Project Blue Book case index, I find no mention of the USS Chipola's 1947 report, a report which clearly survived destruction since the copy above is available.

Despite the fact that the main witness in the now-famous July 2, 1952 Tremonton, Utah filming of a number of unidentified lights was a Chief Warrant Officer (Delbert Newhouse) who had officially reported his incident to superiors, the only naval record remaining is a poor copy of the results of the film's analysis by the Naval Photographic Interpretation Center. No case background is available from the Navy.

Neither are naval records available of reports filed under MERINT radiotelegraph procedures, used by the Navy for many years to report, among other things, UFOs. The Air Force had its own procedure (CIRVIS - Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings) for which we do have records.

The U.S. Hydrographic Office of years ago was responsible for producing charts, mapping the ocean and defining navigation procedures for

Notice to Mariners

Dec 26, 1959

ships, became part of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in 1942. It was renamed the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office in 1962. From 1958 to 1966, in a periodical called "Notice to Mariners," the Office issued regular reports of unknown flying objects seen only from merchant vessels under the heading "Celestial Phenomenon" (in CAUS files). A check of the dates and locations revealed that few if any of the reports were ever forwarded to Blue Book by the Navy, though the reports were gathered and published under their control. No military vessel reports were published under the "Celestial Phenomenon" heading in NTM, yet some might have been military as these reports were identified as "from a cooperating observer" with no vessel named.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

NORTH ATLANTIC

Third Officer De Pace Filippo of the Italian M.V. *Zenobia Martini Secondo*, Capt. Antonio Puppattl, Master, reported the following:

At 2140 G.M.T. November 4, 1959, in lat. 35°13' N., long. 50°15' W., on passage from Hamburg to Houston, Texas, a bright object was observed. It appeared bearing 250° altitude 10° as a big bright meteor proceeding at a slow speed in direction 70° thence turning to an apparent southerly course at a very high speed and followed by a little cloud made luminous from the light of the object. The object crossed the constellation *Sagittarius* and then slowed and lost altitude. It then turned to a southeasterly course and at a slow speed disappeared in clouds bearing 160° altitude 5°. The object was observed by binoculars and appeared as several lights in line.

Weather partly cloudy with moonlight, air temperature 66° F., sea temperature 68° F.

(N.M. 52/59.)

SAMPLE REPORT FROM NOTICE TO MARINERS.

Such reports were printed regularly during this period and it would be entirely reasonable to expect that similar reports could have been gleaned from military vessels' logs. If one were to project the existence of such military reports based upon the number of reports from merchant vessels during the 1958-66 time frame, you could be expected to find several per month. Where are they?

In fact, the Naval Space Surveillance System (NAVSPASUR) has tracked many unknowns. In a 2-22-90 letter to a researcher, the Naval Space Command said, "NAVSPASUR routinely tracks thousands of objects in space. a number of which are identified only as 'unidentified orbiting objects.'"

Included with the admission were printouts of approximately 3800 unknowns identified only by a series of numbers with no narrative detail. And these were gathered only between 12-16-89 and 2-13-90! (on file at CAUS)

It seems likely as well that while the Navy may not have been tasked to conduct special projects relating to UFOs, given that the Air Force was doing that already, they may have gathered a body of information in intelligence reports, ships' logs; etc., on UFOs incidental to the gathering and processing of information for other purposes. Officers on duty watch in the middle of the Pacific at night might often have seen and logged unusual lights/objects that they could not identify. According to one source ("Detection of Meteoroid Impacts by Optical Sensors in Earth Orbit" by E. Tagliaferri, et.al. in HAZARDS DUE TO COMETS AND ASTEROIDS, edited by Tom Gehrels, U. of Arizona, 1994.), since 1975 there have been 136 meteoroid impacts worldwide that had been detected by Defense Department satellites, many more events of flash phenomena having not been permanently recorded for various reasons. One event in 1990 was a flash and detonation of a body with a force of over one kiloton in the skies over the Pacific. The cause of many of the flash events is not known (the 1990 event took several months to identify as a meteoroid). A large number of the flash incidents were over water, needless to say since the Earth's surface is three-fourths water. It is presumed that some of the events could have been observed visually from ships in the areas. Events from merchant vessels reported in

"Notice to Mariners" might have been of related origin but we may never know for sure. Flash data like this, the "Hazards" report said, are usually ignored if there is no crisis -- an interesting admission which might explain some of the apathy directed towards UFOs by agencies at times in the past. So if analysis is not performed because no crisis exists, the report becomes quickly forgotten and the report is never made useful for scientific research until much time had passed.

We know what the problem is in part with respect to the lack of Navy records on UFOs. There is certainly a record of observations from military vessels of unknown objects which has not yet been tapped. Where it is can be simply described: buried in a mass of bureaucracy. Its extraction is not so simple, hundreds of hours of manpower to put that simply. Yet the report of the USS Chipola was found. What will the future bring?

COWFLOP QUARTERLY ABSENT

Cowflop Quarterly has not been published this quarter in case you are wondering why it hasn't been included in this mailing. It may or may not appear again at the discretion of its editor, Robert Todd.

PROJECT 1947 ACCOMPLISHING MANY GOALS

The historical search of the early years of UFOs continues to be very successful. Approximately 4700 newspapers have been scanned to date, resulting in twenty-one looseleaf volumes of tightly-packed information on the 1947 UFO wave. The project's head, Jan Aldrich, has largely completed his search phase. However it is urged that any readers with access to newspaper collections or smaller local papers contact us for guidance as there are still many papers that haven't been searched. The deadline for the project's completion (June 1997) is approaching and as many papers as possible should be included. Historical research will continue well beyond this regardless but 1947 data is needed now.

SCHOLARSHIP INVADES UFOLOGY

Two important new works have been made available:

- MUFON JOURNAL COMPREHENSIVE SUBJECT/AUTHOR INDEX, 1967-1996.
- FSR, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW 1955-1994, AN INDEX.

Compiler Edward Stewart has done something long overdue by producing these enormously useful publications. The vast corpus of articles in these periodicals have not been systematized in such a manner before. Due to Stewart's effort at least we can now find things that were difficult to locate. Even if one doesn't have a run of either of these journals, both indices let you know what is there in the event one wishes to research a particular topic. Each is \$59.95 plus \$4 per order from Arcturus Books, 1443 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34952.

POLL CONDUCTED ON UFO SECRECY

According to a Newsweek poll released on June 30, 1996, forty-nine percent of the American people believe that the government is hiding UFO information (see inset next page). The major results of this poll are not particularly surprising but several minor ones bear closer scrutiny.

Polls on UFOs historically ask vague questions which are unrevealing as to what exactly the respondent was thinking about when asked. For example, does belief in government secrecy mean that answers to the nature of UFOs are being hidden, or that information has merely been withheld that does

not address the issue of UFOs as alien, other-dimensional; etc.

The percentage of belief in UFOs, 48%, has not changed much since the last polls conducted several years ago. Neither has the percentage of the population having claimed to have seen a UFO, 12%, a figure consistent with many past polls.

What should send a chill through advocates of UFOs as extraterrestrial is the figure of 20% believing that they contain aliens from other worlds. Apparently the belief that 48% of the people accept UFOs as real doesn't say a great deal about whether or not they are alien ships. What do the other 28% who believe in UFOs think they are? The UFO community, with all of its often-cited "overwhelming evidence," has only managed to convince one out of five people that UFOs are extraterrestrial ---- after nearly fifty years of consistent bombardment.

Another telling figure in the poll lies in the determination of belief according to age. As can be seen 43% of 18-29 year olds believe, as well as 39% of 30-49 year olds and 35 to 37% of the people

over 50. Poll results through the years have consistently shown that older people have less belief in UFOs than younger ones. But 20 to 30 years ago the older people of today were in the younger categories where belief levels were higher. Does this mean that generally as one grows older, one is less likely to believe in UFOs? It would seem so inasmuch as the evidence for UFOs rarely changes much: stories, pictures, no hardware or other compelling physical evidence to settle the issue. It just keeps accumulating into such an overwhelming pile that advocates often argue the subject's reality by the sheer bulk of records, that we have so many of this type of report and so much of that type. It means nothing unless all of the reports are of the highest quality in establishing the unexplained nature of the phenomena.

The result of this problem: many of the more objective, experienced UFO researchers and supporters drift away over time. The more they learn about the subject, the more cynical and critical they become where initial belief gives way to data analysis, and a dismissal of popular notions about UFOs. If UFO research were not argued so passionately as a belief-oriented system as opposed to a system of objective study in trying to solve these occasional aerial puzzles, then many of those who had drifted, quite often very valuable people, may have remained involved. More junk stories might not be as prominent as they currently are and UFO research might have been in a much loftier position of respect than it is now in the eyes of science. One can argue the value of opinion polls, but when the same subtle messages appear over decades, one needs to take notice and adjust.

THE BOSTON GLOBE • MONDAY, JULY 1, 1996

Poll: 49% of US suspects government UFO secrecy

REUTERS

NEW YORK - Nearly half of all Americans think the government is hiding information about UFOs from the public, according to a poll released yesterday by Newsweek magazine.

The poll found that only 12 percent of those interviewed said they had seen objects they thought were unidentified flying objects. But 49 percent thought the government was hiding information on the sub-

ject. Only 20 percent believed UFOs were alien ships or held alien life forms.

The poll found that belief in the paranormal decreased slightly with age. Forty-three percent of 18- to 29-year-olds considered themselves believers compared with 39 percent of 30- to 49-year-olds and 35 percent of 50- to 64-year-olds. Of those over 65, 37 percent were believers.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus four for the total sample of 769 adults.

A meteor's unique double entry

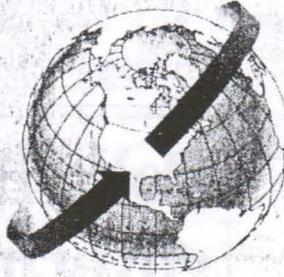
An object sighted over the Southwest on Oct. 3 may have entered Earth's atmosphere twice — a phenomenon never seen before.

① A bright and colorful "fireball" was seen streaking across the sky in New Mexico and West Texas.

• SIGHTINGS REPORTED



② The object was seen dimming before it disappeared, apparently having skipped back into space to circle the Earth.



③ One hundred minutes later, similar sightings were reported over California, moving in the same direction. The meteor appeared to explode, and pieces may have landed near Kernville.



SOURCE: Mark Boslough, Sandia National Labs

THE BOSTON GLOBE • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1996

GLOBE STAFF GRAPHIC / S. McNAUGHTON

Cosmic case of double-dipping?

By David L. Chandler
GLOBE STAFF

A blazing meteor that looked like a plane on fire, visible earlier this month above New Mexico, apparently skipped back out of the atmosphere, orbited the Earth once, and reappeared an hour and a half later in a blazing entry over California.

A researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles has offered a \$5,000 reward for the first person who finds a piece of the meteorite, believed to have landed somewhere near Kernville, in central California. The phenomenon was so unusual that the astronomer, John Wasson, wants to learn what kind of object was responsible.

Only once before has a meteor been seen to make a blazing entry into the atmosphere and then skip back out into space, but in that case the object did not return to Earth. It was sighted over Colorado and Montana on Aug. 11, 1972, so bright that it was visible in full daylight. Some astronomers have calculated that it may return to the vicinity of Earth next summer.

Although it is not yet possible to prove that the two objects sighted on the night of Oct. 3 were the same, said Mark Boslough of Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, there seem to be too many coincidences for the sightings to have been

unrelated.

The interval between the two sightings was 100 minutes — exactly the time it should take for such an object to complete an orbit around the Earth. The angle of the trajectory reported in the two sightings seems to have been exactly the same. And the distance between the original path across the sky seen in New Mexico and Texas and the later track seen in California is 25 degrees of longitude, exactly the amount the Earth would have rotated beneath the meteor's path during that 100-minute interval.

"That's an awful lot of coincidences," Boslough said in a telephone interview. The skip into space followed by a return to Earth is "a low-probability event, if it occurred," he said, but the possibility of the sightings being unrelated "is even more improbable," he said.

Brian Marsden, director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, where all sightings of short-lived astronomical events are reported, said it is "fascinating that this can happen," but that the explanation "makes sense."

Fred Whipple, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and an expert on comets and meteors, called the scenario "entirely possible" and said "I don't know of a case like that. A piece of that will be worth quite a bit."

Boslough estimated that the object may have been approximately the size of a car when it entered the atmosphere.

Observers in California, in messages posted on the Internet, described the object as bright enough so that "we could easily see our shadows on the ground from the display," and said "it turned blue, orange and red," and "actually broke up when it got close to the horizon."

By good fortune, television station KTSM in El Paso, Texas, was able to videotape the object during its first pass, because the camera crew was taping a local sports event and quickly swung their camera up to the sky. Boslough said he hopes other videotapes or photos of the object will turn up, making it possible to determine its exact path.

At the time of the meteorite's apparent landing in California, seismometers from the California Institute of Technology picked up signs of the impact, Boslough said. Based on the combination of visual sightings and seismic data, "we think it exploded over the southern Sierra Nevada." Pieces of it may have been scattered over a wide area there, he said.

In fact, Boslough said, pieces may also have fallen to Earth during the first pass over New Mexico, and if pieces can be found from both paths, that could clinch the connection between the two sightings.

Readers who recall discussion of the 1949 General Mills UFO in the December 1995 Just Cause will know why this piece is reproduced.

Another of the many reports recently uncovered at the National Archives from the records of the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron.

Investigative Detachment
14th District OSI (IG) USAF
Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming
28 August 1956

24-0

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander
3450th Technical Training Wing
Francis E. Warren Air Force Base,
Wyoming

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object

1. Reference is made to AFR 200-2 dated 12 August 1954, subject as above. On 28 August 1956 this office was advised by Alfred J. Rennisen, T/Sgt, AF12184735, 3450th Air Police Squadron, Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, that he had received a report of an unidentified flying object on 27 August 1956 from Mrs Jerry Wickstrom, Route 1, Box 687, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Mrs Wickstrom reported that her son, David, had observed the unidentified flying object at approximately 1815 hours, 26 August 1956. The Wickstrom ranch is located approximately four (4) miles north of Round-Top Reservoir on State Route 220.

2. At approximately 0845 hours, 28 August 1956 David Lee Wickstrom, age 16 years, was interviewed and the following information was obtained:

(1) Description of the object:

- a. Shape. Object appeared round with convex top and bottom. No visible protrusions.
- b. Size. Object appeared to be approximately fifteen (15) feet in diameter when viewed from the ground.
- c. Color. Silver
- d. Number. One (1)
- e. N/A
- f. Any discernable features. Object appeared smooth
- g. Tail, trail or exhaust. None
- h. Sound. None
- i. Other pertinent features or details. None

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AFR 199-16

(2) Description of course of object:

- a. What first called the attention of observer to the object? Bright flash or reflection.
- b. Angle of elevation and azimuth of object when first observed. Approximately overhead and slightly forward of observer.
- c. Angle of elevation and azimuth of object upon disappearance. Object moved in a northwesterly direction from observer, in level flight.
- d. Description of flight path and maneuvers of object. Object appeared to be moving from southeast to northwest in level flight. As object passed over abandoned car body a white puff of smoke appeared to come from rear of car body. Subsequent examination of car body by observer and his father disclosed rear window completely shattered, with approximately six (6) inch hole in window. Fracture lines formed series of small squares and rectangles approximately one-fourth (1/4) inch in size. No heat present on shattered window or car body.
- e. Manner of disappearance of object. Object disappeared from sight behind a hill, northwest of Wickstrom ranch.
- f. Length of time in sight. Approximately five (5) or six (6) seconds.

(3) Manner of Observation:

- a. Ground - visual.
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

(4) Time and date of sighting:

- a. Approximately 1815 hours, Mountain Standard Time, 26 August 1956
- b. Light conditions. Dusk

