

# A UFO Landing at Edwards AFB?

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by Charles Lear, author of “The Flying Saucer Investigators.”

Gordon Cooper, youngest of the original Mercury astronauts, often spoke publicly about his UFO sightings and beliefs. He appeared in documentaries such as James Fox’s 2003 film *Out of the Blue*, and famously wrote a letter dated November 9, 1978, to Ambassador of Grenada to the United States George Ashley Griffith calling for the scientific collection and analysis of data taken from UFO encounters in order to “determine how best to interface with these visitors in a friendly fashion.” In *Out of the Blue*, he is heard telling a story about a flying saucer with three retractable legs that was filmed landing in 1957 at Edwards Air Force Base. He didn’t claim to have witnessed the landing himself, but did say he saw the footage. There was an incident involving the filming of a UFO at Edwards that year, and there is a Project Blue Book file on the case. James McDonald found

1  
00:00:02,760 --> 00:00:11,020

foreign

2  
00:00:36,110 --> 00:00:16,310

[Music]

3  
00:00:39,170 --> 00:00:36,120

a UFO landing at Edwards Air Force Base

4  
00:00:41,869 --> 00:00:39,180

by Charles Lear Gordon Cooper youngest

5  
00:00:43,910 --> 00:00:41,879

of the original Mercury astronauts often

6  
00:00:46,069 --> 00:00:43,920

spoke publicly about his UFO sightings

7  
00:00:49,130 --> 00:00:46,079

and believes he appeared in documentaries

8  
00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:49,140

such as James Fox's 2003 film out of the

9  
00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:51,420

blue and famously wrote a letter dated

10  
00:00:56,990 --> 00:00:55,020

November 9 1978 to ambassador of Granada

11  
00:00:59,090 --> 00:00:57,000

to the United States George Ashley

12  
00:01:01,729 --> 00:00:59,100

Griffith calling for the scientific

13  
00:01:04,369 --> 00:01:01,739

collection of analysis and data from UFO

14

00:01:06,890 --> 00:01:04,379

Encounters in order to determine how

15

00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:06,900

best to interface with these visitors in

16

00:01:10,670 --> 00:01:08,880

a friendly fashion and out of the blue

17

00:01:12,469 --> 00:01:10,680

he is heard telling a story about a

18

00:01:15,950 --> 00:01:12,479

flying saucer with three retractable

19

00:01:18,170 --> 00:01:15,960

legs that was filmed Landing in 1957 at

20

00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:18,180

Edwards Air Force Base he didn't claim

21

00:01:22,730 --> 00:01:19,920

to have witnessed The Landing himself

22

00:01:24,590 --> 00:01:22,740

but did say he saw the footage there was

23

00:01:26,929 --> 00:01:24,600

an incident involving the filming of a

24

00:01:29,210 --> 00:01:26,939

UFO at Edwards that year and there's a

25

00:01:31,429 --> 00:01:29,220

Project Blue Book file on the case James

26

00:01:33,410 --> 00:01:31,439

McDonald found the witnesses and

27

00:01:35,870 --> 00:01:33,420

interviewed them in the late 1960s and

28

00:01:37,969 --> 00:01:35,880

wrote a report Cooper's name is not

29

00:01:40,249 --> 00:01:37,979

mentioned by McDonald and the incident

30

00:01:43,310 --> 00:01:40,259

as described by McDonald and in the Blue

31

00:01:45,710 --> 00:01:43,320

Book file didn't involve a landing Brad

32

00:01:47,870 --> 00:01:45,720

Sparks and Jan Aldrich both heavily

33

00:01:50,510 --> 00:01:47,880

involved in UFO research for many years

34

00:01:52,690 --> 00:01:50,520

had an email exchange discussing this

35

00:01:55,190 --> 00:01:52,700

and a record of it can be found at

36

00:01:58,190 --> 00:01:55,200

nycap.org there is an excerpt available

37

00:02:01,370 --> 00:01:58,200

online from Timothy Green beckley's 1981

38

00:02:04,130 --> 00:02:01,380

book mj-12 in the riddle of Hangar 18.

39

00:02:06,170 --> 00:02:04,140

Beckley describes Cooper's 1978

40

00:02:09,050 --> 00:02:06,180

appearance on the Merv Griffin show

41

00:02:10,669 --> 00:02:09,060

during which Griffin asked Cooper if a

42

00:02:13,010 --> 00:02:10,679

story about a spaceship Landing in

43

00:02:15,110 --> 00:02:13,020

Middle America with occupants that the

44

00:02:17,750 --> 00:02:15,120

US government was able to keep alive was

45

00:02:19,790 --> 00:02:17,760

credible and Cooper replied I think it's

46

00:02:21,710 --> 00:02:19,800

fairly credible I would like to see the

47

00:02:23,570 --> 00:02:21,720

time when all qualified people could

48

00:02:25,670 --> 00:02:23,580

really work together to properly

49

00:02:28,130 --> 00:02:25,680

investigate these stories and neither

50

00:02:30,229 --> 00:02:28,140

refute or disprove them according to

51  
00:02:32,510 --> 00:02:30,239  
Beckley Lee Spiegel called Cooper's

52  
00:02:34,490 --> 00:02:32,520  
office the next morning and managed to

53  
00:02:36,589 --> 00:02:34,500  
get through to him Cooper talked to

54  
00:02:38,809 --> 00:02:36,599  
Spiegel who was confirmed for us that he

55  
00:02:41,990 --> 00:02:38,819  
has this on tape and told him that in

56  
00:02:43,910 --> 00:02:42,000  
1957 or 1958 he had sent some

57  
00:02:46,729 --> 00:02:43,920  
photographers to an area around the dry

58  
00:02:48,770 --> 00:02:46,739  
lake beds at Edwards Cooper said that

59  
00:02:50,210 --> 00:02:48,780  
while the crew was there they saw a

60  
00:02:52,490 --> 00:02:50,220  
strange craft and started getting

61  
00:02:55,009 --> 00:02:52,500  
footage of it Beckley quotes Cooper

62  
00:02:57,470 --> 00:02:55,019  
saying the object was hovering above the

63  
00:02:59,290 --> 00:02:57,480

ground and it then slowly came down and

64

00:03:02,050 --> 00:02:59,300

sat on the lake bed for a few minutes

65

00:03:04,970 --> 00:03:02,060

Cooper described it as a typical

66

00:03:07,190 --> 00:03:04,980

circular-shaped UFO he said he looked at

67

00:03:08,509 --> 00:03:07,200

the film repeatedly and then sent it to

68

00:03:10,910 --> 00:03:08,519

Washington and never heard anything

69

00:03:13,009 --> 00:03:10,920

about it this is likely to have been the

70

00:03:15,710 --> 00:03:13,019

first time Cooper told this story on the

71

00:03:19,430 --> 00:03:15,720

record Spiegel organized a presentation

72

00:03:21,649 --> 00:03:19,440

on UFOs in 1978 at the United Nations on

73

00:03:23,750 --> 00:03:21,659

behalf of prime minister bernanas or

74

00:03:25,850 --> 00:03:23,760

Eric Gary and his relationship with

75

00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:25,860

Cooper had developed to the point where

76

00:03:29,390 --> 00:03:27,360

Cooper was willing to write the

77

00:03:31,130 --> 00:03:29,400

aforementioned letter to Griffith a

78

00:03:33,830 --> 00:03:31,140

Project Blue Book file describes a

79

00:03:37,490 --> 00:03:33,840

similar if not the same incident that

80

00:03:38,990 --> 00:03:37,500

occurred on May 2nd 1957 at Edwards the

81

00:03:41,270 --> 00:03:39,000

report starts off with the information

82

00:03:44,030 --> 00:03:41,280

that the incident had received

83

00:03:46,670 --> 00:03:44,040

Nationwide publicity a story about it

84

00:03:49,610 --> 00:03:46,680

appeared in the May 9 1957 Los Angeles

85

00:03:52,430 --> 00:03:49,620

Times because it involved a UFO being

86

00:03:54,410 --> 00:03:52,440

seen and officially photographed over

87

00:03:56,930 --> 00:03:54,420

the so-called United States Secret

88

00:04:00,050 --> 00:03:56,940

testing grounds according to the report

89

00:04:02,449 --> 00:04:00,060

the object was seen by the camera Crews

90

00:04:05,089 --> 00:04:02,459

who took photos as it moved some

91

00:04:07,729 --> 00:04:05,099

distance away and described it as disc

92

00:04:09,770 --> 00:04:07,739

shaped a series of 32 photos were

93

00:04:12,050 --> 00:04:09,780

studied and the object was seen to

94

00:04:14,630 --> 00:04:12,060

change from round to Elliptical as the

95

00:04:16,189 --> 00:04:14,640

morning sun rays hit its surface its

96

00:04:18,289 --> 00:04:16,199

movements were determined to match up

97

00:04:20,210 --> 00:04:18,299

with a wind plot for that time and it

98

00:04:22,490 --> 00:04:20,220

was concluded that the object was a

99

00:04:24,830 --> 00:04:22,500

balloon the cases described as having

100

00:04:26,870 --> 00:04:24,840

been improperly handled because the

101  
00:04:28,850 --> 00:04:26,880  
Press got the story before Blue Book was

102  
00:04:31,490 --> 00:04:28,860  
informed with the Edwards Air Force Base

103  
00:04:34,730 --> 00:04:31,500  
public information officer stating that

104  
00:04:37,610 --> 00:04:34,740  
the object was unknown Dr James McDonald

105  
00:04:39,710 --> 00:04:37,620  
an atmospheric physicist who was one of

106  
00:04:42,170 --> 00:04:39,720  
the first scientists to speak publicly

107  
00:04:44,570 --> 00:04:42,180  
about UFOs managed to locate the

108  
00:04:46,730 --> 00:04:44,580  
photographers and their supervisor and

109  
00:04:48,409 --> 00:04:46,740  
interview them according to Sparks in

110  
00:04:50,510 --> 00:04:48,419  
his email exchange with Aldridge

111  
00:04:53,629 --> 00:04:50,520  
McDonald was speaking in Northern

112  
00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:53,639  
California and met Frank E Baker who was

113  
00:04:58,730 --> 00:04:56,100

the supervisor of James D bittick and

114

00:05:00,469 --> 00:04:58,740

John R Gettys McDonald wrote a report

115

00:05:02,629 --> 00:05:00,479

that was submitted as part of his

116

00:05:05,210 --> 00:05:02,639

written testimony to the house committee

117

00:05:09,710 --> 00:05:05,220

on science and astronautics for the July

118

00:05:13,189 --> 00:05:09,720

29 1968 Symposium an unidentified flying

119

00:05:17,110 --> 00:05:13,199

objects it is identified as case 41 and

120

00:05:19,909 --> 00:05:17,120

the date is mistakenly listed as May 3rd

121

00:05:21,950 --> 00:05:19,919

1957. according to McDonald bitiken

122

00:05:24,590 --> 00:05:21,960

Gettys got to an area on the Edwards

123

00:05:27,529 --> 00:05:24,600

test range known as the escania number

124

00:05:29,749 --> 00:05:27,539

four site just before 8 A.M where they

125

00:05:32,629 --> 00:05:29,759

saw a disc shaped object with a dome

126  
00:05:35,150 --> 00:05:32,639  
about 500 yards away they described it

127  
00:05:37,430 --> 00:05:35,160  
as having a golden color and holes or

128  
00:05:39,710 --> 00:05:37,440  
panels around its Dome that bittick

129  
00:05:42,170 --> 00:05:39,720  
remembered as being Square both said

130  
00:05:44,870 --> 00:05:42,180  
that as it moved it seemed to Glow with

131  
00:05:47,510 --> 00:05:44,880  
its own luminosity and had a hazy and

132  
00:05:49,730 --> 00:05:47,520  
indistinct halo around its Rim the men

133  
00:05:52,010 --> 00:05:49,740  
took photos Gettys remembered it was

134  
00:05:54,529 --> 00:05:52,020  
about 30 and lost sight of the object

135  
00:05:56,689 --> 00:05:54,539  
when it was about five miles away they

136  
00:05:59,330 --> 00:05:56,699  
drove back to the base and processed the

137  
00:06:01,370 --> 00:05:59,340  
film and they along with Baker agreed

138  
00:06:04,070 --> 00:06:01,380

that the shot showed a sharp image

139

00:06:05,990 --> 00:06:04,080

except for the hazy rim and that the

140

00:06:08,930 --> 00:06:06,000

portal slash panels could be seen

141

00:06:11,570 --> 00:06:08,940

according to McDonald the film was taken

142

00:06:14,450 --> 00:06:11,580

by base military authorities and never

143

00:06:17,270 --> 00:06:14,460

seen Again by The Three Men bittick and

144

00:06:19,610 --> 00:06:17,280

Carson McDonald likely wrote Carson

145

00:06:21,409 --> 00:06:19,620

instead of Gettys were later informed

146

00:06:23,689 --> 00:06:21,419

that they had seen a weather balloon

147

00:06:26,029 --> 00:06:23,699

according to McDonald they didn't agree

148

00:06:27,529 --> 00:06:26,039

with the conclusion because they saw

149

00:06:29,990 --> 00:06:27,539

weather balloons being released

150

00:06:32,390 --> 00:06:30,000

frequently there and knew what balloons

151

00:06:35,029 --> 00:06:32,400

looked like in Sparks and Aldrich's

152

00:06:37,309 --> 00:06:35,039

email exchange they speculate as to why

153

00:06:39,529 --> 00:06:37,319

Cooper might have inserted himself into

154

00:06:42,170 --> 00:06:39,539

the story Aldrich thought there might

155

00:06:44,870 --> 00:06:42,180

have been two cases but Sparks disagreed

156

00:06:47,510 --> 00:06:44,880

Sparks offers two possibilities for

157

00:06:50,029 --> 00:06:47,520

Cooper's Story one storytelling

158

00:06:52,249 --> 00:06:50,039

mentality of exaggerating roles and

159

00:06:54,590 --> 00:06:52,259

details where no one can predict in

160

00:06:57,050 --> 00:06:54,600

advance how much alteration the story

161

00:07:00,290 --> 00:06:57,060

will get this is the most likely

162

00:07:02,990 --> 00:07:00,300

explanation Cooper probably did see the

163

00:07:05,870 --> 00:07:03,000

film and got a garbled story second or

164

00:07:08,450 --> 00:07:05,880

third or emphanded and exaggerated it

165

00:07:11,450 --> 00:07:08,460

even more in his mind in the retelling

166

00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:11,460

to Juice It Up 2. Cooper's exaggeration

167

00:07:15,830 --> 00:07:14,400

of a real case falsely turning it into a

168

00:07:18,529 --> 00:07:15,840

filmed Landing with landing gear

169

00:07:20,390 --> 00:07:18,539

retracting on takeoff is very similar to

170

00:07:23,450 --> 00:07:20,400

the pattern of Air Force office of

171

00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:23,460

special investigations Fabrications of

172

00:07:28,850 --> 00:07:26,400

other real UFO cases with false Landings

173

00:07:31,550 --> 00:07:28,860

and Aliens using Air Force officers

174

00:07:33,430 --> 00:07:31,560

usually at about the rank of Colonel and

175

00:07:36,830 --> 00:07:33,440

designed to discredit the case

176

00:07:39,350 --> 00:07:36,840

bentwater's 1980s the classic Cooper was

177

00:07:41,689 --> 00:07:39,360

an Air Force officer and I think retired

178

00:07:44,510 --> 00:07:41,699

at the rank of full Colonel Cooper first

179

00:07:47,930 --> 00:07:44,520

came out with his phony story about 1978

180

00:07:50,689 --> 00:07:47,940

exactly when afosi began a new wave of

181

00:07:52,249 --> 00:07:50,699

fabricated UFO stories in an effort to

182

00:07:54,770 --> 00:07:52,259

head off what was feared to be another

183

00:07:58,249 --> 00:07:54,780

massive UFO flap triggered by the

184

00:08:01,189 --> 00:07:58,259

Blockbuster ce3 movie so what have we

185

00:08:04,189 --> 00:08:01,199

learned one people sometimes exaggerate

186

00:08:07,730 --> 00:08:04,199

and make things up 2. Air Force Colonels

187

00:08:10,610 --> 00:08:07,740

telling UFO stories around 1978 are not

188

00:08:12,890 --> 00:08:10,620

to be trusted Charles Lear is the author

189

00:08:18,730 --> 00:08:12,900

of The Flying Saucer investigators

190

00:08:18,740 --> 00:08:26,280

thank you