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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Project 1947 - 1947 Japanese Sighting

From: =?ISO-2022-JP?B?Zm92XzQzNjIxDAAwMQ==?=  
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Subject: Project 1947 - 1947 Japanese Sighting

Osaka, Japan, January 1, 1997.  
Jun-Ichi Takanashi, Chairman  
Japan UFO Science Society (JUF OSS)

C.P.O. Box No.1437, Osaka, 530-91, Japan.

Dear Jan,

Thank you for your kind welcome message.  
Here is my New Year's present to you all!:

A UFO Sighting in July 1947 in Japan

By Jun-Ichi Takanashi, Chairman

On the first day of the already half-a-century-old UFO Mystery, June 24, 1947, I was a science teacher in a junior high school in Osaka, Japan. Kenneth Arnold's sighting was reported in Japanese newspapers, too, and as I had been keely interested in all the space-related problems, such as the construction of the Universe, the movement of the heavenly bodies composing it, and the physical conditions of each of those heavenly bodies, etc., as well as all the Mystery-related subjects, such as the Roch Ness monster, ghosts, apparitions, etc., I was naturally tremendously attracted by this news, as the newspaper report posed a very romantic implication, "Are They Visitors From the Space ?"

As my family subscribed to the Mainichi Newspaper (Mai-nichi means <every day>), I saw this news in it, but as the school also subscribed to English language Japanese newspaper, <English Mainichi>, it contained a few more related news, such as the sighting in Hanshu, China and a doubledecker flying object sighting from Amsterdam, Holland. I also remember seeing another interesting news that the similar mysterious object had been sighted in the sky over Tokyo, during the severe B-29 bombing in WW II. Unfortunately, I have misplaced the clippings and I can not quote it here. Since that time, I have become keenly interested in this subject and began collecting all the materials concerning this facinating subject up to this date.

But, even after I have established my present UFO research organization, I had never known any other worthwhile UFO sighting which occurred in Japan in the early part of UFO history.... until one of our members, Mr. Sukemichi Obashi, sent me a small pamphlet entitled, "Saiun" meaning <coloured clouds>, No.17, 1981. This publication was the members' journal of the Matsukuu-Koushu 14th Group, which

means 14th Ko-class (Class A) Preparatory Flying Trainee Group of the former Matsuyama (place name) Navy Flying Corpse. These trainees were those young student flyers urgently enlisted during the latter part of the last war, known by the abbreviated name of <Yokaren>.

According to our member who sent me this pamphlet, who was also a member of this group, "We were enlisted in the Matsuyama Flying Corpse on June 1, 1944, at the age of 15 - 20, and after three hours lessons every day about the flying, but without much training in flying, transferred to the Army Corpse. But fortunately none had died in the battle and could return home after the war. There are now many such groups of this kind, who are publishing similar kind of group journals, but this group is rather outstanding as they are publishing this journal three times a year regularly."

Now, in this 68-pages pamphlet, which includes various essays, memoirs, etc., by various members of the group, there is one essay, entitled, "The Orange Glowing Object" by Soonosuke Martsuda, in which I found a very interesting UFO sighting in Japan in 1947. I will relay you the details of the sighting hereunder:

Almost two years after the WW II, the defeated Japanese society was beginning to regain its composure, when Matsuda, having reached 20 years old now, was living in a small village in Kyushu district of western Japan, named Iino-mura (mura means village), Kumamoto Prefecture, and on that day, he was on his way to the neighboring village of Takagi-mura, with two friends, as the friend there invited them to come as 'there are many nice girls'.

Three were walking on the country road, spreading out roadwise, singing various popular songs. It was a splendid nice evening with the clear moon, and stars shining brilliantly in the sky. Even each small stone on the road could be discerned in the bright moon light.

Suddenly he noticed a strange light in the sky. It was an orange light in the size of a soybean and situated on the left of the moon.

He stopped his walk and gazed at it.....10 seconds.....20 seconds..... suddenly the orange light began to move and increasing its speed, began to proceed toward his direction.

In 30 seconds, its size became bigger than the moon, and proceeded further toward him with the smooth motion but with no sound. The shape of the object became apparent now. It was shaped like a rugby ball in the horizontal position. And it appeared to be glowing in the transparent orange light, and having increased its brightness, it looked so beautiful, as if drawn in a picture, that he could not find the words to describe it.

As he had had the specialized lessons about the aeroplanes of all kinds in his <Yokaren> days, he thought he had enough knowledge about the aeroplanes of U.S.A., England, France, Germany, and of course, Japan, etc., but this strange object was what he had seen for the first time in his life.

Is it a meteor? He questioned himself in his mind, but, no, not a meteor, he concluded. Then, is it a weather balloon lifted up from the weather station? No, again, as there is no weather station in the vicinity, and besides if it is a balloon, it is proceeding with the light of the moon on its back and can not be glowing so bright.

As he was contemplating hard in such fashion, it increased its speed further and descended from the altitude of 5,000 meters to 3,000 meters and then to 1,000 meters, and became bigger and bigger, and became about 10 times bigger than the moon, and rushed toward him with the increased speed.

As he was afraid that it would crash onto him, he was taking the defending position with his left hand and was still thinking hard in his brain what that object could be, judging from his past experiences. Many past experiences danced and run around in his brain. But he could not find any plausible explanation.

He was thinking further, speculating as hard as he could. First of all, it is approaching in such a stupendous speed, but with no sound... and although the

shape is very beautiful, ellipsoidal in form, but without any visible window, which he thinks necessary for the body of the flying object..... It is glowing so brightly but with no effect to the surrounding area..... All are so enigmatic and mysterious.....

Finally it came down to the height of only about 700 meters above him, and its transparent orange light filled his eyes....

At that moment, a single-winged plane, which he thinks may have been a Bycount plane of the occupied forces at that time, appeared in the sky and approached in the direction of the moon with the propeller sound.

Matsuda, who had been bracing himself in a big strain, glanced at its direction for a moment in spite of himself, when at that instant, the bright object suddenly changed its course, and began to distance itself from him, 1,000 meters.....3,000 meters..... and then 5,000 meters.... , just as if seen through a zooming lens....

At that moment, his two friends, who were walking in front of him, at last noticed him standing still in his step just as if totally absent-mindedly, and run back, crying, "What are you doing ?"

"Don't you see that ?" Matsuda pointed out the object in the sky, but already nothing but the moon and the aeroplane flying slowly at the 2,000 meters altitude could be seen in the night sky.

Just as if sneering him, who was repeating absent-mindedly, "See there ! You see .....", the shape of the orange glowing object became smaller and smaller, and having finally become the size of a soybean, disappeared at the left side of the moon.

According to his two friends, it was only several minutes that he was standing still there, but in his own remembrance, it was like more than 30 minutes.

Although he gazed further in the neighborhood of the moon, he could no longer see anything but the single-winged plane flying leisurely.

Although later on, Matsuda insisted on the genuineness of his experience to his two friends, they wouldn't take it seriously and when he was speaking about it, they always looked at him as if he was affected by some bad dream.

But, two days later, he read in the local newspaper, Kumamoto Nichinichi Shinbun (Kumamoto Daily News), which always reached him one day later due to the remoteness of the place, that four or five persons, living in the neighboring districts of Tamana-gun and Kamoto-gun, observed the "strange object flying in the sky" at around the same time as he encountered the glowing object. As those places were more than 50 kms.distant from his sighting place, he speculated that the strange orange glowing object was a very big object.

Of course, the word, "Flying Saucer" was not known at that time, and Matsuda says he had heard it only several years later. But, he says he can still not forget the time when the geometrically exact ellipsoidal object, glowing with the brilliant orange colour, approached him soundlessly with smooth motion, and finally filled his eyes on that day.

[Afterwords]

This person, who had experienced such outstanding sighting in such early days in Japan, is now living in Osaka, and engaged in the apparel manufacturing business.

Beside the above experience, his essay contains three other equally strange experiences. In fact, when the glowing object approached him he recalled back those past experiences and compared it with them and sought to find the solution, as all of the other experiences also concerned with eerie glowing object or fire.

Two of them concerned with what is called "Hitodama" in Japan, which means (as Hito means Human, and Dama means Soul) Human Soul, or rather Soul Light or Soul Fire, which is traditionally believed in Japan to appear when a man or a woman

dies, slipping out of the body or slipping out of the tomb, and burns in an eerie cool blue fire. Historically there were many instances in which such fires were observed in the night flying away over the house where someone died there by the neighbors, or such fires burn in the cemetery. These may be specially observed phenomena in Japan and I have rarely heard the similar occurrences in the other countries. In modern times, scientists explain them as the burning of the sulphur resulting from the decomposition of the human bodies. But it has not yet been fully proved. And the more recent researchers speculate that they are the plasma vortex or the 'fireball', but it is also not yet proven either. Matsuda had had two such experiences before the above experience, and he compared those two experiences with this one in an effort to find the cause of the present one. But, the "Hitodamas" he experienced were in pale blue or in darkish red and quite different from the present one. So perhaps the different phenomenon.

His third experience is what is called, "Kitsunebi" (Fox Fire) and is the phenomena in which many phantom lights appear in the distance when a person is walking late in the night on the deserted country road or in the lonely mountain area, and mislead him and make him lose the way, and then suddenly vanish leaving him in the totally unexpected places. But this glowing light is different from it, too, he concluded.

From these past experiences, you may judge him as the occult-prone or phantasy-prone person. But, on one of the occasions when he saw the "Soul Fire" from the second story window of his house, his father also saw the light and actually the old invalid man on the next door died on the next day.

So, the story goes, and it is difficult for me to evaluate this experience now, and if you have any opinion on this case, I will be very much delighted to hear it.

Best wishes.

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