

ASTRONAUT SIGHTINGS -Part 2



One explanation for the halo's seen around or near some of the Appollo astronauts was that it was gases being vented from their backpacks. I have one picture which was reported to be something unusual in close proximity to one of the astronauts. It would clearly appear to be coming from the backpack when observed closely.

Timothy Good writes that HAM radio operators receiving the VHF signals directly picked up the following message which was screened by NASA from the public.

Mission Control: What's there? Mission Control calling Apollo 11.

Apollo 11: These babies are huge, sir ... enormous....Oh, God, you wouldn't believe it! I'm telling you there are other space craft out there... lined up on the far side of the crater edge... they're on the moon watching us.

Good uses "SAGA UFO SPECIAL #3" as a source for this quote. The following is an excerpt from the transcript of the Apollo 11 technical debriefing.

Aldrin: The first unusual thing that we saw I guess was one day out or something pretty close to the moon. It had a sizeable dimension to it, so we put the monocular on it.

Collins How'd we see this thing? Did we just look out the window and there it was.

Aldrin Yes, and we weren't sure but what it might be the S-IVB. We called the ground and were told the S-IVB was 6,000 miles away. We had a problem with the high gain about this time, didn't we?

Collins There was something. We felt a bump or maybe I just imagined it.

Armstrong He was wondering whether the MESA had come off.

Collins I don't guess we felt anything.

Aldrin Of course, we were seeing all sorts of little objects going by at the various dumps and then we happened to see this one brighter object going by. We couldn't think of anything else it could be other than the S-IVB. We looked at it through the monocular and it seemed to have a bit of an L shape to it.

Armstrong Like an open suitcase.

Aldrin We were in PTC at the time so each of us had a chance to take a look at this and it certainly seemed to be within our vicinity and of a very sizeable dimension.

Armstrong We should say it was right at the limit of the resolution of the eye. It was very difficult to tell what shape it was. And there was no way to tell the size without knowing the range or the range without knowing the size.

Aldrin So then I got down in the LEM and started looking for it in the optics. We were grossly misled because with the sextant off focus what we saw appeared to be a cylinder.

Armstrong Or really two rings.

Aldrin Yes.

Armstrong Two rings. Two connected rings.

Aldrin Yes.

Collins No, it looked like a hollow cylinder to me. It didn't look like two connected rings. You could see this thing tumbling and, when it came around end-on, you could look right down in it's guts. It was a hollow cylinder. But then you could change the focus on the sextant and it would be replaced by this open book shape. It was really weird.

Aldrin I guess there's not too much more to say about it other than it wasn't a cylinder.

Collins It was during the period when we thought it was a cylinder that we inquired about the S-IVB and we'd almost convinced ourselves that's what it had to be. But we don't have any more conclusions than that really. The fact that we didn't see it much past this one period --- we really don't have a conclusion as to what it might have been, how big it was, or how far away it was. It was something that wasn't part of the urine dump, we're pretty sure of that.

In his book "RETURN TO EARTH" Colonel Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. writes the following on pages 223-224. I quote directly.

In the middle of one evening, Houston time, I found myself idly staring out the window of the Columbia and saw something that looked a bit

unusual. It appeared brighter than any star and not quite the pinpoint of light that stars are. I pointed this out to Mike and Neil, and the three of us were beset with curiosity. With the help of the monocular we guessed that whatever it was, it was only a hundred or so miles away. Looking at it through our sextant we found it occasionally formed a cylinder, but when the sextant's focus was adjusted it had a sort of illuminated "L" look to it. It had a shape of some sort -- we all agreed on that -- but exactly what it was we couldn't pin down. We asked Houston some casual questions: "How far away is the Saturn third stage?" The response was in the vicinity of six thousand miles. That wasn't it.

It could possibly have been one of the panels of the Saturn third stage which fly off to expose the LM and cannot be traced from earth. We could see it for about forty-five seconds at a time as the ship rotated, and we watched it on and off for about an hour. We debated whether or not to tell the ground we had spotted something, and decided against it. Our reason was simple: The UFO people would descend on the message in hordes, setting off another rash of UFO spottings back on earth. We concluded it was most likely one of the panels. Its course appeared in no way to conflict with ours, and it presented no danger. We dropped the matter there.

In his book "Carrying The Fire" astronaut Michael Collins the command module pilot makes no mention of this incident.

Apollo 12 November 14, 1969 (Conrad, Gordon, Bean)

On day out on the earth moon leg of the trip the astronauts radioed Mission Control that two flashing lights had appeared off the bow . of their capsule. After rejecting the possibility that the objects could be spinning pieces of the Apollo booster rocket the capcom suggested that they could be the jettisoned protective panels. One of the astronauts replied " Gee that could be, but one of those lights just shot out of here at tremendous speed ".

James Oberger writes concerning this the following explanation which certainly sounds reasonable.

Take the Apollo 12 case. In this famous incident the initial reports are indeed true, as the astronauts jokingly asked the earth about some flashing lights. When told that they were probably tumbling pieces of space debris (which do in fact accompany the Apollo in the vacuum of space on the way to the moon), the crew accepted this and began discussing how far away they would be. When asked how fast the pieces had broken off the rocket the previous day, the astronauts replied that when they had turned their Apollo around some pieces were flying off at a very fast velocity. That had been the day before! The flashing lights out the window didn't go anywhere but gradually faded out as the day went by. What happened was that UFO researchers (I use the term loosely) had simply misunderstood the space jargon and had completely missed the gist of the conversation from Apollo, and had then (probably quite honestly, with good intentions and closed minds) reworded the phrases to make them

"clearer" to the general public. In fact they had totally altered the meaning.

In this incident it should be trivial to get to the root of the matter. All we need is the tape of the actual conversation or the true unaltered transcript. We could then see if Olberg is right on the money or not.

Apollo 13 May 1969 (Thomas P. Stafford, John W. Young, Eugene E. Cernan)

There has been a lot of speculation that the ill fated Apollo 13 Mission was carrying a small nuclear explosive device for the purpose of seismic testing of the moon. The story goes that the aliens fearing damage to their lunar bases caused the accident that ultimately caused the aborting of the mission.

Apollo 17 December 7-19, 1972 (Cernan, Evans, Schmitt)

Reported to have seen UFO's near earth, on route and around the moon.

SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY March 1989

03/14/89 6:42 EST

"Uh Houston, this is Discovery. We still have the alien spacecraft under (observance)????" (note last word difficult to make out on tape)

The previous statement was recorded by Baltimore resident Donald Ratsch (MUFON member) from a HAM radio rebroadcast between the space shuttle Discovery and Houston ground control. The HAM broadcast was direct from the shuttle without going through the delayed filter used on the official NASA public feed. The NASA select audio channel did not contain this one way broadcast from the shuttle to ground control. The HAM station making the rebroadcast was WA3NAN Goddard Amateur Radio Club in Greenbelt, MD transmitting on 147.450 MHZ. Preliminary analysis shows that the voice could be either Michael Coats (Commander) or John E. Blaha (pilot). The recording was sent for further expert voice analysis the results of which are unknown at this time to the author.

Gordon Cooper

Gordon Cooper was one of the best trained US astronauts having flown on Mercury 9 and Gemini 5. Yet he was not selected to fly an Apollo mission. It is speculated that Cooper did not play the game correctly when it comes to the UFO situation. It is interesting that Cooper has developed an interest in ancient civilizations and in fact participated in an expedition to South American that discovered the remnants of a very old and advanced civilization dating back over 5000 years. One is tempted to ask why the sudden interest on the part of a former astronaut in "ancient astronaut" type endeavours.

A fellow officer once said of Cooper. "We all knew where Gordon was going to end up in ten years. He was going to be Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff. (what happened that he didn't?)

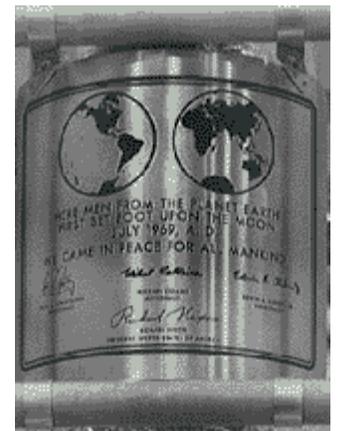
In July 1960 Cooper was interviewed by Yvonne S. Durfield and had this to say about UFO's. "I don't take UFO's seriously. I would be very skeptical." In March 1978 Cooper stated to the National Enquirer "UFO's are definately real" It is interesting that his two flights into space occurred between the dates of the two interviews. Cooper went on to make a written statement to the United Nations supporting Grenada's Prime Minister Eric Gairy proposal that the UN establish a UFO agency.(1979?)

In his book MJ12 & THE RIDDLE OF HANGER 18 Beckley quotes Cooper as saying "UFO's are, I believe, very likely travellers from some other planet; visitors from some other world that is hundreds of thousands of years more advanced than we are, and they certainly have a far more efficient sytem of propulsion than we have."

During an interview on the Merv Griffin Show, Merv asked the following of Gordon Cooper. "There is a story going around, Gordon, that a spaceship did land in middle America and there were occupants, and members of our government were able to keep one of the occupants alive for some period of time. They've seen the metal of the aircraft and know what the people look like -- is that a credible story? To everyones surprise Cooper answers with a straight face "I think it's fairly credible. I would like to see the time when all qualified people could really work together to properly investigate these stories and either refute or prove them." Later the next morning Lee Spiegel a UFO researcher and acquaintance of Cooper talked to Cooper on the phone. During this conversation Cooper admitted that he could have revealed further information on the Merv Griffin Show but did not because he did not want to raise too many official eyebrows.

Why Did it End So Quicky ?

The solar system held no limits, we were bound for the stars. The plaque read "HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH SET FOOT UPON THE MOON WE CAME IN PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND" We said that this was "One small step for a man....one giant leap for mankind" Then shortly thereafter it all came to a screeching halt. What had been a burning ambition was now just a smoldering ember. Had we shot the whole wad on one quick try. Why did not only the US but also the Soviet Union cancel its ambitious moon plans. Why did both nations suddenly limit themselves to relatively low orbit missions. Did Apollo find something totally unexpected out there that made us change our grand plans ?



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