

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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PILOT SIGHTINGS ADD MYSTERY TO REPORTS

UFOs that outdistanced aircraft; an object seen on or near the ground with an apparent occupant inside which frightened witnesses and another that landed and took off "like a rocket"; UFOs that caused animal reactions; a "ball of fire" that was emitted from an object, then joined it again; an object that apparently left behind physical evidence; another that was seen during a blackout; and objects that caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects to automobiles highlighted sighting reports since January from five states and three foreign countries. Witnesses included pilots, police officers, experienced UFO investigators, a town mayor and magistrate, a Civil Defense director, a minister, newspaper reporters, and a radio engineer.

Small towns in Missouri were still being visited by strange flying objects (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 4).

Kenneth Pingel, a commercial pilot with more than 5,000 hours logged, was preparing to land his single-engine plane near Farmington on the evening of April 12, 1973. His passenger was Marvin Colyer, also a pilot, stated an AP wire story dated April 23, 1973. The men saw a UFO.

"The object was circular shaped and looked off-white in color, gradually turning yellow and taking on an orange tinge," Pingel related. "It did not appear to spin. It looked like it was moving at us at a high rate of speed, so I pulled back and flew toward it. It immediately stopped, reversed its direction and flew away from us at a high rate of speed."

Pingel chased the object at 140 m.p.h. "for several miles before it disappeared."

Less than a week earlier, about seven persons saw a saucer in the Piedmont area on the evening of April 6, according to the April 12, 1973, edition of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Among the witnesses were Sheriff Gene Beardon, who saw it at approximately 7:30, and Dennis Keeney, the engineer for KPWB Radio. Keeney said he discovered a possible landing site for the craft.

"The area has been disturbed by some unknown object," he said. "It's a hilly area -- the usual Ozarks. Some trees have been broken and burned."

The Doniphan "Ball of Fire"

Two reporters -- John Prince and Stan Berry -- climbed to the top of the city dump just south of Piedmont on the evening of March 22. They were on the lookout for a story on the UFOs that had been spotted in the area during the previous month. At about 7:30, they saw an object flashing red, white and blue-green colors.

"The flashes did not have a steady blink like an airplane's lights," they wrote in the March 29, 1973, edition of their newspaper, the *Piedmont Journal Banner*. "And, besides, the flashes were crazy-quilting themselves across the sky in all sorts of erratic patterns. They were traveling at a high rate of speed and turning and jumping from side to side in no predictable manner."

While they were watching, the observers were joined by a Piedmont policeman, Don Shatley.

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BERMUDA TRIANGLE REVISITED (A Review)

No doubt many serious UFO researchers are tired of hearing about the Bermuda Triangle -- that large area from Miami to Bermuda to Puerto Rico in which mysterious ship and plane disappearances have been occurring for years -- but, nonetheless, they should still be interested in an hour-long television documentary entitled *The Devil's Triangle*. Narrated by prominent horror-film actor Vincent Price and

presented by producer Richard Winer on Metromedia TV, what the program lacks in technical expertise it makes up for in good old-fashioned scare stories. What makes them all the more frightening is that they are true -- and totally mysterious. This viewer left the television set somewhat in doubt that he wanted to cross the triangle again in a trek to the Caribbean. Of course, the vast majority of ships and planes entering the triangle leave again unscathed, but it is those few that have completely disappeared without a trace that make the goose bumps rise.

Reports of disappearances from the first part of the 20th Century are recounted and a "remarkable number of incidents" occurred during the Christmas season. Surprisingly, the program at least indicates that UFOs might be the answer to the disappearances and cites the observations of several witnesses, an anthropologist among them, who reported seeing mysterious objects in the area, including a man who saw egg-shaped UFOs "really moving out fast" underwater.

The Navy Avengers

Probably the most famous incident of all -- recounted in numerous UFO books -- took place on December 4, 1945, when five Grumman Navy Avenger torpedo bombers led by Lt. Charles C. Taylor entered the triangle and disappeared. A search plane with 13 aboard was sent out and it, too, disappeared.

Other disappearances in the triangle:

- November 14, 1909. Capt. Joshua Slocum, famed world circumnavigator.
- 1918. On January 8, the *U.S.S. Cyclops*, Capt. George W. Worley commanding, departed for Rio de Janeiro. On February 21, it left Rio for Baltimore, with the Ambassador to Brazil on board. It reached Barbados on March 3 and, on the 4th, put out to sea, heading south, *away from its destination*, and was never heard from again.
- January, 1921. Japanese tanker.
- January 29, 1948. Radio contact with a British airliner enroute to Kingston, Jamaica, from London was lost one hour before it was due to land at Bermuda.
- Late 1957. Racing yacht.
- February 2, 1963. The *Marine Sulphur Queen*, a tanker enroute to Norfolk, Va., from Beaumont, Texas. Later, a boy and his father found the ship's name-board washed ashore. (This piece of evidence is either unique or a rarity in the disappearance cases).
- August 28, 1963. Two stratotankers became the first jet planes to vanish when radio contact was lost 300 miles southwest of Bermuda.
- June, 1965. An operator at Grand Turk Island picked up a "strange, indecipherable message" from a flying boxcar.
- Christmas week, 1967. Two lighthouse keepers in the Bahamas.

• Christmas season, 1967. A priest and a friend in an "unsinkable" boat only one mile off Miami Beach. Name of the boat: *Witchcraft!*

An additional disappearance involved an airliner enroute to Miami from San Juan, Puerto Rico, with Capt. Robert Liguist and five others aboard. At 4:13 a.m., they were singing Christmas carols and were only 50 miles south of Miami when radio contact was lost.

Pilot Sightings (Continued from page 1)

"I don't believe in flying saucers, but there is something unusual going on up there," Shatley remarked.

At 7 p.m., April 5, Bob Holland and his father-in-law, John Reeves, had arrived at the Paul Cora home, Doniphan, Mo., for a welding job when they observed "a red light moving at tremendous speed" and traveling at an altitude of approximately 300 feet. Both the Cora children said they saw a strange light near a pond.

Nearby, Steve Enmons also saw a UFO at about the same time.

A few hours later, on a nearby farm, Barbara Napier observed a UFO that looked like "an open umbrella with red, green and yellow lights outlining the umbrella spokes," the April 12, 1973, edition of the Doniphan *Prospect News*, said. The object hovered at tree-top level, emitting a "vapor-like trail" and "moved up and down sideways." At one point, a "red ball of fire" became disconnected from the bottom of the UFO, circled and disappeared.

"It returned later and reattached itself," Mrs. Napier stated.

Mrs. Napier called her sons, Billy and Kenny, who watched the object with her until about 11:30 p.m., "when the lights grew dimmer and finally faded." She also called her neighbors, J.A. and Pat Hall, who, with their guests, Jim and Phyllis Burris, "observed colorful lights, different from stars."

A "Black Figure" in Pennsylvania

The UFOs also returned to Pennsylvania (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. III, No. 1, p. 3, and No. 2, p. 1).

A number of persons in the Jeannette-Harrison City-Butler areas reported seeing UFOs on the evening of April 15 and the early morning of the 16th, according to the April 16, 1973, edition of the Jeannette *News-Dispatch*. One person saw a disc-shaped object "slightly larger than a car and flashing red, white and blue lights." Others reported seeing objects "moving very fast" that caused dogs in the area to become "excited."

At about 1:30 a.m., March 28, Clyde O. Donahower, of Robeson, Pa., was awakened by loud rumbling and screeching noises. Looking out of the window, he observed a UFO that seemed to be sitting in a field near the house, stated the *Reading Eagle*, March 28, 1973.

"I can't say how big it was because it was hard to judge the distance, but it seemed to keep changing shape as it changed color," Mrs. Donahower said.

The UFO was a pale red at first. Then it slowly changed to a pale green. The couple and their eight-year-old son watched for about 20 minutes. At one point, they saw something moving inside the craft.

"It was a black figure... like a stick figure, only thicker, moving in the center," Mrs. Donahower related. "It was really scary. We were frightened and fascinated at the same time... My husband said that the thing lit up so brightly just before I came out that he thought it was going to explode."

Donahower called the police. Heidelberg Township Police Chief Norman Brunner said Donahower was shook up. Just before the police arrived, the lights on the object started dimming until they disappeared as a pickup truck from a neighboring farm pulled away.

"We didn't see it take off or anything," Mrs. Donahower explained. "It just faded out when the pickup truck turned off a dirt road... I was so doubtful of what we were seeing... I'm really pretty skeptical... It was like a weird apparition."

Chief Brunner arrived at approximately 2 a.m. and questioned the Donahowers separately.

"All their stories were consistent," he stated. "I'm sure they saw something."

Brunner and Donahower immediately examined the cornfield where they thought the UFO may have landed, but found no traces. Mrs. Donahower, however, thought the object may possibly have hovered beyond the field.

Early on the evening of March 20, Sunbury, Pa., police officers responded to a call that a UFO was seen over Chestnut Towers, an apartment complex, stated the Bloomsburg, Pa., *Morning Press*, March 21, 1973. They saw, hovering over a building, "a rotating white, red and green flashing object." A few minutes later, the UFO "just took off straight up in the air and disappeared."

Investigators Spot Objects

Long-time experienced UFO investigators Paul C. Cerny and Kenneth Tice were on a business trip to Redding, Calif., at about midnight, May 5, when they saw two UFOs just east of Corning, according to a report to UFOR from Cerny.

The men had pulled off the road to rest and, while gazing at the sky, noticed two rapidly moving lights, "one following the other's path about three to five degrees arc of sky apart."

"The lights were white," Cerny stated in his report, "both alike in appearance and glowing with a sort of misty halo close around them. Their speed seemed faster than a jet... The objects passed overhead in a perfectly straight line heading in a south by southeast direction, following a line slightly east of the highway, seemingly headed in the direction of Chico and Sacramento..."

At an estimated altitude of 15,000-20,000 feet, the UFOs disappeared at about 40° above the horizon. They were in view for 10-15 seconds and their speed was "too fast for jets and satellites."

Cerny and Tice have labeled the sighting as an "unknown."

Object Causes Police Radio to "Cut Out"

Witnesses in and around Lexington, Ala., apparently have been plagued by UFOs since the first of the year, according to the June 24, 1973, edition of the *National Enquirer*. The town mayor and magistrate, the police chief, the Civil Defense Director, and a minister have reported sightings.

Mayor Robert McGuire was returning home with his wife, Jo, and daughter, Susan, on March 3, when he saw a large white ball that followed his car at about 60 m.p.h. After approximately five minutes, the UFO "suddenly vanished."

"I'm really amazed," McGuire remarked. "It seems to be some sort of spaceship and has caused a great deal of controversy."

On the same evening, Magistrate Don White saw it with about 15 others approximately four miles from Lexington. The whitish-yellow object that later changed to a dark red color "rose up on the horizon" and was in sight four or five minutes before disappearing.

"I've seen the object three times myself while on patrol," Police Chief Larry Hardman stated. "The last time was on March 12... It was a large, glowing, oblong-shaped thing... Each time I saw it, the shortwave radio in my car cut out."

In mid-March, the Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Ware attempted to pursue the UFO in their car, but the object apparently eluded them and disappeared.

Wilsey Mashburn, the Civil Defense Director, said he saw the object eight or 10 times.

"My feeling is that it's from another planet," he remarked.

The Wood River Junction Saucer

UFOs have been seen in numerous towns in southern Rhode Island -- from West Kingston to Rockville to Westerly to Stonington, stated the March 21, 1973, edition of the Providence, R.I., *Bulletin*. But the action seems to have centered around Wood River Junction, where objects were seen "on about 30 occasions."

William E. Fallon left his Burdickville Road home on the evening of February 10 when he noticed "that the ground ahead was bathed in light." After catching a glimpse of the UFO, he backed up and called his wife, Mary. The couple watched as the object, at an altitude of about 150 feet, "made a pass over their home."

The object had brilliant white lights that flashed "in an indecipherable pattern." A "sidewalk that was spinning" appeared to be inside the lights. The "sidewalk" was lighted "and encircled what appeared to be a dome."

A neighbor, Mrs. Ann Gardner, said she saw a similar object fly over her house four nights earlier -- February 6.

At about the same time, Mrs. Gardner's husband, Kenneth, also saw it.

"I was down at the post office when I saw this light lighting up the clouds," he said.

Gardner drove home and he and his family watched as the disc flew by the house, "went halfway around again and then the lights went out."

"I was in the Navy for three years and I think I can identify about any type of plane or helicopter they've got," he remarked. "This was not any plane or helicopter as we know it. I'm not going to say what it was. I don't know. I won't say it's alien or anything like that. All I know is that I've never seen anything like it in my life."

The Fallons saw another UFO on March 1.

"The whole center of this thing was a bright glow," Mrs. Fallon said. "There was a very sharp line around the perimeter. Then it started getting brighter and I lost all detail. Then an airplane approached and the object changed to a dim, orange-red and went off to the northeast."

During other sightings, other observers confirmed, the objects would dim as planes approached.

UFO Paces Airliner

In February, Capt. Gilberto Costa and his co-pilot, Edgar Nasi Pereira, were guiding their Boeing 737 -- of Mozambique's Deta Airline -- on a night flight from Beira to Laurence Marques, Mozambique, stated the February 8, 1973, edition of the *Rhodesia Herald*. The plane was at an altitude of 8,400 meters and was flying at 850 kilometers an hour when the men saw a UFO and called the two hostesses.

The UFO paced the airliner for 20 minutes, switching "from the right to the left side of the aircraft a few times with red lights flashing before disappearing at enormous speed."

At 6:25 p.m., March 4, Graham Roberts and his mother observed a UFO over Bexleyheath, England, while John Smith and his fiancée watched it from nearby Dartford, the *Bexleyheath & Welling Observer*, March 22, 1973, said. Roberts said the object headed toward his home.

"Watching the light for about 30 seconds," he related, "I noticed it was rising in the sky and getting larger. As it came nearer, it became evident that it was a collection of lights resembling the shape of a spherical diamond. The cluster of lights -- about five -- continued to rise and began traveling in a southeasterly direction."

On two occasions, the lights appeared to switch off and the fast-moving UFOs "changed direction abruptly and without warning."

Roberts reported the incident to the Ministry of Defence, which stated it was being investigated.

Jim Sutcliffe was driving toward Howlands, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, England, at approximately 3 a.m., on or about February 9.

"Just where the road goes under the M10 bridge," he related in the February 12, 1973, edition of the *Watford* (Hertfordshire) *Evening Echo*, "I saw a lot of cars pulled up at the side. I stopped and everyone was looking over a gate at a big, yellow, glowing ball hovering above the ground. As one of the astonished observers went to tell the police, the 'thing' shot straight up in the air and vanished."

Witnesses said the UFO was only 20-30 feet above the ground and about 100 yards away. One driver said that, when he reached the bridge, his automobile engine conked out and started again only when the light left.

Object Takes Off "Like a Rocket"

At 7:15 p.m., January 30, Barry Watts was driving toward Dover, England.

"Near the first turning to St. Margaret's, I saw this large, amber, flaming ball flashing across the sky from my right," he stated in the February 9, 1973, edition of the *Dover Express*. "I lost sight of it for a while, but it seemed to be getting lower. Near the Swingate, I saw it take off from a field, about 100 yards away, and head towards the sea over St. Margaret's. It took off like a rocket... [The UFO] was unbelievable and weird... I've never seen anything like it before."

Numerous people in the Gold Coast and Tweed areas of Australia saw a UFO during a blackout on the evening of January 14. Ron Evans, of South Tweed Heads, saw it at about 10:45 p.m.

"It was a big, white, intense light, not perfectly round and flying at about two to three thousand feet...," he recounted in the *Murwillumbah* (New South Wales, Australia) *Daily News*, January 16, 1973. "The object pulsed and traveled slowly, with a slight up and down movement. I called my wife to look at the object and we watched for a few seconds before losing sight of it behind a building. The object was moving up the coast and I had it in sight for about five to 10 minutes... I am not a believer or a disbeliever in UFOs. I have an open mind to this sort of thing. But I spent a long time in the Fleet Air Arm and I saw every sort of aircraft you could name. This sighting was new to me."

RADIO ASTRONOMY SATELLITE LAUNCHED

On June 10, 1973, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched, from Cape Kennedy, Fla., a radio astronomy satellite toward the Moon to explore the sources of the little understood low-frequency radio noise in our galaxy and beyond. Some of the mysterious radio signals from deep in space have been interpreted by some scientists as possible attempts by an extraterrestrial civilization to contact Earth.

According to a NASA press release dated June 4, 1973, the Radio Astronomy Explorer (RAE-B) carries four antennas as tall as the Empire State Building when fully extended and it is the last scheduled U.S. space mission to the Moon.

From its orbit 682 miles above the Moon, RAE-B will conduct the most extensive study to date of low-frequency signals from galactic and extra-galactic sources and from the Earth, Sun, and Jupiter.

Unlike its predecessor -- Earth-orbiting Explorer 38 -- RAE-B will be protected from extraneous radio noise from Earth by using the Moon as a shield as it orbits the far side during its 225-minute orbital period. It is believed that this will greatly improve the value of the satellite's scientific mission over radio experiments conducted by Explorer 38.

Huge "X" in Sky

The flight to the Moon is expected to take nearly five days and the planned operating lifetime of the satellite is calculated at one year. While in orbit around the Moon, RAE-B will look like a gigantic "X" in the sky when its 1,500-foot antennas are fully deployed. It will be the largest object ever to orbit the Moon.

"RAE-B is expected to make an important contribution to the science of radio astronomy," the NASA press release stated. "It will help fill in missing information on low frequency radio signals which cannot be detected by ground-based observations. Correlation of this low frequency data with measurements at higher frequencies will provide radio astronomers with a much fuller picture of ET radio emission."

After evaluation and analysis by the principal investigator, Dr. Robert G. Stone, and others of the Laboratory for Extraterrestrial Physics at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., the data from RAE-B will be made available to the world scientific community at NASA's Space Science Data Center, Greenbelt.

The entire cost of the spacecraft and launch systems is estimated at \$19.7 million.

FAMED ACTORS SEE UFOs

Jackie Gleason and Ray Walston, famed film-TV-Broadway stars, have admitted seeing UFOs, stated the May 20 and 27, 1973, editions of the *National Enquirer*.

"I not only believe that UFOs exist, I know they exist," stated the rotund Gleason, star of such films as *Soldier in the Rain* and *The Hustler* and a one-time TV staple. "And the U.S. government knows they exist, too, because I was told so privately by a government official back in 1948. I believe we are being studied by visitors from other planets."

The entertainer's first sighting took place at 2 o'clock one morning in 1965 in London, England. The UFO was traveling "in a way that would be impossible for any flying object known to man."

"It went at great speed in different directions, executing incredible maneuvers," Gleason told *Enquirer* reporter Roger Langley. "The object kept moving in a pattern, changing directions, coming closer, then going out, then moving from side to side -- all with fantastic speed. Then it disappeared."

Gleason's second sighting occurred recently near his Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., home. The object's description and maneuvers were much like those of the UFO he observed in England.

An actor in such films as *South Pacific*, *The Pajama Game*, and his own TV show appropriately entitled *My Favorite Martian*, Ray Walston said he saw a UFO in the early 1960s -- and has been looking for the strange objects in the skies ever since. The object he observed was at an altitude of 3,000-4,000 feet, was bathtub-shaped, and aluminum-colored.

"I kept my eyes on it until, all of a sudden, it just swept over and out of view," Walston remarked. "I saw it pick up speed and just zoom away."

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following sighting reports have also come to UFOR's attention:

- February 2, 1973. Around 10:15 p.m. Russell, Kansas. Five Girl Scouts and their leaders saw a lighted UFO that moved west "and then back east," emitting "a blinking green light" before disappearing, the *Russell Daily News*, February 3, 1973, stated. (Possible explanation: aircraft).

- February 8, 1973. Leeton, Victoria, Australia. According to the February 10, 1973, edition of the Melbourne, Victoria, *Age*, three women watched as a shark-shaped object "with lights in the nose and along the side of the body" flew quickly eastward.

- February 9, 1973. Approximately 8:30 p.m. Ngatea, New Zealand. Kaye Bennett, her sister, Della, and Mr. and Mrs. N. Clarke said they saw a UFO with "brilliant red and white flashing lights" that apparently emitted "a faint humming sound," the *Thames* (Auckland Province, New Zealand) *Star*, February 14, 1973, said. (Possible explanation: aircraft).

- February 9, 1973. Evening. Cosham, England. Nicholas Proud and Peter Warren saw "a large shining object about the size of a football" that moved toward the witnesses, stopped, then continued on, stated the February 10, 1973, edition of the *Portsmouth* (England) *News*.

- February 11, 1973. Around 10 p.m. Dayton, Wash. Mrs. Robert Ward said she observed a light that "appeared to change color from red to green to yellow" for about 45 minutes, according to the February 15, 1973, edition of the *Dayton Chronicle*. (Possible explanation: planetary illusion).

- February 18, 1973. 11:20 p.m. Dunedin, New Zealand. Major Miller, Ken Bailey, Stan Smith, B.L. McLauchlan, Mr. and Mrs. A. Thomson and others reported seeing a luminous, cigar-shaped object with a tail that was "dropping off" fire, stated the February 19, 1973, edition of *The* (Hastings, New Zealand) *Hawks Bay Herald-Tribune*; the February 20, 1973, edition of *The* (Dunedin) *Evening Star*; and the February 21, 1973, edition of *The Timaru* (New Zealand) *Herald*. (Probable explanation: break-up of a meteor).

- February 20, 1973. After 10 p.m. Near Stewartstown, Pa. Rae Blumenfeld observed a dark red object "perhaps three times the size of a full moon" which "horrified her," according to the York, Pa., *Daily Record*, February 22, 1973.

- February 22, 1973. Union Hill, Pa. *The* (Lehighton, Pa.) *Times-News*, March 7, 1973, stated that Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Hernandez spotted "a very bright object" that was motionless at first, then disappeared "faster than a plane."

- February 27, 1973. About 10 p.m. Burlington, Ontario, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Groves saw a UFO "going at a terrific speed" that appeared to land, then took off and disappeared behind some buildings, stated the *Hamilton* (Ontario) *Spectator*, February 28, 1973.

- March 2, 1973. Evening. Guston, England. The *Dover Express & East Kent* (England) *News*, March 9, 1973, said that David Rouse and Richard Sandells saw "a triangular-shaped object in the sky" that "turned very sharply and headed in the opposite direction." It emitted a "humming noise" and carried flashing lights around its base.

- March 6, 1973. Approximately 8:50 p.m. Ann Arbor, Mich. Dr. M. David Curtis, chemistry professor at the University of Michigan, and others observed "an orange ball" dropping "fireballs" that burned the branch of a tree, stated the March 7, 1973, edition of the *Ann Arbor News*. (Possible explanation: break-up of a meteor).