

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
AERIAL PHENOMENA  
NICAP

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## MYSTERIOUS OBJECT BAFFLES SCIENTISTS

Carlisle, New York is a town noted primarily by its residents and furnishes a life-style that is far different from that experienced in the hectic pace of large metropolitan areas. This town's notoriety may soon be worldwide due to an incident that occurred on January 12, 1975.

One of Carlisle's residents, Mr. Lenoard Tillapaugh was spending a routine day preparing his fields for Spring planting. He was suddenly interrupted from his tasks when his tractor was struck in the front by an object falling from the sky. After glancing off the tractor, the object bounced to the ground and landed on a nearby patch of two and one half inch thick ice. Mr. Tillapaugh watched in amazement while the object quickly melted through the ice and came to rest on the underlying ground.

Shortly after the occurrence the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office received a phone call at 11:00 a.m. from Lenoard Tillapaugh reporting the strange incident. Sheriff Harvey Stoddard responded to the call and upon arrival at the site, found that the object was still warm. However, it had cooled enough to be placed in the sheriff's car for subsequent transfer back to the office.

The Sheriff conducted a thorough interview with Mr. Tillapaugh and found that nothing unusual was seen prior to or after the impact. The area weather conditions were cold and clear with excellent visibility on January 12th. Tillapaugh's search of the skies after the impact revealed only clear sky with no aircraft in sight. There was no indication that the object was thrown up from the ground by the tractor, nor that it was part of the tractor.

Objects from the sky crashing into tractors are not everyday occurrences in Carlisle. In fact, such occurrences are very rare anywhere in the world. However puzzling the impact was to the two men, they became more baffled when the object was closely examined. They soon realized that this golf ball sized object did not look like a piece broken from an aircraft or a satellite. Its appearance was that of a ceramic-like material, but it was much heavier than a piece of ceramic that size should be. Judging by weight (approximately one pound) the object should be made of heavy metal.

Sheriff Stoddard made every effort to identify the object using his local resources, but was unable to do so. Aircraft mechanics stated that in their opinion that the object was not from any conventional aircraft used today. New York State Police did not know what the object was, but through prior contact

with Mr. Ernest Jahn, NICAP Regional Investigator, they knew who to contact for additional help.

On the evening of February 9th, Mr. Jahn received a call from Investigator William Goblet, New York State Police, who informed him of the incident. Early the next morning Mr. Jahn contacted Sheriff Stoddard's office and confirmed the report. Ernie Jahn offered NICAP's resources for testing of the material and this offer was gratefully accepted by Sheriff Stoddard.

Even though the object did not appear to be a meteorite, or a piece from a satellite, Mr. Jahn immediately contacted the Moonwatch Division of the Smithsonian Institute in Cambridge, Mass. They utilized their computer system which is designed to give complete data on satellite and meteorite activity throughout the world. The report showed that "nothing

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Sheriff Stoddard with the object

# UFOs AND THE ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA

NICAP's continued series of cases being used by the entertainment media in this issue covers the famous Mantell Case.

## FRANKLAND, KENTUCKY

January 7, 1948

At 1:20 p.m. on January 7, 1948 the tower crew at Godman Field Kentucky sighted a bright disc-shaped object in the clear sky. Since they were unable to identify this object, it was brought to the attention of the Base Operations Officer, the Base Intelligence Officer, and finally the Base Commander was called to observe the object. However, the object remained unidentified. At 2:45 p.m. a flight of Kentucky Air National Guard P-51's flew over the field, and the Flight Commander was radioed with the request to investigate the object. It was still visible and he was to determine the nature of the UFO, if this would be allowed in his mission plan. Thus began Captain Thomas J. Mantell's ill fated encounter with an object in the Kentucky skies.

Captain Mantell was an experienced pilot and a World War II air hero. Flight Commander, Captain Mantell responded immediately to the radio request, stating that he was on a ferry mission, but that he would investigate. The Captain and his two Wingmen started a spiraling climb to 15,000 feet, then continued to climb on a heading of 220° in the approximate direction of the UFO from Godman Field. At an altitude of approximately 15,000 feet the Wingmen turned back, because they were not completely outfitted for flights requiring oxygen. At this point, the Wingmen attempted to contact their Flight Commander, but were unsuccessful. Captain Mantell made a transmission at 15,000 feet at which time he reported, "the object is directly ahead and above and is moving at about one half the speed that I am traveling. It appears to be metallic and of tremendous size. I am still climbing . . . Object is still above and ahead but has increased its speed. I am going to try and close in for a better look." Mantell then declared he was climbing to 20,000 feet before abandoning his chase. That was the last radio message from Captain Mantell. One of the

other pilots, during their flight leader's rapid climb, radioed Captain Mantell and asked him to level off, but no reply was heard.

Shortly thereafter, the wife of a farmer said that she heard a plane roaring low over her house, and went to the window in time to see the plane fall apart in mid-air at about tree top level. The wreckage of the P-51 and Captain Mantell's body were found on the farmland five miles from Frankland, Kentucky.

## AIR FORCE EXPLANATION

It was the Air Force's opinion that Captain Mantell lost consciousness due to oxygen starvation. The aircraft being rimmed, continued to climb until increasing altitude caused a sufficient loss of power for it to level out. The aircraft then began a turn to the left, due to torque, and as the wing dropped, so did the nose, until the aircraft was in a tight diving spiral. The uncontrolled descent resulted in excessive speed causing the aircraft to disintegrate. It is believed that Captain Mantell never regained consciousness. This is borne out by the fact that the canopy lock was still in place after the crash, discounting any attempt to abandon the aircraft. The UFO was in no way directly responsible for this accident. However, it is probably that the excitement caused by the object was responsible for this experienced pilot conducting a high altitude flight without the necessary oxygen equipment.

There were two conceptions as to the identity of the object: Venus, one of the brightest objects in our heavens, or a large balloon used for high altitude experimental flights and known as "Skyhooks." These balloons fly at altitudes in excess of 60,000 feet and reach diameters of approximately 100 feet.

During the period of this sighting the Navy was conducting a program utilizing the "Skyhook" balloons. The Navy program was classified, and therefore these balloon flight schedules were known only to those persons with an absolute "need to know." It was subsequently determined that on the date of the Godman sighting a balloon was released by the Navy from Clinton County Airport in

Ohio. The release time of the balloon was related to a wind plot for January 7, 1948, which revealed that the balloon would have been in the area of Godman at the time of the sighting.

On January 7, 1948, at the sighting time, Venus was also in a directional position which coincided with that of the UFO. The planets angular distance from the sun was rather small, but it was bright enough to be seen in the daytime.

It is quite probable that Venus was the original cause of the sighting, and was seen by some of the witnesses. But the prime culprit is believed to be that of a "Skyhook" balloon released by the Navy. Captain Mantell was probably attempting to close on this balloon which was probably still more than 40,000 feet above him.

It is the Air Force conclusion in this case that Venus was probably the original cause of this sighting. Object was in the area for a long period of time and remained relatively stationary. The object pursued by Captain Mantell is believed to have been a "Skyhook" balloon. This object was probably seen by some of the witnesses who described the object they saw to be "pear shaped and metallic."

## NICAP'S EXPLANATION

The Air Force's explanation in this case is a logical and well researched one. The report most probably accounts for the occurrence and the untimely death of Captain Mantell at the age of only twenty-five.



NICAP has exhausted its supplies of THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY by Frank Salisbury and UFOs INTERPLANETARY VISITORS by Raymond Fowler. Orders can no longer be accepted. If you have not received these books, you may still order from publishers. All orders presently in the NICAP office will be filled.

## MYSTERIOUS OBJECT Baffles SCIENTISTS

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...om anywhere in the world should have been in that particular area on January 12, 1975."

There are numerous laboratories capable of conducting material testing, but all are not interested in the solution of the UFO mystery. One laboratory that is both interested and capable is Northwestern University, where D. J. Allen Hynek is located. He was contacted by NICAP, and in a spirit of cooperation that is so often lacking in the UFO field, he agreed that it would be best to have initial testing done at Northwestern. Sheriff Stoddard was given shipping instructions by Mr. Jahn, and the object was soon on its way to being subjected to initial testing.

As of this date, preliminary testing has been completed by Drs. Wagner and Olson of Northwestern University. The analysis does not indicate that the object is a meteorite. It contains iron, has a rust coloration, and is magnetic. Clay was found to have been imbedded in the devices. Since the earth in the field where the object hit consists primarily of clay, it is assumed that the clay deposits came from the field. It has also been determined that the object experienced extreme thermal shock.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

**Timmins, Ontario—January 19, 1975.** Four residents reported sighting a UFO while ice-fishing on Scorch Lake. The witnesses stated that they saw a bright object in the sky about three times the size of a star. It was traveling from west to east. The observation lasted approximately one minute and a half.

A fifth witness reported seeing an object at approximately the same time and near the same location. He stated that the object traveled in a perfectly straight line and "simply vanished in mid air."

**Silver Spring, Md.—January 25, 1975.** Brilliant lights outside the window of Mrs. Anna Bourke's home caught her attention while watching television with her husband. She ran to the window and at first glance thought a plane was going to crash. There was no sound emitting from the enormous object. It dropped below the roof of the house across the street, while Mr. and Mrs. Bourke watched in horror expecting to see a tremendous explosion when it crashed. The object did nothing . . . the UFO simply vanished.

**Tacoma, Washington—January 5, 1975.** Brilliant blue lights were seen flashing and moving toward Mt. Rainier. The local authorities could not explain them. The sightings coincided with a "blackout" of citizen-band radio transmissions throughout the Tacoma area.

The phenomenon was described by the witnesses as "a rather obscure shape, with a brilliant bluish light around it."

# ANIMAL MUTILATION REPORTS CONTINUE

**Meeker County, Minnesota**  
**November 28, 1974**

Early in the morning the county sheriff's office received a call from a county resident reporting that one of his pigs (a 200 pound red and white Gilt) was dead. The circumstances were unusual enough, so that he felt the sheriff's office should investigate this strange occurrence. Officers Rogers and Hoeschen arrived on the scene to obtain information from the resident. The officers were told that on the night of November 28 the security light in the farmers yard went out at approximately 11:30 PM. At first it was thought that the light had burned out, but about fifteen minutes later the light came back on. The resident was not too concerned with this, and it wasn't until

the next morning as the farmer was going about his chores, that he found one of his pigs lying dead in the middle of his barn. The animal was lying on its left side with its left ear cut completely off. A portion of the tongue was cut off and removed.

The animal was taken out into the barnyard by the owner. By the time that the sheriff was notified, (five days later) the animals body was frozen by the sub zero temperatures, and had been further mutilated by dogs that had eaten parts of the animal. It was noted that there was no blood around the animal nor was there blood in the animal's body.

As with other animal mutilations in the country, there was no trace of how this animal died nor were there any unusual traces found at the scene.

## NICAP COMMENTS:

During the last month, six different reports from six different areas of the country have been received concerning animal mutilations. Careful investigations have not revealed any evidence that could connect these slayings with UFOs. As is common in this type of report, some newspaper accounts have presented the stories in a somewhat sensational fashion. This is unfortunate because publicity seekers tend to capitalize and may very well be mutilating valuable farm animals to create more publicity. Another possible explanation, at least on the original occurrence, is that the mutilation was conducted by members of occult groups or by student pranksters.

## FEEDBACK / Readers write

Editor, UFO Investigator:

This is in reply to the letter from J.T. Ryan, Jr., to Helen Walsh (Oct. Investig), and to an article in the NICAP Quarterly booklet. I offer an opinionative explanation for the questions or problems presented therein.

If you have ever watched a mercury vapor (gaseous) electron tube, you would recall the change in color of the gas as power or current through the tube was varied. Since some UFO's are believed to be semi-translucent, we may be seeing power surges within their generation system. Translucency may also be a reason for poor daytime visibility from the ground. Opaque UFO's have many port-holes through which the light may be seen.

The heat during take-off may be akin to a gas furnace with jets wide open, for maximum energization of the electromagnetic system, and not necessarily for propulsion, so no deep scars would be left behind on the ground. (I recall one Air Force UFO Investigator who said no object could have taken off from a prescribed highway, simply because the pavement was not scarred—as on a launch pad.)

A high speed object in our atmosphere would naturally become aflame from air friction, as meteorites do, and evidenced as windburn on your face during wintry blasts. But if this object were able to burn or cancel the air molecules on either side of the UFO (as a lightning bolt does), or via an electric ozone field, the object would now instantly be sucked into this vacuum, without any friction, and changing directions would be just as swift as the control mechanism for air consumption.

If humanoids are aboard the objects that change direction rapidly, to eliminate flattening the body against a bulkhead would require an antigravity source which acted upon the entire vehicle mass (including internal organs of occupants),

so that these occupants would not tend to continue movement in one direction, as the vehicle itself suddenly changed directions.

We would be more accurate in saying that UFO's operate via a "repulsion" system, as like poles of a magnet react, rather than a "propulsion" system, familiar to us. Without knowing how the force that we call "gravity" keeps us from flying off of this spinning globe, we may have much difficulty inventing a counter-motive force.

Powerful electromagnetic systems are employed on most UFO's, since they are able to cancel the current flow thru automobile coils and wiring, and even on high power lines (which causes relays to drop out at the power control centers). If a new power source is put on such a line while the UFO is still in position, it too will drop out.

Presently, we are unable to create such continuous high power in a small space, as also evidenced by the intense beam of light reported shining from some of these UFO's. Our nearest approach to this is a garbage can size for a nuclear power plant, which can only be used in the intense cold of outer space (on satellites), since the cooling system for this unit on the ground is as large as a house, or larger.

Proper education of the general public along these lines is a prerequisite for good UFO reports. Creative thinking and educated ideas will always help our engineers and scientists, but the public must be oriented toward knowing HOW to observe a phenomena, and HOW to log a reliable account of what he saw and heard, so our scientists can have good data from which to work. The old adage of STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN is very true in this respect, instead of panic, and attempts to outrace a flying object.

In respect to critics of the von Daniken books, I respectfully suggest that such critics come up with good logical explanations for the odd findings contributed to us by researchers like von Daniken, before they dispute an author's data, and how such odd evidence came into being. Every author (and critic) has a right to his opinion, but we should not be too hasty to shoot down someone's

theories until we can come up with a more valid explanation, or facts, to disprove such theories.

We should really thank researchers, all fields, for their time consuming efforts and expense, in order to find and catalog interesting items which will cause any normal inquisitive person to think (constructively) of the world around him, and the many unexplained things he witnesses daily, which we so easily label as "phenomena".

Steven J. Takacs  
NICAP Investigator

## UFO SIGHTED BY TWO BACK-PACKERS

On Sept. 28, 1974, on a clear day deep in the Oregon woods approximately fifty miles east of Eugene, two back packers came to a clearing which affords an excellent view of the area.

It was approximately 12:00 noon when Dough Steinmetz and Robert Daigneault became aware that a feeling of "a presence" was surrounding them. It caused the men to look skyward. The backpackers described this eerie feeling "as if something or someone was observing us or attempting to get our attention." Suddenly, the men noticed in the sky a bright, silver white light about 60° above the horizon to the southeast. It was not glaring, but seemed to be emitting its own light. They could see a clear outline of a disc shaped object. The object was reported to have been jumbo-jet size or perhaps larger. The forward motion of the craft was in an up and down pattern as though it were smoothly riding crests of waves. The motion of the craft was described as very rapid. The wave-like motion seemed to cease, and its forward journey continued in a more or less straight line. The general direction of the craft was toward the south beginning with 1½ miles of their overhead point, and then proceeded approximately eight to fourteen miles maintaining its general altitude. The object seemed to make an abrupt lateral turn and disappeared into an "invisible 'pocket' of clear blue sky." The entire observation lasted approximately thirty seconds.