

'Destroyed' town gets UFO award

ILLINOIS, United States Tues, AAP — Nobody could remember just when the alien creatures in 10 to 20 flying saucers reportedly strafed the town of Chester and left in a pile of rubble, but just the same, townsfolk accepted an award from "Official UFO," the magazine that swears it really happened, the Associated Press reported.

About 75 of Chester's 5300 citizens turned out on Saturday at city hall to receive the magazine's "letter of appreciation" for their co-operation in the in-

co-operation in the investigation of the village's "destruction" last year.

"Official UFO" had promised "an immense crowd, numbering 20,000 to 30,000 people" to greet "famed war hero Ed Ferrar and his team of UFO investigators."

Mr Ferrar said he was a World War 2 flying ace in Europe and now a tennis professional in New York.

After his speech, Mr Ferrar collapsed. Having succumbed, he said, to forces from outer space.

"I have an idea they (the forces) didn't want any more said," he commented.

Police chief Harold Howie was on hand to receive a sealed envelope

that the magazine, based in New York said contained the names of

contained the names of 50 people who witnessed the reported attack on August 2, 1977.

Mayor Sanly Macieski did not attend, but was said to have grave doubts about the reported incident.

On that day in August, the magazine said in its January issue, saucers swooped down on the town on the banks of the Mississippi river, and burned it to the ground, disrupting normal communications and causing mass panic.

However, a statue of "Popeye the sailor-man", erected in honor of Elzie Segar, the cartoon strip's creator and a native son of Chester, either escaped the destruction or was rebuilt in a park.

A key ingredient in official UFO's case was a series of pictures in the magazine purporting to show the saucer attack. Those said to

attack. Those said to show evidence of the extraterrestrial phenomena were blurred.

No one thumbing through the magazine distributed free to townspeople could recall the incident. But, said "official UFO", that was because after the disaster Chester was "m y s t e r i o u s l y, frighteningly . . . somehow resurrected and the memory of the event erased from all but a select group of minds."

the



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