

UFO INTELLIGENCE NEWSLETTER

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CURRENT-ENCOUNTERS

APRIL - MAY 1997

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As you can tell, we have not only been late getting the newsletter out this year, but the content has changed from our previous goals. We started out as a status report to The Indiana Group, then went national with the UFO Intelligence Summary attached. We had enough subscribers to improve as we went. Then something happened. I don't know for sure why, but we lost over half of our subscribers. Three dozen other newsletters completely "bit the dust" at the same time. So news sources and sighting data for the Summary simply dried up. That leaves us with the internet as a source of all information, and probably the culprit behind the demise of the snailmail newsletter business. The problem is, the internet access to all this information is free, leaving us with little or no funding. The production of the newsletter is practically out-of-pocket and I see no evidence of change. Add to that the fact that we no longer have the UFO Filter Center web site, there's not much chance of getting new subscribers. I am sorry to report that, effective upon your renewal date your subscription will have to be cancelled. At some point a few of the remaining subscribers will have to be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

The Lunascan Project, however, is not only alive and well, but about to take a quantum leap. Research into the nagging lunar anomalies will be improved drastically by the acquisition of the new 8"f23 scope which will replace the giant 16"f4.5. We welcome new members and offer you a chance to switch over to The Lunascan Update if you like. See ad at bottom of last page.

PHOENIX SIGHTINGS

On March 13th there were some sightings in the Phoenix area. Very little has surfaced until now to clarify the situation. Some have suggested that the information is being sat on in order to be published in the MUFON UFO JOURNAL. I just assumed that this was not the case and that nothing conclusive had turned up. In any case here's what we have learned so far:

On 17 May 1997, Jerry Washington, State Director of Kentucky (MUFON) relayed this information to us:

Source: EdKomarek@aol.com

Date: Fri, 16 May 1997 22:59:20 -0400 (EDT)

To: updates@globalserve.net

Subject: ORTK CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON AZ CITY COUNCIL UFO MEETING

ORTK Bulletin Editor: "I received this report from a confidential source this evening and hopefully others will be able to confirm this story. This person is known to me." Sincerely, Ed Komarek

REPORT:

A local official here in Phoenix asked Airforce officials for an

explanation about the so called "Phoenix Lights" seen over Phoenix and parts of Arizona last month. Meanwhile, a computer lab wizard had a team of guys working on a computer model of the sightings. The info gathered from 6 (maybe more, I'm not sure) different video cameras was used to triangulate the size and movements of the craft. This analysis was then released to the press. Hard copy, special edition and several networks around the western hemisphere and South America.

On Wednesday, several Officers from Luke Airforce Base, officials from the FAA and members of the city council all gathered (independently?) at the offices of the scientist. The officials cleared the room and seemed very upset about the computer animation being released to the media and hinted (More than hinted, really) at national security issues. They demanded to know how the (computer) model was made.

Later FAA officials quizzed the scientist as the city council watched and later asked their own questions. Several officials came back during the evening as a closed door meeting took place.

Meanwhile, Kal Korf contacts the council offices to info them that this man is a fraud and to ignore him. Curious, how did he even know this was going on? Also, why would he decide to send this damning info to the city council just before they left for the meeting. Many questions about Kal Korf, his sources and reasons remain unanswered.

I spoke with (blank) today. He isn't talking about what happened at the meeting that night. This isn't to be misconstrued, however. The scientist is a very busy man... what with all the ufo photos coming in, needing to be analyzed.

Tonight 5/16/97, on "Extra" (well, it's on NBC @ 6:30 & 11:30pm, here) there will be some of what took place that day. At least the info they got that day will be presented. *** END OF REPORT***

On May 19, 1997, CURRENT-ENCOUNTERS received these messages from Richard Motzer, the field investigator allegedly on top of the Phoenix sightings. These messages were directed at several List Members. I challenge anyone, especially those who may be actually working on this case, to respond.

Richard Motzer:

There is only ONE and said ONE video of the V formation in flight on the 13th of March. There are five videos taken at different elevation of the flares. Since I supplied all the video clips that you have, unless you have shot some, or other people have given you some, all but one which was shown on the first "Strange Universe" are of the flares behind the Estrella Mountains. Yes we have, and are still investigating, these events. We need more videos and 35 mm film of the V formation flying. Beware of postings of so-called experts.

Richard Motzer:

Francis,

I am sure catching hell for our findings that the 10:00 PM event was flares over the Estrella Mountains. The V formation is something else. The goodies are headed your way.

Bill Hamilton:

Well, all you wonderful humans of earth, we will have to wait a little longer before the Phoenix Spaceport becomes a reality and before Scottsdale opens up yet another resort for our alien tourists friends.

The Arizona Republic announced today that Councilwoman Frances Emma Barwood, who recently asked city staff to look into reports of bright lights in the city's March skies, received the staff's finding: The city doesn't have an air force, so there isn't much to tell.

"Since the city does not have resources or expertise to investigate the source of lights such as those that were reported, we depend on the United States Air Force to investigate all such matters," a three-paragraph report to Barwood states.

Luke Air Force Base officials, however, said they do not plan to investigate.

Barwood said, "It's still amazing to me that no one seems to be that concerned. There definitely was something there. As to what it was, I don't have a clue. I'm kind of an open-minded skeptic." Barwood says that she has received more than 50 calls.

"They all describe the same thing," she said. The callers all reported something that was huge and made no noise.

The mayor, Skip Rimsza, continues to poke fun at Barwood saying things like, "Frances sees little green men".

Barwood still doesn't understand why such a fuss was made when she asked city staff to look into the matter. The city should get to the bottom of what exactly was flying around the city's skies that night, she says. "It could have done damage to antennas or something".

Meanwhile, Channel 15 News incorrectly reported that the local MUFON investigators now agree with the National Guard that the lights seen were flares. Actually, they are saying only the stationary lights that were video-taped south of the city were flares. Military experts on flares have stated that these lights were not flares and one electro-optical engineer is setting out to prove it. Will the local MUFON soon have egg on its face?

Certain amateur astronomers in the Phoenix area have also gone out of their way to explain the lights as: a formation of airplanes, flares carried on balloons, and other equally ridiculous explanations when you consider the evidence and testimonies of the witnesses.

For the record I have stated that all analysis so far shows that NONE of the sightings on the night of March 13 over the state of Arizona have been explained and remain unidentified, unconventional, and unknown.

Bill Hamilton
Executive Director
SKYWATCH INTERNATIONAL

Bill Kohler:

The show that I saw, interviewed two Air Traffic Controllers who work at the Phoenix air traffic control tower. They said that they saw these things. At first they thought that they were flares, but said that the lights didn't change altitude like a flare would. The lights stayed stationary.

I would like to hear more of what the two air traffic controllers saw. What more of an expert of things that go bump in the night than people

who are paid to control the skies above Phoenix?

Jerry Washington:

Finally!! Some sanity about this thing. I may not have been there, and sure, interpretations of secondhand data tend to be subjective, but the video that I saw of the objects shown on a local newscast were CLEARLY NOT FLARES. I repeat, CLEARLY NOT FLARES. There were none of the telltale trails a flare would leave as it falls back to earth. No, these six objects hung in the air, silently and motionlessly, for up to an hour according to reports. Fortunately, I am not possessed of the need to spin this type of an event into an IFO that my feeble brain can handle. I don't bemoan the presence of these objects in our skies, nor do I embrace them. They simply ARE, and there ain't a damn thing we humans can do about it (save for shootin' 'em down from time to time).

It'd be nice to be able to shut our eyes and make everything we find discomfoting in our lives go away, but it isn't possible. Some truths can't be altered no matter what we do.

FILER'S FILE

(Source: George Filer, MUFON Eastern Director).

A series of mysterious aircraft disappearances and accidents is getting the government worried. To make matters worse, there have been numerous ground and pilot reports of UFOs just prior to the incidents. On December 4th, an ex-marine and his son saw a UFO the size of ocean liner pass over his home. Numerous reports of strange lights and discs were reported through the Peter Grimier, the New Hampshire MUFON Director. On Christmas Eve a Lear Jet mysteriously disappeared attempting to land at Lebanon, NH. The Aircraft Charter Group of Connecticut has offered a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to its recovery after a futile two week search. A large lake in the area may be the resting place for the Lear Jet and its pilots Patrick Hayes, 30. and Johan Schwatz, 31, both from Connecticut.

Several UFOs were sighted over Arizona in March and April. Spectacular videos were made by MUFON investigators and shown on national TV.

Last week, I visited Washington DC and spoke with fifteen very creditable government personnel, all had their own UFO encounters. It is very well known that ridicule, the threat of losing ones job, etc., stops many of these reports from getting out.

NEW JERSEY - Two Northwest Airline pilots reported sighting a missile like object in the vicinity of a commercial flight path not far from the area where TWA 800 was downed on March 17, 1997. At the time of the TWA accident many missile like objects were reported traveling horizontally and some vertically across the sky and striking TWA 800.

The more recent missile sightings were reported in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press newspaper in Minnesota. A Northwest Airlines DC-9 aircrew reported seeing the missile fifteen minutes after takeoff from Newark International Airport.. Delta Airlines and US Airways pilots filed similar reports.

Another Northwest airline crew sighted the craft on their departure from La Guardia Airport in New York. Last week, we reported numerous similar sightings over New England by both pilots and ground observers. The Defense Department said, their were missile tests off the coast of Florida at about that time, but this was 2,000 miles away. Pakistani Airlines and Saudi Airlines reported similar sightings in November and

December of last year, but authorities claimed they were meteor showers. MUFON personnel also report photographing a cigar shaped craft in the same general area of northern New Jersey. The Cigar craft photo is available. It shows a standard cigar shaped vehicle hovering over some trees. No lights or windows are visible.

On Thursday, April 3, 1997, at 7:45 p.m., Dan Robb was driving on Route 532 in Tuckerton, New Jersey, about 20 miles north of Atlantic City. All at once, he noticed "a string of orange lights low in the sky." He estimated that the object was ahead of him, about one mile from Route 72. "It was a group of five or six together," he reported. "I later saw them from Route 72, a group of four lights together with one split off to the right. Later one appeared to stay 45 degrees up from the horizon. I saw them for five seconds, then they disappeared." The following evening, Friday, April 4, 1997, two boys, K.C.K. and Erik C., saw "a low-flying, slow-moving group of orange lights. They were too long, fore and aft, to be U.S. planes. Anyway, they were way too low to be a helicopter or a bomber." The boys -sighted the mysterious flight in Millstone, New Jersey, on Route 533, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of Newark. (Thanks to Joseph Trainor, UFO Roundup 4/13/97)

GEORGIA - John Thompson, GA State Director received a sighting concerning a shiny bullet shaped object on 10 April 1997 at 2:20 PM. There have been over a hundred sightings in the last year making this one the hottest areas in the country. Apparently, there were two female witnesses to the sighting. John reports, the LaGrange Daily News published a silly poll on UFOs saying half the people who see UFOs drink corn liquor. This poll was beside John's own article-on UFOs. Shortly after the paper hit the streets, -a man calls and says his mother and 29 year old sister just had a dramatic daylight UFO sighting. John thought how ironic that a report comes out at almost the same minute the afternoon newspaper comes out! It didn't deter John, he is out investigating. This may be a psychologically important case. The paper runs a hostile article and people still call. Dr. Jack Vallee and other established researchers have noticed the intelligence aboard the craft seem to enjoy playing tricks. They attempt to interact with those researching the phenomenon. The FAA and the local radar deny any UFOs were in the area, but we have two radar operators who will testify before congress that they are instructed to deny these questions. The Georgia ISUR web site has great photos of various craft.

NORTH CAROLINA - On Saturday, April 5, 1997, at 9 p.m., Mrs. V. and her husband went for a stroll in their hometown of Rich Square, North Carolina (population 1,057). Rich Square is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of the Virginia state line and 115 miles (190 kilometers) northeast of Raleigh. They were "just enjoying the stars," when Mr. V saw something moving silently through the sky. "We saw an object--kind of spheroid-shaped--in the eastern sky," Mrs. V. said, "Orangish yellow. It was very fast, but did not have any blinking lights, and it made no sound. It approached from the southwest and departed to the northeast." She estimated the - size of the UFO as "rather like a dime held at arm's length." (Thanks to Joseph Trainor, UFO Roundup of 4/13/97 Masinaigan@aol.com).

ARIZONA - Bill Hamilton MUFON Assistant State Director reports that there were at least four events over Phoenix in recent weeks. The fourth event was witnessed by a truck driver making a delivery near Luke AFB on the west side of the valley. He observed large amber lights he called objects that appeared to be the size of the large hot-air balloons that we often

see during the day over our valley. However, these had no hanging gondolas and were illuminated from within. These were accompanied by a pulsing a red ring of light. He witnessed 3 jets take-off from Luke around 10 P.M. with afterburners flaming, climb to the north, turn and head toward the unknown objects. The objects accelerated quickly when the jets closed then passed through empty air where the objects had been hovering!

Spokesmen from Luke AFB said:

- 1) They received no calls about strange lights on the night in question.
- 2) They did not send up any jets (though we heard reports they were sent up)
- 3) They do not fly jets at night unless they have special operations.

And yet, a Colonel at Luke, when called by Strange Universe producer, Arte Shamamien, replied that maybe some rogue pilot was flying over the urban areas with a light rig to fool people! Another pair of witnesses in Mesa who saw event 2, the huge black triangle, saw it without lights! Most witnesses saw it moving slowly with 7 lights on, now two saw it between locations flying fast without lights!

ROSWELL - INTERNET CHAT

With some talk by a few individuals who have had a vendetta against Roswell, I asked Kevin Randle, one of the leading researchers on the Roswell case, just what did we really know about the incident.

There isn't any doubt in Kevin's mind that a crash of an extraterrestrial spacecraft occurred there in July of 1947. He went over a few points that we're sure of, but I wondered about the documentation of the find of the archeological professor. Tom Carey had researched that part of the incident and had located the dying man, but Kevin had spoken with the professor, too. In my wording of the question about documentation I must not have made myself clear.

Randle:

What does this mean? Was he a documented professor? Sure, at Texas Tech. Did he die? Yes, again. I spoke to him one time, sitting in his living room while his wife sat by. Did I record the conversation? No. Why not? Because I had worked so hard just to get in the door and I thought I would see him again in the next few months. He fooled me by dying. When I saw him his health was good, he lived at home but seemed somewhat frail.

Ridge:

Don't shoot me before you listen. Is the professor's wife still alive? And surely he would have told her about the incident. What do we have?

Randle:

My early comments was because I didn't understand the question. That's really all I meant.

Yes, his wife is alive, as is his daughter. And no, he didn't tell them because of the threats made at the time. However, he did mention it to fellow anthropologist Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz to whom both Carey and I have spoken.

On May 11, 1997, Lan Fleming:

In the photo with the debris, he states "THIS IS NOT A STAGED PHOTO" and states he is with actual saucer debris. Unfortunately, Marcel is with the same debris as Gen Ramey in later photos. This is pretty much a lie. He

states he had a BS Degree in physics from George Washington University but there was no such degree. Then he lied about all his accomplishments during the war. This belittles the accomplishments of those who actually performed these events. He even claimed to have been shot down once on his third mission. THIS NEVER HAPPENED.

Randle:

I'm not sure how this will be taken but I'll give it a shot. First, the quotes from The Roswell Incident and attributed Marcel are wrong. Bill Moore has provided three separate versions of the Marcel quote to cover the expanding number of photographs taken inside BG Ramey's office. When Marcel was questioned about this by outside sources, he told them that all the pictures in Ramey's office were staged. Reporter Johnny Mann, in 1980 with TV station WWL, showed the photograph in The Roswell Incident to Marcel and said, "Jesse, I got to tell you, that looks like a balloon." Marcel said it was. In other words, we can't condemn Jesse Marcel for being a liar here when he was misquoted.

Second, Marcel didn't say he had a degree from George Washington University. In the vague, and somewhat contradictory Bob Pratt interview, Marcel is quoted as saying, "...degree in nuclear physics (bachelors) at completed work at GW University in Wash." We do know from his record that he did attend LSU and studied physics there. GW has no record of a degree issued to Marcel, but there might be a plausible reason for that. Many military personnel complete college educations in the service through correspondence and extension services. It is possible that this is the reason for the confusion, though there is no evidence for this. I might also point out that in all the other interviews that Marcel gave, he didn't mention these confusing items. That certainly should raise a few questions about the accuracy of the interview. Everyone seems to believe that the interview is 100% accurate. Why is that?

Lan Fleming:

Had he been truthful in his resume and some of the things he said about the press conference, it might be easier to believe some of his story. Instead we get a man who inflates his resume, lies about his war record, and lies about the photo. What else is he lying about that can not be proven to be a lie? Defend him all you want but the truth about his falsehoods are there for all to know. The Roswell investigators do not like to admit it. In the Randle Report, even Randles mentions them and states there are some serious problems with this. Although he writes off the press conference photo and never mentions it. He tries to justify the lies about his military record. He falls short because he does not explain the comment about shooting down five planes and being shot down. Keep the faith if you want to look silly.

Randle:

What we have been able to determine about the military record is that it is INCOMPLETE. For example, no one disputes that Marcel got a Bronze Star, but there is no citation for it in his record. There is a note that he received it on May 8, 1945 but there is no accompanying citation. This shows gaps in the record.

Second, it is possible that Marcel told Pratt that he had five air medals and he got one for shooting down a Japanese plane. Pratt then assumed that five air medals meant five planes downed. Again, Marcel told friends and family that he had shot down a single plane when the waist gunner was shot. What we have here may be an honest mistake, not by Marcel, but by Pratt.

Third, if someone is shot down there won't necessarily be any notation of that in the military record. So, the fact that the record doesn't reflect Marcel being shot down really means nothing.

Now I am certainly biased in favor of Marcel. However, of all the people in this debate about Marcel's record, I seem to be the only one who was ever in Army Aviation. Given that, I can speak with some authority. I see nothing that Marcel said to Pratt, if Pratt reported it accurately, that would allow us to reject Marcel as a Liar. Those making the allegation are biased in the other direction.

It could simply be that if Marcel was still alive, there would be simple explanations for these seeming discrepancies. I am the first to reject tales that I don't believe such as those told by Gerald Anderson and Glenn Dennis when the evidence clearly indicates they are less than accurate. Here, we're arguing over a military record that is fifty years old, an interview that is never challenged as being accurate, and quotes that were alleged given by Marcel, but can be shown to have been changed by the man writing about Marcel. In other words, there is really nothing damning here, as presented, if we all take a step back and look at it objectively.

I know that the critics are not going to accept this. But frankly, the discrepancies between what Marcel said and his military record are not that great.

CIA MAY RELEASE A REPORT ON UFOS - Robert Swiatek, CUFOS

Received word today that the CIA either has or might soon release a report explaining many UFO sightings in the mid-50s as test flights of the U-2 spyplane. This report has been "imminent" for several years but presumably has been embargoed until now.

Apparently the report is to appear in the latest issue of STUDIES IN INTELLIGENCE but a check at its web site (<www.odci.gov/csi>) revealed no indication of its existence. Any information on the report and/or its availability would be appreciated.

MADAR PROJECT STATUS

After several months of testing the new system it was decided that the project had to be tabled, at least until the fall. The AAI unit was returned for a full refund. The unit had two purposes: 1) UFO detection studies, 2) Meteor atmospheric impact study

The company that sells the AAI is making a lot of changes in the software and has even improved the sampling rate. Our time with the unit's operation and updating was running out due to improved weather conditions for The Lunascan Project. We had to set a date for cut-off.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Regional Encounters: The FC Files. Century of close encounter UFO activity in region, illustrated. Includes incidents where MADAR detected anomalies. Soft cover, 8-1/2x11, 170 pages. Shipped U.S. Priority Mail, \$20.00. Foreign, \$30.00.

The Lunascan Project. An EBTI (Earth-Based Telescopic Imaging) project using live CCD image technology to document and record LTPs (Lunar Transient Phenomena). Membership and monthly newsletter, \$25.00/year. Foreign, \$35.00.