CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

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Large Circular Physical Trace Is It Common?

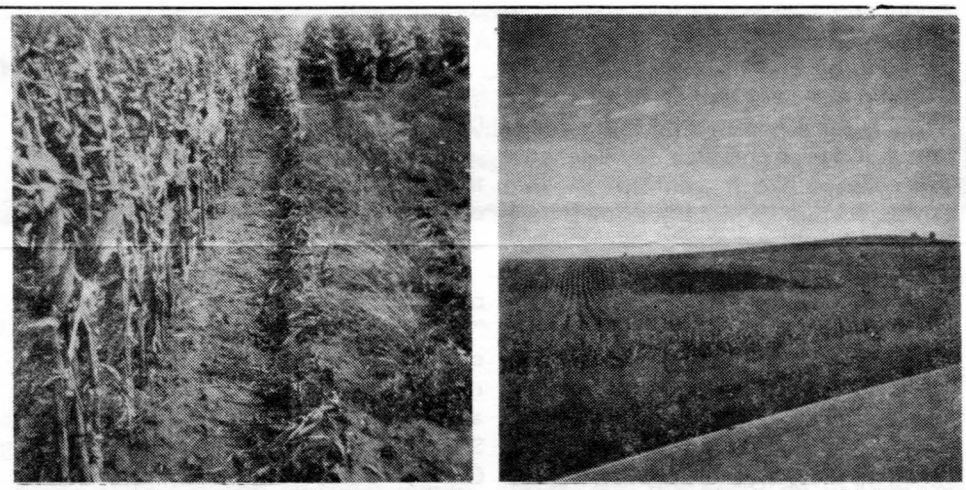
On the evening of July 14, 1952, a Pan American Airways DC 4 airliner, flying at 8,000 feet, was approaching the Norfolk, Virginia area enroute to Miami. The officers noted the lights of Newport News off to their right at about 8:10 p.m. EST.

At that moment both men noticed a red brilliance in the sky, apparently beyond and to the east of Newport News, which quickly resolved into six bright objects streaking toward the plane, at a lower altitude.

The UFOs were fiery red, with well-defined edges and were apparently circular. The officers estimated the diameters of the objects to be approximately 100 feet. In shape and proportion, they were very much like coins.

The above report is extracted from page 38 of *THE UFO EVIDENCE*, recently republished by National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (2926 Applegate Road, Glenview, IL 60025) and is similar to many reports in the files of research organizations throughout the world.

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Myers of Grand Island, Nebraska were traveling to the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Northeast Nebraska, just south of Sioux City, Iowa several years ago when they noticed a large patch of a cornfield with no corn growing, similar to a condition which is common and results from water standing in the field during the early growing season for any agricultural crop. But they observed that it was on sloping ground, not at the low spot and, upon investigating, that it was a perfect circle about 100 feet in diameter.



Close-up and distant photographs of a corn field near Winnebago, Nebraska showing 100-foot diameter circular area of killed vegetation caused by an unexplained event several years ago.

Curious about the possible UFO-related event, they inquired and learned from local people that it had appeared suddenly earlier in the year while the corn was still quite short, killing off the growth in the area and preventing the growth of anything until later in the summer, when the weeds finally began to survive.

They also learned that there had been a light "like lightning which lit up the whole sky" shortly before the damaged corn field was found. It is not known at this time if it was a momentary flash or a sustained light. There was a farm house less than a half mile away where "the electricity quit functioning for a time." It is not known if repairs were needed to reestablish service.

The Myers took photographs at the time of their visit during September that same year and selected samples of the soil from the area, storing them in small plastic film canisters for possible chemical analysis. The samples were never tested and many details of the case are still missing, due to incomplete investigation.

On Friday evening, July 21, 1978, Chloene Bechdolt stepped out the side door of her small farm home just east of Uniopolis, Ohio with a pan of apple peelings. She had been preparing apples for herself and her nephew, Terry, and it was getting dark enough at about 9:30 PM that she could just see her way to the small chicken house at the rear of her two-acre plot of land. As she stepped off the cement east entrance onto the walk toward the north of her property, she noticed a very bright light, "about the color of what they put back of trucks when they've got trouble along the road," near the ground in her north field.

Walking to the garden fence she hollered in the direction of the light, "You get out of here. You're not supposed to be back there. . .," thinking that someone out there was doing something which might damage her crop of unharvested soybeans in the field where the light seemed to be located. Miss Bechdolt took her "peelings and things" to the hen house, about 35 feet from the main house, and as she walked back to the house she glanced again toward the light in her field. It appeared to be somewhat smaller, now. It had "looked like a great big circle before."

Back in her house, she told her nephew to get ready for bed and

(Continued next page)

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began getting ready for the night. About a half hour later she looked out the window and saw that the light was still there and was bigger in size. Alarmed about the possibility of poachers setting her crops on fire with cigarettes, she dressed and went down into her field to a creek bridge not far from where the large mass of bright red light rested in her bean field. Again she shouted, "I told you'uns to git out of here . . . that you're not supposed to be back here."

When she said that, "it just looked like this thing had . . . I'll call it wings . . . that closed part way up . . . then it just seemed like it went up . . . into the air it went. When I got down here . . . it acted like it was going to raise, after I told 'em to get out. I heard (makes a noise) like . . . they were people . . . like they was talking. But what they was saying and what it was . . . I don't know what that was." She thought this was not the sound of the object "because when it started to move up there wasn't anything but just a little bit of a hum." She didn't see what made the odd noises.

As she headed back toward her farm house, she noticed a truck had parked along the road past her property and was just pulling away and down the road. Her nephew saw the light, but she has not talked with anyone else who may have seen it.

On Sunday afternoon they walked back into the field to investigate and found a large circular area of cut beans leveled where the light had been. Also, she noticed that the timothy stubble looked like it was scorched about one inch from the ground, but the tops were not scorched, just the lower part.

Pacing off the dimension of the damaged beans, she estimated the diameter of the circle to be approximately 100 feet . . . a perfect circle.

These three cases suggest a common shape and dimension . . . circular 100 feet, approximately. A common physical trace? We wonder how many ASSOCIATES have come across similar cases. **A/N**

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The CUFOS ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 1621
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John P. Timmerman, Editor
J. Allen Hynek, PhD., Scientific Director

Correspondence

Dear Professor Hynek:

When you listened to your lecture at the Old Prague Restaurant in Cicero about 10 years ago, you asked if anybody in the audience has seen a UFO.

I am shy in public and also imagined a headline in the local paper . . . "local physician saw UFOs, six or seven of them, in the sky" . . . So, I remained silent then, as I had since the sighting end of April 1944 in Western Slovakia, right over the receding German-Soviet frontline.

Reading *THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE* by Jacques Vallee, I came across a report on page 20, given by a Californian, date not given. My sighting was similar.

It was late afternoon with a clear sky. Artillery fire was rumbling on and off some 30 KM west. I was standing on a hill near my home, when a round object, the color of a darker cloud, suddenly grew up to about 2 feet in diameter, travelling from left toward me on a trajectory and then getting smaller, as if going at an unbelievable speed to my right. It was about 10 to 15 degrees above the horizon. The total time of sighting was less than a minute. It moved at a steady speed and was followed by another, identical image, following the same pathway about 20 seconds later, then another one, starting as a pinpoint, so that at least five of the objects were visible, starting as a pinpoint, then growing and again going as a pinpoint, all identical.

I cannot be sure how many there were. If I saw them from the first one, which I think I did, there were seven of them, possibly eight.

I did not have any suggestion that I should not report it. I dismissed it as some kind of optical illusion, although this explanation bothered me right there and then. As a 20-year-old would, I suppose, I did not tell anyone about it, being afraid of ridicule. I had no other feeling. The total sky show was not more than 5 minutes (duration).

I suspect that I was one of several, or many, people who sighted it. Lots of Soviet soldiers must have been looking the same direction and the peasants east of the front were sowing in the fields. But, nobody spoke of it that I heard.

If I can be of more help, please contact me.

(Name withheld, on file)

Dear Dr. Hynek,

Thank you for taking time to answer my letter concerning the UFO I saw last July 23, 1981.

The ball of light looked like an oversized moon. It appeared to be about 10 or 12 feet in diameter. When I first saw the reflection of it in the water, it was moving from west to east. It was on the other side of some trees so I thought it was an optical illusion and was a helicopter some distance away. There was no sound. I continued fishing and have no concept of how much time elapsed before it came over the trees from the east. I caught the light out of the corner of my eye and turned to see the object slowly moving over the tree tops and move slowly toward the lake. It seemed to come down about 3 feet off the ground and about 4 or 5 feet from the edge of the water. It just stood still and was making no sound and did not change color or brightness. It began to move slowly away back over the trees toward the east, just the opposite of its approach.

I cannot say if it was round because I only saw the one side which was facing me.

There was a full moon and a clear sky. The stars were visible. The moon was bright enough that I was not using a flashlight (to fish). The object appeared around 8:45 PM. My daughter came to get me and told me the time. I was rowing to shore as the object had just left and I was a little uneasy that it might return. I was worried about my daughter being there.

This is the first and last time I have seen anything like this. However, on several occasions prior to this we saw a bright light over the fields that looked unusual, but we assumed it was an airplane. My husband checked the ground where the object hovered and found no signs of anything.

The UFO was round and seemed to just kind of float when it moved. It moved slowly and very smoothly. It looked like a huge moon. The full moon was toward my right and the UFO approached from my left.

I hope this information is of some help to you. Most people think you are some kind of "kook" when you relate this incident.

Mrs. Gilbert Betulius
Evansville, Indiana

Dear Doctor Hynek:

I have a suggestion concerning the nature of UFOs. I got this idea from the following considerations.

Life is present in myriads of different forms, each wonderfully suited to its own environment — in the seas, on the land and in the air. Is it not possible that living forms may have developed in interstellar space from the material present there even though this material is of low density? I am suggesting that UFOs may be living forms or "creatures" of large size having perhaps a rudimentary intelligence analogous to that of primitive forms of life on earth. These living forms would have a system of locomotion adapted to the environment of space and even perhaps a system of defense using electric or magnetic fields. Is this too fanciful an idea? I think not when we consider the remarkable resourcefulness of nature in developing living beings wonderfully adapted to life in many varied environments.

Let us see how this theory fits actual observations of UFOs better than other proposed theories. Because of the purposeful behavior of many UFOs, it would seem to rule out the possibility that they are physical phenomena similar to ball lightning. On the other hand, the possibility that they are space ships manned by super intelligent beings from an advanced civilization seems very unlikely as these beings would certainly have tried to communicate with us. Therefore the theory that I have proposed would seem to better fit the observations.

In conclusion, I am suggesting that UFOs are living forms of life from interstellar space.

I would greatly appreciate your comments.

Paul S. Delaup
Lafayette, Louisiana

Dear Dr. Hynek:

We saw you this morning on "People Are Talking" on TV. We enjoyed the program very much so decided to tell you what we saw.

My husband and I are responsible people, not crackpots. He is 63. I will be 60 this Saturday (November 21, 1981).

I don't remember what year it was, maybe ten years ago. It was in the summer and we started our vacation after work, about 5:30 PM enroute to Southern California from Napa, CA.

We were traveling Highway #5 and were somewhere south of Highway #198 turn-off when we saw a couple of lights. I thought maybe they were tower lights for airplanes. But my husband is a pilot and he said there were none around. In fact, there wasn't anything around.

As we watched the lights, they got closer and closer, but all we could see were lights, no form. It was also getting later.

After a bit, we didn't see the light, but a huge search light was turned on and searched the area all along our right side, but never on us. We still didn't see any form, just light, and I was watching intently by now and frightened.

We stopped and got out of the motor home. The search light was turned off and the original lights turned on and (the object) seemed to climb.

There was a tractor working in the field beside us on the right, but the spot light didn't hit him, either.

All of a sudden, the light stopped and a huge cloud of smoke — haze — fog, vapor or something appeared and, after maybe three or more minutes, it disappeared.

We never saw anything again. We never saw a form or heard a sound . . . only the running lights and the spot light and vapor.

We thought about stopping at the next town to tell the police, but decided they would think we were nuts so we just kept quiet.

The vapor had no color . . . just whitish grey.

Any plane would have made a sound and have had a form. Also, after the vapor, where did the object go? A plane at night has to have running lights and would have had to leave the vapor in some direction.

Have you ever heard of a situation like that? Thank you for your attention.

(Name on file at CUFOS)

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Now, as we approach the end of the year, is a good time to combine a holiday gift for a friend (many young people are ASSOCIATES of CUFOS and have reported sightings) with a tax-deductible item on your Federal income tax return.

Make your check payable to CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES and mail it to P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, IL 60204. Dr. J. Allen Hynek and his hundreds of volunteers investigating and studying the UFO phenomenon will appreciate your support. A gift notification letter will be sent to the person in whose name your gift is being made and you will have your cancelled check as your receipt for tax purposes. *(See gift categories elsewhere in this issue.)* **A/N**

Newly-Reported Case Possible Abduction?

We have just received a written report by mail from a woman in southern Mississippi which suggests that she may have been the victim of a "missing time" experience involving unknown captors.

In an effort to bring our ASSOCIATES into the investigation process as early as possible, we present here her letter for your study and evaluation. The case is just now being assigned, but at this writing we have not located a competent person near enough to conduct the investigation. The Center for UFO Studies is cooperating with NICAP, MUFON and APRO in an effort to make the best possible assignment to the case. Your input will be appreciated and anyone knowing an experienced investigator near Hattiesburg, for this case is asked to contact our Lima office immediately. Here is the letter we have received.

"In November of 1977, (I don't remember the exact date), I believe that I was picked up by a U.F.O. This is the reason why I believe it.

"For about three weeks, my mother and I watched the preview of a movie at her house, that was to come on T.V., and we really wanted to see this picture. On the day it was to show I went to town which was nine miles away, after I had finished there I went to visit one of my cousins, which lives ten miles away from my mother's house. The movie we were going to watch came on at eight o'clock. I left my cousins place at five to seven p.m. to get to my mother's in time to eat dinner before the movie started, and should have been there in thirty minutes or less.

"I parked my car in front of my mother's, grabbed my hand-bag and ran into the house. Just as I went in I looked at the T.V. and the movie was already on, I looked at my mother and said, 'Well I'll just be damn, you mean the movie came on early?' She looked at me and asked, 'Mae, what in the world is wrong with you, and why are you looking at me that way? The movie is almost over, it is fifteen minutes till ten o'clock. Have you been drinking or something?' I said to her, 'Mama the only thing I have been drinking is coffee.' Then she asked me, 'Then why are you looking so wild out of your eyes?' Well I didn't have an answer to that question, for I didn't know that anything was wrong with me at the time. There were two or three more people in the living room at the time. I was so disappointed about the movie I wanted to cry.

"I went on into the kitchen to get something to eat, and my mother had a big yellow cat that she always fed in there. As I walked in, he let out a scream and ran under the table, knocking over a bag that was sitting under there with some can stuff in it, then he ran for the front door and went all the way to the top of the screen door still screaming. My mother got up and opened the screen to let him out, this is the way that he acted for the next three days, and he wouldn't let me get anywhere near him, he used to sit on the arm of my chair while I watched T.V. with everyone.

"My mother never did say anything to me about her cat, but I was afraid that she would think I had hurt him in some way, but after days he was sitting on the arm of my chair again. (Three days I think it was.)

"We never mentioned my lost time for about two days, then I knew that something had happened to me that was strange, but I still didn't know what, because I didn't stop anywhere on the way home. The only thing I saw was a bright orange colored light on the way, it was to the left of my car, but it went out of sight behind some pine trees, and I just took it to be a plane.

"About a year and a half later, I told my mother one day that I could remember a room I had been in but didn't know where it was, and there were three beings in there with me. I was standing behind some kind of desk like thing, there was a being on either side of me and the other one was sitting at this desk, or it was more like some kind of panel, and I was standing right behind him looking over his head. I knew then that it had to be some kind of control panel. It was a very pale yellow in color, and it had black knobs all over it, they seemed to come to a point at the stop. There was some kind of writing, or marking under each one of them. I remember that I couldn't read any of them, and I also remember that the beings were no taller than myself, unless it was the one sitting down. I am five-two and a half. I don't remember seeing any faces, I just remember the bulk at my sides, and I also seem to remember that the one sitting down in front of me didn't have any hair, but the being wasn't bald, not like the men here any way, maybe this being had on some kind of cap or something.

"I remember hearing someone telling me about the screen that was behind the desk, or panel, but I don't remember in what direction it came from, or maybe it was coming from some kind of speaker that was in the room somewhere. The panel seemed to be about four feet long, by one and a half, or two feet deep. Between the panel and the screen there was an empty space, and the screen was directly behind the panel, I remember that I tried to look down into that space, but it was all dark. I looked back at the screen and there was green trees and white colored roads, kind of like some of the shell roads in Louisiana. I was looking down on top of them and it was like the sun or some kind of extra bright light was shining on top of them, and somewhere this voice was telling me that the picture I was looking at on the screen was the exact spot we were over at the time, and that was how they could tell right where they were going to land. They also said that in the space I had seen behind the panel, was fixed some way with mirror like things that reflected onto the screen the exact spot they were over.

"Could you tell me if anyone reported having had any kind of an experience similar to this in the vicinity of two hundred miles from where I live, or if there were any kind of strange lights seen in the sky in November of 1977?

"Will be waiting for some kind of an answer, and thank you very much."

Name withheld

(This letter was forwarded to us by Dick Haines, CUFOS Research Department.)

Dear Mr. Pace,

Thank you for your letter dated 8/3/77 and your interest in the account of U.F.O. sighting which I gave during our recent visit to Grantley Hall.

I have filled in forms R2, Section A and B, to the best of my ability. As you will appreciate some of the questions are not applicable because of the rather unusual circumstances surrounding the sighting.

In your letter you ask that I give you as full as possible a background to the incident. In answer to your specific questions; at the time of the sighting I was a Sgt./Pilot, trained to instruct standard, day, night, and instrument on single and multi-engined aircraft. I also held a R.A.F. qualification in navigation which enabled me to instruct fully qualified navigators. My own Station was R.A.F. Little Rissington, which at that time operated as No. 6 (P) A.F.U. (*Pilots Advanced Flying Unit*). From time to time permanent staff in Training Command were sent on operational attachment, particularly when any new operational procedures were to be tried out. During May, 1943 I was seconded to No. 77 Squadron, 4 Group, Bomber Command, operating from Elvington, near York, (it may be of interest that this was the satellite and twin Squadron of the famous 102 "Cheshire V.C. Squadron" operating from Pocklington).

On the night of 26/27 May we were to carry out an attack on the Krupps Armament Works at Essen. As far as I recall between 300/400 aircraft were involved in the raid. The great difference between this and previous attacks was that Air Marking was to be used; details of this technique are now readily available in most technical books about the period. The Squadron's aircraft were Halifax 1a's which, as far as I remember, were equipped with the 4 Merlin 22 engines and normally carried a crew of seven, as this type was equipped with a mid-upper as well as a rear turret. Our briefing was to bomb from a height of 20,000 feet, which proved to be impossible due to the upper air temperature, reducing the engine's efficiency. General visibility over the target area was quite good.

I cannot remember the time of take-off nor landing, but the logged duration of the trip was 4 hours 40 minutes and it was still dark when we returned to base. I have, therefore, estimated the time over the target as approximately 0100 hours, which may be inaccurate.

We experienced the usual flak, ship and coastal battery flak, when crossing the Dutch coast, and were attacked by a German night fighter identified as a J.U. 88 by our Rear Gunner, but fortunately sustained no serious damage. The barrage flak in the Ruhr Valley was extremely heavy, particularly in the last few minutes on the approach to the target. The first wave had already bombed and the general target area was well alight.

It was the 2/3 minutes before our final run-in when we were at approximately 18,700 feet when we saw in front, but slightly to port and about the same height, a long cylindrical object, silvery gold colour, very sharply defined, hanging in the sky at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. There were, evently spaced along the length of the object, a number of what appeared to be port holes. I am not quite certain after all this time whether or not there was a second row beneath them. As previously stated, my function was to observe the Air Marking techniques and I was supernumerary air crew as Second Pilot. The first member of the crew to sight this object was the Captain, at that time Sgt./Pilot Ray Smith of the Royal Canadian Air Force (I know that Ray survived this tour as he later called to see me at Little Rissington and had been commissioned and awarded the D.F.C.) Besides Ray and myself, other members of the crew to see the object, which was called to their attention by the Captain, were (1) the Bomb Aimer, (2) the Flight Engineer, (3) the Mid-Upper Gunner and (4) the Wireless Operator. The Navigator did not see the object, partly because of his position in the aircraft and particularly because he was extremely busy at this moment of the operation; neither did the Rear Gunner see it, for obvious reasons.

I think that the first reaction of most of us was amazement because, as mentioned in the R2 forms, this object had just no right to be there. After a very short space of time, 20/30 seconds, it suddenly began moving and, retaining its altitude, climbed away

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accelerating extremely rapidly until it vanished from sight. The speed it attained seemed to us, in those days, completely incredible. It was certainly into the thousands of m.p.h. As it accelerated the outline became blurred and the shape foreshortened. The size is more difficult to judge, but it was *very* large, certainly *very* much bigger than our own aircraft, appearing at least as long as king-sized cigarette or small cigar at arm's length. We then completed our bomb run and returned to base.

The Intelligence Officer de-briefing us was given a description of this object but we were unable to judge what importance was attached to it by the authorities and, quite frankly, it was just another unusual phenomenon which, since apparently harmless, was of far less importance to us than other wartime hazards.

Shortly afterwards I was myself commissioned and did further instructional/experimental work and finished the war as Flight Lieutenant. My official numbers were, as Airman No. 1230741, after commissioning No. 169566. The Officer commanding "C" Flight, 77 Squadron, at the time of the event was Squadron Leader Bainbridge D.F.C., whom I know later became Wing Commander and believe was awarded the D.S.O. Unfortunately, the names of the other members of the crew elude me, although I know that there was at least one and possibly two of them called Jones. The Navigator's name was Page.

I have never seen anything of this nature either before or since and have never seen any of the saucer shaped objects, but in retrospect I am quite convinced that this cigar shaped U.F.O. described above was of extra terrestrial origin. One further point which I omitted to mention was that when it started its climb away there was no apparent motive power, i.e. no rocket flare, and since the bombing time was so close and the target already visible we were extremely busy and no instrument effect was noticed, even if any took place.

I hope that this account will be of use to you. Although it happened a long time ago the sighting was by a group of experts, none of whom could offer any rational explanation.

I have no objection whatever to your publishing this account in your magazine.

Yours sincerely,
G.N. Cockcroft

CUFOS Is Very International

As an indication to our *ASSOCIATES* of the international aspects of the Center for UFO Studies, our mail this week includes letters from the following countries: Brazil, Canada, Japan, China, Belgium, Sweden, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Netherlands, Turkey, France, England, Italy, Argentina, Australia, Philippines, Nigeria, Russia, Zimbabue and Malta. ***A/N***

Radio Public Service Announcement For October

Ten planets, if you regard the asteroid as a previous planet, and possibly more have been orbiting our local star, the Sun, since the beginning of our solar system, estimated to have been about 4.5 billion years ago. So what, you may say, for many people have no interest whatever in astonomy. However, some of those same disinterested persons have become very interested in ~~what may be out there in~~ the sky after having personally observed an unidentified flying object. The chances that you may see a UFO are impossible to determine, but a steady flow of reported sightings continues to arrive at the non-profit CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES since it was founded in 1973. Only about one out of ten remains unidentified after careful investigation, but these remaining few are world-wide and deserve thorough scientific study. Center Scientific Director, Dr. J. Hynek urges you to observe carefully and to report accurately what you cannot explain to the CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES, Box 1402, Evanston, Illinois, 60204.

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