

# UFO INVESTIGATOR



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## NICAP UNCOVERS PHOTOS FROM 1973 WAVE

by  
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### RECENT PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF UFOs

#### ALSO, A SUGGESTION ABOUT THEIR MEANS OF LOCOMOTION

*The authors of the following article made their observations during November and December of 1973. Until recently contacted by NICAP, they did not know where to send their evidence for evaluation. Preliminary analysis of the photographs is complete and the photos do support their observations.*

Mr. Whetsel is a retired analytical and surface chemist who was formerly employed by the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Mr. Clough is an expert photographer and is an employee of AEC.

During the last two weeks of December, 1973, the writers learned that unfamiliar orange-colored lights were being sighted in the night sky around Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the location of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other nuclear installations. Because some of the sightings had been reported by reliable observers, the writers became interested in observing the lights and trying to associate them with their sources; some have been definitely related to identifiable flying objects and some with unidentifiable ones, commonly called UFOs.

Both writers are familiar with aircraft and aircraft lights, and both soon familiarized themselves with the approach patterns of airliners using the large airport near Knoxville, not far from Oak Ridge. One of the writers (Whetsel) is rather familiar with planes since one of his hobbies is the reconstruction of old planes, a spare-time activity shared with his son, who is a pilot and aircraft

mechanic. The other writer (Clough) is an expert photographer whose trained eye for judging color, distance, form, and velocity is quite useful in helping distinguish between what is identifiable and what is not.

Their general plan was to obtain presumptive evidence by first using the unaided eye and 7-power binoculars. If there were sufficient presumptive evidence, the plan was to use this information to determine the settings to be used on Clough's high-quality movie camera, which is equipped with a telescopic lens. These settings would include the number of f-stops that might have to be used. Then, if the reputed UFO continued to follow the same path through the night sky, all would be in readiness, and the presumptive evidence could then be confirmed photographically.

It was felt that two surveyors skilled in triangulation would also be helpful; but there was the problem of finding the surveyors and furnishing them with a stopwatch and three-mile-range walkie-talkies in addition to their own equipment. Thus, triangulation was ruled out as an aid in determining such important factors as altitude, distance, and velocity. However, a good deal of useful information can be extracted from movie-camera evidence, as will be shown.

On the first night out at about nine o'clock, an orange splotch of light appeared in the sky, about 45 degrees above the horizon, headed in the northeast-to-southwest direction at an altitude of about 5000 feet. It may have been two miles away. One could not, with the unaided eye, assign a shape to it, but the 7-power binoculars revealed that one could declare that the light and the object

that produced it was bullet shaped. Sparks seemed to be showering off the nose. The velocity was estimated to be about 500 miles an hour (the surveyors with their stopwatch could have helped here). At that velocity, in air as dense as it is at the 5000-foot level, one might expect the generation of enough friction-derived heat to melt the surface of a low-melting-point metal or alloy and thus create a shower of sparks. Still, the eye can deceive, and the writers are prepared to dismiss the sparks as mere illusion. Besides, since the color was well into the orange range, the average temperature would have had to be in the span of 1400 to 1600 degrees Fahrenheit, which would rule out thermal radiation from the object and reinforce the view that orange light, nearly reddish-orange, was seen. There was little doubt, however, that the object was unlike anything else the writers had ever seen in the night sky. They had been caught by surprise, so the subject of the camera, the f-stops, the telephoto lens, and the stopwatch received prompt attention. On the first night out, the circumstantial evidence was fairly convincing.

Properly equipped, the writers were prepared to obtain cinematographic evidence (black and white film) that might help identify the object associated with the orange light. On two successive nights, however, a great deal of experience was gained in sighting and identifying aircraft lights, but none was obtained with unidentifiable flying objects because none appeared. It must be recorded that the planes could be seen but not heard, although the writers listened closely. Sounds can be important because some

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UFO sighters have reported hearing a whirring noise. A well-staffed UFO party should also include an acoustics expert well-armed with acoustical paraphernalia.

The first UFO to be photographed by the writers appeared in the northeastern or north-northeastern sky and followed the same path toward the southwest or south-southwest that the first one did. When the object got near enough to be photographed, the camera was started and used until the phenomenon passed from range. It was in sight, however, for about 35 seconds, as were several of the others. It was about 45 degrees above the horizon while being photographed and was approximately 3 miles away moving at an estimated speed of 500 miles an hour. Much the same can be said for the other seven, although altitudes and distances were not always the same. Some seemed to be at the 7000-to-8000-foot level, and some may have been five or six miles distant. All appeared within the same time span at night, between 8:45 and 9:15.

How good was the estimate of distance? While the angle above the horizon was judged rather well, this data is of less importance than the estimate of distance of the UFO from the camera. Also, the approximated velocity is of little importance when one considers that objects can hover and streak out of sight very quickly. The critical value for the writers is distance, and it seems to have been reasonably well estimated. Now, if one knows the focal length of the lens and the size of the image on the developed film, and if one has reasonably estimated the distance from the object, then one can determine fairly well the diameter of the object. This computation showed it to be 75 feet at the center line of the base of the UFO. If the distance had been set at 6 miles, for example, the diameter would be 150 feet, well within reason. This refers to the first sighting photographed.

Inspection of Figure 1, which is an enlargement (100 times) of frame 3, indicates that one should use the word "diameter" carefully because it connotes something circular. A two-dimensional picture also permits one to assume that the object is not circular but bullet-shaped, let us say. If the object is bullet-shaped, then one would have to say that it is 75 feet long at the base, or 150 feet long at the base, depending on

distance from the camera.

While photography has some inherent drawbacks, such as the one noted in the paragraph above, it also has a remarkably useful characteristic. Consider that the unaided eye can see only a blob of light, orange-colored light in this instance. A formless blob of light could easily be disembodied light such as seen in ball-lightning or swamp fire. A camera can, when properly focused, disclose or even sharply delineate the outline. When one finds outline on the developed film, it is permissible to assert that a real object produced the outline. Hence it is reasonable to refer to the enlarged photographs shown in Figures 1 and 2 as photos of an unidentified flying object. That is to say, these are not photos of an unidentified, disembodied source of orange-colored light.

The sequence of photographs in Figure 2 shows clearly the blinking light that some have seen and reported with reference to UFOs. Notice that only the light on the top part of this particular UFO varies in intensity. The blinking of the upper portion of the UFO (and to date, it remains an unidentified flying object) does not appear to be perfectly rhythmical. Inspection of Figure 2 reveals this rather clearly, but there can be no doubt that the bottom portion of the object does not alter in the intensity of light given off. Of course, only nine frames from this first sighting have been enlarged, and one cannot say that a better pattern will not emerge when the remainder of the sequence is enlarged and spread out on a table. The other enlargements will not be made for a while because the writers are still examining the film microscopically.

In a real sense, this article is a preliminary report. Photo-microscopic examination of a few frames from another sighting indicates an object which is clearly saucer- or bowl-shaped (see Figure 3). Detailed microscopy is slow work, and the writers do not yet know much about the pictures obtained in the entire 100 feet of film, assuming that something was caught on every frame. After the footage has been inspected, representative frames will be enlarged at least 25 times, with a few to be enlarged 100 times. Notice that the latter enlargement exposes the graininess of the film, as can be clearly seen in Figure 1.

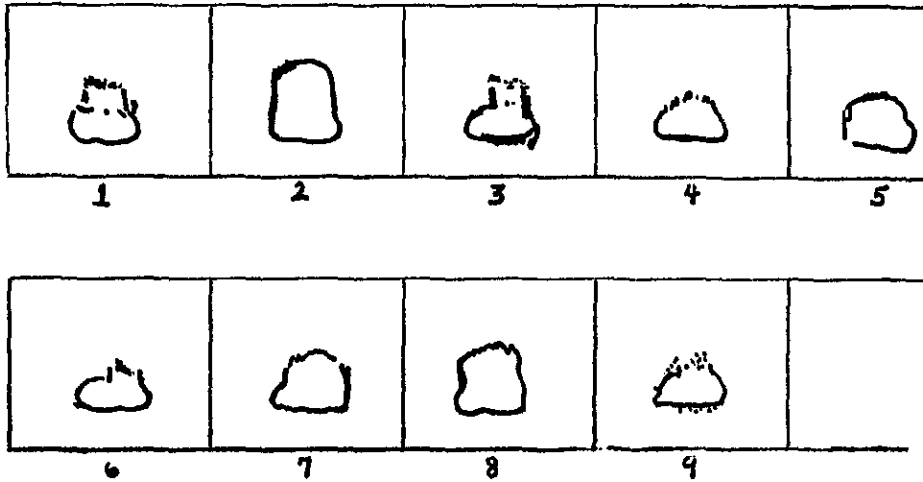
To summarize, it can be definitely concluded that the top part of one kind of UFO photographed blinks and that the frequency ranges from 3 to 4 twenty-fourths of a second. Based on the photographs shown in Figures 1 and 2, and in the sketch shown in Figure 3, these are flying objects, not disembodied lights. Also, they are so far unidentified, therefore they qualify as bona fide UFOs. Tentatively, and only tentatively, it can be concluded that the greatest diameter of the object shown in Figures 1 and 2 is somewhere between 75 and 150 feet, based on two reasonable estimates of distance between the camera and the object. Tentatively, the diameter of the object sketched in Figure 3 is somewhere between 30 and 60 feet, depending on whether one sets its distance from the camera at 3 miles or 6. Also tentatively, it appears that possibly two different kinds of objects were photographed. It is reasonably safe to say that the orange or reddish-orange color is not thermal radiation but light. Finally, unless someone can identify the objects, they must remain as authentic UFOs. The writers believe that these photographs should make good reference points for comparison with identifiable objects. Readers are cordially invited to contribute their thoughts on such identification.

As the title of this article indicates, the authors' theories on UFO propulsion will be published as a conclusion in the July issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

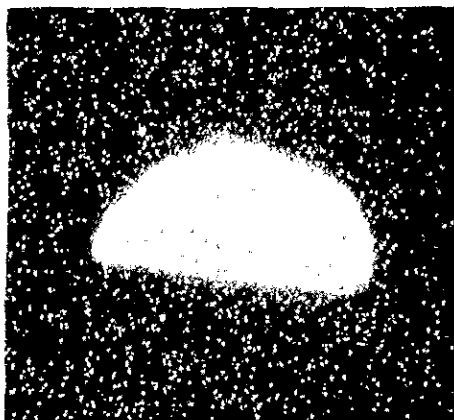


Figure 1

An enlargement (100x) of a 16mm motion picture film frame showing emission of light from the top of the UFO.



**Figure 2**  
Artist's conception of nine consecutive 16mm motion picture frames showing flares of light in sequence.



**Figure 3**  
An enlargement (100x) of the UFO as recorded on 16mm motion picture film.

**CARLISLE OBJECT STILL UNIDENTIFIED**

The mysterious object (March 1975, *UFO INVESTIGATOR's* lead story) remains unidentified. This object found in Carlisle, N.Y., on January 12, 1975, has undergone extensive testing by leading scientists and authorities.

NASA Goddard was contacted by NICAP to determine if the object could possibly have been a piece from the booster of Sky Lab III, which made its reentry on January 11, 1975. It was NASA's opinion that in all probability there is no connection between the object and any reentry of man-made space material at the particular time and date of the occurrence.

Qualitative spectrochemical analysis of both the interior and exterior of the object have been completed and are as follows:

**INTERIOR SAMPLE**

Iron is the major constituent with other elements being present in the following ratios:

Lead & Silicon	.5 to 5%
Manganese	.1 to 1%
Copper	.03 to .3%
Aluminum & Sodium	.01 to .1%
Nickel, Chromium, and Molybdenum, Titanium	.005 to .05%
Magnesium, Boron, Tin, Vanadium, and Cobalt	.001 to .01%
Barium	.0003 to .003%

**OUTSIDE SAMPLE**

(seems to be primarily a clay-like coating) Iron and lead are the major constituents being present in almost equal amounts with the following elements being present in the following ratios:

Silicon	.3 to 3%
Manganese and Zinc	.05 to .5%
Copper	.03 to .3%
Sodium	.02 to .2%
Aluminum and Tin	.005 to .05%
Nickel, Chromium, and Molybdenum	.003 to .03%
Titanium	.002 to .02%
Boron	.001 to .01%
Bismuth and Barium	.0005 to .005%
Magnesium, Vanadium, and Cobalt	.0003 to .003%

**FEEDBACK / Readers write**

Dear Editor:

The most amazing, fascinating and daring movie ever made about the Air Force and a UFO cover-up, called "THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FLIGHT 412", was shown on T.V. (now for the second time). Was this only a movie? And why did the Air Force allow this type of controversial film that seems to be so real and provoking to the Air Force concerning a UFO cover-up? Or, has the Air Force seen this film?

Editor's Response

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FLIGHT 412 has fictional treatment but was based fairly soundly on composites of cases. The Air Force's handling of the case was probably dramatized for viewer interest, but certainly the Air Force has historically discouraged open reporting on UFOs.

Upon completion of the spectrochemical analysis, attempts were made to determine whether the elements were in the form of an alloy (man-made) or whether they were contained as compounds in a naturally occurring state. It would seem that the object is not an alloy since physical destruction results are not characteristic of alloys and an exhaustive search of metallurgical literature failed to reveal an iron alloy having these components. The object is undergoing chemical testing at the University of Maryland to determine if the elements are in a pure state (as would be found in alloys) or compounded (as would be found in naturally occurring material).

Even upon completion of all testing the exact nature of the object may be difficult to determine. The completed testing has revealed that the object suffered extreme thermal shock, but that it is unlike any meteorite ever discovered. If it is an alloy, it is unlike known alloys. If it is a naturally occurring rock material, it is difficult to understand how it entered an area in Carlisle, New York, and retained enough heat to melt through 2½ inches of ice and remained warm to the touch of additional witnesses who arrived ten minutes after impact.

## INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY

**Mexico City, Mexico—May 3, 1975**—A Mexican pilot reported to aviation authorities that three UFOs "took over control" of his small plane as the objects flew beside the aircraft. The pilot stated that he was flying from Guerrero to Mexico City when he suddenly realized that he had no control over his craft, and that all of the instruments had apparently been "magnetized." The pilot became extremely frightened and immediately radioed the Mexico City control tower for assistance. The pilot realized that he would have to go over a mountainous area and without his instruments, he would be unable to continue his flight safely. As a result, the airport suspended their activities for over an hour to assist the pilot in his hour of need.

NICAP received a report corroborating the fact that the Mexico City Airport closed down to all other traffic. The person filing the report was a passenger on a plane whose destination was Mexico City. The passenger's time of arrival was delayed approximately one and one half hours. Upon his arrival, aviation officials stated that there were some unusual circumstances involving another aircraft which was the explanation for the passenger's delayed landing.

**Japan — October 23, 1974**—A hat-shaped object, flying at an altitude of about 400 meters, was photographed by a high school student on three different occasions. The witness, Kazuhiko Fujimatsu, told his teacher he had first seen the UFO about 6:30 am, when he woke up to open the window in his room. He spotted the object and ran for his camera. He estimated the object to be 40 meters in diameter and about 5 meters in depth.

**England — November 30, 1974**—A mystery golden cigar-shaped UFO was spotted by at least three persons as it burned its way through the sky. It was traveling at a great speed over Haslingden towards Holcombe. No sign of any wings were visible and the object left no smoke trail.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

**Washington, D.C.—May 27, 1975**—A silvery-white object sighted hovering downtown near the Washington Monument prompted the NICAP phone lines to ring most of the day. All of the witnesses were obviously reporting the same occurrence. Witnesses are being contacted by NICAP investigators at present, and their findings will be reported at a later date.

**Presque Isle, Maine—April 1, 1975**—Two objects were observed for almost two hours by multiple witnesses. The description of the objects was stated to be large brilliant lights, like those of a search light. When observed through 7x35 binoculars the witnesses thought they could see a dark mass. The objects were motionless at times and the light brightness changed periodically, as well as the size. The objects passed behind high tension wires during the sighting.

**Birmingham, Alabama—February 2, 1975**—Mr. David Chenery reported to NICAP that he observed three objects during a period of four and one half minutes. The witness stated that the objects were as bright as stars and the size of a nickel held at arm's length. They appeared to be self-luminous and seemed to travel with direction, hovering at times. The two objects had flashing red lights but no sound was heard. When the UFOs returned to their original position, they simply vanished from sight.



## SPECIAL OFFER

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by: John Wallace Spencer

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