

N. I. C. A. P. R E P O R T E R

--Published by the National Investigations Commission on Aerial Phenomena--

Vol. 1 No. 9

June 1963

Issue No. 9

"...To date, no unidentified aerial phenomena has given any indication of threat to national security." U.S. Air Force--Office of Aerial Phenomena--Washington 25, D.C.

REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA AND POSSIBLE RELATED INCIDENTS

FLYING DISCS OVER ARGENTINA--Seven flying discs were observed yesterday over Chumbicha in Argentina, among others, by the director of the Historic Museum of that coast city, who saw the objects placidly landed on the side of a mountain. The flying discs soon took off perpendicularly, leaving behind a trail of brilliance. A few days before, various flying discs had been seen from the control tower over Buenos Aires. Source: Ultima Hora--Sao Paulo, Brazil--12/29/62.

STRANGE OBJECT OVER CHILE--(Arica)--A strange object crossed the skies of Porto Setentrional at midnight on Wednesday (1/23/63) and was observed by a great number of people situated in different points of the city. This object caused great wonder because it flew at the habitual height of airplanes, leaving behind itself scintillations of blue light that transformed it into a spectacle of rare beauty. Source: Gazeta Mercantil--Sao Paulo Brazil--1/27-28/63.

MYSTERY OBJECT SEEN OVER FRANCE--Pau, Southwest, France--Two farm workers said they saw a luminous object in the sky yesterday afternoon while working near Livron, not far from here. They said they observed it for about thirty seconds as it moved, at high altitude, on a northeasterly course. It appeared round and flat and seemed to revolve, they said. Source: South China Sunday Post--Hong Kong--1/26/63).

MYSTERY OBJECT LIGHTS ISLE SKIES--A mysteriously glowing object passed through the sky over Oahu last night, baffling astronomers and professional aircraft observers as well as many casual watchers. The westward-moving unidentified object was variously described as looking like "a giant spotlight," "a searchlight," "a star falling" and "a comet." Switchboards at Honolulu Airport, Hickam Air Force Base and The Advertiser were bombarded with telephone queries about the object, first reported seen shortly after 8 p.m. Two Hawaii National Guard pilots flying jets 40 miles west of Honolulu spotted the moving light about 7:45 p.m. and said it was "much higher" than their 40,000 foot altitude and traveling "very fast." Lt. George Joy described it as "a light spot with a light vapor trail, lighter than a high-flying jet's trail." Joy's wingmate, Capt. John Parish said the object followed a straight path during the minute and a half he and Joy observed it. A man at Hickam's base operations said the object "may be a meteor," and that it was not believed to be a scheduled aircraft. A spokesman at the Federal Aviation Agency control tower at the airport said although he and numerous airplanes saw the object, "I know no one who knows what it is." He was sure it was not an ordinary aircraft, but he said FAA personnel were not worried about it, because the object did not interfere with air traffic. He also said it was not like any missile or satellite he had seen and described the object as looking like "a

searchlight, going away from us in a westerly direction and disappearing over the horizon. A beam fanned out behind it." This description seemed to tally with one from a caller on Radford Terrace who compared the object to "a giant spotlight that was in the fog, except it was a clear night. It wasn't a single, brilliant thing, not like Echo at all." Source: Advertiser--Honolulu, Hawaii--3/12/63.

OBJECT SEEN OVER PENINSULA--An unidentified flying object was spotted over the Peninsula last night by several people. The object was reported visible for about 90 seconds. It was described as golden in color, with the center glowing red. One witness said it appeared to leave a trail of sparks, and said it was going "quite fast." It arched out over the ocean and disappeared. This was at about 9:25 p.m. Bill Scholfield, assistant principal of Pacific Grove High School, described the object as crescent-shaped. He said it looked as though someone "had flung a discus and that it was burning on its outer perimeter, leaving a trail." Source: Peninsula Herald--Monterey, California--3/12/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"My daughter, aged 17, and I were entering our town's main street (3/11/63) and had just turned south (she was driving) when I saw what seemed to be a flatish ball of fire coming towards us from the southwest--at the moment I cried out to her in astonishment and she saw it. It was just even to our vision with a very low range of hills running parallel to our freeway and about 1/4 mile or less distant from the street we were on. She pulled to the curb and we jumped out and stood watching it. It looked for a moment as though the top of the hill were on fire, but detached itself and came directly toward us, tipping a little downward. It was not fire, but an orange glow in a definite shape (disc) which I must confess was exactly as I had heard flying objects described. As we watched it seemed to hover for a moment (my daughter said 'Mother, its stopping and looking at us'), then leisurely as though perfectly controlled, it slowly turned and started north, almost directly above the freeway. As it turned, we both gasped, for out behind a huge rocket-type tail came into view--that is, not anything tangible, as the front view had been, but something like this (narrow delta-shaped) in white light. About that time I realized we were all alone, the town was deserted--no pedestrians, no cars, and I desperately wanted someone else to see this so I said 'Sandi, run to the Bowl and try to get your father back up here'. (Our bowling alley was about a block down the street). She ran and I stood there watching. I remember thinking I must watch every detail very carefully and calmly, for I might be called upon to describe it.

"It continued north very slowly (all this was slow) and I observed that it was the largest thing I had ever seen in the sky and that it appeared to be very low and that there was no noise of any kind--dead silence. Then abruptly, still very close to me, it turned again and headed northwest giving me a very clear view of the rear. I again got the definite cigar or flying disc shape, dark, but with a series of what I can only describe as port holes across it--not well defined, more like fused white light in a porthole shape. It was just disappearing to the west when my husband and daughter arrived, puffing. I expect altogether this slow flight took ten minutes, starting at 9:40 p.m...We are not hysterically inclined people--in fact we were very calm, but curious, as we watched, and we both fully expected it to land right in front of us it looked so close." /S/ Carolyn R. Peck--Atascadero, California.

EXPLOSION REMAINS MYSTERY--An unidentified object which flashed briefly through the skies about 7 p.m. Tuesday apparently was seen from several points throughout northwestern Montana, according to the Flathead County Sheriff's office. Reports of sightings have been received from Libby, Troy, Eureka, Hot Springs, Perma, Dixon and

Browning. According to an eyewitness, the unidentified object observed from a county road in front of the Whitefish National Guard building. It was traveling at a high rate of speed and the altitude when first seen was estimated at 40,000 feet. After going in a westerly direction for about four or five seconds it descended to about 10,000 feet and exploded in a large red flame. It traveled an estimated five to ten miles. All of the sightings agreed in one respect. It was all visual. There was no noise connected with it.

Contact was made by the Flathead Sheriff's office with the Kalispell Air Force Station at Lakeside but no statement had been issued by the Air Force concerning the object. It was reported that two B-52 bombers were seen flying in the vicinity of Whitefish a few minutes before the unidentified object was sighted. It was not believed to be a meteor because of its flight path and the manner in which it exploded. The most vivid description came from a Fortine couple on the way to the Fortine dump. They said they saw a long contrail and then a bright flash and a fan-out into an air burst effect with a fireball disappearing behind the skyline. Henry F. Weber, traveling 15 miles east of Browning, saw the light flash and then what seemed to be a fireball dropping behind the mountains to the west and south of his position. Similar reports came into the Sanders County Sheriff's office from Thompson Falls. Source: Daily Interlake--Kalispell, Montana--3/13/63; Sentinel--Missoula, Montana--3/14/63.

BIG BLAST HEARD IN AREA--WHAT, WHERE?--Officials Fail To Trace Mystery Of Boom--By Robert Browning--An explosion of undetermined origin but of far-reaching noise rolled over the Seattle area at 11:40 a.m. yesterday. The location of those who heard it--from Edmonds to Federal Way--determined their estimates of the point of origin, these later placing it variously in Ballard, in West Seattle, in the Duwamish Waterway, on Harbor Island and at the Navy Ammunition Depot at Bangor on Hood Canal. Of this last, the ammo depot's commanding officer, Capt. James M. Elliott, affirmed strongly that there had been no explosion on his base although at least one radio station was carrying the report. Insisted Captain Elliott: "I should know--I was working in my office at that time and I would be the first person to know about an explosion on the base." The Seattle Police Department insisted that nothing had blown up in its bailiwick and the Seattle Fire Department insisted nothing had blown up in its. The Coast Guard checked out all the military bases in this area on the chance that a plane from one of them had caused a sonic boom. But all of the bases told the Coast Guard that it must have been some other base--none of THEIR planes was anywhere near Seattle.

A report of water turbulence and floating debris near Four-Mile Rock, in Elliott Bay off Magnolia near the foot of W. McGraw St., sent the Coast Guard and the Harbor Police hustling over there. The debris was found not to be anything identifiable as part of a boat, consisting mainly of old tin cans, scrap lumber and similar flotsam. But the searchers did find a number of dead fish which indicated, in Coast Guard language, a "sudden change of pressure," leading to the equally sudden demise of the fish. After two hours of search, the Coast Guard and the Harbor Police buttoned it up without finding any reason for the "change of pressure" off Four-Mile Rock. Source: Post Intelligencer--Seattle, Washington--3/13/63.

FLYING DISCS REPORTED OVER ENGLAND--A Longbenton man has claimed he saw what may have been a flying object hovering over Wallsend. He is Mr. William Muir, of Rowanberry Road. He saw the object on March 8th, at about 8:30 in the evening while walking in High Heaton. The object was shaped like two discs joined together by a tube and was grey-blue in color. Source: Evening Chronicle--Newcastle-upon-Tyne--3/21/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"On the morning of March 15, 1963, I saw this flying object at approximately 3:30 a.m. It appeared due south of my place, with a strange yellow-orange light. It rose what appeared to be several hundred feet in the air with a vapor trail behind it. Then the trail disappeared and the light went off, with just a very small light on. Rising rapidly at approximately a 45 degree angle south by southwest, traveling rapidly. It was completely gone in about three minutes.
/S/ K.S.--Hilmar, California.

SEASIDE RESIDENTS REPORT SIGHTING FIREBALL IN SKY--Residents in the 1700 block of Fernando St. in Seaside reported seeing a large blazing object fall from the skies last night at about 6:45 o'clock. Several people said the sighting was accompanied by a loud explosion. No traces of the object could be found. Source: Peninsula Herald--Monterey, California--3/16/63.

EXPLOSION JOLTS OXNARD, CAMARILLO--An aerial explosion jolted a wide area from Oxnard to Camarillo at 10:10 a.m. today but no damage was reported. Source: Press Courier--Oxnard, California--3/15/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"On the date of March 22, 1963, my daughter and myself saw a fireball in the sky over our city. At first we thought it was 'Echo'. We watched it through field glasses for several minutes, (approximately), the time was around 9:30 p.m. It began as a mere pin-point of light traveling rather slowly from north to due south. We identified the Big Dipper close to where it began. I had the field glasses focused on the fireball when suddenly it seemed to grow larger and brighter and then completely disappeared. I hope this observation will be of some interest to your investigation of aerial phenomena. /S/ Mrs. E.J.S.--Allentown, Penn.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"I witnessed the flight of a flying object on March 23, 1963 at 6:10 p.m. I was sitting in my car with my friend. We were on a hill and it was two miles over across the city where we saw it. We wondered what it was that could be seen so vividly as it was just turning dusk. The sun had gone down. It seemed to come from out of the north, travelled slowly. It was larger than any star. It could be compared to the size of an ordinary bulb-type street light as seen from four city blocks away. It was round in shape and white hot with projections or rays shooting out in all directions. It had a long, jagged smoke trail. It seemed to be going west or southwest between two large mountains in our city. At first it seemed like it must have been a plane burning up." /S/ D.W.--Scranton, Penn.

REPORTER SEES FIREBALL FALL--Haledon--A greenish-white "fireball" fell from the stars last night, burning a streaming trail down the black velvet horizon behind Paterson. The fireball was sighted about 2 a.m. by an Evening News reporter, Ronald Kromer, while driving on Belmont Avenue here. Its flaming descent was viewed for less than five seconds, as it disintegrated. Chunks of green-hued fire crumbled from its glowing mass, making a swirling tail that vanished in the wink of an eye. Last night's sighting did not appear to be connected with the rash of UFO sightings reported during recent nights. No unusual movements, turns, or color changes were apparent. Source: News--Paterson, New Jersey--3/28/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"I would like to report a sighting at 4:14 a.m., March 28, 1963. The object, a brilliant white, dropped at an angle of about 10 degrees. When the object dropped below the horizon, a bright corona appeared." /S/ H.J.D.--Baltimore, Maryland.

FLARE SEEN--A strange green "flare like light" was seen in the skies over the northern part of Medford just after 10 p.m. last night by a Medford family of four. The object drifted slowly, the observers said. A check with the tower at the Medford airport and with weather observers failed to reveal any information concerning the light. Source: Ashland Daily Tidings--Ashland, Oregon--4/1/63.

HUGE FLYING DISC LANDS IN CALIFORNIA--Air Force and civilian authorities today are checking out a mysterious "flying object" report from the Chileno Valley area. According to Angelo Mostaccioli, a milker, he was out rounding up cows about 5:30 a.m. in a pasture when he saw a huge disc-like machine come over the horizon, emitting a bluish glow, and settle to the ground near a grove of eucalyptus trees. Sheriff Louis Mountanos, of Marin County, told the Argus-Courier shortly before noon that he is still interviewing Mostaccioli, who is "most excited" according to the sheriff, and that "so far we don't know all the answers, but we have no reason to doubt this man's story." Air Force officers also are in on the investigation, checking out the report as to whether an Unidentified Flying Object is actually involved.

Shortly before Mostaccioli said he saw the machine, citizens in the Point Reyes area phoned Hamilton Air Force Base complaining of a sonic boom. However the Air Force denies any of its planes of super-sonic capability were in the area at that time. Also, a check with the 12th Naval District headquarters indicates that no Navy aircraft could have been responsible. The military is certain the responsible craft was not one from a potential aggressor. Radar observers are being questioned further today to see whether any strange "blips" appeared about that time.

Sheriff Mountanos, working from fragments of Mostaccioli's story, reconstructed the incident like this: The milker was returning toward the barn, when the machine swiftly came into view and settled to the ground. Cattle panicked, and several broke through a wire fence and ran onto a neighboring ranch. Mostaccioli, Mountanos related, saw several small figures get out of the "disc" and walk about. With considerable difficulty, some of them managed to catch a calf that had been abandoned by its frightened mother, and took it into the space machine. And, Mostaccioli told Mountanos, other "spacemen" brought small containers out of their craft and took up small pieces of turf and plants from the pasture, carefully transplanting them into the containers which then were stowed in the ship. Finally, Mostaccioli said, talking almost incoherently, some of the figures approached him and seemed to beckon to him. But he ran as hard as he could and made a getaway down a creek bed where the small creatures did not venture. A few minutes later he heard a loud humming noise from the pasture and saw overhead a weird bluish glow as the craft sped out of sight in the general direction of Nicasio.

"We are not getting excited about this thing," Mountanos said, "and we have no reason to feel that these visitors--if Mr. Mostaccioli is correct that there were some--had any hostile intentions." Authorities were taken about 10 a.m. to the site of the reported landing, and Mostaccioli pointed out the exact spot. There was a scorched area in the green grass, about ten yards across, and several small holes in the turf nearby as though someone had removed bits of turf or plants. Also, there were some faint tracks which could not be identified. Source: Argus Courier--Petaluma, California--4/1/63.

REPORT SIGHTING BRIGHT OBJECT IN SKY HERE--An inquisitive 13-year-old amateur astronomer is seeking information as to the identity of a bright object spotted in the heavens twice in the past two weeks, both times in the exact same spot. Lanny Conner said the object appeared the last time on Thursday night around 8:15 and once before on Thursday

night about the same hour two weeks before. The object, which looks like a large star and moving swiftly in a somewhat zig-zag course, was near the end of the Big Dipper, when spotted by young Conner. Its direction of travel was from west to east both times. Although he possesses an 80-power telescope, the object was moving too swiftly to get a fix. He did however manage to hold binoculars on the object but the power was inadequate. Source: Enterprise--Berwick, Penn.--4/6/63.

MYSTERIOUS SKY LIGHT SEEN--No one knows what the light in the sky over South County was last night. An unidentified man phoned the sheriff's office at 9:30 p.m. and reported he saw a "light in the sky." The man explained he was driving south on Hesperian near Jackson and observed the object in the south-southwest. "He didn't know its make or model," the sheriff's department added. The police radio station behind Fairmont Hospital reported sighting the object at about the same time, according to San Leandro police. The San Leandro police switchboard received two inquiries about the mysterious light. Source: News--San Leandro, California--4/5/63.

STRANGE LIGHT SEEN HERE--A strange "ball of flame" reported by residents from San Francisco to San Diego, was seen over Hollister about 9 p.m. last night. Mr. & Mrs. Sam Martin said they saw the orange ball of flame over Veterans Memorial Park. They said it seemed to stop and start, then disappear, only to reappear again and circle over the hills until about 9:15 p.m. The Martins, and their seven-year-old son, described the object as "about the size of a football," and said it let off smoke while standing still in the sky. They said it moved slowly, and they did not hear anything while watching it. Residents of the Palo Alto area said the flying phenomena appeared to be a "bright ball," which got bigger, then disintegrated over the hills. Source: Free Lance--Hollister, California--4/5/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"I did not realize that what I had observed on the night of April 4, 1963 was a phenomena which could be of interest to any organized group... I was driving southeast on North Broad Street, and at about 8:45 p.m., approximately 1/2 mile northwest of Laurel Lane Road, I pulled over to the side of the road to observe the phenomena to which I made earlier reference... The elevation of the object I would assume to be 800 to 2,000 feet. My distance from the object, I would have judged to be about 1/4 mile. My first impression was that I was seeing a small plane in flames. All that I could see was a brilliant orange glow somewhat tear-shaped in configuration. I am positive that it was not the exhaust from a light plane and the total lack of any noise eliminated my considering this to be the exhaust from jet aircraft. The slow speed of the object was more comparable to that of a small plane so this too would eliminate the jet aircraft. The size of the brilliant, or flaming object seemed to diminish and I attributed this to possibly a change in course from northwest to southwest, and if it did make this right-angle turn away from me, this would account for the decrease in size. There was no audible sound from the object and the sighting lasted approximately two minutes. I assure you that I know a Piper Cub from a B-52, and I would generally recognize many of the jet aircraft of the Century Series. I am just as confident that I am not sure what it was that I observed on the evening in question." /S/ M.J.F.--San Luis Obispo, California.

N.I.C.A.P. REPORTER is the official monthly publication of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMISSION ON AERIAL PHENOMENA--5108 South Findlay Street--Seattle 18, Washington. Robert J. Gribble, Director. Yearly subscription: U.S., U.S. possessions and Canada--\$1.00. All other countries--\$2.00. All subscriptions are sent first class mail in a sealed envelope. Make all checks and money orders payable to Robert J. Gribble.