

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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UNDERWATER UFO CASE STILL UNVERIFIED Ship Officers Disclaim All Knowledge

Persistence has yet to pay off for NICAP in its search for corroborating evidence to the alleged encounter of a U.S. Navy ship with a strange object that appeared to travel underwater as well as in the air (*UFO Investigator*, February 1971). Despite success in locating ship personnel who should be able to confirm the incident, NICAP has found no source that will admit to knowledge of the sighting, which reportedly occurred in the South China Sea in 1968.

NICAP has now tracked down and talked with four men who were key members of the ship's company at the time the event supposedly occurred. The first man, Lieutenant J.J., former captain of the ship, told NICAP he did not remember any such incident, and said his private log backed him up. He did remember another unusual incident on almost the same day, but it did not involve a UFO or bear any strong similarity to the reported sighting.

This other incident, recorded in Lt. J.'s log for the evening of March 18, 1968 (three days after the sighting is believed to have occurred), concerned an unidentified object detected on the surface of the ocean by the ship's radar. Not knowing what it was and being unable to spot it visually, the captain stopped the ship and waited to see what the object would do. When nothing happened, the ship resumed its journey, and the incident was forgotten.

The captain questioned whether this occurrence could have been the stimulus for the sighting report. He said it is common for a young seaman who is new to the environment of the open sea to misinterpret or exaggerate an unusual event. This is particularly true, he said, for seamen standing deck watch at night, as the young man who reported the sighting to NICAP said he was doing when the sighting happened.

NICAP doubted that this could adequately account for the details of the UFO report, but it was a possibility that had to be considered. The witness admitted he had read about UFOs prior to joining the Navy and had been involved in a sighting in 1966 in his hometown. He also said, on the NICAP questionnaire, that when he saw the UFO, he was "awed and shocked," and "nervous afterward." "I felt," he said, "that I was watching something completely fantastic and beyond my understanding."

NICAP also located the man who was supposedly the Officer of the Deck at the time of the sighting. This man, Lieutenant P.P., has since left the Navy and is now living in New Jersey. He expressed complete ignorance of the alleged incident.

Similar reactions were received from Lieutenant J.C., the man who stood watch as Officer of the Deck after Lt. P.P.'s watch had ended, and from Quartermaster D.G., who had been on duty the night of the sighting and presumably was the person who recorded the incident in the ship's quartermaster notebooks. NICAP spoke with both men by telephone and asked each if he could provide any information that might support or refute the sighting report. Both said no.

INDUSTRY POLL FAVORS UFOs Condon Report Is Soundly Rejected

Government efforts to put the subject of UFOs to final rest have suffered another setback. Recently announced results of a poll taken on UFOs by *Industrial Research* magazine show overwhelming rejection of the Air Force-sponsored Condon Report, which called for an end to UFO investigations. The poll also showed strong doubt on the question of whether the government has been candid with the public about its own stockpile of information on UFO sightings.

Eighty percent of the 2700 respondents to the poll stated they do not accept the Condon Report as a "definitive" answer to the UFO controversy. Almost the same number (76 percent) answered no to the question "Do you believe that the government has revealed all its information concerning UFOs?"

The poll was conducted in January among *Industrial Research* readers and reported on in the April issue of the magazine. Since the magazine's readership is almost entirely engineers and other technically trained people, the poll results would appear to be a significant indicator of failing credibility on the part of official statements debunking the UFO problem.

The poll consisted of eight questions, covering most of the issues commonly associated with the UFO subject. These included: "Do you believe that UFOs exist?", "Do you think that the government should support further research?", and "Where do you think UFOs originate?" For the purposes of the poll, UFOs were defined as "unexplained observations."

To the question of UFO existence, a clear majority of those polled (54 percent) said "definitely" or "probably" that UFOs exist. Only 31 percent said "definitely or probably not." Fifteen percent were undecided.

Asked what UFOs are if they exist, almost a third of the respondents (32 percent) said UFOs originate in outer space. A negligibly small number (less than one percent) said UFOs are devices of Communist nations. Thirty-five percent said they were undecided on the question of origin.

Few respondents (8 percent) stated they had seen a UFO themselves, but a much larger number (36 percent) said they knew someone who had made a sighting. Almost everyone (85 percent) agreed that most witnesses do not report their sightings to outside authorities.

On the issue of whether the government should conduct further research, opinion was evenly divided. Fifty-one percent said no; 49 percent said yes. The reason for the split would appear to be uncertainty over whether additional study by the government would be any more credible than past attempts. With 80 percent of the poll's participants rejecting the Condon Report as the last word on UFOs, and 76 percent challenging officialdom's claim that it has revealed all it knows about UFOs, sentiment within the technical research community would seem to favor either no study at all or a study divorced from government control.

Eighth of a Series**MAN AND NON-MAN****What Impact the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Intelligence?**

This is the last of a seven-part interview with Dr. Richard S. Young, Chief of Exobiology for NASA. The interview was conducted by NICAP last September in an effort to determine what might happen if dramatic evidence of extraterrestrial life were discovered by American astronauts or space probes. In this final installment, Dr. Young comments on whether military officials would become involved if such a discovery did occur.

NICAP: There is close cooperation between DOD and NASA in space areas.

YOUNG: Well, yes, in some areas I guess it's very close. But you've come to the science side of NASA now, and we have no intercourse with DOD, except maybe in instrumentation or something like that where they have some expertise we don't have. Even, in some cases, scientific personnel. If they have an experimenter who can contribute to a program we're involved in, then sure, they may work with us. I don't mean to imply that we won't cooperate with DOD, or any such thing. It's just that we have no regular interaction with them in the realm of science. Matter of fact, that's not their business. The military is not our business.

I would say that when we go to take pictures of another planet -- in the first place, we don't just send a camera; we have a team of scientists who have the responsibility for designing that camera. They have the responsibility of seeing to it that that camera takes the right kinds of pictures, has the right focal length, uses the right kind of film and right filters, etc. And they design everything that camera is to do. There is a scientific objective for every picture that is taken.

And these guys will sit here, and they're going to wait for those pictures to come in. When those pictures come in, and they start looking at them and analyzing the data, and saying, well, this particular one had this filter on it, then they go back through their program and make up a report, and they publish that report as quickly as they can. If they see something in there that has the kind of implications that you are talking about -- i.e. it looks like a building casting a shadow -- I'm sure they would be just as excited as they could possibly be, trying to figure out exactly what that was and trying to get a piece of it so we can analyze it, and all that kind of thing. But I can't conceive of any way in our operation, under normal operation that this would be stifled. We don't have any generals looking over the experimenter's shoulder, saying, ah ah, that's not just a building, that's a fortress; we'll have to classify it; and we can't release that to the public. It just doesn't happen.

NICAP: It is possible, in this scenario, to conceive of a structure being detected that someone might feel is not just a simple structure but in fact does have military implications.

YOUNG: I can conceive of that too. And if that were to happen, then probably the military would be called in. I think that's a little far-fetched, but . . .

NICAP: Yes, admittedly that is unlikely.

The series "Man and Non-man" will not end with this interview. Later articles will further explore the implications of finding intelligent life beyond Earth. The first of this series appeared in the June 1970 issue.

News Commentary**THE NEW POLITICS OF UFO RESEARCH
Radical Left Bidding for Dominance While Many on Right Yearn for Another Flap**

It is now generally recognized that in the United States, and perhaps elsewhere, 1969 was a watershed in the history of the UFO problem. With departure of the Federal Government from UFO research in December of that year--attended by ex cathedra edicts from the University of Colorado and the National Academy of Sciences--a period of uncertain transition was entered for those organizations determined to keep the UFO issue alive.

It is too soon into the period to state with any assurance what its true complexion and duration will be, but one aspect already taking shape is the political spectrum among the various groups and individuals still active in the UFO field.

It is evident, from the assertions and activities of these people, that the new period has stimulated a different distribution of political opinion from that of the 1960s. In particular, a conspicuous change is occurring on the far left, where devotees of ultra-liberal speculation and theory are hard at work in a bid to attract those followers of the subject who are disheartened at the failure of conservatives to come up with unequivocal evidence for the reality of UFOs.

Although this shift to the left has some of its roots in previous periods, it would appear to be a phenomenon especially suited to the present climate of uncertainty over the fate of the UFO problem. Politics abhor a vacuum as much as nature, and when the Air Force withdrew from UFO investigations, taking with it a lot of right-wingers and middle-of-the-road agnostics, a cavity was created that leftist opportunists have been scrambling to fill with their esoteric explanations for UFOs and their anti-scientific claims of finding truth through unconventional means.

This is not to say that the far left has been preempted by cultists and crackpots. There are some legitimate, if controversial, points of view among the swelling ranks of mystics, mediums, psychic researchers, and religious personalities presently holding forth on the liberal periphery of the UFO field. But in pragmatic terms, the emergence of the radical left has encouraged a polarization process and made it increasingly tough for moderates to maintain their position.

The situation at the other end of the spectrum is not much better, except that the right extremists are currently following a low-profile policy and do not appear terribly concerned about what happens next in the political arena. This is not really very surprising, since the far right is the home of the Air Force, Dr. Condon, many members of the press, and the various other principals in the UFO field who regard further research as a waste of time. Being squarely within the perimeter of the Establishment, these arch conservatives are much better organized and financed than the present potpourri of ultraliberals, and do not depend on publicity nearly as much as the far left does for survival.

It is doubtful that the far right will ever feel threatened by the far left, since the imbalance of power between them is weighted against the left. In any event, with the possible exception of a few conservatives still openly opposing UFO research, there is no apparent movement afoot on the far right to win the rank and file away from support of UFO research. Indeed, the only thunder on the right in the UFO field at present is the Condon Report, and even that has reduced to little more than an echo of what it was in 1969.

Continued Next Month

**NEAR LANDING REPORTED
IN PENNSYLVANIA
One Witness Glimpses Possible Occupants**

A man and woman engaged to be married have reported seeing a strange machine-like object hovering below tree-top level on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The couple said they sighted the object at dusk on April 18, 1971, as they were driving through a rural area north of the city, en route to the woman's home. The object was seen at an estimated range of 80 yards and appeared to be resting on the ground or deployed just a few feet above it.

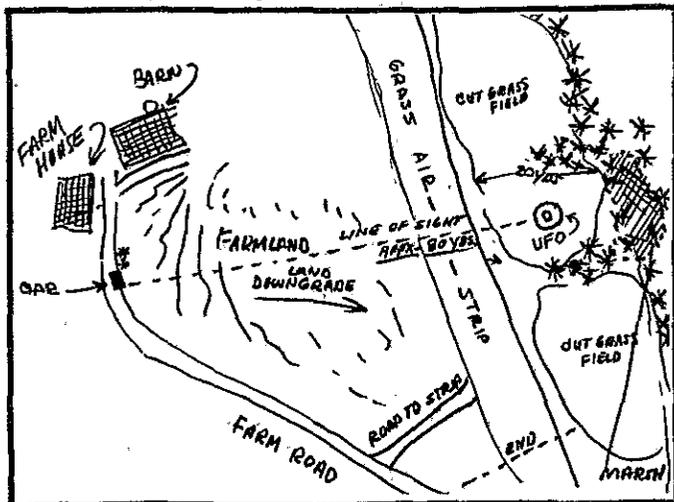
The couple described the object as roughly football in shape, with a rim along its horizontal axis. The upper half had a concave top and a series of vertically oriented "windows" along its side. Emanating from the top was a shaft of white light. The lower half, somewhat flattened on the bottom, also had window-like openings, circular in shape. Through the windows a reddish glow was visible.

The locale of the sighting was a little-used airstrip in an area of trees and farmland (see diagram). The specific spot where the UFO was seen was a small field adjacent to the strip. The weather at the site was clear, according to the witnesses, and the sky was still bright enough at the time of the sighting to silhouette the treeline.

Just prior to the sighting, the witnesses had observed a bright white light that appeared to be traveling parallel to their car. After moving steadily for a few moments, the light abruptly crossed in front of the car (right to left), stopped for a split second, crossed back over the road, and moved off in the general direction where the UFO was seen minutes later.

As soon as the light had disappeared, the woman began watching for it, hoping to determine where it had gone. At first she saw nothing out of the ordinary, but within a minute or so, she caught a brief glimpse of an airborne object over a field a short distance from the highway. The object was oval in shape and appeared to have windows. The woman thought she saw two humanoid figures inside the object, with uplifted arms, but before she could tell her fiance to stop the car, a hill intervened between the car and the object, and she lost sight of the UFO.

The man continued driving until he noticed a dirt road leading off the highway in the direction the woman had been looking. Turning onto the road, the couple drove



Witnesses parked at edge of farm road to watch strange object hovering just above grass field. Airstrip at site was not in use on night of sighting.

slowly for about a half a mile, scanning the nearby landscape for signs of the object.

Suddenly, to the right through the windshield, the man saw the object hovering over a grassy area partially surrounded by trees. He pulled the car up on the shoulder of the road, and the couple watched in nervous fascination as the object stood poised just off the ground (or so it seemed in the limited light) approximately 250 feet away. It was motionless and silent, with no smoke or chemical discharge, and appeared to be self-illuminated. No figures could be seen.

The couple continued to watch for an estimated 20 minutes, during which time the object remained unchanged in location and appearance. The couple thought of trying to find other witnesses, but the only dwelling in sight—a farmhouse—appeared to be unoccupied.

Finally, the man suggested that they drive toward the object, on the chance that seeing it at closer range might give some clue to its identity. His fiancee, growing increasingly apprehensive, rejected the suggestion. She thought they should leave the area and go home. Reluctantly, he consented, and they drove down the dirt road to the highway, stopping a few times to look back to see if the object was still there. Each time they looked, the UFO was in its original place.

The couple continued on to the woman's home, where the woman called a cousin who lived in the same neighborhood. The cousin was the wife of an amateur astronomer who had been active locally in study of UFOs. The following day, the husband and the witnesses returned to the site, and the astronomer took notes on the incident. Inspection of the field showed no evidence of an alien object, but all other details of the observation appeared to be consistent with conditions at the airstrip.

NICAP learned of the sighting from its Cape Kennedy (Florida) Subcommittee, which found out about it from the astronomer. A preliminary investigation was made immediately, including interviews with the couple, discussions with the astronomer, and a visit to the home of the woman witness. Further investigation is planned to reenact the sighting, photograph the site, and check with residents of the area for other possible witnesses. Results of this effort will be published as soon as the investigation is completed.

Second Object Sighted in Same State

In what appears to be an unconnected incident, a second sighting was reported in Pennsylvania last month by a woman driving on a rural road near Pottstown. The sighting occurred almost exactly one week to the hour after the Pittsburgh case, under much the same circumstances.

According to the witness, she was riding home alone on Sunday evening, April 25, 1971, at about 9 p.m., when she spotted a luminous object over a farmer's field. "It was a very bright, white, pulsating light," she said. It "would move and stop, move and stop, in a jerking manner."

She said she first thought it was something conventional, like an aircraft light, but its strange motion seemed to belie that explanation.

"I stopped my car on the road next to the field, and just studied it," she reported. "I couldn't make out any shape, just the light. I rolled down the window to see if there was an engine sound, but there was none. It was about as high as the top of a radio tower light but much bigger, and it didn't seem to be connected to anything."

The woman said she began to get "the feeling it was just the light and me," and decided to leave. She drove home and told her husband what had happened. When "he saw how upset I was," she said, he went back to the field, but the light was gone.



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

NO, WE DIDN'T MOVE AGAIN

You may have noticed that on the front page of our April issue, we showed our old Connecticut Avenue address rather than our new one on Rhode Island Avenue. This was a printer's mistake, not a sign that we have moved again. Our new offices are very comfortable, and we don't expect to be leaving any time in the foreseeable future.

NICAP EXHIBIT ARRIVES SAFELY

The NICAP exhibit on photography that will appear in England this summer has been shipped to London and is now being set up. Thanks to the assistance of our London-based European Subcommittee No. 1, the exhibit was picked up at Heathrow Airport and delivered in style in a Rolls Royce to the Institute of Contemporary Arts, where it will go on display in late July. Following announcement of the exhibit in the April newsletter, we received a number of queries from various parts of the United States as to the availability of the exhibit for rental or loan. We are now making plans to show the exhibit in this country after its return from England, and we will keep our members advised as to where it can be seen.

THANK YOU, MR. McINTYRE

While we're talking about the NICAP exhibit, we want to offer a special thank you to our chief photographic consultant, W. F. McIntyre, who went to a great deal of trouble to help us prepare the exhibit. Without his generous assistance (he did all the darkroom work, at no charge to NICAP), the exhibit would not have been possible. We are much indebted to him for his hard work.

ISSUES DATED, NOT NUMBERED

When the newsletter was still being published with the old format, there was a lot of confusion over how each issue was numbered and dated. To help eliminate this confusion, we decided to abandon the Volume/Number system when we adopted the new format, and to date each issue in chronological order. This was done, beginning with the May 1970 issue. If you keep all your issues with the new format in one place (something we would recommend), you can easily check to see if you have missed any issues. Each issue is dated for one month, and one month only, and no month is skipped. The last issue published under the old system was Volume V/Number 1 (September-October 1969).



Q. How do UFOs propel themselves?

J. M./Yonkers, N. Y.

A. This question has been asked many times. Although it could be asked in reference to the theory that UFOs are natural phenomena (such as plasmas), it is invariably taken to refer to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, which states that UFOs are interplanetary spacecraft. In this latter context, the question can only be dealt with on a highly speculative basis, since the preponderance of evidence for UFOs is testimony from witnesses rather than such relatively objective evidence as photographs or instrumented readings. Even on a speculative basis, however, the question suggests many interesting possibilities and is worthy of serious study. Generally speaking, any one theory of propulsion is difficult to formulate because the observed characteristics of UFOs are too sundry or ambiguous to constitute, in terms of terrestrial technology, positive evidence of a particular propulsion system. Take, for example, such typically reported features as lack of sound, lack of smoke, lack of heat, and lack of engine-like protuberances. These, individually or collectively, tell the scientist next to nothing about power systems or methods of locomotion. They might only mean that conventional forms of propulsion are not being employed by UFOs, or at least are not being employed in ways familiar to man. They might mean a lot of other things too, but it is easy to read too much into such characteristics. Possibly, for example, UFOs do emit sound routinely, but observers often fail to hear it because of circumstances surrounding the sighting, or cannot hear it because of its frequency. (In some cases, of course, sound is heard.) Much conjecture has centered on far more esoteric possibilities--chiefly anti-gravity propulsion--but these are largely theories considered in default of anything more specific to go on. If, for example, UFOs were always seen to discharge some form of vapor, there would be little impetus to speculate on anti-gravity motors instead of chemical propulsion. In the final analysis, the question may never be satisfactorily answered, unless the general nature of the UFO phenomenon can be better understood, and speculation replaced with concrete research. In any event, it is a complex question that scientists and engineers might well consider.

Q. In the book *Stranger Than Science* by Frank Edwards, reference is made to a mysterious air crash on the "Tahoma Glacier" in 1947. Do you know where this glacier is located?

R.D./Mesa, Ariz.

A. The Tahoma Glacier is part of Mt. Rainier in the state of Washington. Mt. Rainier was the locale of the famous sighting by Kenneth Arnold on June 24, 1947. Arnold was familiar with the area because, as a pilot, he had often flown over it on air rescue missions.

Q. Can you send me technical data on all disc-shaped aircraft?

G.R./Minneapolis, Minn.

A. For the most part, NICAP's files on such experimental devices as Canada's AVRO disc and the U.S. Navy's "flying pancake" contain general information, not technical drawings and specifications. Such files are intended for background research by NICAP's staff, and there is no provision for their reproduction or distribution in response to individual queries.

Q. Does NICAP have a comprehensive list of books, paperbacks, and magazines on UFOs?

R.D./Haverhill, Mass.

A. NICAP has no such list available, but an exhaustive bibliography entitled "UFOs and Related Subjects" may be obtained for \$3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Q. In Frank Edwards's book *Flying Saucers--Here and Now*, he shows a picture of a UFO taken in Australia in 1966. To the lower right of the UFO, there is another object in the picture that looks like a UFO. What is it?

M. H./Linthicum Heights, Md.

A. It is an imperfection in the book's reproduction of the picture. It is not in the original photograph.

Q. Has a comprehensive study been made of the 1890 airship sightings?

A.G./Grand Rapids, Mich.

A. A comprehensive study has not been made, but a good source of information on the airship sightings is the book *Mysteries of the Skies*, published in 1968 by Prentice Hall.

Q. Is there a possibility of starting another Project OZMA, based on the galactic map drawn by Mrs. Barney Hill?

C.C./Montgomery, Ala.

A. It is entirely conceivable that a project similar to OZMA will be undertaken sometime in the future. Dr. Richard Young of NASA commented on this in his interview with NICAP in last December's newsletter. However, the basis for any such project would not be something as unusual and controversial as the Betty and Barney Hill case.

Q. Do you have any information on H.T. Owens and his Sota religion, which claims that a celestial super power is sending UFOs to Earth for the betterment of man?

N.C./Big Rapids, Mich.

A. NICAP has consistently stated that it regards UFOs as physical phenomena appropriately studied by scientifically trained people. For this reason, NICAP has not sought a religious explanation for UFOs, or otherwise attempted to relate UFOs to the claims and alleged experiences of individuals professing to act from religious motivation.