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Return to Shaitan Mazar

From: Sean Jones <Tedric@tedric.demon.co.uk>
Date: Sun, 8 Nov 1998 08:59:59 +0000
Fwd Date: Sun, 08 Nov 1998 12:28:23 -0500
Subject: Return to Shaitan Mazar

Source: <http://ufos.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa100498.htm>

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Return to Shaitan Mazar

Dateline:10/04/98

Participants in the expedition to Shaitan Mazar.

From left to right: Oleg Murashev, Nelli Slugina, Anton Bogatov, Nikolay Subbotin, Alexey Kostenko, Emil Bachurin.

Photo by Maxim Slugin.
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A Report From Russia At Last!

On August 17, in an article entitled Shaitan Mazar, I told you about ufologists Nikolay Subbotin and Emil Bachurin of the Russian UFO Research Station (RUFORS) and their expedition in search of a 600 meter long UFO (artist's conception) that supposedly had crashed into a gorge called Shaitan Mazar ("Grave of the Devil") in the Tien Shan ("Celestial") Mountains of Kyrgyzstan near the border with China in August of 1991.

I had wondered for six long weeks what Nikolay and Emil had found, and this week I got the answer in an e-mailed document that was in the familiar broken English of the computerized translator that Nikolay uses to translate his messages from Russian. Once again, please remember that it is very difficult to understand these translations perfectly, so I must sometimes guess the intended meaning.

On 19 August, 1998, Nikolay and his group left Moscow and travelled first to Almaty in search of German Svechkov, who was a member of the June, 1992 expedition to investigate the crashed object. They found Svechkov's son, Vasily, but he refused to tell them where to find German Svechkov. Emil Bachurin was willing to look for Svechkov, but the sponsor of the expedition, Anton Bogatov, insisted that they not spend any more time

looking for Svechkov. Bogatov was becoming concerned about how the Russian economic crisis might hurt his business, and wanted to get back home as quickly as possible.

The expedition arrived in Karakol on the evening of 20 August and spent the night in a local hotel. Karakol is about 250 kilometers from the crash site, and the expedition hoped to rent a helicopter there to fly them to a suitable campsite near the gorge.

The next morning, they went to the airport, where they were told that there were no helicopters available. This was very bad news because they only had enough money to rent a helicopter and for the return trip to Moscow.

The airport manager, trying to be helpful, told them that there was a camp of mountain climbers in the Tien Shan Mountains only fifty kilometers from the crash site, and that these people would rent their helicopter to the expedition if the expedition could get to their campsite. However, since both the campsite and the crash site were in a restricted area near the Chinese border, it would be necessary to get special permission from the border authority to go there.

This was easier said than done. The border authority told them that they must first get permission from the militia. So, off to the militia office they went. The militia told them that they should first register with the local passport office of Kazakhstan. At the passport office they were told that they should talk to the local branch of the KGB. The KGB sent them back to the militia.

After going in circles for a while, they stopped and considered their options:

1. They could rent a small plane - an AN-28 - and overfly the site. This choice had two unpleasant drawbacks:

a) There was no landing strip in the area, so any photos would have to be made from the air, and it would be very difficult to make any good pictures from an airplane.

b) The last aircraft that had approached the site too closely had experienced fatal mechanical problems caused by the intense magnetic field (or anti-magnetic field?) radiated by the object.

2. They could ignore the border authority, the militia, the passport office and the KGB, and just go, hoping their journalistic credentials would get them by.

And so our brave comrades risked spending the rest of their vacation in Siberia and headed for Shaitan Mazar. As luck would have it, their vehicle broke down on the way and they had to stand in a cold rain for four hours. During this stop, however, they spoke to a shepherd who told them that they were only 20 kilometers from the crash site. Since ten of those kilometers were over mountains, the expedition decided to go on to the camp at which they had been told they could rent a helicopter. The shepherd also told them that there was a sacred spring at Shaitan Mazar at which many people had been healed of various illnesses.

On 23 August the expedition reached the border outpost of Mai-Odir, and found that the border guards were very friendly and hospitable, allowing them to camp nearby.

The next day, with only enough money to rent the helicopter for one day, they did so, and took off in search of the crash site. In about 20 minutes they had found the site by following the directions of Emil Bachurin, who had been to the crash site with an earlier expedition. The UFO, however, was gone.

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The helicopter set down at a safe distance from the odd magnetic field, if indeed the field was still there, and they walked to the site. The site was at 4800 feet, unreachable except by helicopter or by mountain climbers. No ground vehicle, four-wheel-drive or other, could have reached it. There was a

hole approximately 20 meters in length, but the slide marks that Emil had spoken of seeing were gone.

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Nikolay describes the site thus(computerized translation): All stones were broken and smooth. The Earth seem very much freshen. It seemed that the slope was artificial. Probably, someone has cleaned traces of failure?

Nikolay says that Emil Bachurin was shocked. He found some special labels left by the previous expedition, so he knew this was the place, but he could not understand the disappearance of the UFO. The only other thing of note to be seen in the area was an area that looked to be a rudely constructed helicopter landing pad. Their instruments could detect no magnetic anomalies in the area.

Dejectedly, the expedition flew back to camp and left for home. Nikolay says that half of the expedition thought Emil Bachurin had lied to them about the previous expedition and about what he had seen. However, some corroboration of Emil's story appeared in the form of one Igor Vislobokov, who stated that, while in the military in 1991, he and two comrades saw a cigar-shaped object in the skies of the Tien-Shan area.

Oddly, Nikolay says that when he got back to civilization, he found that the magnetic tape strip on all of his credit cards had been erased. However, the film and videotapes that he made were not harmed.

What happened to the UFO?

Nikolay believes that the military had come in and taken it out. He intends to continue his investigation, and hopefully, he will continue to report to us.

On a final note, there is a story from one Nikolay Romanov that the Shaitan Mazar UFO was actually a module of the Russian block of the International Space Station that was lost four minutes after launch when the rocket carrying it into orbit malfunctioned and exploded. This module carried four nuclear power generators according to Romanov. Nikolay Subbotin argues that this cannot be true because work had not yet begun on the space station modules in 1991.

In an infinite universe infinitely anything is possible.
Sean Jones

Homepage--<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Zone/1745/index.htm>
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