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UFO UpDates Mailing List

P-1947: Ernest Volkman Penthouse Article

From: Jan Aldrich <jan@CYBERZONE.NET>
Date: Mon, 3 Aug 1998 09:34:20 -0700
Fwd Date: Mon, 03 Aug 1998 14:39:05 -0400
Subject: P-1947: Ernest Volkman Penthouse Article

If you can stump the master paper saver, you have done something. Greenwood does not seem to have this item in his collection.

George Fawcett has only part of the article in files. It was from Penthouse magazine about 1985, but there is no indication of the exact date.

"High-Tech Espionage" by Ernest Volkman is described as "True stories of flying saucers--and other misadventures of 'perfect' spies in an imperfect world."

Volkman, a writer on espionage and criminal activity, has this to say about Arnold's observation, "But only a handful of people knew exactly what Arnold had seen. They knew that he had inadvertently spotted America's most secret intelligence operation."

What you may ask was the operation? Why early Skyhook balloon testing! I bet Gen Cabell would have been glad to know that! Why he would not have had to waste all his resources and assets on silly old balloons.

Volkman's article is interesting as he states later in the article that Skyhook/Moby Dicks were recovered in the air on the fly by aircraft with special devices much like the Corona package recovery devices.

In any case, I would appreciate a copy of the complete article if anyone has it.

My interest in balloons is ufological in nature. Balloons as intelligence platforms were used for other things than photography. Last time I checked some projects were still classified. Such balloons would, especially in some of the area where they were flown, probably cause UFO reports which in turn would be collected by intelligence agencies to keep track of any malfunctioning or errant balloons. (Such concern would involve keeping the intelligence gathering devices secret. Some devices did not need to be over Soviet territory to collect information.)

Of course, such report collection would probably also include "true" UFO reports which would be the main interest.

I expect that the Soviets may have launched intelligence gathering balloons into the US from "trawlers" and submarines and possibly even high altitude balloons from Soviet territory.

Arnold theorized that submarines off the coast and UFOs had some connection in 1950. He may have been correct. Ruppelt tried to match up Navy data on prowling submarines

with UFO reports.

So I am looking for balloon recovery operation reports for the following reasons:

1. Collectors of such reports would probably also have collections of UFO reports. (During "Corona Harvest" the "Moon Dust" officer was also the UFO officer.)
2. American balloon launches could turn some UFO reports in the files into IFOs.
3. Counter Intelligence in the US aimed at possible Soviet balloon intrusions would also be a place you might look for UFO reports.

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