

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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NEW WITNESS DISCOVERED IN MANTELL TRAGEDY

An important new witness to the famous sighting in which Air National Guard Captain Thomas F. Mantell, Jr., was killed while chasing a UFO has been found by UFOR. Former Air Force (AF) pilot Lt. Col. E. Garrison Wood was Deputy Base Commander and Operations Officer at Godman Field, Kentucky, site of the tragedy that occurred on January 7, 1948. Before relating Col. Wood's account of the incident, however, we will briefly describe the events surrounding it for those readers who may be unfamiliar with -- or hazy about the details of -- the sighting.

According to newspaper reports, the control tower operators at Godman saw an object "believed to be a balloon" high in the sky sometime after 2 p.m. Col. Guy F. Hix, the base commanding officer (CO), said that he observed the UFO "for some time," stated an AP wire story dated January 8, 1948. Contact was made with three Air National Guard planes in the vicinity. The flight leader, Mantell, said they would investigate.

"About 1445 [2:45 p.m.], the flight leader reported sighting the object ahead and above... still climbing," the August 20, 1952, International News Service (INS) quoted Tech. Sgt. Quinton A. Blackwell, Godman Tower radioman. "At 15,000 feet he reported, 'Object directly ahead and above and moving at about half my speed. It appears metallic and of tremendous size. I'm still climbing... object is above and ahead moving about my speed or faster. I'm trying to close in for a better look.' This was about 1515 [3:15 p.m.]. Five minutes later the two other aircraft turned back."

Other officers reputed to have been in the tower reportedly made similar statements. Several persons on the ground said they saw Mantell's plane explode and disintegrate. The January 15, 1948, edition of *The Franklin* (Kentucky) *Favorite* said the plane crashed on the Joe Phillips Farm near Bowling Green.

Col. Wood Sights Object

Some details of the incident differ significantly with Col. Wood's account, revealed in telecons with UFOR.

Between 11 a.m. and noon (not sometime after 2 p.m., as reported in press accounts), Wood related, he was checking in the Officer of the Day when he received a call that there was "something sighted from the control tower." Wood went to the tower. The operator pointed out a "small pinpoint of light" (hardly the "tremendous" object reported by the press) high in the sky. According to the Deputy CO, there were no available aircraft at Godman to investigate. Someone called the Operations Officer of the Air National Guard fighter group at Standiford Field, Louisville, and asked if he would send up aircraft. The Standiford officer replied that he had heard of the sighting and would investigate. Five to 10 minutes later three planes approached the field.

"These three P-51s came directly over the field and I asked the tower operator to try all his VHF channels to see if they could be contacted," Col. Wood stated.

The flight leader, Mantell, said that they *were not* the planes sent by Standiford but were returning from a ferry flight from Atlanta to Standiford. Mantell

(Continued on page 3)

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UFOs AND STATUS INCONSISTENCY
 (An Editorial Comment)

The majority of UFO witnesses are psychologically marginal, distort information and "alter the system of evaluations that presents the dilemma," wrote Donald I. Warren, of the University of Michigan's School of Social Work, author of "Status Inconsistency Theory and Flying Saucer Sightings," published in the 6 November 1970 issue of *Science* magazine.

Also, he says, "highly educated white males with incomes under \$5,000 report saucers five times as often as low-educated white males with the same low incomes... Highly educated white males with medium incomes" are 16 times more likely to see UFOs than "their status-consistent counterparts."

Before puncturing holes in these "findings," however, let us attempt to penetrate the maze of charts, percentages and scientific "findings" and get to the core of what Warren is saying.

Basing his views on a review of the 1966 Gallup Poll which stated that about five percent of all Americans had seen UFOs and one-half of the population expressed a belief that UFOs are real, the author states that the purpose of his article "is to support the view that the sightings of UFOs... can be described within the context of the societal positions of particular individuals." Warren suggests that witnesses exhibit "a social condition of status inconsistency, producing a psychological state of marginality, resulting in a form of individual alienation that expresses itself in a *partial* [italics original] rejection of the individual's own social position and a *partial* [italics original] rejection of society's evaluation." Status inconsistent individuals (i.e., those who report sightings) suffer from "lack of predictable behavior reactions from other persons with whom one interacts" and "psychological stress associated with having to anticipate norms associated with very different sorts of statuses." These individuals also possess feelings of (a) powerlessness; (b) meaninglessness; (c) isolation; (d) normlessness; and (e) self-estrangement.

Sightings "Linked to Status Frustration"

"Not only is there some rejection of conventional morality involved in saucer sightings," the author writes, "but the very ambiguity of the phenomenon permits one to view it as expressive of one's own interpretation of personal status situation. It is therefore postulated here that UFO sightings are linked to status frustration... The marginal status persons report saucer sightings to break out of a social order in which they are not accorded the place that their situation, in their eyes, deserves. Alienation and distrust of official explanations and a general questioning of the merits of the 'system' are common attitudes among status inconsistencies... The UFOs provide... a form of escape... One expression of this escape mechanism is the possibility of other lives, other planets, other beings like or unlike oneself... It presents the opportunity to escape the system without threatening one's gains..."

But the author seems to contradict himself. Of the total group interviewed in the Gallup Poll, only 5.9 percent of the status inconsistencies said they had seen UFOs. Warren also admits that "nothing in the data rejects the possibility that some individuals have, in fact, seen objects propelled from another solar system..."

(Continued on Page 7)

New Witness (Continued from Page 1)

said they would investigate if the flight plans were closed out from Standiford. The flight plans were closed out and the planes headed toward the object. There was no more direct radio contact until Mantell called back his final message. Wood believes his last words were, "I'm not gaining on it." The Deputy CO and the others saw the planes disappear, but the object was still in view.

Capt. Mantell disappeared. His two wing men reported him missing immediately upon their return to Standiford. But, Wood said, it wasn't until 7 p.m. that it was discovered that Mantell had crashed.

UFO Tracked by Theodolite

Col. Wood said the UFO was seen in "exactly the same spot the whole time" until 7:30 p.m. He tracked it by theodolite, a telescope-like instrument used to measure horizontal and vertical angles. Because it did not move for the approximate eight hours of observation, Wood was convinced that it was not a planet, balloon or aircraft.

The Deputy CO said he called a University of Louisville astronomer, who said, "Under no circumstances could that object be a planet." However, Wood said, it was reported later by the news media that the astronomer said the UFO *could* have been a planet.

Officers from Project Saucer (the official AF organ investigating UFOs, later renamed Project Grudge and Project Blue Book) came to Godman the next day to investigate, Wood remembers, and "took the whole thing as a joke."

Sighting Over Grand Island

This was not the first time that Col. Wood had seen a UFO. In July, 1945, while stationed at the Grand Island, Nebraska, Army Air Corps base, he and others saw "something overhead" high in the sky. A P-63 was sent aloft to 45,000 feet, but nothing was reported.

Col. Wood is a veteran of 65 World War II combat missions over Southern Europe with the 376 B-24 Heavy Bomber Group of the 15th Air Force.

HYNEK DISCUSSES POSSIBLE ROLE IN DESIGNING OBSERVATORY ON MOON

Dr. J. Allen Hynek may help design possibly the first observatory on the moon, if plans of a private New York group for taking over the Apollo moon shots once they are terminated by the government materialize. The Northwestern University astronomer, long-time chief UFO scientific consultant for the AF and strong UFO advocate, made the exciting possibility known during a speech before the Northwestern Club on April 23, stated a UPI wire story dated April 24.

The corporation, New Worlds Co., Inc., desires to buy up existing Apollo hardware, possibly as government surplus, now deleted from NASA's budget, Hynek stated. He also said his role would be in helping to design an observatory on the lunar surface, "which would rent time to earth-based firms to pay the cost of its construction and operation."

Hynek also said the group asked him to attend a meeting on May 4 "to investigate private, for-profit moon expeditions." At press time, UFOR has not learned the outcome of that meeting.

BRITISH HIGH COMMAND MEMBER STATES UFO VIEWS

Lord Portal of Hungerford, Chief of Britain's Air Staff during World War II, said that he does "not rule out interplanetary travel from extraterrestrial sources."

The recently deceased Marshal of the Royal Air Force made his views known in a previously unpublished letter to Julian Hennessey, of London, England, dated May 2, 1967.

"I think it would be unwarrantably presumptuous to assume that of all the millions of potential sources of life in the universe our earth has a population more highly developed than any other," he wrote. "Therefore, if we can travel in space why should not some other community have done so for centuries and be far ahead of us... in technology...?"

Lord Dowding Also UFO Advocate

Lord Portal was not the only member of the British High Command to make positive statements on UFOs. Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, also deceased and hero of the Battle of Britain, was a strong UFO advocate.

"I have never seen a 'Flying Saucer,' and yet I believe that they exist," Lord Dowding said in an article in the *London Sunday Dispatch*, as reprinted in *Fate* magazine, November, 1954. "I have never seen Australia, and yet I believe that Australia also exists. My belief in both cases is based upon cumulative evidence in such quantity that, for me at any rate, it brings complete conviction... I am convinced that these objects... are not manufactured by any nation on earth. I can therefore see no alternative to accepting the theory that they come from some extraterrestrial source."

Regarding the possibility of contacting extraterrestrial beings, Lord Dowding said that "we should be guilty of criminal folly if we were to do anything to hinder a contact which may bring untold blessings to a distraught humanity."

SIGHTING REPORTS CONTINUE

Frightened witnesses; electro-magnetic (E-M) effects; animal reactions; an object that was "engulfed in a cloud of steam"; a UFO that looked like "one of these space stations on television"; an object that trailed flame; and rotating, flashing UFOs are some of the characteristics of sighting reports since January from New Jersey, New York, Idaho and Washington state.

It was shortly before 4 a.m., January 3, 1971. Keith Brown was driving along the Wishkah Road in Montesano, Washington, when he saw three lights flying at low altitude toward the river, stated the January 5 edition of the *Aberdeen, Washington, World*.

As the UFOs reached his vicinity, the witness' automobile engine conked out. He was unable to restart it until the objects left the area. The frightened witness then "drove off -- fast."

There are hundreds of reports on record of UFOs causing E-M effects to cars, trucks, radios, television sets, house lights and even refrigerators and snow-mobiles! In the majority of cases, the object in question was affected while the UFO was in the area, but the E-M effects cleared up once the UFO left the vicinity.

Animal Reactions Reported

Jack Goforth, New Meadows, Idaho, was traveling west on Highway 55 at approximately 7:20 p.m., January 21, when he saw a huge flash of light that lasted several seconds, stated the January 23 edition of *The Idaho Statesman*. The light changed color from red to orange, then became engulfed in a cloud of "steam" and disappeared.

At about the same time the owner of Zim's Plunge Resort, in the vicinity of the Goforth observation, said she heard a loud noise, "then a dull thud somewhat like a car door slamming." Dogs at the resort started barking wildly.

Also at the same time, Lawrence Dixon, of New Meadows, said dogs in his yard started barking as an object flew low over his home. Adams County Sheriff Bud Mason checked with the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), Mountain Home Air Force Base and Idaho Aeronautical Director Chet Moulton. None reported aircraft in the area.

Boise Residents See Objects

Less than a week later Boise area residents saw UFOs for two days.

It was 9 a.m., January 26. Reuben Melander and several co-workers were looking out of a window at their place of employment when they saw a "brilliant white" object toward the east, heading for Table Rock.

"It had a stationary bar or long needle-shaped base," Melander stated in the January 28 edition of *The Idaho Statesman*. "On top it was separated by a cone-shaped dome with a top on it."

As the group watched, the UFO "slowly drifted south or southeast and disappeared behind some trees."

Several other Boise residents also reported the phenomenon.

"I have no idea on that one," an FAA official said.

At 8:15 the following evening objects were sighted in the Horseshoe Bend area (see "Sighting Capsules," *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 7).

Mrs. Lawrence Adams saw a luminous white, red and blue object "that seemed to rotate and flash." She called other residents, who also saw it. She said the children were "scared to death."

This sighting, however, may have been helicopters in the area. FAA officials said the aircraft were in the area at about the same time as the sighting. They had "red and blue" lights.

New Jersey Man Sees UFO

During the evening of March 11, 1971, Norman Vanderbush and five members of his family saw a "basketball-sized light" hovering over their apartment building in Dover, N.J., according to the March 12 edition of the *Morristown, N.J., Record*.

"It moved the length of the building and stayed there, moved and then stopped," Vanderbush stated.

First alerted to the sighting by a police monitor owned by his father, the witness went inside after viewing the UFO for 15 minutes and picked up another police report. Returning outside, he again saw the red object -- but further away. It was alternating between hovering and moving slowly in the direction of nearby Rockaway. Vanderbush rushed inside to call the Dover Police.

"The object disappeared while I was calling them," he recalled.

Object Seen Trailing Flame

One month later, Michael H. Baran was driving at 2:35 a.m., April 12, near Jamestown, N.Y., when he saw a glowing green UFO approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet wide.

The object, the witness said in the April 12 edition of the *Jamestown Post-Journal*, was at about 800 feet altitude. During the 15-second sighting, the UFO came into view, hovered over the city for about five seconds, then flew toward the east "leaving a trail of purplish-red flame about 10 feet long."

"I've never seen anything like it before!" Baran remarked.

"Gigantic Wing" Observed

Several days later residents of Union and Middlesex Counties, N.J., saw a huge object.

Roselle, N.J., Police Sgt. William Dixon said he received a dozen calls during the evening of April 16 from witnesses.

At 8:00, Mrs. Anthony Limaldi saw it.

"It was like one of these space stations on television," she stated in the April 17 edition of the *Elizabeth, N.J., Journal*.

Mrs. Eileen Trainer saw "what looked like an airplane, but brightly lit and sort of hovering." Drew Hafusosky saw it at 7:45 and again at 9:00.

"It looked like a gigantic plane wing with lights and revolved slowly," he remarked. "It reminded me of the Times Square sign with the news flashes."

Mrs. Jeanette Ruchak was also a witness.

An unidentified woman said she saw a "bobbing, active bright light" fly over her home at 2 a.m., April 17.

These reports -- and those in the "Sighting Capsules" below are being investigated and any further pertinent information will be announced in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following sightings have also been reported from five states and Canada:

- September, 1970. Jamestown, N.Y. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reinhardt. On three different occasions the witnesses saw objects "passing over the city," stated the April 14, 1971, edition of the *Jamestown Post-Journal*. The object from the third sighting crashed. The witnesses discovered that it was a hoax balloon -- "an airtight plastic garment bag affixed to a lamp shade." A "fueling agent... had been placed in the ring where the lamp shade supports were joined."

- December, 1970. Santa Fe, N.M. Numerous UFO reports, described as "intensely bright lights," according to the December 29 edition of the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. The objects either hovered or moved at high speeds. The lights were also reported landing and performing erratic maneuvers. FAA personnel admitted receiving reports and referring them to Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque.

- March 1, 1971. Near midnight. London, Ontario, Canada. Colin Cave and at least seven other University of Western Ontario students reported seeing seven UFOs with flashing multi-colored lights, stated the March 3 edition of the *Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, Record*. The objects hovered for 30 minutes before moving "quickly." Possible explanation: planetary illusions.

- March 11, 1971. Phoenix, Ariz. Residents saw what "looked like two spheres side by side," according to the March 25 edition of the *Phoenix American*. One sphere was yellow; the other changed colors from blue to green. The objects changed position twice and were allegedly photographed.

- April 4, 1971. About 8:20 p.m. Near Amherst, Ohio. Greg Cook, Leroy Zunt and Keith Brown. Witnesses saw a "cigar-shaped" UFO with three lights, two white and one flashing red, said the April 5 edition of the *Lorain, Ohio, Journal*. The object flew across the sky and disappeared behind some trees. Possible explanation: aircraft.

- April 13, 1971. About 11 p.m. Near Westgate, Iowa. Mike Potratz, Don Ede and Russell Bartz. Witnesses saw "a bright flash in the sky," then a reddish-orange object that "moved down toward the earth and seemed to hover" over a field, announced the April 14 edition of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. The observers said the object appeared to touch the ground, "then shot back up into the sky and disappeared." Potratz, Ede and Bartz returned to the site of the observation the following morning and found a burned circle about 10 feet in diameter. The April 15 edition of the *Gazette* reported that the students, members of a local high school sociology class, had instituted a hoax to see how people can "be ruled by their emotions rather than their normal behavior."

- May 3, 1971. 4 a.m. Near St. Julie, Quebec, Canada. Witness reported a landed UFO, stated a UPI wire story dated May 4. Police responded and "found only an elaborate contraption made of used car parts."

ANIMAL REACTION IN TURNER CASE

Additional information has been received by UFOR on the Leon Turner case of September 1, 1970, including dogs that "barked wildly" (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 6).

To briefly recap, Turner, a broadcast engineer for WPFB Radio, Middletown, Ohio, received a call that "strange lights" were seen near the station transmitter. The engineer then called Noah Gross, a minister who lived nearby, and asked him to investigate. Gross reported seeing "a red and green pulsating light" over the tower.

The sighting was "reported to me over the telephone by three very frightened kids from Franklin...", Turner stated in his report to UFO. "I am convinced the kids saw a UFO because I called a very reliable person in Franklin... and he confirmed there were five bright red lights on some object hovering over the tree-tops less than a hundred yards in [the] rear of his house. [He] also said it looked as if fire was falling from the sky... I got off work at... midnight. I drove around... and saw [the] object sitting over [the] tree-tops..."

Turner added that one object "apparently landed in [a] soy bean field" and that "dogs barked wildly" during the sighting.

Upon closer examination of this case, it is possible that what Turner and the other witnesses saw was a hoax balloon with candles. The "fire falling from the sky" could have been burning wax from candles. We are still hoping for additional information from Noah Gross, however, which may shed additional light on the report.

Status Inconsistency (Continued from Page 2)

The author has also either ignored or is totally unaware of those large groups of status *consistents* who have seen UFOs. Could we really call airline pilots, top aerospace engineers, astronomers, a state governor, FAA personnel, high-ranking military personnel, top-ranking scientists, Arthur Godfrey and Thor Heyerdahl status inconsistent? The fact is that these people -- and numerous others of like description -- have seen and reported UFOs *that could not be explained in terms of natural phenomena*. If these people were marginally psychotic, as the author at least suggests, then our airliners should be dropping out of the skies and there should be a multitude of mid-air collisions over our airports.

Dissenting Views

The *Science* article produced several letters of dissent, published in the 12 March 1971 issue of the magazine.

"What Warren has demonstrated is only a doubtful relationship between status inconsistency and *any* [italics original] UFO sightings...", wrote George L. Cowgill, of Brandeis University's Department of Anthropology. "Adequate understanding [of the status inconsistency theory] would require much more about the sighter-believers than seems possible from the survey data used by Warren."

Robert A. Gordon, of the Department of Social Relations at Johns Hopkins University, said that "Warren completely disregards individual differences between people, in this case, differences in degrees of mental health."

Peter Dubino, of New York University's Graduate School of Business Administration, also questions the author's conclusions.

"Flying saucer sightings may have been an unfortunate choice of behavior phenomena by Warren to employ to support the theory of status inconsistency...", Dubino wrote. "The theory needs more validation than has been supplied..."

Warren's theory makes for interesting speculation among the uninitiated and is something different in this period of UFO sighting/interest slow-down, but, like other off-the-cuff theories, it was derived without much obvious delving into the subject and an apparent ignorance of the physical characteristics of many sightings.

AF ACADEMY TEXTBOOK NOW FOLLOWS CONDON REPORT

The Air Force Academy textbook chapter that taught its students that UFOs are probably extraterrestrial probes (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 1) was revised in Fall 1970 to follow the conclusions of the negative University of Colorado UFO Project report, UFOR learned soon after the first issue of its newsletter went to press.

This development, though somewhat disconcerting, does not substantially lessen the impact of the original chapter, which gave startling evidence of the existence of UFOs. The obvious question remains: why did the Academy wait nearly two years *after* the Condon Report was made public to change its textbook?

WATER IN COMETS INDICATE EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

"Water is the essential ingredient of comets," a group of space scientists stated at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) press conference in Washington, D.C., on April 1, 1971. This is a further indication of possible life elsewhere in the Milky Way.

"I can't anticipate not finding life in the universe on the basis of what we see," stated Dr. Charles Lillie, of the University of Colorado, in the April 2 edition of *The Baltimore Sun*.

The information was obtained from two NASA satellites launched in 1968.

Also at the conference were Prof. Jacques E. Blamont, of the University of Paris and Dr. Gary Thomas, of the University of Colorado. Dr. Thomas talked of the discovery of an "interstellar 'wind' which is blowing hot hydrogen gas past the solar system." A thin cloud of this hydrogen about 50 billion miles in diameter is rushing through space at about 130,000 m.p.h., he said.

Dr. Lillie remarked that the new-found data "completely changes the understanding of the structure of [comets] which... had been thought to be composed mainly of methane, ammonia and carbon dioxide." Now, he said, they may "be regarded as icy snow balls, with temperatures several hundred degrees below zero."

The satellites obtained the data from the comets Tako-Sako-Kosaka, Encke and Bennett, "the brightest comet of the last 50 years."

MOON ROCKS NO VITAL CLUE TO LUNAR ORIGIN

The moon rocks brought back by Apollo 11, 12 and 14 offer no substantial clue to lunar origin, stated scientists at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington, D.C., in April. The evidence suggests "that there no longer are any truly primitive regions of the moon where the materials present at its creation still exist in their original form," according to a UPI wire story dated April 16, 1971.

The lunar evidence indicates the following: "the moon, and also the planets, were assembled by gravitational forces from smaller objects formed in space when the solar system was created. The earth, which started out bigger, 'captured' the moon and made it a satellite of our planet. Primordial materials falling together to make the moon generated intense heat in the process so that the moon became molten early in life from its upper regions down. It has since cooled, but its history persists in the Apollo samples."

CORRECTION

On page 8 of its last issue, *UFO Research Newsletter* incorrectly identified Thomas F. Mantell, Jr., as an Air Force captain. He was an Air National Guard officer. UFOR regrets the error.

Vol. I, No. 3, of *UFO Research Newsletter*, ready for mailing by June 15, will include new first-hand information on the Scandinavian eclipse film of June 30, 1954.