

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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"MALTESE CROSS" AND JET CHASE HIGHLIGHT REPORTS

A UFO that looked like a "Maltese cross" was reportedly seen by a police officer early on the morning of July 27, 1971, in Atlanta, Georgia. Sgt. B.G. Hodnett said the object had 12 to 20 blinking lights. The UFO hovered in the sky and the witness rushed to his car for a camera. By the time he returned, however, the UFO flew away in "a fraction of a second."

Atlanta police said they received about 50 calls concerning the object, according to a UPI wire story dated July 27, 1971.

Other reports since April include UFOs that chased jet aircraft, paced a car, caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects, and extended a "camera on a boom."

On or about April 15, 1971, Joel J. Hassler was driving three miles east of Boeuff Creek, Missouri, at 10 p.m. He saw a saucer going from southeast to northwest. It slowed down and hovered over the Missouri River, then headed south across Highway 100.

"It seemed to be following Boeuff Creek to a point three-quarters [of a] mile south of the highway," the witness wrote John F. Schussler, director of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, as reported in the August, 1971, edition of *Skylook*. "It made three more trips back north and then south. At the end of the last trip, it hovered 1,000 feet (I estimate) above the ground."

The UFO then opened a "door," Hassler stated, and "a machine, shaped like a camera, on a boom was extended." Simultaneously, a brilliant blue light was emitted from the opening. The witness reported an unusually strong thirst for water while the "camera" was extended about 15 feet from the object. It remained there for 15 minutes, then was retracted.

The object "went straight up," then sped toward the northwest, "leaving a bright tail behind it."

Hassler said the UFO was "larger than a bushel basket" and "seemed to reflect light [from the moon] from all sides."

Discs Pursue Jets

Teresa Brewer saw two jet aircraft that left vapor trails from her home in Florence, Alabama, shortly after noon in April, 1971. One plane was heading north, the other west. Then, after about a minute, she saw two white discs flying side by side following the trail of the northbound jet.

As the UFOs hit the area where the two trails intersected, they stopped briefly and "hesitated." Then one kept following the northbound jet and the other the westbound aircraft.

"After a few seconds, the northbound object stopped in mid air and waited for the other object to join it," Bill Rogers, of Florence, stated in a report to UFOR. "They then both followed the northbound jet until the distance was too great for the observer to watch."

Object Paces Car

At about 10 p.m., May 11, 1971, Jerrel Garner and a companion were traveling two miles north of Carlyle, Illinois, when they observed a brilliant light hidden by a cloud cover, stated the *Breese Journal*, as reported in the July, 1971, edition of *Skylook*. The light brightened and left the cloud cover.

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UFOs -- A DIRGE?
 (An Editorial Comment)

For the past few months, numerous newspaper and magazine editorials and articles have been leading the public to believe that UFOs are a dead issue. This, of course, is not true, as even a few of the editorials grudgingly concede.

"I would like to feel that the [Condon] report quieted the saucer interest," said Dr. Ernest R. Hilgard, a Stanford Uni-

versity psychologist who served on the National Academy of Sciences reviewing panel for the Colorado report, "but I do not think so." UFOs were a fad that ran its course, he stated, and those hitherto interested in the subject have now turned introspective. But this, too, will pass, he remarked, and "UFOs will reappear when it does."

Other press comments:

- St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, May 21, 1971: "Scoff if you will, but a large group of scientists, researchers and other sane, sensible people take the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects seriously."

- St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, May 30, 1971: "Where have all the flying saucers gone? The answer is that they haven't gone anywhere, provided they were actually here. It's just that you don't hear much about them any more... Even if you don't hear much about them these days, flying saucers, or at least the belief in flying saucers, is far from dead."

- Waukesha, Wisc., *Freeman*, June 12, 1971: "Elvis Presley's hips weren't the only flying objects that caught the public eye during the 1950s and 1960s. There also were UFOs... Folks... are beginning to believe UFOs have gone the route of hula hoops and, yes, even watch chains."

- *Wall Street Journal*, June 14, 1971: "Where have all the saucers gone? The phenomenon, and its disappearance, can be traced to deep-rooted factors in the human personality, avers Carl Sagan, director of Cornell University's Laboratory for Planetary Studies... No one denies that people today are still seeing weird things in the sky they can't explain."

- Monroe, Mich., *News*, June 15, 1971: "Whether UFOs have 'gone away' or were never really there is a matter that may be debated, but not by very many at the moment... The sightings themselves have virtually ceased."

- Hartford, Conn., *Courant*, June 19, 1971: "...Hardly anyone talks these days about unidentified flying objects. The UFOs have definitely gone out of style. Just why is not exactly easy to determine."

- Stamford, Conn., *Advocate*, June 19, 1971: "We feel that a real-thing Buck Rogers... exists because people want to believe he does."

- *Time*, June 28, 1971: "Why did the UFOs suddenly become scarce?"

- Charleston, S.C., *News and Courier*, July 5, 1971: "Unidentified flying objects may never die, but they have faded from the news... There is plenty of other hokum flying around to amuse, entertain, astonish and bamboozle the public."

Sightings Still Reported

Though, admittedly, at a low ebb, sightings are still being reported throughout the world, despite the negative conclusions of the Condon report, which undoubtedly did much to harm the subject. It is unfortunate that the press, as it has in the past, is still devoting much space -- when it allocates any at all now -- to stories of kooks who claim rides to other planets and very little or none to reports by serious, sober, even well-trained observers. We have often heard that it is the responsibility and solemn duty of the media to accurately and objectively report the news. Unfortunately, over the years, it has often not

lived up to this expectation in regard to UFOs. Nor, we suppose, can we expect it to do so now -- in this period of low interest. We may hope that, when another UFO flap occurs, the press will take responsible reins and report the news with the same responsibility that it reports world events. Until then the general public, who oftentimes tend to regard the written word as gospel, will continue to be misled and uninformed about the true nature of the subject.

"Maltese Cross" (Continued from page 1)

Garner said he was traveling about 50 m.p.h. and the object paced his automobile into Carlyle at an altitude of about a thousand feet. Garner stopped at a dead-end road. The UFO also stopped and faded from view.

Disc Makes 75-Degree Turn

Three unidentified witnesses were watching a plane pass overhead in Oakland, Alabama, at 6:15 p.m., June 22, 1971, when they noticed two small discs flying side by side "a little faster than an average jet and in a straight horizontal line from east to west."

One of the UFOs, which appeared to be of "a highly polished metal," suddenly made a 75-degree turn and headed toward Florence, Bill Rogers said in his report to UFOR.

"The witnesses all agreed that after the disc veered off, it was going at a fantastic speed," Rogers wrote. "One of [the witnesses], who has done much flying, estimated the speed was from 2,500 to 3,000 m.p.h."

The second object continued on, increasing speed.

"The weather conditions at the time were clear with no clouds in the sky," the Alabama investigator stated. "The temperature was about 85 degrees with winds 3 to 5 m.p.h. Visibility was excellent with no fog or smoke."

Rogers stated that he is attempting to locate the pilot of the Cessna 172 Skyline aircraft the witnesses were watching for a possible confirming report.

Students See Maneuvering "Rocket"

Two students saw a rocket-shaped UFO which caused E-M effects to a radio in Las Vegas, Nevada, at approximately 12:30 a.m., June 27, 1971. Patrick Amico and Jim Jezik were camping out when they saw it. The 15-foot long object flew "faster than a jet," Amico told UFOR, and changed colors from red to blue to yellow to white to green back to white.

"It was really moving," Amico stated in the June 28, 1971, edition of *The Las Vegas Sun*. "Then it came back over... the sky again going the same way as when I first saw it, and then came back and stopped [in the east]."

The UFO then gained altitude, descended, and took on the shape of a cross. The nose of the object, the students said, was pointing straight ahead in lateral flight, but pointed up when it moved up or down or hovered. Bubble-like lights could be seen.

SIGHTING CAPSULES

Other UFO reports from three states and the Antarctic since February have also come to UFOR's attention. These include a sighting by South Pole military personnel, occupant reports, a claimed contact and objects that gave off flashes of light and hovered near a coal mine and over a flood control project.

- February 18, 1971. 9:50 a.m. St. Charles, Missouri. Dr. J.W. Mueller, Martin and Theodore Thoele. Witnesses reportedly saw a "cage-like" UFO with an occupant inside. The cone-shaped object had a light string.

- February, 1971. Around 9:55 p.m. Near Ft. Worth, Texas. Robert Rozelle saw a blue, "bright and huge" cigar that was rising in a "floating" manner. The

UFO looked to be 300 feet long; gave off flashes of light and emitted a faint sound, stated the April 22, 1971, edition of the Ft. Worth *Cross Country News*.

- April 13, 1971. 8 p.m. Beckemeyer, Ill. Six people witnessed a UFO "as bright as a full moon" that hovered, then sped away and disappeared.

- Around May 19, 1971. Antarctic. Chilean Air Force reported a luminous object about three times as bright as Venus that changed colors. It hovered for 15 minutes, then disappeared to the southwest, stated the July, 1971, edition of *Skylook*.

- May 20, 1971. 7:45 p.m. Near Breese, Ill. Two unidentified witnesses observed a cone-shaped object hovering near a coal mine.

- May 28, 1971. Approximately 5 p.m. East Brookfield, Mass. Ted Fiske saw a brilliant, oval-shaped UFO over a pond.

- May 29, 1971. Oxford, Mass. Warren L. McCarthy; sons Michael and Mark; Ray Beaudry. Observers watched a UFO about 10 feet in diameter with a black bottom and a light at the front over a flood control project.

- June 15, 1971. About 8:50 p.m. Alton, Ill. Tony Wilkens said a "silver" UFO 50 feet in diameter with green lights hovered close by his home. Two "humans," he said, contacted him via mental telepathy and invited him for a ride in the saucer. Wilkens refused, stated the June 16, 1971, edition of the Alton *Evening Telegraph*. (Editor's note: UFOR generally regards reports of this kind as highly dubious, but we are contacting the witness for more complete information. Further details, if any, will be published).

- June 21, 1971. Evening. Haverhill, Mass. Paul Katsaros said he saw a cone-shaped object that changed colors from blue to white to blue, executed a low circle and disappeared, according to the June 22, 1971, edition of the Haverhill *Gazette*.

- Late July, 1971. St. Jolie, Quebec, Canada. Two police constables saw a 20-foot-wide saucer resting on legs in a parking lot. A civil defense official was called in. He discovered that the parking lot owner had purchased the saucer from a movie company making a children's film, according to the July 29, 1971, edition of *The New York Times*.

(The above sightings from February 18, April 13, and May 20 were reported in the August, 1971, edition of *Skylook*; those of May 28 and 29 in the June 3, 1971, edition of the Spencer, Mass., *Leader*).

ARMY COLONEL SAYS UFOs REAL

UFOs are probably "extraterrestrial, and come from many places, not necessarily within our solar system or even our galaxy," wrote Colonel Robert B. Emerson (USAR) in a 1968 paper entitled "The UFO as a Subject Worthy of Serious Study." "The diversities in shapes and in performance, and in [the UFOs'] passengers, indicate multiple sources and different degrees of technology... I think [the UFOs] are exploring the entire universe, and have been doing so for billions of years. I further believe that they not only have social and trade relations among themselves, but would incorporate on a voluntary basis any new races that appeared capable of fitting into their cosmic culture of society."

The retired Army officer, long-time UFO student, and NICAP board member stated that UFOs "have done everything that one of human intelligence would if [he were] surveying a newly discovered, occupied planet." He said that many excellent reports pointed toward intelligent control of the objects.

The long-established Air Force (AF) debunking policy, the colonel added, is not borne out by "my contacts with AF personnel," which "reveal a consensus quite contrary to the official view and a general deploring of that view." Also, he blamed lack of an official, scientific investigation for the "confusion and difficulties" surrounding the subject.

"Several Million Good Sightings"

"In the some 21 years since UFO reports became widespread..." Emerson stated, "I would estimate that there has been a minimum of two reports per day for each of our 50 states that are worthy of further investigation... This would mean 100 cases per day for the U.S. alone, some 36,500 per year, and some three-quarters of a million since June 24, 1947. I believe that this is a very conservative estimate... It does not take into account reports from other countries... Over the entire earth there have been several million good sightings, some of them, of course, being of the same objects."

Emerson added that he knows of many scientists who are convinced of the reality of UFOs, but who "fear to express themselves because of ridicule... or of jeopardizing their jobs."

"Science should feel ashamed to leave any such wide-spread phenomenon as is demonstrated by the UFO to remain uninvestigated," Colonel Emerson concluded, "even if it were only to maintain its image of omniscience."

[Colonel Emerson is a veteran of the World War II campaigns in Europe, Africa and the Middle East and has won decorations and medals from the U.S., France, Belgium and the Netherlands. He also helped plan the "logistical and supporting troop basis for the liberation of the European continent" and was a "top secret control officer."]

TENNESSEE INVESTIGATOR REAPS RICH HARVEST

An impressive array of UFO reports from Tennessee has been uncovered by George D. Fawcett, of Greeneville. The body of sightings from the last 24 years include such characteristics as radar trackings, E-M effects, animal reactions, a power failure, plane and car chases, physiological effects, physical evidence, sounds, odors, landings and photographs.

A large percentage of the June-July, 1947, reports, Fawcett stated in a recent press release, came from the Knoxville area. Prof. C.E. Brehm, of the University of Knoxville, reported a "long cylinder" seen at night that "moved at a terrific speed, leaving in its wake at low altitude a shower of sparks." A "big, round, streamlined, silver-like UFO" was seen at 5:30 one afternoon by Bill Anderson over the Sharp's Ridge area. The witness said the object was as large as a pickup truck. In early July, sightings were reported from Memphis, Chattanooga and Hixson. Witnesses saw discs "that circled, made whooshing sounds, appeared to be mirror-like, bright and shiny and flew in formations overhead."

A Radar Tracking and Occupants Highlight 1950s Reports

A radar tracking, occupants, animal reactions, physical evidence, a frightened witness and a UFO that hovered over an electric powerhouse were highlights of Tennessee reports from the decade of the 1950s.

- July 11, 1950. Near Memphis. Pilots R.E. Moore and J.W. Martin, of the Millington Naval Air Station, were flying training planes when they saw a UFO "about 24-25 feet across and about seven feet high." It had a dome on top, "like a World War I helmet seen from the side..." The pilots chased the object at speeds up to 200 m.p.h. and an electronics technician, flying with Moore, said he "caught it on the radar scope."

- November, 1953. 7 p.m. Donelson. Paul Norman, an hydro-electric employee and his son saw a brilliant, bluish-white object moving over the Center Hill Powerhouse and Dam on the Caney Fork River. The UFO intermittently pulsed as it moved to the southeast. It stopped and hovered twice, then "suddenly sped away."

- March 23, 1957. Fayetteville. UFO with a dome on top performed maneuvers before numerous eyewitnesses.

- October 8, 1957. 7:10 p.m. Roane. James Myers, newman and others witnessed a V-shaped object.
- November 6, 1957. Dante. Everett Clark observed an egg-shaped vehicle on the ground with two men and two women occupants nearby. One of the occupants attempted to grab Frisky, the boy's dog, "who growled and backed away." The men and women then entered the UFO and "took off, straight up." Upon returning home, Clark's parents "found him hysterical." Police officers, a reporter and a photographer from *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* found an elliptical imprint in the ground approximately 24 feet long and five feet wide, "as though a big cigar-shaped frame had been put down on the grass."

1960-64 Sightings Reveal Startling Patterns

Sighting reports from the first half of the 1960s revealed such characteristics as military jets chasing a UFO, power failures, an object that caused tree-tops to sway and flying objects that left behind physical evidence.

- July 22, 1960. 10 p.m. Martin. Shirley Sisk said she saw a UFO "larger than a car and... shaped like two pie plates turned together" that hovered "about 150 feet" above the ground. It "had a small rudder-like attachment or protrusion on one side." Large, black, oily substances were discovered around Memphis and Martin after the sighting.

- December 16, 1960. Chattanooga. A Moonwatch team saw a low-flying "ball of fire." (Editor's note: no further details were given for this report, but the observers may have seen a bolide meteor).

- May 27, 1961. 5 p.m. Nashville. Brilliant, triangular-shaped object was chased by jets from the Memphis Naval Air Station and a photograph was allegedly taken by a *Nashville Tennessean* staffer.

- July, 1964. 11 p.m. Near Greeneville. Kathie M. Riney and her mother and father observed a lit disc hovering over a barn. The light from the UFO reflected off the barn. Five minutes later "the object took off straight up and vanished," leaving the tree-tops swaying. An "angel-hair"-like substance was found lining the trees and bushes. There was a power failure during the sighting and "a light pole was down." The next day a calf was reported missing in the vicinity.

The 1966 Reports

In 1966 there were UFOs that apparently caused E-M effects, animal reactions, chased planes, created a power failure and an object that shot a light beam toward a plane.

- March 28, 1966. Fayetteville. A businessman-motorist saw a large, lit object "on a hilltop." As the UFO disappeared, the automobile engine and headlights ceased functioning.

- March, 1966. 10:30 a.m. Near Greeneville. Mrs. Goldene F. Burgner saw a white, cigar-shaped UFO "about the size of a Cessna airplane" appear for about 25 seconds, then disappear fast.

- April 5, 1966. Alto. Two men witnessed an oval object about 90 feet long flying between a high-tension line and some trees. It hovered over a swamp and caused cows, horses, and dogs to become restless.

- October 7, 1966. 8 p.m. Johnson City. Woman reported seeing "eight egg-shaped UFOs moving in formation overhead."

- October 11, 1966. About 7 p.m. Jonesboro. Maxie J. Fox, Mrs. Burnette S. Fox and others saw two UFOs. One appeared to "shoot out a straight beam of light" toward a plane. Other witnesses saw a cigar "about four times as long as a star" and two other objects that changed colors.

- October, 1966. Two professors from Tennessee State University reportedly saw a "doughnut-shaped UFO" and other witnesses reported plane chases and flying objects on the evening of the Johnson City power failure.

- November 3, 1966. Knoxville. Prof. Fred Fields, three policemen, a University of Tennessee traffic officer, and three students. A "very huge, round, red and orange" UFO that "glowed and stopped and hovered in midair" was observed.

Late 1960s Bring Light Beams and Emitted Object

A UFO that shot out light beams and another that emitted a separate object were seen by Tennessee residents during the late 1960s.

- October 10, 1967. About 10:15 p.m. Shenandoah Heights. Observers saw a disc with a dome on top and a "prism" on the bottom that shot "off bright rays of light."

- September 10, 1968. Kingsport. Witnesses saw an object that "flashed, glittered, and changed colors." Still other sightings were reported from the area the following day.

- October, 1969. Greeneville. Don Craft. A red, round UFO stopped, hovered and emitted another white object from its bottom. Both objects then moved off and disappeared.

1970-71 Objects Also Seen

An object that frightened witnesses, another that followed some telephone wires and circled a car, and still another that was caught on film are highlights of reports from 1970-71.

- February, 1970. About 7 a.m. Mosheim. Mrs. Patricia Long and daughter, Paula, saw a UFO like "two inverted saucers put together with the center rim spinning." The bright object rose and disappeared.

- March 11, 1970. Around 9:30 p.m. Greeneville. Pajan Cox and Charnell Garant, frightened, reported a disc "with a color halo."

- June, 1970. 3 p.m. Greeneville. Karen Sappof saw a silvery, cigar-shaped object with a dome that hovered over a furniture company and performed erratic maneuvers in the sky.

- October, 1970. 10 p.m. Greeneville. Gary Graham. Amateur astronomer and photographer took a picture of "a cigar-shaped UFO with rounded front and a tapered back which trailed some sort of exhaust."

- 1970 (month and day unknown). Near Kingsport. John D. Hatch and mother observed a white, oval-shaped object that "twirled like the blades of a helicopter" as it circled their car.

- February 1, 1971. Evening. Kingston. Two women and others saw a saucer "with flashing lights."

CORRECTION

In Vol. I, No. 3, of *UFO Research Newsletter*, p. 3, we stated that the photographer in the Scandinavian eclipse film case of June 30, 1954, was John Bjornulf. This was incorrect. The actual photographer was Raun Conradi. UFOR regrets the error.

UFOs: GREATEST SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM OF OUR TIMES?

By Dr. James E. McDonald

[Part 2 of a series. Before his death earlier this year, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, The University of Arizona, and the leading scientific proponent of the UFO problem. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given April 22, 1967, before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Washington, D.C.]

...Certainly at this writing one would be rash to suggest that more than a few percent of the country's scientists take the UFO problem seriously. If the

true percentage is larger, then I can only say that most of the supporters are keeping themselves very well concealed. By contrast, those who scoff at the UFOs as a lot of nonsense or as an expression of the human need for miracles or as the mistaken observations of untrained laymen are both numerous and vocal...

One must... lay primary responsibility on AF Project Bluebook for having left scientists with no reason to doubt that the problem was being very thoroughly investigated... Scientists, like Congress and the public, had no reason to suspect that all those Pentagon reassurances were baseless, so most... ignored the problem... Others have simply opined from their armchairs with scarcely any knowledge of any sort, just speaking from scientific orthodoxy at its worst... I... have never met a scientist who has made what I... regard as an *adequate* investigation of the UFO problem who is at all inclined to sneer at the problem...

Like most scientists, I prefer to base scientific conclusions on quantitative observations obtained from controlled experiments in the laboratory. But scientists don't always get their problems handed to them in such neat packages...

In the case of the UFO problem, it is... going to be necessary for scientists to *begin* by listening carefully to the accounts of many untrained observers and to do their best to sort out the grain from the chaff...

Today, most of us find it uncomfortable to think that in our atmosphere there may be real objects of a most unconventional nature operating and maneuvering in a way that we cannot account for in terms of present-day knowledge. In our discomfort, most of us seem to take the easy way out and say it just can't be, and we even suspect as slightly unbalanced those who claim to have seen these things. William James put it painfully well when he said: "*By far the most usual way of handling phenomena so novel that they would make for a serious rearrangement of our preconceptions is to ignore them altogether, or to abuse those who bear witness to them.*"... In the case of UFOs, I have now seen too much evidence to be able to ignore the seriousness of the problem of our collective turning-away from all of these reports...

Extraterrestrial Hypothesis Considered

Almost everyone who has carefully sorted through the evidence is forced to consider quite seriously the hypothesis that the UFOs are *some form of extraterrestrial probes*. That is an hypothesis [that]... carries so much more dynamite to explode cherished conceptions of our place in the universe... I am forced to join many others who see in the extraterrestrial hypothesis the only presently plausible explanation for the now-available facts...

I urge that a full-scale Congressional investigation be prepared immediately to examine the actual nature of this problem... Many serious investigators... have information enough... for a half-dozen Congressional investigations...

I believe that the primary responsibility for UFO investigations ought to be taken from AF hands and turned over to some strong *science-oriented* agency...

It is the UFO evidence that slowly forces the diligent UFO student to seriously consider the extraterrestrial hypothesis -- evidence that I can only describe as extraordinary in its total nature...

You members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors are in an ideal position to generate the pressures necessary to force Congressional investigation... Then, but only then, will the problem receive the attention of the outstanding scientists of the world... It has become my conviction that the problem of the unidentified flying objects is, indeed, the greatest scientific problem of our time.

Vol. I, No. 6, of *UFO Research Newsletter*, ready for mailing by September 15, will include excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk by Dr. James E. McDonald before the Outer Space Affairs Group of the United Nations on June 7, 1967.

Enclosed is an information sheet with coupon for subscribing. We ask that you give it to anyone who may be interested in subscribing. Thank you.