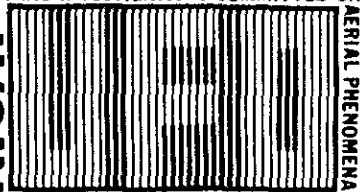


# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON

NICAP



AERIAL PHENOMENA

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## AIR FORCE COVER-UP CONTINUES

In 1969, the U.S. Air Force stopped its official investigations of UFO's, thus ending 22 years of government activity in the field. Air Force "research" on UFO's has always been a subject of controversy. The first official Air Force investigating group started in 1948 and was given the code name "Project Sign". The investigations carried out by this group were fairly good, but were hampered by an inexperienced staff. Within the year, a report was issued stating that the evaluating of UFO reports was a necessary activity for military intelligence agencies, but that only a minimum effort be expended to collect and evaluate data.

After the issuance of the Project Sign report, the Air Force Director of Research and Development ordered that Project Sign's name be changed to Project Grudge. The name change was not the only difference in the projects. Sign had sought the origin of a unique phenomenon. Grudge tended to deny the reality of the phenomenon, shifted investigative efforts from the phenomenon to the people who reported it, and carried out an extensive public relations campaign to convince the public that UFO's did not exist. Even though the Grudge staff, working primarily with consultant, Dr. Allen Hynek, tried to explain all sightings, 23% remained unidentified. These were explained away as having psychological origins. Project Grudge was announced as being terminated in an Air Force press release on December 27, 1949.

There was one similarity between Projects Sign and Grudge. Both maintained a security classification and their

UFO files were closed to the public. These files remained closed even though the Air Force was "no longer interested" in UFO's.

On September 10, 1951, a dramatic sighting occurred which stimulated the Air Force into revitalizing the dormant Project Grudge. A T-33 pilot and his Air Force Major passenger saw a UFO over the Fort Monmouth, New Jersey area. The object was about 30 feet in diameter, a silver non-reflecting color, and flat. It hovered below the speeding plane until the pilot dived in an attempt to intercept it. The UFO made a 120° turn and sped out to sea. At the same time, radar operators at Fort Monmouth picked up a fast moving (400-700 mph) object above the fort. The UFO moved so erratically and rapidly that radar was unable to continue tracking it. The next day, Fort Monmouth radar again picked up objects showing the same patterns of speed and maneuverability.

New importance and support was given to the dormant project and again a new code name was assigned. Project Grudge became the now famous, Project Blue Book. From late 1951 until the Robertson Panel met on January 17, 1953, Project Blue Book received strong official support and conducted good research, and continued the policy of placing a security classification on all UFO reports.

The Robertson Panel was established jointly by the CIA and the Air Force. Its conclusions were not unanimous by any means, but can be summarized as follows. One, UFOs represent no direct threat to national security. Two, the Air Force's concern was probably

caused by public pressure. Three, having a military interest in UFO's might encourage the public to believe that UFO's were a threat. The Panel then outlined a program designed to "educate" the public by training them to identify known objects and to debunk UFOs by a mass media campaign concentrating on explanations of UFO reports. The Panel and the Air Force presumably thought UFOs would go away if this policy was followed. During all of Project Blue Book's remaining years this debunking policy was followed, security classification was maintained, very little worthwhile research was done, and UFOs did not go away.

In October 1966, the Air Force got rid of the UFO problem for awhile by starting a contract (directed by Edward Condon, Ph.D.) with the University of Colorado. The avowed purpose of this contract was to conduct research on UFOs and to reach conclusions concerning further Air Force "research". The "Condon Report" and work done under the contract have been sharply criticized by many. However, even though about 30% of the cases studied were unexplained, the Air Force accepted the conclusion that no further research was needed and closed Project Blue Book on December 17, 1969, thereby stopping official government research on UFOs. UFOs still did not go away.

Even though no official Air Force project is known to exist, it is very difficult for the Air Force to ignore UFOs. If the Air Force won't go to the UFOs, they come to the Air Force.

During a two week period in November 1975, military personnel at such di-

## AMATEUR ASTRONOMER SIGHTS UFO

verse Air Force bases as Wurtsmith, Michigan; Loring, Maine; Malmstrom, MI; and Minot, North Dakota, sighted UFOs.

At Malmstrom AFB, radar and visual sightings were made of a slow moving object flying at about 12,000 feet. F-106 jets were scrambled but were unable to make contact. Their search was hampered by the darkness and the low altitude (about 200 feet) that the UFO had moved to. Base personnel reported that as the jet interceptors approached the UFO, its lights went out only to come on again after the jets passed. The F-106's returned to base after about 1 hour of fruitless searching. Ground personnel reported that the UFO then climbed at a very high rate of speed until they lost sight of it in the background of stars.

The UFO seen at Minot AFB made presence even more clearly known. The base was bugged by a bright object about the size of a car going overhead at a height of about 1500 feet. Any Air Force attempt to explain this UFO as an airplane flying over their space will be severely hampered by the fact that the UFO's passage was completely soundless.

The U.S. Air Force is not the only government branch being visited by these crafts that officially don't exist. The Canadian government has similar problems. On the morning of November 11, 1975 the Canadian forces at Falconbridge Ontario, Canada had a visitor. Radar picked up the UFO about 30 miles south of the base at an altitude that varied up to an excess of 70,000 feet. Unaided visual observations by the base commander and site personnel confirmed that an object resembling a very bright star could be seen in the area pinpointed by radar. When binoculars were used, the UFO was observed as a sphere having a diameter of about 100 feet. Craters around the outside of the sphere were also observed.

Every attempt to identify these crafts were made by the governments involved, but to this date no other explanation than "U.F.O." can be made. Therefore, in keeping with the long standing government policy, no official recognition of these visits will be made.

Early in the evening of November 29, 1976 Civil Engineer, Edward Errsa, was leaving his Falls Church, Va., home to take his daughter to work. It was slightly before 6:00 P.M., when the pair walked out their front door and Mr. Errsa looked up into the night sky. During the prior week Errsa and his daughter had been observing the Andromeda galaxy through their astronomical telescope, and he was wondering if he could see the fuzzy patch of a galaxy with his naked eye. Instead of seeing Andromeda, Mr. Errsa observed a UFO.

The object was almost directly overhead and at first seemed to be motionless. The UFO's shape was difficult to determine, but three red lights located in a triangular shape with a green light in the center could be clearly seen. Within a few minutes the object started moving slowly toward the southwest.

Mr. Errsa left his daughter in the yard to watch the object, while he went inside to get binoculars (10 x 50 mm). He returned within 2 to 3 minutes and even with the binoculars could not discern the shape of the object.

As the object continued to move, it changed to a self luminous orange color and became much brighter. So much so that it was the most dominating object in the sky. It was brighter than the planet Venus which could be clearly seen to the left of the UFO. Mr. Errsa felt that the object was climbing to a higher altitude as it left the area. It also seemed to be moving with a slight up and down motion. Its shape changed from the triangular pattern to spherical when the color change occurred.

The Errsa home is located between two major airports (Washington National and Dulles), and planes are usually in the air. The witnesses had the opportunity to compare the unknown

object with numerous jet aircraft, while it was in view, and there was no similarity. Since the size of the object was not known, its altitude was difficult to estimate. If its size was approximately that of a 747 jet, Mr. Errsa would estimate the altitude to have been in excess of 40,000 feet. As an amateur astronomer and a trained observer, Mr. Edward Errsa has spent many evenings looking into the night sky. He is familiar with celestial bodies, air craft, balloons and meteors, but until the evening of November 29, he had never seen anything he could not identify. He had read of people seeing UFOs and kept an open mind on the subject. His reaction to the events that night may best be summed up by his daughter's words as she watched the UFO . . . "that's really weird." Mr. Errsa had always said that until he saw a UFO himself he would have doubts. He doesn't know what he saw and his doubts have lessened. NICAP's investigation has not uncovered a conventional explanation.

## MYSTERY OF THE MELTING POND

As this newsletter goes to press a thorough investigation is being conducted on a most mystifying event which took place January 10, 1977 in Wakefield, New Hampshire.

Many variations of the event have been publicized. The following is the account as we now have it.

Mr. William McCarthy, the owner of a farm in a small New England town, noticed that the center of his pond was beginning to melt. This would not seem at all unusual if the temperature had not been at 85°F (and less) for many days. His horses had been walking on the pond the day before. Mr. McCarthy telephoned his good friend, Mr. Palmer, who observed the

unusual melting and thought it to be so strange, that he reported it to the local authorities.

McCarthy went to look at the pond later the same evening using a flash light to see by, and observed a 3 foot hole. He further stated that he could see a dark square object at the bottom of the pond. The pond's depth is only 3 feet.

Soon the "quiet living" that Mr. McCarthy enjoys was disrupted by the intrusion of newspaper reporters, local and state police, fish and game preserve authorities, and a National Guard unit. The National Guard proceeded to cut a 6 foot hole in the pond and drained it three inches. Samples of the sediment from the bottom of the pond were shoveled out and taken to the Public Health Department.

The first public announcement from the area National Guard was that there was an abnormally high radioactive reading and for all observers to stay away from the area. McCarthy was told not to allow his horses to drink from the pond. The second day, the National Guard stated that no unusual radioactivity was present. The Governor of New Hampshire made a public statement that there was never anything abnormal regarding the whole episode.

If this was the case we must ask a few questions . . . . .

1. Why were the police called?
2. Why did the police contact the National Guard?
3. Why were alarming type statements made?
4. Why were all of the statements retracted, with the conclusion being nothing out of the ordinary occurred?

We are left with many unanswered questions, and a witness that is quite disturbed that "cover-up" statements were made concerning the mystery of the melting pond.

Watch for a more detailed report in next month's UFO INVESTIGATOR. At present, our regional investigator and staff are working on this case to reveal accurately what took place on the cold winter night of January 10 in Wakefield, New Hampshire.

## NEW YORK STATE SIGHTINGS MYSTIFY OBSERVERS

The Hudson Valley area of New York state was the scene of numerous UFO reports during the late summer and early fall of 1976. Stony Point, N.Y., had nine confirmed UFO sightings attested to by police officers. Officer Bill Patrick was on the scene for five of these sightings. He stated that each object at first appeared to be a star, but upon looking through a telescope, he could see red and green rotating lights. During a sighting on August 25, 1976 there were twenty-four witnesses viewing the object when officer Patrick arrived.

During the first week of September residents of Rockland and Putnum counties, N.Y., observed UFO's in the night sky. One of the witnesses, Warren Berbit, a Suffern, New York attorney, described the objects as being "shaped like two enormous upside down soup bowls." The rays of the setting sun were reflecting from the silvery bodies of the UFO. One remained motionless while the other moved slowly from a vertical position to one parallel to the horizon. In addition to his law degree, Mr. Berbit holds two engineering degrees and is experienced in aviation. He saw the objects as he was pulling off a major highway. He stated, "I definitely looked at them, and I saw that it was not a natural phenomenon or anything I could explain."

About this same time residents living across the Hudson River in the towns of Mahopac and Carmel were also reporting UFOs. Police officer Ken Stern of Carmel received a call from a 12 year old boy reporting a UFO over his house. Officer Stern proceeded to the house with a great deal of skepticism about the report. His attitude changed when he got out of his patrol car and saw a round object spinning in the distance. Stern took out his binoculars

and viewed the object which could now be seen to be a solid object with red, green and white lights around it. He estimated it to be 60 to 70 miles away from the house.

In nearby Newburg, New York, Mr. Tony Martino and his cousin (also named, Tony Martino) were driving home on the clear evening of November 10, 1976. At about 7:30 pm a very bright object near the horizon caught their eye. The men pulled their car off the road and watched the object move toward the east and then turn toward the south before disappearing from view behind a mountain.

The Martinos described the UFO as a high dome shape object, "almost like a ball with the bottom 1/3 to 1/2 cut off." The top of the object was clearly defined, but the bottom was indistinct and fuzzy. From the bottom of the UFO a shaft of pinkish-yellow light was seen directed toward the ground. The UFO moved beyond a radio tower on Marlboro Mountain before it seemed to descend from sight.

NICAP's regional investigator, Dennis Piaquadio was in the unique position of being acquainted with the Martinos prior to their sighting. He reports that both men are well qualified witnesses and are highly respected. Mr Piaquadio has checked all available sources for data and can find no explanation for the sighting.

Two corroborating witnesses, a 16 year old girl and her mother, wish to remain anonymous.



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# POLICE CHIEF HOAXES UFO

During the fall of 1973, one of the largest UFO "flaps" on record occurred in the United States. During a two and one half month period (the last week of August through the first week in November) NICAP received over 800 reports of UFO's. During the comparable period in 1974, NICAP received approximately 90 reports. Most of the reports have been analyzed and classified. A few are still being reviewed and investigations are continuing.

The *UFO INVESTIGATOR* of October 1974 carried an article on page 1 entitled, "Police Chiefs Nightmare: Real or Contrived" in which Falkville, Alabama police chief, Jeff Greenhaw's story was analyzed. On October 17, 1973 he reported that: Everything was proceeding routinely that particular evening until Greenhaw received a phone call from an unidentified woman who claimed a UFO had just landed near her home. The chief sped to the area, which was on the outskirts of town, and edged down a narrow gravel road. Suddenly his headlights shone on a six foot silver-suited subject which was standing in the middle of the road. The law officer got out of the car and spoke to the human-like object and simultaneously began snapping pictures. The object took a step toward Greenhaw, who flipped on the light atop the police car. The "creature" suddenly turned and dashed down the road, and the Chief began pursuit in his auto. Greenhaw, who later reported that he could not catch his suspect at a speed of twenty miles per hour, had the misfortune of getting caught in loose gravel and lost his traction. The "silver being" disappeared into the night, leaving its only witness shaken by a frightening experience.

NICAP investigator, Marion Webb, started working on this well publicized case almost immediately. Rumors were

rampant that a hoax was a possibility and that a silver firefighting uniform was used in the production of the photograph of the "occupant". The October 1974 *"UFO INVESTIGATOR"* carried the photo taken by Greenhaw along with an almost identical photo which was hoaxed by Mr. Webb wearing a silver firefighting uniform. At that time, NICAP believed that Greenhaw was the victim of hoaxers.

Throughout the intervening months, Mr. Webb continued working on the case. He was ably assisted in photographic analysis by Mr. William Spaulding and Mr. Fred Adrian of Ground Saucer Watch. The Greenhaw "occupant" photo was subjected to computer aided evaluations including edge enhancement, color contouring, pixel distortion analysis, and digitizing. The conclusion of the photographic analyzers was that the Greenhaw photos should not be considered strong evidence of extraterrestrial entity. At best, they represent a humorous attempt at hoaxing a space creature. The analysis revealed that the garment of the alleged creature is a hot suit, manufactured from fire retardant materials, then coated with aluminum covering. The flash attachment utilized during the exposure reflected brilliantly and masked obvious details of manufacture. The analysis also revealed that patches of aluminum foil had been positioned on the suit, possibly to mask manufacturing signs. All anatomical features depicted within the photo are considered normal (human).

Mr. Webb has conducted numerous interviews with individuals living in Falkville and with Greenhaw's acquaintances and co-workers. He has found that all evidence strongly indicates that Jeff Greenhaw and a young friend did in fact carry out a spaceman hoax on the night of October 17, 1973.



Strikingly similar photograph to the one taken by Chief Greenhaw.



Similar disguise photograph taken under better lighting conditions.