

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (A. P. R. O.), 1712 Van Court, Alamogordo, New Mexico, and is issued every other month to members only. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of the unidentified objects which have been present in the skies for hundreds of years. Inquiries regarding membership may be made to the above address.

ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO — MARCH, 1960

Physical Evidence

NICAP SCORES

NICAP made national headlines on 27 Feb. with its disclosure of an Air Force Inspector General's Brief issued to all Commands on 24 Dec. 1959. The brief reads as follows:

"Unidentified flying objects — sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as flying saucers—must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business in the ZI. As AFR 200-2 points out the Air Force concern with these sightings is threefold: First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U. S.? Secondly, does it contribute to technical and scientific knowledge? And then there's the inherent USAF responsibility to explain to the American people through public information media what is going on in their skies.

"The phenomena or actual objects comprising the UFOs will tend to increase, with the public more aware of goings-on in space but still inclined to some apprehension. Technical and defense considerations will continue to exist in this area.

"Published about three months ago, AFR 200-2 outlines necessary orderly qualified reporting as well as public-information procedures. This is where the base should stand today, with practices judged at least satisfactory by the commander and inspector.

"—Responsibility for handling UFO's should rest with either Intelligence, Operations, or the Provost Marshal or the Information officer—in that order of preference, dictated by the limits of the base organization.

"—A specific officer should be designated as responsible;

"—He should have experience in investigative techniques and also, if possible, scientific or technical background;

"—He should have the authority to obtain the assistance of specialists on the base;

"—He should be equipped with binoculars, camera, geiger counter, magnifying glass, and have a source for containers in which to store samples.

"What is required is that every sighting be investigated and reported to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB and that explana-

(See *NICAP*, page 4)

Authorities Grab Photos; Hopf Urges Vigilance On Part of Members

Two instances in which private individuals succeeded in obtaining photographs of UAOs within the last few weeks have come to the attention of the APRO staff.

On the fourth of March, Charles Morris, 31, an airplane instructor, obtained 19 feet of moving picture film of a formation of three disc-shaped objects over Dubuque, Iowa. Morris estimated their altitude as 20,000 feet, their speed at about 200 miles per hour. The objects were saucer-shaped, silvery in color. Morris gave the film to the Federal government "for processing and study," the UPI report stated.

At Grand Blanc, Michigan, Joe Perry, a pizza restaurant owner and amateur astronomer, shot a few pictures of the full moon in February. When the color pictures were developed, one showed, clearly silhouetted against the lunar disc, a saucer-like object, radiating a green tail, and with a dome. Mr. Perry showed them around his restaurant, to customers and friends, and one individual said, "It's a flying saucer." Before long, two FBI agents dropped in, looked at the pictures, were noncommittal when looking at them, and in Perry's words, "They didn't seem to be interested until I showed this particular one, and then both of them jumped up." The agents took the photo showing the saucer, and several others. Perry said he hoped he has been of some service to the government, "but I hope I get that picture back," he said.

John Hopf, APRO's photo analyst, said in a recent letter to the staff: "This film will never be seen again—he might just as well have burned it up!"

The rest of the staff joins Hopf in urging members to keep a sharp eye out for any picture of a UAO. Inform the photographer that APRO will pay for the privilege of analyzing the film, and will guarantee that the original negatives will be returned, if requested.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. Ibrahim Sued, a social columnist for the Rio de Janeiro daily newspaper, "O Globo," included in his column the text of a letter he had received from a reader. Quote:

"Dear Mr. Ibrahim Sued. As a faithful reader of your column, and an admirer of yours, I wish to give you something of the highest interest to a newspaperman, concerning the flying saucers. If you believe they are real, of course. I also didn't believe anything said or published about them. But just a few days ago I had to change my mind. I was fishing together with some friends at a place near the town of Ubatuba, Sao Paulo, when I saw a flying disk. It approached the beach at unbelievable speed, an accident seeming imminent—in other words, a crash into the sea. At the last moment, however, when it was about to strike the water, it made a sharp turn upwards and climbed up rapidly in a fantastic maneuver. We followed the spectacle with our eyes, startled, when we saw the disk explode in flames. It disintegrated into thousands of fiery fragments, which fell sparkling with magnificent brightness. They looked like fireworks, in spite of the time of the accident—at noon. Most of these fragments, almost all, fell into the sea. But a number of small pieces fell close to the beach and we picked up a large amount of this material—which was as light as paper. I enclose herewith a small sample of it. I don't know any one that could be trusted to whom I might send it for analysis. I never read about a flying saucer having been found, or about fragments or parts of a saucer that had been picked up; unless it had been done by military authorities and the whole thing kept as a top-secret subject. I am certain that the matter will be of great interest to the brilliant columnist and I am sending two copies of this letter—to the newspaper and to your home." Unquote. The signature was not legible.

Mr. Sued had never written about the UAOs before. Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, APRO's Brazilian representative, read the letter in the column and decided to call Mr. Sued and attempt to at least view the particles. Four hours after a telephone conversation with the columnist, Dr. Fontes visited Mr. Sued at his

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MEMBERS —

Please Forward Address Changes!

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SECOND ALASKA SIGHTING IN THREE WEEKS

On the 14th of February a "flame-belching" object, tubular in shape, hurtled through Alaskan skies over Nome. The silvery object was sighted later at Unalakleet and St. Michael about 150 miles across Norton Sound from Nome.

This sighting, with more than the usual amount of physical description of the object, went out on the press wires. On the 16th of February, a spokesman for the North American Air Defense Command, Colorado Springs, Colo., confirmed that "unidentified flying OBJECTS" were seen over Alaska early on the 15th. Although other wire stories revealed no great amount of information, it seems likely that at least one object was seen on Sunday, the 14th, which would be the object which triggered the initial story, and one or more early the next morning on the 15th.

The NORAD spokesman said that Ent AFB at Colorado Springs received a report at 3 a.m. on the 15th, that two unidentified objects were moving in opposite directions across Alaska. Also revealed by NORAD was the fact that the object which was sighted at Unalakleet was rapidly moving northwest at a speed sufficient to produce contrails. The object reportedly produced a flash which

was assumed to have been an explosion. Of added interest is the fact that Pete Walsh, a Wien Alaska Airlines employee at Nome, observed the object and said it appeared to be a manned aircraft traveling at tremendous speed about 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the earth, and was monitored by two radar stations near Nome. Although monitored by radar, no estimates of speed were given by officials. We cannot overlook the possibility that this object or these objects may be Soviet aircraft, but if they are, it is difficult to explain the close resemblance between these objects and the object observed at Willoughby, Ohio, on Thursday, 10 December. See page 3, column 2, of The Bulletin for January 1960.

On the 6th of March, Mr. Walsh again sighted an unidentified object in the Nome area. In a telegram to Governor William A. Egan, Walsh said that a bright flash in the sky was sighted at 8:51 p.m., followed by an explosion. After the flash, the bright object was seen "drifting" to earth from the east, Walsh told the governor. The Alaska Air Command forwarded the report to NORAD at Colorado Springs, Colo., and on the 8th a NORAD spokesman said the report had been received but routed to USAF headquarters and the Secretary of the Air in Washington, D. C. "This is more in the nature of an intelligence item than an operations problem," the spokesman said.

The Associated Press report of the latest incident also noted that the object sighted in February was later listed as a white hot meteor. Who listed it as such, or how they arrived at that conclusion, was not announced, but the fact that at least one of the objects sighted in February was flying at low speed was not explained. It could not have been a meteor, if the description of the speed is accurate. Also, the Ohio object which strongly resembles the object observed in Alaska, was seen to ascend at great speed, disappearing into the sky.

RAAF Statement on Gill Sightings

Representative Peter Norris of Australia has forwarded a copy of a letter from Squadron Leader F. A. Lang, in answer to his letter of 25 January 1960, requesting information to the RAAF's conclusions about the Gill sightings (APRO Bulletin, Page 1, November 1959 issue). The following is the text of Lang's letter of 22 February: "Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter of the 25th January 1960. An officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of U.F.O. activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to proper authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201 (22) dated 14th February, 1957, such

reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the phenomena observed by the Reverend Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g., Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movements. (Signed), Yours Faithfully, F. S. Lang." (Read again the report of Mr. Norris and Reverend Gill and see if you can stretch your imagination to the point where Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will fly pell mell across the sky at great speeds, and with men standing on them and waving, yet! There's something wrong with the astronomy textbooks! . . . the Editor)

Agencies in Disagreement On Mystery Lights

A press release by UPI, datelined March 8, revealed that the Air Force was investigating reports of a mysterious stream of lights that flashed across eastern U. S. on the 7th of March. According to the U. S. Defense Department, the lights were seen as far north as Lake Erie and as far south as Key West, Florida.

Air Force officials in Washington said the lights were believed to have been caused by a meteor. Missilemen at Cape Canaveral, however, said the lights "definitely looked" like a satellite as it fell back to earth and burned in the atmosphere.

The National Space Agency in Washington confirmed the fact that Lunik III, the huge Soviet rocket which put the picture-taking satellite around the moon, was expected to fall into the earth's atmosphere in March.

But . . . officials at the Smithsonian astrophysical laboratory at Cambridge, Massachusetts, which keeps track of satellites once they are launched, said that the lights, which were reported by airline pilots, Air Force pilots, state police and control towers, had not been explained by them—they simply couldn't explain them away.

Observed through binoculars, the objects appeared to be fast-moving balls of molten substance, perhaps metal, which were falling apart, and which spread out as they proceeded into the southeast. They were observed at Cape Canaveral at 8:10 p.m., 10 minutes after they were spotted over North Carolina. The display at Canaveral lasted for three minutes, before disappearing into the blackness of the night. The three minute observation takes the objects out of the category of meteors, and since Smithsonian could

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Physical Evidence . . .

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home. There, on a table, was the sample sent by the unknown correspondent.

The particles were dull grey, solid and appeared to be metallic. They were rough and irregular, with scattered whitish areas on the surface produced by the deposit of a thin layer of a powdered substance which could easily be removed by the application of a fingernail.

Dr. Fontes picked up one of the fragments. Sued watched him, told him that at first sight he might think the stuff was lead, as it had that appearance, but that it couldn't be, because of its weight. Fontes noted that the stuff was lighter than aluminum—almost as light as paper.

Dr. Fontes then told Sued that he had friends in scientific work whom he would like to examine the material and Sued agreed, saying he wasn't interested in the subject of UAO, but that he would like to know the results.

Before beginning the analysis procedure, Dr. Fontes weighed the possibility that the stuff could have been submitted by a crackpot or publicity hound. He deduced that if either premise were true, the man had used pretty poor judgement in submitting the material to Sued, who had never exhibited any interest in UAOs, and who was a society columnist. Therefore, the man must have been sincere and had sent the stuff to the only man in the public eye that he could think of.

In his fully documented report, Fontes stated that ordinarily he would have sent someone to Ubatuba to more thoroughly investigate the incident, but inasmuch as he had the stuff in his hands, he decided to conduct a scientific analysis.

For the analysis, which he knew would have to be meticulously carried out, Dr. Fontes submitted a part of the sample to the Mineral Production Laboratory, a division of the National Department of Mineral Production—a Brazilian government lab. Fontes was introduced to Dr. Pfeigell, the chief chemist, by a friend. Pfeigell was at the time engaged in special work with plastics, turned it over to Dr. David Goldsheim, one of his assistants who, after studying the material, said they could be the fragments of a meteorite. Dr. Pfeigell didn't agree, because of the light weight of the substance, and personally conducted a test using phosphomolybdic acid to determine whether the substance was metal. It was. He then decided on a spectrographic analysis.

The official analysis of the substance was made by chief chemist of the Spectrographic Section of the Mineral Production Laboratory, Dr. Luisa Maria A. Barbosa. Her report reads as follows: "Bulletin

No. 15 001," dated September 24, 1957, "Spectrographic analysis of unknown material. Protocol: 571/57. Origin: Ubatuba, Sao Paulo. Sender: Dr. Olavo Fontes. The sample received included two fragments of metallic appearance, grey color, low density, and weighing, each one, approximately 0.6 gr. Report of the analysis of one of the fragments: The spectrographic analysis showed the presence of magnesium (Mg) of a high degree of purity and absence of any other metallic element." Unquote. Signed, Luisa Maria A. Barbosa, Chemist-Technologist "N".

The analysis was made with a large Hilger Spectrograph. Fontes, expecting a more detailed report, questioned Dr. Barbosa: Fontes: "Your analysis showed the presence of magnesium of a high degree of purity, and absence of any other metallic element. Right?" Barbosa: "Yes. I found all common and uncommon spectrum lines of the element magnesium. There was no other metallic element in the sample, not even the so-called 'trace elements' usually detected in the metallic samples."

In order to overcome any lack of basic data, and to obtain a better evaluation of the pattern found, Dr. Fontes decided to request a second spectrographic analysis of the material, which was made on 24 October, 1957, utilizing the same Spectrograph.

Elson Teixeira, a former chemist at the Laboratory who had worked there for 15 years, did the second analysis. He planned also a quantitative spectrographic analysis, to determine concentration of any impurity, but the unexpected absence of impurities of any kind made a second analysis unnecessary.

A third spectrographic analysis of the material has been done. The Brazilian Army, after hearing about the case, dispatched Major Roberto Caminha to talk to Dr. Fontes, who turned over a sample of the material to the Army on the 4th of November. Dr. Fontes was not informed of the results of the test.

A small sample of the material was sent to the Laboratory of Crystallography at the Geology and Mineralogy Division of the National Department of Mineral Production, by Dr. Fontes. Dr. Elysiaro Tavora Filho, a well-known scientist, famous in Brazil for his pioneer works in Crystallography since 1949, supervised the X-Ray diffraction analysis. Examination of the material by X-Ray diffraction showed that the substance was magnesium, apparently absolutely pure. Professor Tavora sent one of his assistants, Dr. Augusto Batista, to the Mineral Production laboratory to request a careful re-examination of the spectrographic plate.

Tavora then decided to make a complete study of the powder diffraction

pattern of the material by the Powder method, using a powder camera of the Debye-Scherrer-Hull type. The analysis revealed that the substance was pure magnesium, and the only "impurities" was magnesium hydroxide (Mg (OH)₂). It was not, evidently, in the original metal, appearing as an effect of the explosion and fall of the burning magnesium fragments through the atmosphere and into the sea.

A Geiger counter and an Atomic Scaler were used to determine whether the fragments registered any extraordinary amount of radiation. No abnormal amount was found.

This, then, concluded the tests which Dr. Fontes obtained on the sample of metal.

The most pure magnesium refined is 99.9%, and such complex and time-consuming operations are required that this final product, although still exhibiting some impurities, is more costly than gold. It cannot be produced for industrial application, and is used for special uses, such as to be employed as a "standard" of purity, or for research purposes in the understanding of the fundamental properties of metals.

However, the purest magnesium ever produced on earth still has impurities which could be identified in the spectrographic analysis. The Ubatuba samples showed none.

The ASTM standard of purity for magnesium (ASTM 4-0770) shows, in the spectrographic analysis, the following impurities: Ca, 0.1%, and traces of Al, Cu, Fe and Si.

In other words, the magnesium in the samples analyzed, which was absolutely pure, represents something outside the range of present-day technological developments of our science. On the basis of this study, it is highly probable that the metallic chunks picked up on a beach near Ubatuba, Sao Paulo, are really fragments of a flying disc.

The object which exploded above the beach at Ubatuba, Brazil was made of 100% magnesium, which is not within the technology of our times. APRO rests its case.

(Editor's Note: The documented report, plus spectrographic film, X-Ray diffraction analysis film and Dr. Barbosa's report and the chemist's report, are on file at APRO's headquarters.)

Don't Miss . . .

the full story of APRO's attempt to get the facts about physical evidence to the public; repercussions, phone-tapping, anonymous warnings, etc. "Expert" attempts to identify magnesium as conventional space probe project. . . MAY ISSUE, APRO BULLETIN.

NICAP . . .

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tion to the public be realistic and knowledgeable. Normally that explanation will be made only by the USAF Information Office. It all adds up to part of the job of being experts in our own domain."

And so we can see that the UFO issue is far from dead with the USAF. There can be no doubt that, to use the words NICAP spokesman Vice Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter (Ret.), "behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about UFO's."

The Polar Satellite — What Is It?

For days in the early part of February the whole world riveted its collective attention on the dark polar satellite which had been detected by the United States' tracking system. Dubbed the "Black Knight" by some, the unidentified object radiated no light, was tumbling in space, and was not emitting radio signals. The U. S. Defense Department said it might have been a Russian "spy satellite," which was denied by the Russians. We tend to accept this as gospel because Russians would be quick to claim any space achievement in order to score another propaganda victory. APRO staff members considered the possibility that the object might have been a captured natural satellite from the Canadian precession of 1920.

One by one the usual explanations were ruled out until two remained: the shell of a rocket stage which had approximated polar orbit, or a UAO. The former was the explanation picked out by the Defense Department to explain away the mystery object.

WHAT WAS NOT REVEALED WAS THE FOLLOWING: The "Black Knight" had been tracked since the 4th of January, was one of two dark satellites in polar orbits, both of which weighed in the neighborhood of 15 tons each! The agency from which APRO obtained its information certainly should know what the score is, and the leak of information occurred during an attempt to coordinate efforts at tracking the object. In fact, APRO's information preceded that of the newspaper release by several days.

Army Reg Concerns Tracking Unknowns

The United States Army has in its current file of Classified Regulations, one which authorizes, in fact, urges, the tracking of any object exceeding Mach 1 above 50,000 feet altitude. This can hardly be construed as pertaining to satellites, which orbits are placed a considerably larger distance out in space, so it must be assumed that the Army is watching for high-flying unidentified aerial objects.

Mystery Flash and Power Failure

A bevy of clippings from various newspapers in the West revealed the information in early February that a strange brilliant flash of light had been observed by thousands in a four-state area.

On February 7 at 12:03 Mountain Standard Time, a flash of light which illuminated the cabin of a Western Airlines plane piloted by Captain Richard Belew of Salt Lake City. "It was fantastically bright," he said. "It started as a low blue light, then came a blinding flash." Belew's plane was approximately forty miles south of Great Falls, Montana.

At Butte, Montana, the secretary at a radio station observed that a noise like several jets on takeoff, followed the flash.

The most curious thing about this story is the newspaper report that a power failure at the Atomic Energy Commission's reactor testing station in Eastern Idaho, took place 2½ hours later. Mack Corbett, Director of Information for the AEC station, took pains to inform newsmen that there was no flash at the time of the power failure, as had been reported. He then explained that the power failure was believed due to a bird or birds flying into the power line.

Amateur astronomer Floyd Rickores, Hollywood, California, said he tracked a red ball in the sky for nearly five minutes after a "bright flash" lighted the room. "It seemed to stay stationary between two stars for three or four minutes," he said, "then took off with fantastic speed and disappeared."

Although there was no official explanation by responsible agencies, newspapers tended to assume that the flash was made by a meteor.

APRO believes there are too many coincidences involved in this incident, including Rickores' observation, which took place within a short space of time after the flash over Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, and the power failure at the AEC station.

Shortly thereafter, strange things were seen in the skies throughout the U. S. . . .

Takanashi to Study Ice Fall Data

Mr. Takanashi, our Japanese representative, has projected the study of unusual ice falls in the near future. He has asked the United States staff to forward data concerning airborne ice chunks to him for study and correlation. He has a definite theory in mind, and if members will continue to forward information pertaining to this facet of aerial phenomena to headquarters, said data will be forwarded to Takanashi with regular packets of related information.

Agencies . . .

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not explain them despite conjecture about crashing rockets, we must then assume that the formation of lights was probably a flock of UAOs.

Notes and Comments

APRO mentioned in an Editorial in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 6, 1960, entitled "Secrecy About UFOs Is Overdone . . ." We would like to give more detailed comment pertaining to the fine work on behalf of APRO which is being done by our Photo Consultant, John T. Hopf. Not only tops in photography he has proved to be a first-class recruiter. . . . George Todt, columnist for the Valley Times, Pasadena, Calif., was awarded the Freedom Foundation George Washington Honor Medal. George is a UFO enthusiast and some of his comment about the subject has been read into the Congressional Record. . . . A Mr. Keith L. Milner of Cheltenham, England claims he is building a saucer which will be a "sort of anti-gravity machine made up of copper and zinc plates that are supposed to spin and draw their energy from supersonic sounds in the atmosphere. . . . UFORC of Akron, Ohio has produced another excellent special report, dealing with the sighting of several objects by American and United Airlines pilots on 24 February 1959; this report is comparable to the Fitzgerald report and would be an important addition to any enthusiast's file. . . . A recent (9 February) news release out of Moscow quotes the opinions of Soviet scientist M. Agrest, relative to the actual demolition of the Biblical cities, Sodom and Gomorrah. Agrest stated he believes present-day nuclear scientists should investigate possible radioactive deposits in Biblical areas in question. He believes the destruction of the cities was brought about by space travelers, and that the structure of Heliopolis, containing some of the largest single pieces of stone ever shaped by man, was used for a launching platform for the home-bound space-travelers. . . . Prof. Fred T. Haddock, of the University of Michigan's astronomy department, has announced that an attempt to contact intelligent beings on other planets will be made this spring by several leading American astronomers. Using the most up-to-date sensitive instruments, they will attempt to intercept messages which may be transmitted from billions of miles out in space. . . .

For your copy of UFORC's "REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS" mentioned above, send \$1.00 to UFORC, P. O. Box 5242, Akron, Ohio. Why not order an extra copy and present it to your local library?