

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



The question isn't, "Do we have false memories?" It is "How false are our memories?"

Dr. Julia Shaw (NOVA: Memory hackers)

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I remember.....

Cover: The rising gibbous moon appears red and distorted in this image. The setting moon can also show the same effects. This issue's 701 club entry examines the possibility that the moon was the source of the UFO report.

Left: I served on three different submarines during my Naval career. Two tours involved fast attack submarines, which usually only carried conventional weapons. However, my first tour was aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Lafayette, which carried nuclear tipped Poseidon missiles.

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One of the biggest problems with UFO stories are that they are often reported days, weeks, months, and even years after they transpired. While some consider them life changing events that are embedded into their memories as if they happened a short time ago, actual research has shown that this is not true. Memories of any event can be fragile and unintentionally altered by outside influences. UFO researchers seem to have issues understanding this and it can result in flawed conclusions.

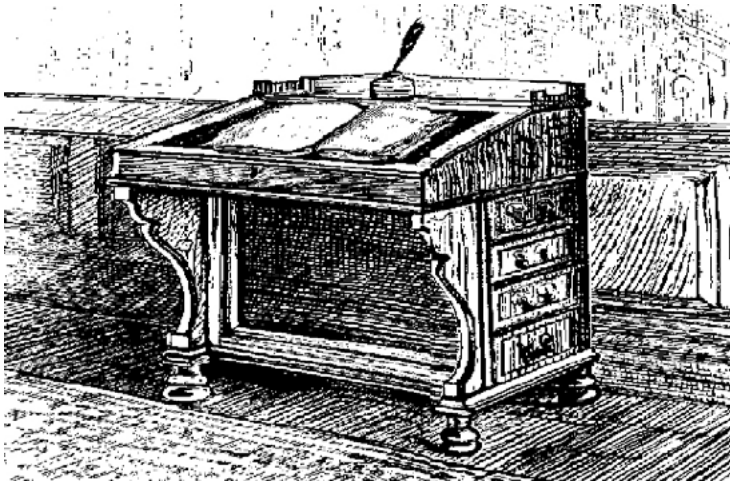
Robert Hastings' recently released film, "UFOs and Nukes: The secret link revealed", has been praised, by Hastings himself, as presenting "overwhelming evidence" that supports his belief that UFOs are intentionally interfering with nuclear weapons to alert the human race that we will destroy ourselves if we don't listen to them. I found this an interesting belief because the behavior of these "aliens" seem rather strange if they were trying to warn us. Hastings apparently has a dislike for the existence of nuclear weapons and, as a result, it affects how he interprets these stories. This is where the memory issue comes into play. Hastings promotes his theories and stories in every venue he can possibly access. This included discussion groups involving military personnel, who were involved in the United States nuclear weapons programs. While a number of responses in these groups reacted negatively to Hastings inquiries, there have been a number of individuals, who have responded to him and told him the kinds of stories he wanted to hear. Are these stories factual or are they inaccurate because of the witness' belief or due to the influence of others? Proving either is difficult but can we say that one is more likely? Without supporting documentation, it is hard to accept the more exotic details of these stories. This is why his claim that this is overwhelming evidence falls flat to individuals outside of the UFO community.

I have had some experience with nuclear weapons from my tour of duty aboard USS Lafayette (a ballistic missile submarine) and other submarines. While I was not directly involved in their care and maintenance, the entire crew was aware of what was happening with them on a day to day basis. In all of my time aboard those submarines, I was never aware of any UFOs interfering with submarine operations with, or without, nuclear weapons. This includes scuttlebutt (Navy jargon for rumor) about UFO activity associated with other submarine operations. Perhaps our alien overlords aren't interested in the US Navy's weapon systems or maybe they are just afraid of submariners.

I encourage the reader to read my article, Tim Hebert's critique, and, if possible, watch Hastings' film. In my opinion, it is only after viewing all points of view, and doing one's own research, can one make an accurate assessment of the claims Hastings has made.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



MUFON has hired a Public relations outfit to sell their name to the public. It is surprising that MUFON has enough funds to pay for something like this and not enough funds to conduct serious scientific research. Is MUFON a business or a scientific organization?

A NASA research balloon, launched on September 17th, generated its share of UFO reports in Central and north-west New Mexico. There are a few reports in the MUFON and NUFORC databases that also come from southern Colorado that sound a lot like the balloon. At high altitude, a balloon can be seen from far away. I wonder if MUFON will classify any of them as "unknown"?

Somebody really believes that the Space X rocket blew up on the launch pad because of.....a UFO. Speculation of this kind is typical of some in the UFO community. Exopolitics guru, Michael Salla, has decided to promote this theory. May-

be Robert Hastings will find some "confidential sources" to confirm that the rocket had a secret nuclear payload of some kind and the UFO did not want it to go into space. Of course, there is an explanation as to why the rocket exploded that does not require a UFO. Meanwhile, the object in the video probably was a bug as Thunderf00t explains in his video.

Billy Cox has moved on to bigger and better things than UFOs. It seems that his employers have chosen to give him a new position, which requires so much of his time that he can not write about UFO stories any more. I guess UFOlogists will have to find some other news reporter to promote their wild tales. I wish Mr. Cox well in his new position. Hopefully, he might be able to apply some lessons he might have learned from his UFO "investigations" in his new position.

Brian Dunning has an interesting article about the Belgian UFO wave. While most of it was the usual skeptical interpretation of events, there was a bit of information that was new to me. I have always wondered why the Salmon-Gilmard report was never readily available to skeptics. It had been mentioned in several books but I have never seen the original report. Dunning seems to explain why in this article. He states that there was a rumor that Auguste Meessen struck a deal with the Belgian military that if he retracted his original statements in the first SOBEPs book concerning the F-16 chase, they would not release the report. Meessen then concluded, in SOBEP's second book, that the radar targets the F-16s were chasing were not alien spaceships but radar angels. Dunning seems to think this rumor is not accurate and that Meessen was just given the report as a professional courtesy. One still has to wonder why the Salmon-Gilmard report is not available for everyone to read. According to Gilles Fernandez, the Belgian military states they don't have the report anymore because it was destroyed after ten years per normal routine. This means that Meessen may have the only surviving copy. What ever happened with idea that UFOlogists are interested in full disclosure? Inquiring minds would like to know.

The Aguadilla video has some competition. Unlike that video, the full video is not yet available. We are told it was flying against the wind but there is no evidence to prove this. One wonders how they could differentiate between the motion of the aircraft and the motion of the object. Like the Puerto Rico video, the motion of the aircraft could have given the impression it was moving against the wind. Until the full tape is made available for analysis, one can not really draw any conclusions or explore other possibilities.

Cheryl Costa was crunching numbers again to make it appear that there have been 480 "biblical level UFO events" over the past 15 years. Number crunching is great but it makes many assumptions. She assumes that 3% of all sightings are exotic in nature and that all UFO reports represent only 10% of the actual events seen. Of course, these assumptions are based on nothing more than anecdotal values. Her 10% value comes from Stanton Friedman, who arrived at this "scientific" value by polling his UFO audiences. The 3% value is a conservative number but is this representative of actual "biblical UFO events"? The 3% value might represent the "unknowns" but a lot of "unknowns" are not "exotic" or "biblical" in nature. If there really were 480 "biblical level events", why weren't they recorded by various security cameras, all-sky cameras, or amateur photographers? The evidence suggests her computations are inaccurate. These same kind of statistics can be used to prove that Bigfoot and Nessie exist too. It still does not change the fact that no hard evidence has been found that proves they exist either.

This history of the SR-71, written in 1969, demonstrates the level of secrecy involved in an actual craft that was being flown and studied. There is even the mention of the SR-71 crash in Utah, which Peter Merlin had previously documented. It is interesting to compare this document to much of the UFO folklore surrounding secret UFO bases, UFO crashes, and UFO cover-ups.

Kevin Randle spent some time going over the symbol reported by Lonnie Zamora in his infamous UFO sighting. Recently, there has been much made about this "logo" on the side of the "craft". Ray Stanford has professed that the symbol that has been

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

seen in all the UFO books was wrong and was a fake symbol designed to smoke out any "wannabe" UFO witnesses. It turns out that Kevin has found the original note that Zamora wrote a few minutes after the sighting in the Blue Book files. It indicates that the symbol published for so many years was the correct one. The recent variation was actually the hoax symbol, which led to all the confusion.

James Oberg documented the Meridian 5 launch failure that produced UFO reports over Russia on December 23, 2011. It is an interesting read and I think we can safely say that this UFO sighting can be now listed as "explained".

MUFON is developing some sort of scientific test to see if an "experiencer" is telling the truth that they are exposed to "otherworldly" entities. Instead of using their own funds, they went onto the internet begging for \$4500. I am sure there are plenty of gullible people out there that believe MUFON is acting in their interests but I see another scam by an organization that is great at making promises and awful at delivering them. Let them present documentation to support what their "scientific based test" is about before asking for money. I predict they will get their money but their results will be unconvincing.

Robert Hastings did not take kindly to Tim Hebert's critique of his film. Hastings talks about "Facts" but he has problems understanding what that word means. It is "fact" that these men stated these things. However, none of the events they have described can be proven. Therefore, these stories are not "facts". Meanwhile, Hastings manages to ignore other "facts", which is what Tim Hebert notes in his response.. I am sure that Hastings is going to present the same argument against my critique, which starts on page 7 of this issue.

Kevin Randle pointed out that researcher Rob Mercer has recovered some old Blue Book files that a former USAF officer had retained when Blue Book had closed. There are some interesting photographs and information available but I have to wonder if they are going to be made available to download or purchase. Those images that are presented are of low quality and I, for one, would be interested in seeing more.

The battle of LA UFO photograph continues to be promoted as something other than what actual history (not UFOlogical history) has determined it to be. I debunked most of the claims about that night in SUNlite 3-1 and presented an image from Life magazine, which demonstrated there was no UFO in the sky that night. Had there been one, it would have been recorded by that photographer. Larry Harnisch also found another image from the Herald Examiner archives. It looks retouched but the trailing of stars is indicative of it being an authentic image. Not surprisingly, there is no UFO in that image either. For those trying to promote this case, I suggest they look at ALL the evidence and not just potentially tainted recollections told to over eager UFO promoters many decades later or one photograph that may be the result of smoke and light beams converging in one spot.



If there weren't enough UFO organizations, a new one has appeared called the International Association of U.A.P. Researchers (IAUAPR). Ted Roe, Ruben Uriarte, and Erica Lukes are named in the blog as being part of the organization but it appears to be headed by Roe. I wonder how it differs from CUFOS, MUFON, the SCU, and other organizations. The difference may be that it is designed for "professional UFOlogists". If this is true, does this mean CUFOS, MUFON, and the SCU are not professional organizations? Will they advance the study of UFOs or simply become mired in the same quagmire as these other groups. It is interesting to point out that none of the individuals named, so far, appear to have an advanced degree in physical sciences. Despite this handicap, they appear to be setting themselves up to decide if somebody is scientifically qualified to be a member. I wonder if they are willing to allow qualified skeptics to join their "college of experts"?

The Aguadilla video surfaced again as a UFO "talking point". There is nothing new here but Alejandro Rojas went on Facebook complaining about the debunkers not responding to the FLIR "expert" used by the SCU. In SUNlite 8-2, I mentioned how Lance Moody and I had contacted some experts on IR imaging but we could not get them to perform an analysis "pro bono". I had added that they were not that impressed by what they saw in the video. I only mention this in passing simply to explain we did try and get some experts but they were not very interested in looking at it. On the other hand, anonymous "technicians" are not experts unless they come forward to present their resume'. Parading such an individual as "the authority" on this case is not science, which is what the SCU claims to be doing. I continue to point out that there is plenty of evidence to support the conclusion that this could be something being propelled by the wind. We are still waiting for the SCU's "revised" report. It has been 9 months past the deadline they created. One must consider the possibilities that they are afraid to publicly admit the original report was flawed or they are concerned that groups like the PRRR are going to demonstrate their second report will be just as flawed as the first!

There were reports of strange lights to the east of Phoenix, Arizona on October 25th. The observations were made from the Queen Creek area and one video showed a light that would illuminate and then vanish. Then another would appear a short distance away. This appears to be in the direction of the Outlaw Military Operating Area. The reports are fragmentary at best but my initial assessment is that these were fighter jets deploying decoy flares (not illumination flares). The tend to be brief and are used to decoy heat seeking missiles. If, and when, better reports surface, it might be possible to better determine the true source of these sightings.

The Roswell Corner

Trust me!

Don Schmitt was interviewed by Kevin Randle about the Roswell slides. The resultant exchange gave us more of Don Schmitt twisting the truth to make himself appear to be innocent of any mistakes made. Some of the major points were:

1. He never associated the slides with Roswell
2. He had doubts about the slides during the BeWitness program and the day after the BeWitness program
3. Dew and Beason could have manipulated the slides so the placard could not be deblurred

These are all demonstratively false.

1. Prior to BeWitness, Schmitt did a promotional video answering questions posed by Jaimie Maussan. Schmitt is on record stating, *"It will certainly be the most important event in our lifetime because we are demonstrating not only photographic evidence but we're also demonstrating what all these witnesses have reported to us collectively through all these years and as a result we will also be naming and pointing out, one by one, all of these people, who if still alive, would be able to say, 'That is exactly what I saw back in July of 1947'."* This shows that Schmitt was linking Roswell to the slides.
2. The day after BeWitness, Tom Carey and Don Schmitt appeared on Jaimie Maussan's program. They were giddy about the program. Carey stated that the skeptics were choking on the evidence. Schmitt challenged skeptics to debate the experts, who proclaimed the body as non-human. At no point did he voice any doubts about the slides or even questioned the presentation in any way. In the days before the deblur, Schmitt did NOT publicly state any doubts or question the slides even though, as he states now, he was seriously questioning them. Was Schmitt being dishonest on television or is he being dishonest now?
3. This idea that the slides were manipulated in a way that prevented them from being deblurred is false. I clearly demonstrated that Bragalia's slides could be deblurred in the last issue of SUNlite. David Rudiak is on record as stating he could deblur his images once the RSRG demonstrated how it could be done. He also stated that the quality of the image he received was just as good as the one Dew presented on his web site. If Dew was trying to alter the image, one would think that every image he presented would have the same manipulation to prevent the deblurring.

The facts speak for themselves and they indicate that Don Schmitt is not telling the truth now or he was not telling the truth the day after BeWitness. Can people trust Don Schmitt to tell the truth after all of this?

Meanwhile, Tom Carey was interviewed by Rob McConnell and he revealed that when the group had gone to Chicago before BeWitness, they had seen both slides. If this is true, how can Carey stand idly by while Schmitt declares they had never seen the full slides before BeWitness? Carey then went on McConnell's show a second time so he could better explain what happened. His new story is that there was another slide of the body that showed the placard clearly. Dew never showed this slide to Carey and Schmitt. However, Dew did give a copy to Maussan, who gave it to Dolan. Carey's implication is that it was this slide that was deblurred. Of course, nobody has ever seen this "third slide". The image Dolan posted on the web the next day had the placard whited out/overexposed! Carey's excuse fell apart as fast as he mentioned. Either Carey is not very bright or he thinks that people listening to him are just stupid. This is just another fabrication. In my opinion, both he and Schmitt have problems with telling the truth about a great many things. Readers of their books should recognize this and question everything they write that can not be independently verified. Thankfully, Kevin interviewed Curt Collins, who took the time to set the record straight about the Roswell slides. Curt did an excellent job exposing the false claims of Don Schmitt and Tom Carey. If you are a Don Schmitt and Tom Carey apologist, you should listen to this interview.

Dr. Rios Lopez gave the Palmer mummy a scientific classification

Dr. Rios Lopez has gone as far as classifying the mummy as Reptil humanoide macroefalo, which translates into a large headed reptillian humanoid. I am not sure if this subclass of Reptillia even exists in the scientific literature. It appears that Rios Lopez simply made up his own name. Of course, science frowns on such things. To classify a new species requires a thorough investigation and an actual specimen to examine. Perhaps Rios Lopez can explain how he arrived at this classification, in what scientific journal he revealed this new species, and if anybody in the scientific community has officially recognized this classification?

MOOfoN investigation falls short

MUFON has recently promoted a case on the open minds forum that they have declared as “unknown” after an investigation. It involved a video and eyewitness report from Nashville, Tennessee on August 15, 2016.¹ After examining the original report, noticed that some details were missed by the investigators that prevented an explanation.

The sighting report

The witness told a story where he went out on a smoke break at 3AM on August 15th. He noticed a bright yellow line low in the sky near the horizon and recorded it on video. The witness originally thought it was the moon behind clouds but would state that it could not be the moon because the moon was overhead. He added that he had an uneasy feeling (like he was being watched) several hours prior to the sighting.

Missing details

As is typical for MUFON, they only present the report and do not bother to give us how the investigation was conducted. One would think MUFON would bother to publish specifics about the investigation because important details were missing from the witness’ report and their press release.

- We have no idea what type of cell phone was used to image the sequence.
- We have no idea what direction the witness was facing.
- We have no idea where the witness was located other than “Nashville”.

I am sure these details were known to the investigator but why weren’t they made available to everyone else? Is there a reason that MUFON fails to release their formal investigation reports when they make public announcements?

Getting the direction

The one detail that was most important was the direction the observer was facing. I managed to determine the direction by looking at the photograph the witness took in daylight. Fortunately, the EXIF data was in the image and it states that it was taken at 7:12 AM on August 15th. In the image, we can see the shadow of the photographer. The azimuth angle of the sun at that time was about 80 degrees, which means the shadows would extend towards the 260 degree angle. Since the shadow of the photographer extends parallel to the right of the image. This means the direction of observation was towards the Southwest. Was there something in that direction that might have been the source of the observation?

The probable source

One has to wonder about the witness statement about the moon. A cursory check of Moonrise and Moonset times indicates the moon was not overhead at 3AM as the witness stated. In fact, it set at 3:17 AM for Nashville on August 15th.² The azimuth for moonset was 247 degrees, which is in the southwest. If this is true, where is the moon in the recording?

The weather that morning was not clear. Weather records indicate scattered clouds at the time of the sighting.³ The daylight photograph, taken four hours later, shows high clouds. Therefore, the probable solution is exactly what the witness had suggested but then dismissed. It was the setting moon visible through the clouds.





Possible confirmation?

The EXIF data in the daytime image indicates the camera was a Samsung S6. I compared my G4 with a friend's S6. Both showed the same image scale at full zoom, which is what the witness stated in the video. In an effort to duplicate the result in the video, I took a still image of the moon in daylight with my LG G4 phone at full digital zoom. I then scaled the two images using the width of the frame. In my image, the moon's diameter is roughly 52 pixels. The image on the video grab was roughly 48 pixels. Considering that the image in the video only shows us part of the moon's full diameter, this test tends to confirm that it could have been the moon that was recorded.

MUFON investigation failure?

One has to wonder how a supposedly thorough investigation by MUFON could have ignored this possible explanation. Is it possible the investigator ruled out the moon because the witness said it was overhead? If so, this means the investigator did not research the case beyond what the witness stated. If the investigator did determine the moon was not overhead, why did he promote the case as if the witness was reliable?

In my opinion, there is a UFO bias by some MUFON/UFO investigators. Those individuals appear to be motivated by producing reports with an unknown conclusion instead of being motivated to solve a case. Perhaps there needs to be some refresher training or some kind of quality control within MUFON. Are they rubber stamping investigations prior to issuing a press release or are the reviewers of these investigations just as biased towards reaching a desired conclusion of "unknown"? In either case, the results of the investigation, and subsequent promotion of the event, indicates MUFON is not interested in employing any scientific approach in evaluating these UFO reports.

Notes and references

1. Marsh, Roger. "Video: Tennessee witness describes UFO as 'orange line'". Open Minds. September 14, 2016. Available WWW: <http://www.openminds.tv/video-tennessee-witness-describes-ufo-as-orange-line/38395>
2. "Nashville, TN, USA - Moonrise, Moonset, Moon phases, August 2016". Time and Date. Available WWW: <https://www.timeand-date.com/moon/usa/nashville?month=8&year=2016>
3. "History for Nashville, TN. August 15, 2016". Weather Underground. Available WWW: https://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KBNA/2016/8/15/DailyHistory.html?req_city=Nashville&req_state=TN&req_statename=&reqdb.zip=37201&reqdb.magic=1&reqdb.wmo=99999

Underwhelming evidence

A September posting on “The UFO Chronicles” web site by Robert Hastings took “debunkers” to task because they had not commented on his film. Hastings interpreted this to mean:

Given that the film presents several authenticated documents and on-camera interviews with vetted military witnesses, all discussing the reality of the decades-long UFO-Nukes Connection, perhaps the skeptics have finally realized the futility of their unceasing efforts to debunk the UFO-nukes link.

Nah, that can't be it. This crowd will never admit—even to themselves—that their misguided, weak arguments are now untenable. Maybe they are just lying low, realizing that they have nothing to gain by critiquing the film, in light of the overwhelming evidence it presents.¹

Hastings is now on record that his film presents us with “overwhelming evidence” to the UFOs and Nukes connection. Prior to the film’s release, debunkers/skeptics were critical of his claims for many good reasons. While Hastings likes to criticize skeptics he often will ignore specifics in order to present only his version of events. The question on my mind, when I watched the film, was, “Would Hastings address the skeptics arguments in his film and would he provided new documentation to prove that some of these stories were true?”

Blowing your own horn

Another point raised by Robert Hastings in his rant about skeptics and his film was that his film has received “near-unanimous praise” from everyone, who has viewed it.² Considering the possibility that most of the viewers were UFO proponents, it would be no surprise that he would receive favorable comments from people. However, do the facts really support his claim? The Vimeo site on the day I watched the film stated there were 4,835 “shares” on Facebook, 271 “recommendations”, and 12 comments.³ One of these was not that favorable:

Just mostly a very brief and recursive rehash of what i've seen before but with a bit more testimony, which is nice. However, this video isn't really covering a lot of new material and, sorry to say, certainly not worth anywhere near the \$13 i had to pay for it to watch it. Most of this material and lots more can be found on the internet in various places for free. I wish i had known - i wouldn't buy this given what i know now, so buyer beware. This documentary should have been a lot longer and should have had a lot more previously undisclosed information in it. IMO, as it is, it rightfully belongs on Youtube for free.⁴

One wonders how the recommendations figure in relation to the number of individuals, who viewed the film. Does the 4,835 “shares” reflect the number of those, who viewed the film? If that is true, it seems that only a small percentage have considered it worthwhile enough to recommend. Without the total number of viewings of the film, we cannot really determine if Hastings is inflating his claims or if there really is a bunch of praise for his film. However, can we really call “271 recommendations” and “12 comments” (one of which was less than favorable) a landslide of approval for this film?

The quality of the evidence

While Hastings considered his evidence irrefutable, I consider it less than compelling. It is often anecdotal or selective interpretation of actual documents. If any documents indicate the anecdotal stories are not accurate, Hastings rejects them as part of a conspiracy to cover-up what transpired. In some cases, his “evidence” consists of nothing more than a newspaper clipping



or rumors. How can rumors, newspaper clippings, and selective editing of documents be “overwhelming evidence”? Apparently, Hastings hopes by presenting a bunch of unconfirmable stories, he will make his case. Presenting a large number of low quality cases may look impressive but for those who want him to prove his claims, it is not enough. Poor quality cases do not convince and can be considered bad evidence. No matter how much bad evidence is presented, the result is still the same.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO
SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS
BUREAU FILE # 65-50000

January 31, 1949
DATE:

CONFIDENTIAL

At recent Weekly Intelligence Conferences of G-2, ONI, OSI, and F.B.I., in the Fourth Army Area, Officers of G-2, Fourth Army have discussed the matter of "Unidentified Aircraft" or "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" otherwise known as "Flying Discs", "Flying Saucers", and "Balls of Fire". This matter is considered top secret by Intelligence Officers of both the Army and the Air Force.

It is well known that there have been during the past two years reports from the various parts of the country of the sighting of unidentified aerial objects which have been called in newspaper parlance "flying discs" and "flying saucers". The first such sightings were reported from Sweden, and it was thought that the objects, the nature of which was unknown, might have originated in Russia.

December 1948

In his opening presentation of evidence, Hastings presents us with a January 31, 1949 FBI memo that describes UFOs appearing in December of 1948 near Los Alamos.⁵ The FBI memo does describe sightings around the Los Alamos area but most, if not all, of these are not observations of "Flying saucers" but "Green fireballs". While many consider these something related to UFOs, I consider them nothing more than bright meteors, which can be green. No evidence has ever been presented that they were alien spaceships as Hastings suggests.

FE Warren Air Force Base 1976

The first witness to appear in the film was a Captain Bruce Fenstermacher, who was stationed at FE Warren AFB in 1976.⁶ He stated that his Flight security controller (FSC) reported a UFO above the site for a few minutes and then proceeded to leave. According to Fenstermacher, when they came up the next day, the FSC was in his chair curled up in the fetal position. They could not calm him down. Fenstermacher was then told to be quiet and everything they were exposed to was classified Top Secret. In other re-tellings, Fenstermacher states that the Security Alert Team (SAT) refused to go to the missile sites because they were afraid of the UFO.⁷ It is important to point out that the only reason he knew the UFO existed was because of the report from the people topside. He never saw the UFO himself.

The FSC was usually the senior enlisted man in the shift and probably received additional training to rise to such a position of authority. The other security personnel assigned to the SAT were trained to protect the missiles with their lives. In Fenstermacher's version of events, the enlisted personnel assigned to his flight were cowardly individuals, who refused to do their jobs, at the first sign of something unusual. This story indicates that the personnel responsible for the safety of nuclear weapons were not reliable at all. If we can't trust them to do their jobs, how can we trust them to be "reliable observers", who told Fenstermacher the truth about what they saw?

It is important to point out that we don't have a date or month for this event or the names of the personnel. We are just told that the year was 1976. At the time, it could not have been considered that important of an event if he could not even give us a range of dates. I find this account to be more of ghost story or joke than an actual portrayal of what really happened. There may be a kernel of truth to it but how much we will never know. Like much of Hastings' evidence, this story is missing verification. By itself, I would consider Fenstermacher's story "underwhelming evidence".

An ominous correlation

As the movie progresses, Hastings links a 1952 Look magazine article to unexplained sightings at nuclear sites. In that article, Ed Ruppelt, the head of Project Blue Book, implied that he had 63 good cases that were unexplained. Hastings then states there is a link between these sightings and nuclear weapons:

At that point, it was discovered that a...quote...Ominous correlation existed between some of the sightings and the location of various atomic weapons installations.⁸

However, there is no such statement in the Look article. The Look article actually states:

Lieutenant Ruppelt keeps 63 sightings on the top of his file. These are the most detailed and most mystifying. They come from pilots, ship observers, an Air Force colonel, civilian scientists, weather observers and intelligence officers. None of these 63 can be identified with any certainty. If the Air Force tosses them off with some easy guess, there is always the fearful chance that they will be missing a dangerous bet.



These sightings were pinpointed on a map. Soon afterwards, it was seen by a Pentagon representative who noted that a number of concentrations duplicated exactly the area of atomic energy installations. The Pentagon man excitedly reported back to his headquarters. A conference was called immediately in Washington....

Intelligence had to tell the Pentagon that they had no evidence that the flying saucers are spying on or threatening our atomic program....

In their search for an answer, intelligence men have tried, without success, to correlate the unexplained sightings with publicity about flying saucers, increased war tension, tides, or atomic bomb detonations. None of them fits. They offer no pattern, no explanation that satisfies the experts...⁹

Note that the article states that "a number of concentrations" were in the area of atomic energy installations. This did not say that all, or most, of these 63 sightings were linked to atomic installations. It also did not state it was atomic weapons installations but atomic energy, which could be a different thing altogether.

Hastings uses this quote in several articles but never seems to give us where these actual words came from even though he uses quotation marks for it. In one posting on the Above Top Secret forum, he indicates it came from the Look article.

According to LOOK, the "ominous correlation" between such sightings and these top secret facilities had been brought to the attention of high ranking Air Force officers, prompting a meeting at the Pentagon to discuss the apparent UFO-nukes link.¹⁰

Hastings does not mention that, at this meeting, Intelligence stated there was no such link. This is how Hastings does his research. He selects what he wants to tell the reader and then edits out the sections that don't agree with the conclusion he wants to present.

Looking at the Blue Book files, prior to May of 1952, there were about 100 unexplained sightings. Of all of those, three were made from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, two from Albuquerque, and one from Los Alamos. Many of the others were made from outside the country or various towns around the United States that were not related to any military bases. There seems to be little, or no, correlation between these sightings and atomic weapons.

This possible connection was presented to the Robertson Panel in 1953. They used the 1952 data as their source. According to the panel:

The map prepared by ATIC showing geographic locations of officially reported unexplained sightings (1952 only) was examined by the panel. This map showed clusters in certain strategic areas such as Los Alamos. This might be explained on the basis of 24-hour watchful guard and awareness of security measures near such locations. On the other hand, there had been no sightings in the vicinity of sensitive related AE establishments while there were occasionally multiple cases of unexplained sightings in non-strategic areas.¹¹

Examining the 1952 data from Blue Book, there were two unidentified sightings near Los Alamos, six near Albuquerque, and two near Oak Ridge.¹² Considering that there were over 300 unexplained sightings from this time period, it seems that only a small fraction of the sightings appear to be near nuclear facilities.

If there was an "ominous correlation" prior to 1953, it is not obvious. Perhaps, Mr. Hastings can explain his statement with some specific data that supports it instead of "because I said so".

DEC 2 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THRU : Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : Unidentified Flying Objects

1. On 20 August, the DCI, after a briefing by OSI on the above subject, directed the preparation of an NSCID for submission to the Council stating the need for investigation and directing agencies concerned to cooperate in such investigations.

The precursor to the Robertson Panel

In another selective editing moment, Hastings presents us with a quote by Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell, from a CIA memo dated December 2 1952.¹³ It makes no mention of UFOs and nuclear weapons. It only states that UFOs have been sighted in the vicinity of defense installations and they can not be identified as aircraft or natural phenomena. What Hastings does not tell the viewer is that, this memo was one of the reasons the infamous Robertson panel met in January of 1953. A key item in that panel's findings was:

2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

*We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates Phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicates a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.*¹⁴

Chadwell would write to Dr. Julius Stratton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), on January 27, 1953 about the panel. He would state in that letter:

"We concur in the conclusions and recommendations of the panel!"¹⁵

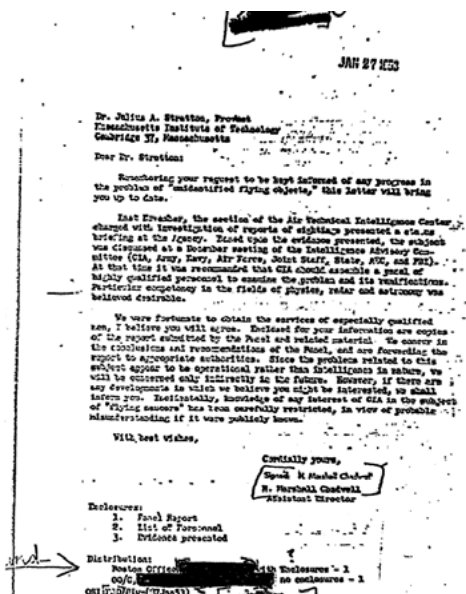
It seems that Chadwell, after having the evidence to date examined, recognized that UFOs were not as significant as originally thought. Why wasn't this letter/information placed in the film?

Do nuclear detonations attract UFOs?

In the film, Hastings tells us that nuclear weapons testing areas in Nevada and the Pacific were seeing UFO activity in the early 1950s. The only document he presents is a newspaper clipping. Hastings adds that soldiers being exposed to these tests also saw UFOs but provides us with no documents indicating this was true.

The idea that the nuclear explosions were attracting UFOs appears to be rebutted by one of Hastings' favorite sources, Ed Ruppelt. He states that in the fall of 1952, no UFO reports were made in the Pacific test shots:

Our proposed trip to the Pacific to watch for UFO's during the H-bomb test was canceled at the last minute because we couldn't get space on an airplane. But the crews of Navy and Air Force security forces who did go out to the tests were thoroughly briefed to look for UFO's,

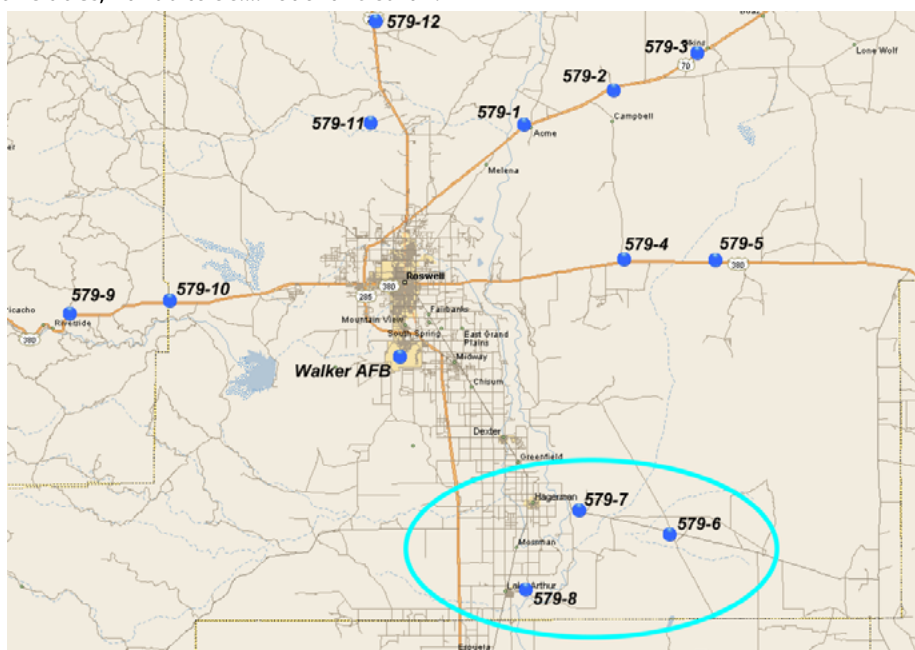


and they were given the procedures on how to track and report them. Back at Dayton we stood by to make quick analysis of any reports that might come in — none came. Nothing that fell into the UFO category was seen during the entire Project Ivy series of atomic shots.¹⁶

There are very few, if any, Blue Book unknowns associated with any nuclear weapons tests. If Hastings is going to make such claims, he should provide actual data/statistics, that can be independently verified, which demonstrate they are true.

Walker AFB, New Mexico 1964

Lt. Col Phillip Moore described his UFO event, while stationed at Walker AFB. As usual, there is no date or time for this event (although other sources give a date “fall of 1964”).¹⁷ Documentation is also missing. Moore was at site 7 and received a report from the crew commander at site 6 that there were something hovering above his site. They sent three enlisted men topside, who reported seeing a light going rapidly from site 6 to 8 and back again. According to Moore, it was “instant go and instant stop”. From this verbal report, he concludes, “It had to be....not of this earth”.¹⁸



This report sounds like another story based on something that probably happened but now bears little resemblance to the actual event. The sites mentioned by Moore are ten miles to the SE and SSW of his location. How can they be sure that this UFO was over those sites? For something to be seen from such a distance, it would have to be exceptionally bright and visible over a wider area. However, no reports were filed by the civilian population to Blue Book. Neither Moore, or any other personnel at those sites, filed a UFO report to Blue Book. Was the event that unimportant at the time or did its importance suddenly increase when Moore decided to contact Hastings? This story is not that compelling.

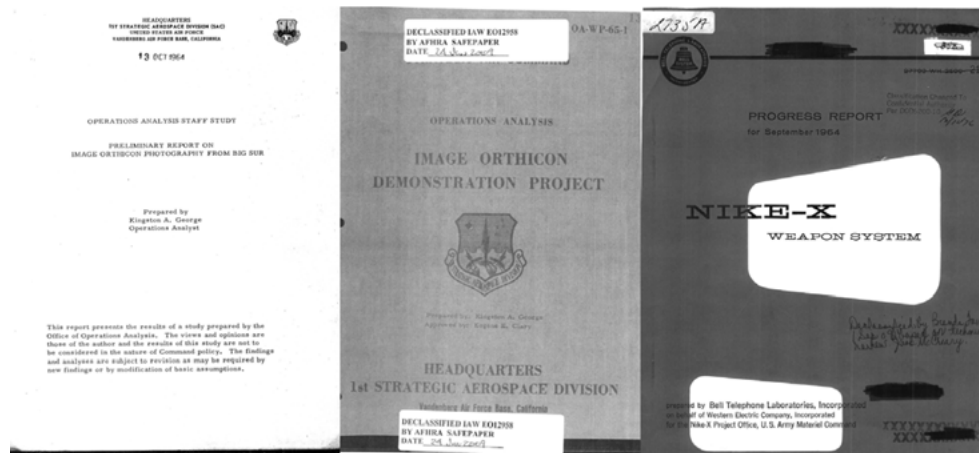
UFO radar tracks and intercepts

In order to emphasize that UFOs are some form of craft from outer space, Hastings describes how radar was used to track UFOs at high speeds and making incredible maneuvers. According to the film, it was common for fighter jets to attempt interceptions of these UFOs and they usually ended in the UFO darting away at incredible speeds.

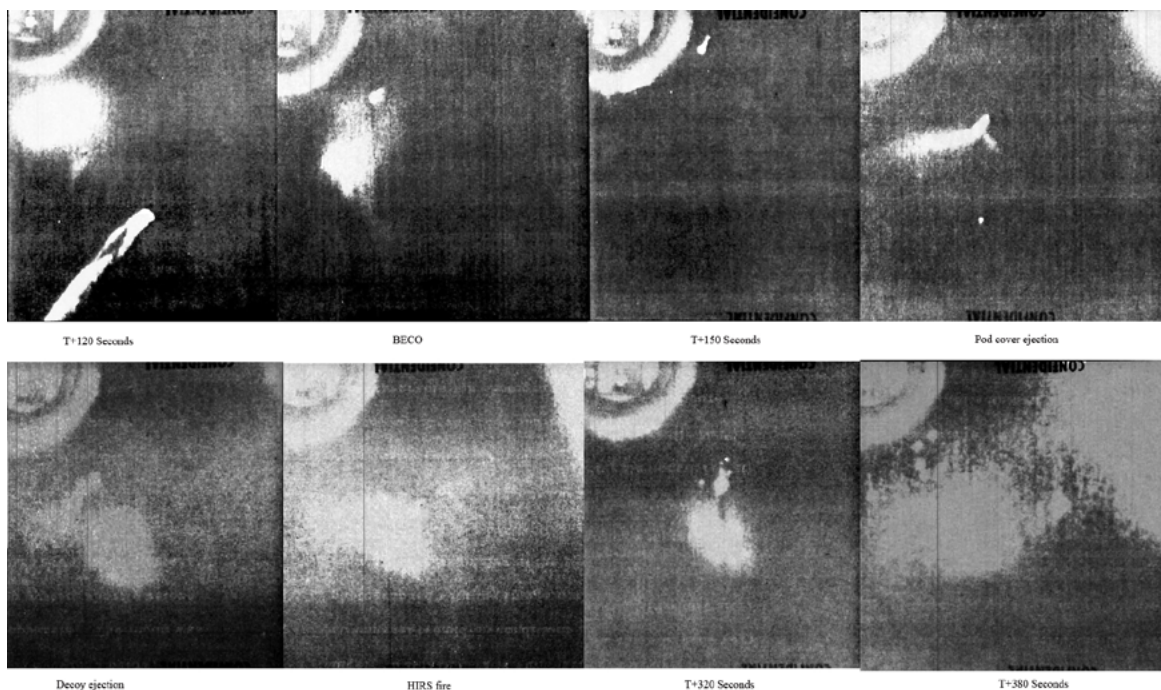
This kind of story is common in UFO folklore but radar is far from perfect and pilots are known to make mistakes. Blue Book has records of pilots confusing astronomical objects for UFOs (see UFO evidence under review on P. 21 for an example) and how radar gave false returns that produced these exotic maneuvers and speeds. Hastings fails to even provide us with one compelling case, with actual data, that demonstrates this claim to be true. Instead, Hastings hopes the viewer will accept this as fact because “he said so”.

Milking the Big Sur cow

It was no surprise to see that Hastings promoted the Big Sur case in his film. Most of what Hastings states about the film and capabilities of the telescope was based on what Robert Jacobs told him and not what Kingston George had written. In fact, Hastings provides not one official document to support the claims made in the film.



Compare this to the documents I presented in SUNlite 6-4 that essentially debunked the entire Big Sur story.¹⁹ The actual record demonstrates that the dummy warheads of all Atlas launches that September successfully made it to the impact area and were not shot down. Additionally, the documentation indicates that the only launch that matches the description given by Jacobs was the Buzzing Bee launch. The Butterfly net launch, which Hastings has championed as the launch Jacobs described, was not recorded well because of the time of day and weather conditions prevented imaging the deployment of the re-entry vehicle.



The documents obtained by Joel Carpenter also demonstrate that the claims about the film's resolution were exaggerated. The rocket did not "fill the frame" and the belief that "nuts and bolts" could be seen appears to be an exaggeration. The actual images from the film are very much like what Kingston George described many years ago. Looking at these images it is hard to believe that one could put a magnifying glass to the film and see the shape of anything once the rocket was down range.

Hastings has these documents in his possession but he never mentions them in his film or addresses the implications of what they contain. Thanks to the work of Joel Carpenter and testimony of Kingston George, one can consider this UFO story nothing more than a myth.

FE Warren AFB August 1, 1965

On August 1st, 1965, there was a large number of UFO reports made at FE Warren AFB. The source of this information comes from Dr. Hynek. In his book, the UFO experience, he states he approached Hector Quintanilla and his response was that astronomical objects were the source of these sightings.²⁰ I have to question that conclusion but one has to wonder if astronomical objects played a role. Some could have been observations of the rising planet Jupiter.

Captain Jay Ershaw recounts his story associated with that series of sightings. He was at Echo-1 and got a call at 3:30 AM from his FSC. He reported seeing 5-6 oblong lights stacked upon each other. They did nothing but hover in place. He states that the paper-

work regarding this incident conveniently disappeared.²¹ As in the previous cases, Ernshaw's story is based on what somebody told him.

It is important to note that these UFOs did not do anything at all. There were no adverse effects reported. Considering the fact that most UFO reports can be explained, is this really something to be overly concerned about? At best, this is hearsay evidence, which is often inadmissible in criminal trials. If this is the "overwhelming evidence" Hastings promised, it is a disappointment.

Ellsworth AFB 1966

Hastings appears to try and paint an escalation of UFO interference as he brings out his witnesses one-by-one. The next witness is Major Gaylan King, who was at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota in 1966.²² According to King, strike teams responded to missile alarms in his flight and reported a flying saucer hovering over the missile. It was shooting a beam of reddish light at the missile silo, which he interprets as "them" collecting data from the missile. Of course, Major King never saw this and the enlisted men are nameless. There is also no documentation to support this story. Without a date or confirmation, such evidence is "underwhelming".

Minot AFB 1966

The next major event was reported by Captain David Schindele, who was at Minot AFB in 1966. According to him, the missiles at November flight had gone off alert. When they went to the missile site, the topside personnel reported that an object, 80-100 feet in diameter, had been seen with flashing lights hovering over the main gate. The missile crew were told never to speak about it again.²³

The strange thing about this story is that, once again, it is nearly impossible to confirm. There are no documents to support the report of a UFO that Schindele never saw with his own eyes. Additionally, no records are presented of missiles going off alert at Minot AFB in 1966. The only document Hastings appears to have is a news paper clipping describing a sighting of a UFO on August 25, 1966.²⁴ This did not involve any missiles shutting down and consisted of nocturnal lights and radio interference. I find this story questionable and one has to wonder if Schindele is confusing events with what would happen at another AFB in March of 1967.

The Echo flight shutdown

Robert Hastings now presents the Echo flight incident as an event where those on the craft were interested in interfering with the missiles and their nuclear warheads. Hastings' evidence to support this is an interview where Walt Figel states that the Security Alert Team had seen a light hovering over one of the sites.

Missing from the presentation are statements later made by Figel that he thought the report was a joke. There are also comments made by Figel and Carlson, who were both at Echo flight, that the event was not produced by a UFO. The official history states:

*Rumors of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) around Echo flight during the time of the fault were disproven. A mobile strike team, which had checked all of November flight's LFs on the morning of March 16, 1967, were questioned and stated that no unusual activity or sightings were observed.*²⁵

In order to refute the arguments that no UFOs were present, Hastings uses technician Henry Barlow, who was supposedly involved in restarting these missiles. Barlow says that he was told that the UFO caused the problem and that UFO activity was present after the missile shutdown. Despite making these claims, Barlow also made it clear that he never saw any UFOs. So, what we have with this "evidence" is Barlow hearing these same rumors mentioned in the official history. Rumors are not proof of anything.

Hastings also relies upon Missile engineer Robert Kaminski, who headed a Boeing team investigation of the incident. Kaminski wrote to Jim Klotz that his group had found no technical explanation for the incident and that he heard a rumor that a UFO had been in the area. However, he never stated that he had heard the UFO had caused the Echo flight shutdown. Kaminski's exact words were:

*Meanwhile I was contacted by our representative at OOAMA (Don Peterson) and told by him that the incident was reported as being a UFO event--That a UFO was seen by some Airmen over the LCF at the time E-Flight went down.*²⁶

Kaminski would add that there was another effort to evaluate the event at Hill AFB and at Seattle. He was not part of this evaluation and did not know any details or conclusions. His only statement was that he did not recall an explanation being made for the anomaly. It seems that Kaminski's role in the investigation was just a part of the entire process in evaluating the fault. He may not have had a "need to know" about the final conclusions. Contrary to what Hastings states, Kaminski's letter only indicates that he heard these same rumors everybody else had heard and that he was not aware of any explanation being reached.

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 HYDROLOGIC TESTING AT HONOLULU SEATTLE, WASH 3555 SECOND PULSE
 THIS LOGIC COUPLER WERE PLACED ON THE SELF TEST COMMAND LINE
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 ON 7 OUT OF 10 SEPARATE APPLICATIONS OF A SINGLE PULSE, THE SYSTEM

PAGE 2 RUMMBAD143 5 E C 1255
 PAGE CONT WITH CHANNEL 9 4512. SUBSEQUENT TESTING AT AUTOMATICS
 WAS REQUESTED IN THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF WHAT PROBABLY HAPPENED
 IN THE COUPLER LOGIC DRAWER. THE PULSE INSERTED IS LONG ENOUGH TO
 INITIATE THE COUPLER SELF TEST SEQUENCE WITHIN THE CPU. HOWEVER, IT IS
 NOT OF LONG ENOUGH DURATION TO UNABLE CONTROL LINES TO THE COMPUTER
 TO PLACE THE COUPLER IN A COUPLER TEST LOOP MODE. THIS CAUSE THE
 COMPUTER TO ISSUE A SEQUENCE ERROR DUE TO LACK OF COINCIDENCE BETWEEN
 SACTARY COUPLER MODES. THIS SEQUENCE ERROR, TOGETHER WITH THE
 ACTION OF TWO OTHER FLIP FLOP OUTPUTS (M-17 & M-20), IS SUFFICIENT TO
 INITIATE THE COUPLER AND 240 MO TO SHUT DOWN THE EFFORTS NOW AT
 SOING WAA AS TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE AND MOST LIKELY PATCH OF THE
 NOISE PULSES TO THE LOGIC COUPLER. THE RESULTS OF 22P TESTING AT
 SHIP AND HAWAII INDICATE THAT THE 515 LINES ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO NOISE
 PULSES HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE PULSES. THE 515 LINES GO
 ONLY FROM THE LOGIC TO ALL OF THE LPS IN THE FLIGHT WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN
 THE FLIGHT PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM. THE BEST POSSIBLE SOURCE
 OF THE NOISE PULSES, SO FAR TO OUR ANALYSIS, IS THE TRANSMITTER FAILURE
 WHICH OCCURRED AS A 515 WATERSHIP THROUGH IN THE 2 FLIGHT AREA. THE
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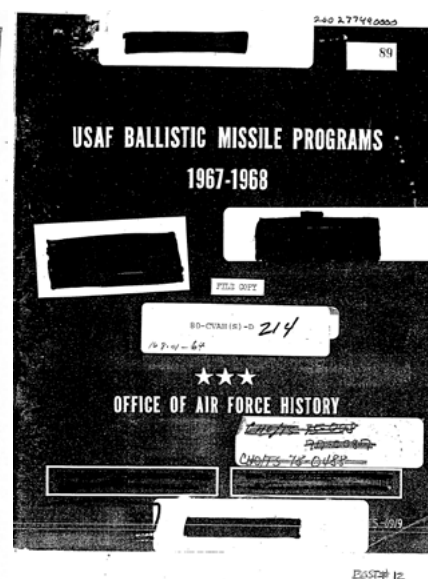
Joint Strategic Systems Wing
 AND Joint Combat Support Group
 HQ LAC DYH 67-1865
 (Ref: (State))
 P.R.C. 1967

Assigned to the
 FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
 Permanently Stationed at
 HAWAIIAN AIR FORCE BASE, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

This document was prepared by ABC David A. Gable, Wing Assistant under the supervision of the Wing Information Officer. It is prepared in compliance with AFM 11-1, 27 June 1966, and is classified SECRET under the provisions of AFM 205-1 as amended. The classification is modified for the purpose of information that reveals the military capability and operational status of the Wing. (U)

APPROVED:
 [Signature]
 Chief, Information Division

COPIES (1)



Contrast Kaminski's two decade old memory to what was documented in the classified history of USAF ballistic missile programs for 1967-68. It states that the source of the problem was an internally generated noise pulse that went through the logic coupler of the guidance and control system. In order to prevent this from occurring again, the USAF installed a modification to filter out such noise pulses at all of the Minuteman bases. There is no indication that UFOs were ever involved in the missile shut down.

Tim Hebert has a wonderful examination of the Echo Flight event on his blog.²⁷ It should be required reading for those interested in looking at the entire case and not just listening to Hastings' myopic point of view. The Echo flight shutdown, which is one of the pillars of Hastings' "overwhelming evidence" for UFOs and Nukes theory, has a perfectly valid explanation and the documentation supports it. The "overwhelming evidence" is that it is highly unlikely that a UFO caused the missile shutdown.

Robert Salas and the Oscar flight shut down myth

No "UFOs and Nukes" program is complete without parading Robert Salas in front of the camera. Salas is the primary source for the story about another ten missile shutdown event that, as he states, was caused by a UFO.²⁸ This happened only a week or two after the documented Echo flight shutdown. Unlike the Echo flight incident, there is absolutely no documentation that mentions the Oscar flight had a shutdown of any kind.

We are told that Robert Jamison confirms the shutdown because he had re-targeted the missiles some time in March of 1967. He claims that this was Oscar flight and that the missiles had been shutdown by a UFO. Of course, Jamison never saw the UFO but only reports he was briefed about the UFOs. Jamison could easily have been re-targeting the Echo Flight shutdown and there is no evidence to support his claims about UFO activity.

Like the Echo flight shutdown, Tim Hebert examined the Oscar flight story.²⁹ His evaluation of the incident is that there are many reasons to question if the event even happened. The lack of any evidence to support Salas' story makes it another case of "underwhelming evidence".

The 1973 "ghost ship"

Mr. Hastings now jumps to an August 1973 event that appeared in an article that was published in several newspapers in June and July of 1974. According to the article, unnamed Army personnel, apparently associated with a missile defense system at Kwajalein, had seen a "ghost ship", on radar, that was maneuvering near a dummy warhead from a Minuteman missile launch.³⁰ The re-entry vehicle (RV) was not affected by this "ghost ship" but the implication was that it was monitoring it.

The article also mentions that all records of these flights had been routinely destroyed. This is not quite accurate. There are public records of missile launches and their purpose. The month of August 1973 had three Minuteman launches.³¹ The most probable source of this story is the August 9th launch of a Minuteman 1B. The purpose of that flight was to test the Safeguard system. Safeguard was an anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system being set up in North Dakota. Elements of that system, including missiles for intercepting incoming warheads (Spartan and Sprint), were being tested at Kwajalein's Meck island.

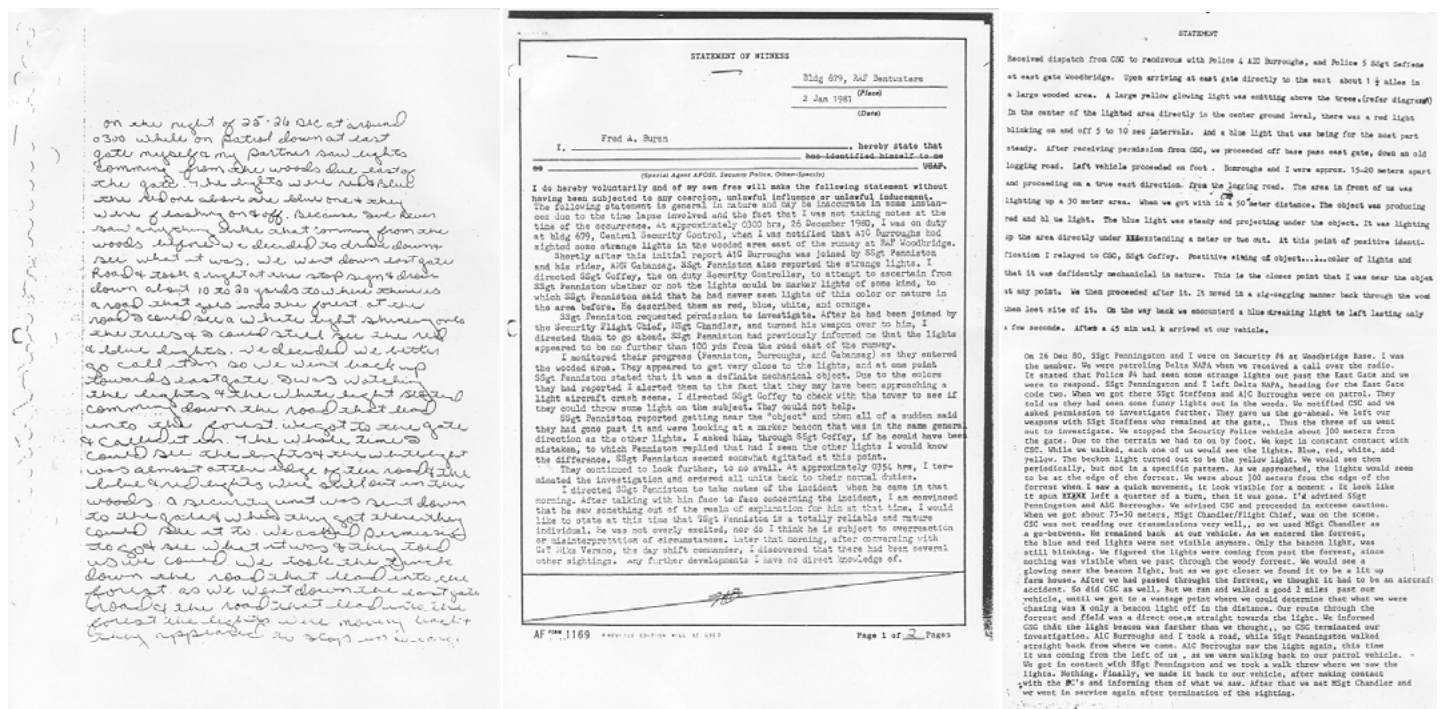
There really is not enough information to determine what this "unknown" was. These rumors of size and shape cannot be verified and may not be accurate. One can speculate that it might have been the remains of the booster rocket or something else associated with the payload. The Bell Labs Project history for ABM development references studying tank break up from the booster rockets

Like most of the stories being told in the film, this is more rumor than fact. It was a story that was never investigated beyond what was reported. It is another case of flimsy evidence that is “underwhelming”.

In SUNlite 8-5, I took a look at the 1975 SAC incursion incidents.³³ I tried to look at all the contemporary documents that recorded the events shortly after they happened. Many of the sightings may have been caused by astronomical objects including the Loring AFB event, which was the initial sighting that started the wave of sightings in October-November 1975.

Hastings also presented a highly selective version of the Malmstrom AFB series of sightings from that November. The film states that seven UFOs were sighted and tracked on radar. This is not quite accurate because the documents never describe seven objects being seen at one time. There was one entry indicating that radar had seven contacts but they were not confirmed visually. Examination of all of the sightings recorded during that time period reveal that some of these sightings probably involved the planet Venus and others had potential astronomical explanations. The documentation describes the radar tracks as slow moving (7 and 3 knots) as if they were weather related.³⁴

The retelling of the Rendlesham event was very one-sided. Not surprisingly, Hastings focuses on the stories told by Penniston over a decade later and does not even mention the actual witness statements made a few days after the event, which describe the airmen chasing the Orford Ness lighthouse.³⁵ His description of Halt's story was equally selective and omitted key facts that demonstrate the light Halt described in the trees was the Orford Ness lighthouse.³⁶ According to the film, Halt heard excited communications by security personnel that the UFOs were over the weapon storage area (WSA). This appears to be in disagreement with the tape Halt made that night. There is no mention of "excited calls" from the WSA by Halt in the tape or in his memo.



In order to provide confirmation of the Rendlesham incident, Hastings played interviews with air traffic controllers at Bentwaters, who state they saw the UFO on radar and visually.³⁷ One of the witnesses states he saw a dot move across the radar screen in three sweeps of the radar. It then returned and made a right angle turn towards the base. The other apparently saw it visually come in, stop and hover for a short period of time, and then depart rapidly. Their descriptions of the UFOs activities on their radar and visually disagree with the stories told by Halt, and the others, where the UFO was present for a significant period of time. How can one call this confirmation when there is nothing presented to support their claims? It took decades for these men to come forward with their stories and one has to question their accuracy since, as usual, there is no documentation to support them. The evidence is weak and “underwhelming”

Back in the USSR

Hastings then tells about two incidents in the USSR that involved UFOs and nukes. The first event was at Kapustin Yar on July 28, 1989. It is stated in the film that a disc was seen hovering “briefly” over “the nuclear missile warhead depot” and firing a beam towards the buildings where the weapons were kept.³⁸ The UFO then “raced away”.

This is not quite accurate. Paul Stonehill gives us the account of the officer as follows:

I climbed the aerial support and observed the object from a height of six meters [20 feet] above the ground. One could clearly see a powerful blinking signal which resembled a camera flash in the night sky. The object flew over the unit's logistic yard and moved in the direction of the rocket weapons depot, 300 meters [1000 feet] away. It hovered over the depot at a height of 20 meters [66 feet]. The UFO's hull shone with a dim green light which looked like phosphorus. It was a disc, four to five meters [13 to 16 feet] in diameter, with a semispherical top. While the object was hovering over the depot, a bright beam appeared from the bottom of the disc, where the flash had been before, and made two or three circles. The object, still flashing, moved in the direction of the railway station still flashing. But soon it returned to the rocket weapons depot and hovered it at a height of 60 to 70 meters [200 to 230 feet]. Two hours after the first sighting the object flew in the direction of the town of Akhtubinsk and disappeared from sight. The light at the bottom of the disc did not flash regularly; it was as if photographs were being taken. Nor did the object move evenly. Sometimes it rushed sideways or upward and sometimes it moved smoothly and hovered here and there. I attach a drawing of the UFO's outline and the beam.³⁹

The UFO Evidence.org website has two versions of the story from the same witness. The first is very similar to Stonehill's translation:

One could clearly see a powerful blinking signal which resembled a camera flash in the night sky. The object flew over the unit's logistics yard and moved in the direction of the rocket weapons depot, 300 meters [1,000 ft.] away. It hovered over the depot at a height of 20 meters [65 ft.]. The UFO's hull shone with a dim green light which looked like phosphorous. It was a disc, 4 or 5 m. [13-17 ft.] in diameter, with a semispherical top.

While the object was hovering over the depot, a bright beam appeared from the bottom of the disc, where the flash had been before, and made two or three circles, lighting the corner of one of the buildings... The movement of the beam lasted for several seconds, then the beam disappeared and the object, still flashing, moved in the direction of the railway station. After that, I observed the object hovering over the logistics yard, railway station and cement factory. Then it returned to the rocket weapons depot, and hovered over it at an altitude of 60-70 m. [200-240 ft.]. The object was observed from that time on, by the first guard-shift and its commander. At 1:30 hrs., the object flew in the direction of the city of Akhtubinsk and disappeared from sight. The flashes on the object were not periodical, I observed all this for exactly two hours: from 23:30 to 1:30.⁴⁰

The second version of the story contains some more variations:

I climbed up to the watchtower and watched the object at a height of 18 feet. I could clearly make out a glaring blinking signal, bright as a camera flash. The object flew over the stores of the unit and moved in the direction of the missile arsenal, about 1,000 feet away. It floated at a height of only 60 feet above the depot. The UFO glowed in a kind of phosphorescent green. It was a disc 12 to 15 feet in diameter with a semi-spherical dome on it.

While the object was hovering above the arsenal, a bright ray appeared on its underside where the light had been flashing before, and drew 2 or 3 circles. Then the object moved towards the railway station, still flashing. Soon, however, it came back to the missile depot and hovered at a height of 180-200 feet above it. Two hours after the start of the sighting, the object flew in the direction of the town Akhtubinsk and disappeared out of our sight.”⁴¹

If these translations are accurate, the UFO was not visible “briefly” but loitered over the area for almost two hours. Neither transcript mentions nuclear weapons. Instead it is called a “rocket weapons depot” or “missile arsenal”. The idea that a beam was being projected specifically into a weapons bunker seems exaggerated as well. The only translation that mentions this only states that the beam lit up part of a building. It then went towards the railway station and cement yard. Were the pilots of this UFO interested in railway cars and cement as well?

Assuming that Kapustin Yar had nuclear weapons at the base in 1989, it would have been in a storage area where it would have been surrounded by Surface to Air Missile (SAM) batteries. If a UFO was hovering over the nuclear weapons storage area, one would think the Soviets would have responded with a SAM launch instead of allowing this intruder to loiter around the complex for two hours "taking photographs" or "shooting beams" at them. Is it possible that what was seen was something else? We are told the file was incomplete, which indicates that a possible solution might be possible if that information was made available.

The other case presented by Hastings was a bizarre story, where a UFO almost started World War III. On October 4, 1982, in the Ukraine, a UFO appeared over a Russian IRBM complex.⁴² At some point, several of the missiles went into countdown mode and were, apparently, going to launch. After 15 seconds, the anomaly ceased and the missiles returned to normal. It is assumed that the UFO caused this but there is no proof other than the account that a UFO hovered over the base for a significant amount of time. Once again, we are left with a docile Soviet military that ignored this threat and made no effort to retaliate. In 1982, tensions between the US and the USSR was at an elevated level. US Military weapon deployments (Pershing and cruise missiles) to Europe were planned/underway and the USAF had been testing Soviet air defenses on a regular basis. The Soviets were on a hair trigger alert and would be gravely concerned about an unknown force, presumably flown by the United States, was hovering over their missiles. Less than a year later, the Soviet Union would shoot down a Korean airliner because it had inadvertently wandered into their air space. Are we supposed to believe that the Soviets simply let this UFO interfere with their weapons systems without even attempting to respond?

Hastings compares the second event to the story by Captain David Schuur.⁴³ He said that a UFO had activated several of his missiles at Minot AFB in 1966 and initiated a launch signal. The commander, struck an inhibit switch to prevent the missile from launching. Tim Hebert has stated that it is unlikely it happened this way.⁴⁴ Like all the stories being paraded on this program, there is nothing that verifies that these stories are true or that a UFO actually caused the events. They all can be considered "underwhelming evidence" for Hastings' UFOs and Nukes connection.

Ambassadors of peace....or war?

At this point Hastings reveals what he thinks is happening. According to Hastings, the "pilots" of these UFOs are trying to warn us about the dangers of nuclear weapons.⁴⁵ I find this amusing because their behavior described by Hastings, if accurate, is more in line with the pilots trying to start a nuclear war. Shutting down missiles, intercepting warheads on test launches, intruding on nuclear weapon storage areas, or trying to launch weapons is the kind of actions one would expect from a hostile race and not a benevolent one. A trigger happy leader might suspect somebody (another nation) was trying to interfere with their arsenal and not trying to send a message to disarm. Such actions would trigger a hostile response and possibly start a nuclear war. Either Hastings' "pilots" are the dumbest race in the galaxy, who underestimate human psychology, or they are trying to have us wipe each other out.

FE Warren AFB 2010

Probably the ultimate insult to the viewer's intelligence is Hastings attempt at trying to link the FE Warren AFB missile shutdown in 2010 to UFO activity. Despite there being an obvious technological explanation of what transpired, Hastings generates a fantastic story that a UFO was responsible. His evidence for the UFOs is in the form of "confidential AF sources known to Robert Hastings" that told him missile maintenance personnel, who went out to the sites, saw a floating cigar shaped UFO in the sky. This object was confirmed because these same sources state that these teams were ordered not to discuss these sightings with the press or investigators.⁴⁶

Strangely, there is no evidence in the MUFON⁴⁷ and NUFORC⁴⁸ databases from October of 2010 that independently support his claims of many UFO reports being made in the area. These missiles are deployed over a large area, where civilians, who are not under orders, reside and travel. Are we supposed to believe that the UFO was only visible to his mystery witnesses and not to the rest of the population?

Hastings refers to "multiple independent reports" known by "key personnel" and "suppressed" by the chain of command. However, these "reports" are those he has received personally and cannot be independently confirmed. They can be considered nothing more than unconfirmed rumors being paraded as facts. How can we tell if the story being presented is just something that was fabricated by his source? This evidence is so feeble, it is essentially "non-existent".

Blue Book lies

Robert Hastings spends a certain part of the film criticizing Blue Book and secretary of defense Brown for saying that no UFO ever posed a threat to the national security of the United States.⁴⁹ His argument is that these events indicate that UFOs are a threat and are going out of their way to interfere with anything associated with nuclear weapons. This argument fails because everything he presented in this film, and his book, is speculation based on rumors and unconfirmable stories told years, or decades, after the

event. In light of such suspect evidence, it is understandable why Blue Book and the defense department reached their conclusions.

As we have seen, Hastings has a tendency to reach conclusions based on anecdotal evidence that can not be verified and he omits mentioning the documents that suggest another solution. One could draw the conclusion that is Hastings that is not being honest with public, which makes him a hypocrite.

Contagion

Mr. Hastings' approach to his documentary is that the stories told by these witnesses are 100% accurate. The skeptics argue that one cannot accurately determine if they are telling a fabricated story, a false memory, or the truth. Which is the most accurate cannot be resolved but, without proof, one has to put the weight towards which is more probable. Since there is no hard evidence that alien spaceships actually exist, one must look elsewhere for possible answers.

Since all of the witness rely on their memories to recount what transpired, we must examine that aspect and how reliable it can be. Many of Hastings' witnesses appear to be familiar with stories told by the others before coming forth. He makes a habit of urging former missile crew members to contact him after telling his UFO and Nukes stories in these venues. This introduces contamination and can create false memories as Dr. Julia Shaw states:

Studies have shown people alter their own recollections when they compare experiences with others. We take on the memories of others as our own, intentionally or not, and whether details are accurate or not. They're contagious.

One reason is that when you hear a different version of an event, your brain may make new connections that interfere and overlay your own original memory.

We can also forget the source of the information we remember, so go on to assume we must have experienced it ourselves.⁵⁰

Dr. Elizabeth Loftus also tells us how memories can be contaminated by outside sources:

During the time between an event and a witness's recollection of that event -- a period often called the "retention interval" -- the bits and pieces of information that were acquired through perception do not passively reside in memory waiting to be pulled out like fish from water. Rather, they are subject to numerous influences. External information provided from the outside can intrude into the witness's memory, as can his own thoughts, and both can cause dramatic changes in his recollections.

People's memories are fragile things. It is important to realize how easily information can be introduced into memory, to understand why this happens, and to avoid it when it is undesirable.⁵¹

It seems a reasonable hypothesis that, in some cases, these witnesses are telling their stories because Hastings, and others, have contaminated the witness pool with stories of alien spaceships interfering with nuclear weapons. A good example of this can be found in a letter that Fred Miewald wrote to Robert Salas in 1996:

"The info you provided is very interesting but I have slightly different memories..."⁵²

Exactly what memories were different is not clear but his memory could have been contaminated by Salas, who had already sent him his version of what transpired. Miewald's later recollections may have no longer been accurate. Like Dr. Shaw stated, false memories can be contagious and there is no way to tell which details come from Miewald's original memories and which details were influenced by Salas.

"Call me"

At the end of the film, Hastings urges people to contact him with their "UFOs and nukes" stories because of the historical nature of these events. Soliciting testimony of this kind invites all sorts of story tellers and can contaminate the memories of others. How can Hastings tell the difference between a fabrication, a false memory, and a story that is entirely accurate? He can't and this is why his film, and his evidence, is underwhelming.

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December 29, 1952

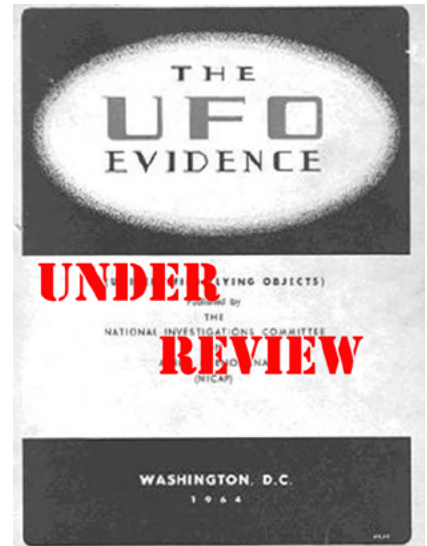
The NICAP document describes this event as:

*December 29, 1952--Northern Japan. Colonel, other USAF pilots, radar detected rotating UFO. [III]*¹

Section III gives us a bit more information but not much:

*UFO with rotating red, green, and white lights, 3 fixed beams of white light, out sped F-94.*²

The footnote tells us that this information came from USAF intelligence reports, which means the details should be in the Blue Book records



Blue Book file

Blue Book has an extensive file on this case, which involves multiple sightings that night. There was an extensive investigation of the event and their conclusions are something not mentioned by NICAP.

The record card summarizes the case as follows³:

13. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Object described by observer as set of rotating lights, counter clockwise, varying red, white & green. Object appeared to have two beam like legs on top and one on bottom side. Source, who is pilot of F-84G a/c, observed the object at 27,000' altitude then climbed to 37,000' which was same altitude of object. When observer attempted interception, object pulled away & disappeared after approximately 30 seconds. Source is a reliable combat pilot who is an AF colonel.

The FLYOBRT report describes the object as follows⁴:

- *...it was larger and brighter than any of the stars or other heavenly bodies.*
- *Its body whose shape can only be assumed to be circular, gave off three colors, i.e. red, white, and green. These are the colors gave the rotating effect was similar to the change in colors often seen in popular makes of Juke-boxes.*
- *Beyond the prominence of the colors common to the body, (possibly the center of the body) the most prominent item of description appeared to be the three beams of light that worked from the body outward in straight shafts of white light. These three beams never changed their relative positions, and actually were located at about 11 o'clock, - 5 o'clock, and 7 o'clock.*
- *The object at no time executed any violent maneuvers, except for an almost gradual change of direction during the two observations.*

The sequence of events for the UFO sighting involved numerous sightings from various personnel and aircraft, which ended in the pursuit by the F-84. Witnesses at Chitose had reported UFOs from the ground and airborne aircraft were alerted to their presence. This involved two F-94s and a B-26. They saw nothing regarding the UFOs reported by Chitose but they all noticed a bright UFO low in the west until about 1955 local time. At 1948 local time, an airborne F-84 interceptor, noticed the bright light paralleling his aircraft. He turned west and gained altitude to 35,000 feet. He appeared to be gaining on the object until 1955, when the UFO sped away.

With the UFO gone, the F-84 chose to return to his air base to the southeast. Around 2000, he noticed the UFO to the South or Southwest. At 2005, he attempted to turn west but the UFO rapidly disappeared again.



There was also a radar contact as part of this event but it was too the east of Misawa AFB and not to the northwest, where the UFO was sighted and pursued.

Explanation

Like many UFO reports involving nocturnal lights, there is a probable astronomical explanation. At the time of the sighting, the planet Venus (at magnitude -4.2) was setting in the west. Set times vary depending on location and altitude:

Location	Approx. Venus set time	Altitude
B-26	1952 local time	10,000 feet
F-94s (x2)	1954 local time	20,000 feet
F-84	1955 local time	35,000 feet

These values indicate that the three other aircraft had sighted the planet Venus. The F-84's initial pursuit was also of the planet Venus. Since all were looking in the direction of Venus and did not notice it, then it is logical to conclude that the UFO was probably Venus.

The F-84's second sighting is not so easily identified. If the directions are correct, the pilot saw the object to the south, or South-South-west, which is not the planet Venus or Mars. The pilot referred to the object disappearing to the west a few seconds after he turned towards it. It seems possible he might have confused a distant light from a ship, ground light, or another aircraft that was visible for a short period of time and disappeared for some reason. The aircraft's southeastward trek would make a distant light appear to slowly move towards the west as the aircraft moved south, which would agree with his final statement that the object disappeared to the west. While some might find it unlikely he would confuse a distant light, one must remember, he was already in a state of alert for unusual lights and had already chased the planet Venus. Confusing another light for a UFO seems probable.

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701 CLUB: CASE 3893 DECEMBER 21, 1955 CARIBOU MAINE

Don Berliner describes this case as:

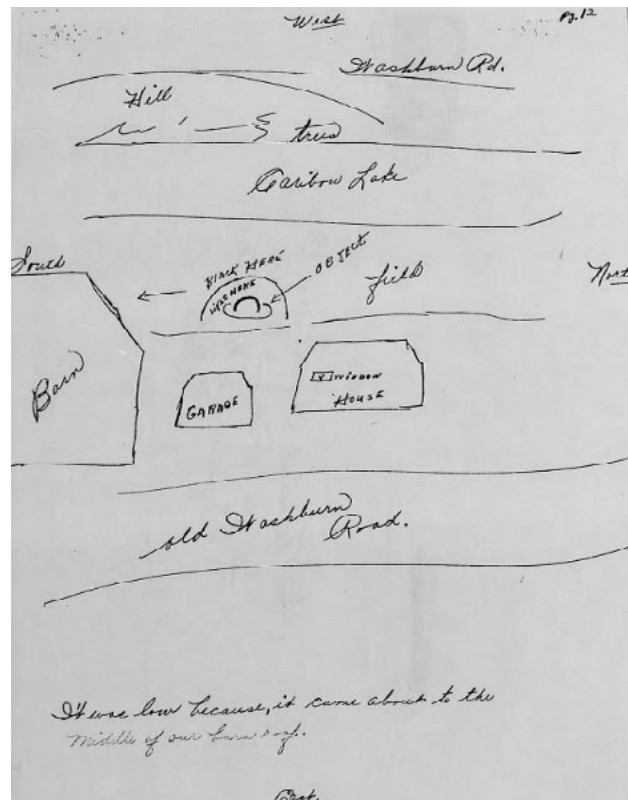
Dec. 21, 1955; Caribou, Maine. 11 p.m. Witness: Roberta V. Jacobs. One round, very bright gold, domed disc made a short climb, rotated, hovered and then accelerated during the 6-8 minute sighting.¹

The case sounded very interesting and I was glad to see that the witness gave us some details of their sighting.

The witness report

The case file indicates that no investigation was conducted. All that is included is the standard reporting form completed by the witness two months after the event.

The witness gave some directions and angles of elevations that might be useful. They stated that it was initially seen in the Southwest and it disappeared in the southeast. The object also appears to have risen a bit during the observation. This seems to be helpful but the sketch of the sighting by the witness did not indicate the object moved across 90 degrees of sky towards the east. It shows the object staying in the same direction and rising just a bit. It is possible the witness meant to circle the Southwest direction instead of the Southeast direction based on this information. This became clear in the witness' sketch of the UFO's location in relation to her home.²



This shows the object being to the West-Southwest or Southwest. The witness also stated that the object was low (and not the 45 degree elevation given in her report form) about the same elevation as the middle of the barn roof, which appears to have been a significant distance away (being separated between the house by a garage).

The witness' description of the event reveals some details about the sighting that may be important³:

1. *The brightness was similar to the sun only it wasn't hard on my eyes*
2. *I just turned out my kitchen light to go to bed. I saw this red glare. I thought it was a fire on the Washburn Road. So I thought i would wait and if I could see the flames...Then it got brighter and brighter, so bright it just couldn't seem to get any brighter, And then it just came right out of the sky.*
3. *It either came from behind a cloud or the light was so bright it showed miles ahead of the ship.*

4. *I could see the flat bottom part going round and round real fast. Almost to fast for the eyes to see it.*

5. *I thought it was a spaceship.*

The witness later stated that the object was in the direction of the lake.

She woke up her husband and he came downstairs to see what his wife was so excited about. According to the witness⁴:

He took one look at it and said, it was the moon.

Mrs. Jacobs was not happy with her husband's response and then went on to talk about how she felt something living was in the craft and they were observing her. She then went to bed.

To perform a check to see if it was the moon, Roberta looked out her window at 11 PM on December 24th. Her observation was⁵:

...it was no where near where I saw the object. It was straight up from our back yard.

On the 26th, her husband began to doubt his identification of the UFO as the moon because he wasn't sure that he got a good look at it. He then concludes that it could not have been the moon.

Possible solution

It seems that one has to wonder about some of the descriptions given by the witness and the husband's initial observation. Could the object have been the moon? There are several factors that indicate it may have been the moon:

1. Moonset was about 11:28 PM EST Azimuth 275 degrees
2. The moon was only a few degrees above the western horizon at 11 PM. In her sketch of the surroundings, she implied the UFO was "low".
3. The first quarter moon would have illuminated the area of the sky near moonset. With such a low angle of elevation, it would have appeared gold, orange, or possibly red.
4. With a low elevation angle the first quarter moon could appear distorted and odd-shaped. It might have also wavered depending on the atmospheric conditions.
5. The moon would have been the brightest thing in the sky and could appear to be like the sun to a person in the dark.

On the 24th, when the witness wanted to check if it could have been the moon, it was also visible from her window but much higher in the sky. This is what one would expect. On the night of the 24th, at 11 PM, the moon was at an azimuth of 252 degrees and





elevation 37 degrees (see image above).

Arguments against the moon hypothesis

1. The witness said the object rose a few degrees in 6-8 minutes. The moon was setting.
2. The witness direction of observation states it was to the Southwest.
3. The witness states it could not be the moon
4. The witness gives a description that is not what one would expect for the moon.

I don't consider any of these arguments to be that serious an argument against the moon hypothesis. Witnesses can confuse directions and how much motion could have been seen. Descriptions can also be skewed by a witness' beliefs/perceptions.

I think the biggest factors that need to be considered at this point are:

1. Her husband's first comment was that she was looking at the moon! This indicates that, at first glance, this UFO looked a lot like the moon.
2. The witness did not report seeing the moon setting at the same time as the object. It would have been prominently visible in the sky in the general direction she was observing. She would have noted it and told her husband that it was not the moon because the moon was also visible.

Reclassification

As always, we are left with not enough information to make a positive identification. That being said, the testimony does point towards this being the moon. I would consider this to be classified as possibly/probably the moon.

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