

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

Vol. 1 No. 12

September 1963

Issue No. 12

"...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

MANY PEOPLE SAW FIERY 'SPACE SHIP' OVER FIJI--A Tamavua housewife woke about 3:30 a.m. yesterday morning and gazed straight through her window into what appeared to be a ball of fire in the sky over Bequa, moving towards Laucala Bay. Mrs. A.E. Kennard said it was a frightening experience. The sight was "almost horrible. I woke my husband, who got out of bed quickly but when he reached the window the object had disappeared," she said. "He said I had been dreaming, but I insisted that I had seen the ball of light." But about 10 minutes earlier three Fijian policemen at Ba had reported seeing the object. The Ba report came to Fiji Times by telephone. Members of the RNZAF also sighted the object about 3:30 a.m. They agreed that it was moving in a southeasterly direction. A Lautoka message states that reports of strange objects "falling into the Fiji Group" had been confirmed by men in the Royal Navy survey ship HMS Cook yesterday.

Men of the HMS Cook told the Fiji Times at Lautoka that about 3:20 a.m. a large object fell from the sky into the sea when the ship was anchored in the northern Yasawa Group. An officer said that at that time the sky was lit by a source which was like moonlight but on close observation appeared to be the brilliant light of a falling object. HMS Cook was bound for Lautoka after duty observation along the Royal route on which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh traveled last week. The ship was anchored off Round Island and duty members of the crew saw a bright object fall from the sky in a southerly direction. An officer on watch said it looked to him like "a classical example of a Hollywood space ship." He said it appeared to be glowing with a green white light and had an enormous, long fiery orange tail. The object illuminated the sky with the brilliance of the full moon. It made no noise when it fell to the earth. The object had been reported by several people at Lautoka. Source: Fiji Times--Suva, Fiji Islands--4/4/63.

FLYING ARROWHEAD REPORTED OVER BLACKBURN, ENGLAND--What was the mysterious flying object which flashed across East Lancashire's sky late last night. Mr. Tom Leaver, of Norfolk Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, saw it from his backyard at about 10:30. Mr. Leaver said: "I had been watching television, and went out to get some coal. Then I saw this object--it was shining like silver, shaped like an arrowhead, and was traveling very fast." Mr. Leaver, who was facing south, saw the object through a break in the clouds. He watched it for about a minute as it traveled from west to east, passing just below the moon. He could not estimate the height. "I thought it might be an old satellite, still going around," said Mr. Leaver. "A spokesman at the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation Air Traffic Control Centre at Barton Hall, near Preston, was unable to identify the object and was eager to know if anyone else had seen it. A report will be sent to the Air Ministry. Source: Evening Telegraph--Blackburn, England--4/5/63.

FLYING OBJECT SCARE IN THE CAPE--For two weeks there has been a flying object scare in the small farming community of Boskloof, eight miles from Clanwilliam, in the Cape. Groups of farmers have been hunting strange lights which have mysteriously appeared on farms in the area. The scare reached a climax last Saturday night when a group of 80 farmers gathered at the farm of Mr. Herman Nieuwoudt, where a hail of stones was reported to have fallen on one of the farmhouses, occupied by Mr. J. Smit. When the assembled farmers heard thumps coming from the house, two of them opened fire with their rifles--but the noises continued. The police have investigated the strange happenings on the farm of Mr. Nieuwoudt. They have confirmed that mysterious noises have come from Mr. Smit's house, but believe there is a natural explanation for these noises. Meanwhile, reports of flying objects hovering over farms in the area have been coming in from many sources. Farmers have kept vigil at Mr. Nieuwoudt's farm this week in an attempt to track down the source of these strange phenomena, but so far with little success.

Mr. E.H. Nieuwoudt, a Boskloof farmer--the Nieuwoudt family of brothers own several farms in the area--believes the falling stones and the thumps emanating from the Smit farm house are directly connected with the appearance of strange flying objects he has seen hovering over his farm on several occasions. He said: "The moving object I saw one night looked like an Unidentified Flying Object. I saw it just before Easter. I thought it was my son putting away our car in the garage, but I soon learned otherwise. The object, about 12 feet wide and 10 feet high, rose off the ground when I saw it, and went off at terrific speed into the sky, where it hung about for many minutes before flying off towards the plantation near by. Then it disappeared." Since then, others have seen flying lights. Mrs. G.E. Nieuwoudt, of another farm on the Jan Dissels River, claims to have seen a flying object three times. She said it looked like the moon, and she thought it came from "another world."

Now many people are seeing strange flying objects over the area, and reports are coming in of herds of cattle being frightened by red glowing lights, dogs fleeing in terror because of strange noises coming from various sources, and ghostly figures appearing on several farms. The nightly pilgrimage to the home of Mr. Smit continues, and the thumps on the roof of the house are continuing. Sergeant J.A. Jacobs, of the police post at Clanwilliam, visited Mr. Smit's home during the week-end. He reported: "I heard three thumps during the night. Perhaps it was caused by the contraction of the roof when the temperature fell. This could be the explanation." Rumours in the area are flying fast. A prominent resident said some people were convinced that they were being invaded by flying objects from Mars. "It is the worst scare of this kind I have known in the area," he said, "and local farmers are certainly taking no chances. They are ready for anything." There are no air fields in the area which could explain the nightly lights in the sky, and there have been no reports of meteorological balloons released over the area, which is inland. Source: Times--Jahannesburg, South Africa--5/5/63.

FLYING OBJECT OVER LIVERPOOL ENGLAND--Thirteen-year-old Robert Hirst let out a yell as he looked through the kitchen window. There was an Unidentified Flying Object in the back garden. His mother rushed to his side--and she saw it, too. Yesterday tousle-haired Bob and his Mum went to the local police station to tell them about the uninvited guest. "People may laugh at us, but we definitely saw something that looked like a flying object," said 34-year-old Mrs. Margaret McCutcheon, of Mottram Close, Kirkby, near Liverpool. "We were watching the television when the electricity went off and Bob went to put a shilling in the meter. He shouted out, and when I went to him he pointed through the window. It was about 16 feet in diameter and was hovering just over the garden--it seemed to have two aerials and a red light fixed

to it. There was a low buzz coming from the flying object, and the light kept flashing on and off." Added Mrs. McCutcheon: "It stayed for nearly a minute and then went off over the rooftops." Bob, eldest of five, said: "I have seen pictures of flying objects on the television and in books. It was just like one of them." Then he drew a picture of what it looked like. Said a police spokesman: "It doesn't appear to be a police matter so we are not concerned about the report." Source: Daily Express--Liverpool, England--5/8/63.

SPECIAL REPORT TO N.I.C.A.P.--"Five UFO were seen about 5 a.m., May 8, 1963, to the east of us at about 45 degree angle in height. They were intensely bright lights about four or five times as bright as the street lights that were still on. They did not seem to have any obvious shape or substance; just white spots of light. They were not moving fast--more like the speed of a helicopter. The lower four raised slightly and receded into the distance and out of sight behind the hills to the east. The highest one traveled upward, and to the east, receding and disappearing into the clouds. After discovering this old formation it was then watched for ten minutes, or more." /S/ A.B.C.--Loguna Beach, California.

RESORT WILL PROTEST ON AERIAL EXPLOSIONS--Palm Springs--Aerial explosions have scared, awakened and irritated residents of this resort town for two nights, the city manager complained Friday. Wagner said sharp aerial explosions disturbed this desert resort Wednesday and Thursday nights starting at 9 p.m. and at 90-minute intervals. No serious damage was reported. Source: Times--Los Angeles, California--5/11/63.

MYSTERY OBJECT REPORTED--Mt. Gambier, May 15--Mt Gambier police tonight investigated a report that a "brilliant red light 10 feet in diameter" had kept pace with a car traveling towards the Victorian border. Mr. E. Lewis, of Acacia street, Mount Gambier who made the report, said he was traveling with his wife and three children when the object appeared about 6:50 p.m. and stayed in front of his vehicle for 15 miles near Casterton. Constables B.V. Wright and A.S. Hartshorne later made a search of the area, but without success. Source:Advertiser--Adelaide, Australia--5/16/63.

OAKLEY WOMAN REPORTS GLOWING OBJECT--Oakley--Mrs. Virginia Knauss and her daughter, Irene, 11, reported seeing a bright object in the eastern sky last night at 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Knauss said the bright light flashed for a few seconds and appeared to be approximately four inches in diameter. Source: Ledger--Antioch, Calif.--5/21/63.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHT SEEN OVER CITY--A big "mysterious" red light went hovering over Kannapolis Saturday night for about 30 minutes according to Homer Long of Black-welder Park. The light, he said, started around 9 p.m., and if it was making a noise "I couldn't hear it." The "thing" was too slow for an airplane, he said, pointing out that he went into the house and came back later and the light was still there. Finally, it disappeared behind some trees, he said. Source: Independent--Kannapolis, North Carolina--5/26/63.

WORST AERIAL EXPLOSIONS JOLT SOUTH BAY CITIES--A series of aerial explosions shook South Bay cities at 3:30 p.m. Monday, cracking crockery and the composure of citizens in a wide area. Source: Times--Los Angeles, California--5/28/63.

FLASH MYSTIFIES--Two astronomers from the Mt. Stromlo observatory are mystified by an object they watched flash across the sky last night. They are Professor Bart Bok, director of the observatory, and Dr. H. Gollnow, both of whom discount the possibility of it having been a meteor, "It was far too slow for a meteor," Dr. Gollnow said. "If it was, it would have left a trail." The two men, with observatory assistant Miss M. Mowat, watched the object for one minute from 6:58 p.m. It disappeared from their view behind a telescope dome. They checked later with Department of Civil Aviation officials at Fairbairn but were told no aircraft were in the vicinity at the time. The object, brightly illuminated and of an orange-red color, passed from west to east at a very high altitude. It appeared to be below the clouds but did not change brightness while it was being observed. Dr. Gollnow said he would welcome information from anyone who saw the object. Source: Times--Canberra, Australia--5/30/63.

MYSTERY FLASH 'VAMPIRE JET'--Mount Stromlo astronomers believe that an unusual flash of light across the sky on Wednesday evening was caused by an R.A.A.F. Vampire jet. The brilliant orange-red flash, which crossed the sky about 6:58 p.m., at first mystified the director of the observatory, Dr. Bart J. Bok, and another astronomer, Dr. H. Gollnow. Department of Civil Aviation officials at Fairbairn told the scientists that it would not have been caused by an aircraft because they carried only flashing red, white and green lights.. Dr. Gollnow heard from the R.A.A.F. yesterday that a Vampire jet, bearing a large amber recognition light, flew across Canberra about that time on an exercise. It was traveling at high altitude at about 420 m.p.h. Source: Times--Canberra, Australia--5/31/63.

FLYING OBJECT OBSERVED OVER MEXICO--A strange object crossed the heavens of Zitacuaro the 29 de May of 1963. Last night it caused a great sensation among all the inhabitants of the region to see at 8:30 p.m. a luminous object cross the heavens going from north to southeast. It was seen clearly in a clear sky. It is believed to have been a space ship. Source: El Universal--Mexico City, Mexico--5/30/63. Credit: Ma. C. de Rueda, Mexico. Translated by Ma. C. de Rueda.

GROUP SEES A 'FLYING OBJECT'--A group of young Royton people, walking home along Rochdale Road, Oldham, recently saw a flying object. The party saw the oval shape hover silently 150 feet above their heads for 15 minutes then glide over the Oldham and District General Hospital towards near-by playing fields. "I know it sounds crazy," says 21-year-old typist Pat Townsend, of Oldham Road, Royton, "but six people can't all be wrong. It was a very bright object," she said. "Something seemed to be spinning above it. I would have taken it for a plane or helicopter if it had not been for the fact that there was no noise. It went over the hospital near some playing fields, as if was going to land there." Source: Chronicle--Oldham, England--6/29/63.

ODD LIGHT IN SKY SEEN BY MANY--The Minnesota Highway Patrol and police in several southern Minnesota towns received reports of an unidentified flying object early today. Reports of large greenish-white objects hovering in the sky were received by police in Austin, Albert Lee, Faribault, Northfield, Cedar Falls, Iowa and Cedar Rapids, Iowa early this morning. Witnesses, who included several policemen, said the objects ranged in size from that of a semi-truck to 300 feet in diameter. Police at Austin were informed by five different truckers that they had seen a strange multi-colored light that appeared to settle to earth shortly after 3 a.m. in the vicinity of Lyle, 14 miles south of Austin on the Iowa border. In St. Paul, Kenneth

Whall, said he also saw something strange in the sky about the same time while he was at work. At first I thought it was a sky rocket, reddish in color, and it appeared to be coming from the southwest. An Austin woman, who was not identified, said she saw an object from a north window that looked like "a gigantic Roman candle spouting various colors." Police and patrol officers said reports had the size of the object from 300 feet across to "the size of a big semi-truck." One report at Faribault said the object "hovered over the ground, landed and took off." The highway patrol said a man in the Lake Minnetonka area reported an unidentified object landed in the lake. Source: Dispatch--St. Paul, Minnesota--6/4/63; Post Bulletin--Rochester, Minnesota--6/4/63.

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE FAILS TO FIND TRACE OF UFO'S--An aerial search this morning covering an area north and south of Austin failed to turn up any signs of a landing by an unidentified flying object reported Monday night. Sheriff Doyle Lindahl, chief deputy Dale Rolfson, Dick Cords, Daily Herald reporter, and Don Meighan, KQAA reporter, participated in three flights. The aerial reconnaissance covered an area 25 miles south of Austin, past Lyle where the sightings were made, and about 10 miles north of Austin in separate flights. Wooded areas offering natural concealment were scanned by the party while Meighan piloted the plane. Police here, informed by five different truckers that they had seen a strange multi-colored light that appeared to settle to earth shortly after 3 a.m. today in the vicinity of Lyle, Minn., 14 miles south of here on the Iowa border. Highway patrolmen searched an area two miles wide on either side of the state line in the vicinity of Lyle, but found nothing unusual. Zearl Leinen, a trucker from Cedar Rapids, was first to report the incident to Austin police. His report was followed quickly by reports from other truckers. An Austin radio station said that after it broadcast news of the incident, it received calls from numerous persons who said they had seen a multi-colored light that seemed to descend to the earth in the Lyle area. Source: Herald--Austin, Minnesota--6/4/63.

UFO MAY HAVE CAUSED PLANE SEARCH--The sheriff's office and Civil Air Patrol here launched a search this morning for what they feared might be a crashed plane. Two women traveling between Missaw and Brainerd about 3:30 a.m. told officers they had sighted what appeared to be a burning plane plunging from the sky in an area near Sportland. Sheriff's officers and the Civil Patrol immediately launched a search of the area. At daylight the CAP flew over the area in a plane, but could spot no wreckage. Eugene Stanich, Crosby, of the Civil Air Patrol, said the FAA said it believed the woman may have sighted a meteor. He said there had also been a power failure in the Misswa area and the women may have seen lightning strike a power line. Source: Dispatch--Brainerd, Minnesota--6/4/63.

BRIGHT LIGHT IS SIGHTED IN SKY OVER NE IOWA--Independence--A bright light appeared over northeast Iowa about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, apparently caused by a meteor or a man-made satellite burning up. First speculation was that it might have been a small plane, but no evidence of a plane crash was uncovered. Reports came from Cedar Falls, Independence, Nashua and Waterloo that a white light appearing toward the northeast horizon appeared to explode. Searches were conducted in the Independence and Cedar Falls areas, but no evidence of a crash of any kind was found. Officials of the Federal Aviation Agency at Waterloo and Cedar Rapids said the only light plane traveling in the area had been accounted for. An airline pilot flying west from Dubuque reported sighting a glowing object in the same direction about 2:30 a.m. Source: Gazette: Cedar Rapids, Iowa--6/4/63.

ROUNDUP OF MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

REPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND--When "twiddling knobs" on the 1st of June, at 7 p.m., I happened to tune in to the Melbourne station of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's overseas service and listened for 5 minutes to an announcer, who, in great detail, explained how convinced they all were that there "must be something in the existence of unidentified flying objects." Mention was also made of the R.A.A.F.'s attempt to "provide an explanation." (Of mystery object over Australia--See FLASH MYSTIFIES, page four.) This, however, was never seriously considered by the astronomers, since they apparently feel that they are still in a position to distinguish between the orange-red self-luminous glow of an object and the bright recognition lights of a Vampire jet. Credit: Henk Hinfelaar, New Zealand.

COOPER SAYS SPACE LIFE POSSIBLE--"I also had the idea there might be some interesting forms of life out in space for us to discover and get acquainted with. I don't believe in fairy tales, but as far as I'm concerned there have been far too many unexplained examples of unidentified objects sighted around this earth for us to rule out the possibility that some form of life exists out beyond our own world. I certainly don't pretend that the examples we know about necessarily prove anything. But the fact that many experienced pilots have reported strange sights which cannot easily be explained, did heighten my curiosity about space." Source: "We Seven"--written by the seven astronauts and published last fall by Simen & Schuster. Credit: Timothy Green Beckley & John Blick, Jr.

FOR THE RECORD: NO UFO'S HERE--An Argus-Courier story last April Fool's Day concerning a UFO report in the Chileno Valley area has aroused some interest--at a rather late date. During the past few days three inquires about the story have been directed to the news staff. A woman in Tucson, Arizona, called asking about the story, saying she belongs to a club of some 1,200 members studying reports of unidentified flying objects. The club had planned to put the story in its journal. However, she was informed the story was nothing but an April Fool hoax concocted by the news staff for the occasion. Another inquiry came from a man in Cleveland, Ohio, who was informed on similar lines. And Thursday evening Loren E. Gross, a student from Richmond, came to Petaluma by bus. He is a volunteer research worker for an organization in Washington, D.C. Gross visited with some members of the news staff and was assured there was nothing factual in the article. It concerned a fictitious character from Chileno Valley named "Angelo Mostaccioli" who was driving cows to the barn for milking and saw a UFO alight in the pasture. Then, the story went, small figures came out of the machine, captured a young calf and took it inside, and gathered samples of plants. When one of the strangers beckoned to "Mostaccioli" he ran away and later reported the incident to Sheriff Louis Mountanos of Marin County. This, of course, was all fictitious. Gross contacted a captain in Mountanos' office Thursday and was told the department had been aware of the story but did not take it seriously. Mostaccioli is a form of Italian pasta, something like wide noodles. As far as the Argus-Courier knows, no such person exists. Source: Argus-Courier--Petaluma, California--7/26/63. Note: The full story of the above mentioned incident was published in the June, 1963 issue of N.I.C.A.P. REPORTER. There was no mention, in the original story, that the account was an April Fool's Day joke.

N.I.C.A.P. REPORTER is the official monthly publication of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION ON AERIAL PHENOMENA--5108 South Findlay Street--Seattle, Washington 98118. 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.