

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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POLICE OFFICERS CONTINUE TO SIGHT UFOs

Enfield, Connecticut was a sighting point for unidentified objects and lights that were seen by local residents as well as the Enfield Police Department during a three-month period of time.

The first object was observed by Mr. Paul Rogers. He stated that on the evening of February 24, at approximately 9:50 pm, he was driving to his home when he noticed a large object hovering over an open field. The witness claimed that the object was only 60 feet off of the ground just above the tree line which surrounded the field. The witness stated that the object was enormous, about 60 feet long, and appeared very dark against the sky. His description was that the object looked like "two large dinner plates inverted and that the space between them was lit by bright red, green and blue rotating lights." Mr. Rogers was able to observe the phenomena for no more than thirty seconds.

The witness claimed that the object simply disappeared. It left at a speed faster than his eye could follow. His entire observation was made through his automobile windshield.

Another car approached the scene and stopped. The two men exchanged their reactions as to what they had seen and the newcomer simply stated that he was going to forget the entire episode and drove off. However, Mr. Rogers felt very shaken by this experience and at the same time most curious. He felt he could not "drop" the experience and continued home to discuss it with his family. Mr. Rogers' home is located only one-half mile from the point of his observation.

During the investigation made by NICAP, Mr. Rogers' family was questioned regarding whether or not they had

seen or heard anything unusual at the time of Paul's sighting. Mrs. Rogers stated that she had not, but that the family dog began to bark and growl for no apparent reason, but did not move from where he had been sitting. Mrs. Rogers thought his behavior was strange but did not think anymore about it until the police questioned Mr. Rogers about his experience.

A police sergeant who lives a short distance from the Rogers' home stated that on the evening of the sighting, at approximately the same time, the picture on his television set faded and became very scrambled for a short period of time. The behavior of the dog and the television do not necessarily lend strength to the case, but because they occurred at the same time as the sighting, are certainly worth considering. The usual investigation procedure was conducted for this case. Police were contacted, local airports, and other local residents were questioned. Unfortunately, no clues or new information have been uncovered as of this writing.

On March 4th, at 9:30 pm, a similar sighting was reported in the exact same location by Mr. John Foy and a passenger in his car, Joan Pelletier. The two witnesses stated that they had been driving east in Enfield when they observed what appeared to be an oval-shaped object hovering approximately 200 feet over a field. The craft seemed to be emitting blue, green and red light. It was moving in an easterly direction at an estimated speed of five miles per hour. The pair was able to observe the unidentified object for approximately forty-five minutes. During their observation, the witnesses noticed that a helicopter flew very close to the object. NICAP's investigator and

the Enfield Police Department checked all military and private installations regarding the helicopter but their inquiries proved negative.

It was the opinion of NICAP's investigator, Mr. Ernest Jahn, that the two sightings could possibly have been related even though the descriptions varied somewhat. This discrepancy could be explained because of the excited, psychological state of the witnesses at the time of the sightings and during their reporting of the incident to the Police and Mr. Jahn.

Fort Smith, Arkansas - June 19, 1975 For almost 40 minutes an Arkansas family and two police officers were spell bound while observing a multitude of strange lights in the sky. NICAP's investigator, Bill Pitts was contacted by the police department when the report was phoned into headquarters. Bill requested that they send some policemen to the scene and stated that he would meet them there. Upon his arrival, the lights were still visible and dazzling.

The night was clear with the moon full and stars bright. The irregular motion of the lights is what first attracted the witnesses to them. A brilliant large light would appear one at a time, remain visible for approximately 15 to 20 seconds before disappearing and then another light would become visible from a different direction. Some were traveling from northwest to southeast, some in a due south direction, and another making very erratic movements approaching from southeast to northwest.

Mr. Pitts, after observing the lights, began questioning the policemen and the other witnesses and all noted a particular

erratic pattern. The officers commented, "those lights are not conventional aircraft."

Mr. Pitts contacted the weather bureau to determine if there were any weather balloons, or if they knew of any meteorites, fireballs, etc., in the atmosphere. The bureau confirmed that none were in the area. FAA and local airports were also contacted to check on their radar systems. Nothing unusual was being picked up. However, police and radio stations were continually receiving phone calls reporting strange light behavior by many people in the area. The lights moved faster than a jet, but slower than a "falling star.. would travel. Most of the lights could be observed for twenty to forty-five seconds before disappearing.

Parsippany, N.J. — July 5, 1975 A Boston College student and his date sighted a massive UFO moving slowly over a Parsippany, N.J. highway around midnight.

The oval shaped object looked like a squat submarine. It hovered over the highway and was so close that the witnesses, Tom Cahill and Jane Tiger, could see a reflection of lights from a nearby gasoline station on the bottom of the craft.

The young couple described the objects size as having a width encompassing all of Route 46. Miss Tiger stated that there appeared to be a greenish band of light around the objects turret and stated that the color green was most unusual. She stated that "the greenish color seemed to lack quality." The object's appearance happened simultaneously with the sudden "break-up" of the Parsippany police radio system.

Police Lt. John Walsh stated that between 12:05 and 12:30 am, "we were having trouble dispatching and receiving." There was severe interference while attempting to transmit from one car to another. The receiving car would only get a portion of the message. Then, as suddenly as the interference began, the problem was gone and so was the UFO that had been sighted.

Investigation and reports are still not complete on this case. The Parsippany Police Department is working with NICAP's regional investigator in trying to explain this occurrence. When additional information and reports are received and analyzed, the findings will be reported in the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

Analysis of UFO Photographed by Gemini II Astronauts

By:

Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.

The following material was presented by Dr. Maccabee at a meeting of the American Physics Society. Due to space limitations, the entire paper could not be published. Individuals interested in receiving the paper in its entirety, may order it from NICAP by enclosing \$2.50 to cover copying charges.

Dr. Maccabee received his Ph.D in physics from American University, Washington, D.C. He is employed as a Physicist by the Naval Surface Weapons Center which is located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

On September 13, 1966 during their sixteenth revolution, the Gemini II astronauts, Gordon and Conrad, sighted an object which they could not identify. It travelled close enough for them to have an impression of size (more than just a point of light).

Ground control's radio crackled with a transmission from Gemini II.

... We had a wingman flying wing on us going into sunset here off to my left. A large object that was tumbling at about 1 rps, and we flew—we had him in sight, I say fairly close to us, I don't know, it could depend on how big he is, and I guess he could have been anything from our ELSS to something else. We took pictures of it.

The next day, NORAD claimed that the object was the Proton III satellite and/or its booster at a distance of 450 km. from the astronauts. The key phrase to be noticed in their statement is that "it is unlikely that any photographs would show more than a point of light."

Despite this prediction on the part of NORAD, Dr. Franklin Roach, who analyzed the astronaut sightings for the Condon Report on unidentified flying objects,¹ accepted the NORAD explanation. He analyzed the photographs and made use of the simple geometric relation between the object and photographic image distances to calculate separations of the objects (or the several parts of one object?) shown in the photos. He estimated that the four separate objects had an extreme separation of about 3.5 km. and a minimum separation of about 1 km., assuming that they were at a distance of 450 km. He concluded that "it is

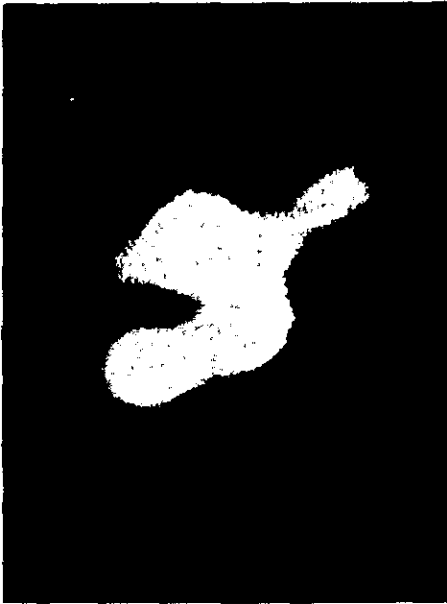
obvious that the photographs are recording multiple pieces of Proton III including possibly its booster plus two other components." He arrived at this conclusion despite the NORAD report on the Proton III which lists only two pieces, one of which may have reentered the earth's atmosphere as many as twenty-three days before the pictures were taken.

The Gemini II photographs show considerably more detail than just points of light. The amount of overexposure in the uniform white regions is comparable with that made by reflective objects which are close to the camera and are fully illuminated by the sun. The astronauts took three photos in the direction of the object(s). In the first photo, I was not able to locate an image comparable to the images in the second and third photos anywhere in the transparency. The second photo showed four distinct white blobs of various sizes with a red-orange "corona" surrounding them. A similar corona also surrounds the completely overexposed white region around the L-Band antenna, which appears at the right hand edge of all three photos (but is not shown in the photo printed herein) and was only several meters from the camera. Thus, the corona could result at least partially from overexposure of the film. However, the overexposure corona from objects follows the general shape of the overexposure region produced by the object, whereas the corona around the white blobs in photos 2 and 3 does not always follow the shape of the blobs. In some places the corona seems to exist "on its own". Thus, it seems that at least some of the corona must be associated with the object(s) which made the image.

The third photo shows three main white blobs more or less joined together and a long upward protrusion which includes a slightly less exposed whitish central region. These blobs are in a different arrangement suggesting either relative motion of separate objects or some sort of rotation of a single large object during the time interval of a minute or less between the pictures.

The images recorded in photos 2 and 3 can be compared with *expected* images of the known pieces of the Proton III by

simple geometrical relationships knowing the focal length of the camera, the distance to the Proton III, and the geometrical sizes of the known parts of the Proton III. These dimensions are considerably smaller than those of the smallest overexposed blob (photo 2) which is roughly 0.04 mm. in diameter. Clearly if the sizes of the blobs on the film plane are in the expected geometric proportions to the size(s) of the object(s) which caused the blobs, the object(s) were not associated with the Proton III.



The expected brightness of the largest part of the Proton III can be estimated using a formula given by Roach in the Condon Report. This brightness calculation suggests that the Proton III would be just at the limit of visibility, if at all visible, to the astronauts.

The white blobs changed their relative positions between photos. If the blobs were caused by objects at the distance of the Proton III, then the relative positions changed by distances of the order of hundreds of meters. For example, the approximate centers of the large upper blob and medium sized lower blob of photo 1 may have (if the same blobs are correctly identified) moved 0.05 mm. closer on the film plane, corresponding to a distance of about 600 meters at the distance of the Proton III. If such a motion is attributed to rotation of one massive body about another, or specifically, of the Proton III satellite about its booster, it would correspond to a considerable angular momentum and a considerable centrifugal force. The centrifugal force would exceed by many orders

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

DeWitt, Virginia — July 14, 1975 A very excited witness phoned NICAP stating that a UFO had landed in a corn field, and that the noise vibrations were so loud that he had to cover his ears. The object was sighted by three witnesses. One of the men began firing at the object with a rifle while another went to phone the Sheriff's office to report the incident. NICAP contacted the Sheriff's office to verify the report, but were told that by the time they arrived at the scene, the craft had disappeared. Camp Pickett was contacted to check on the possibility of military-type maneuvers, but their verification was negative.

New York City, New York (Manhattan) — June 13, 1975 An electrical engineer reported sighting a sharply outlined structured object with a "scarlet red" light on the top and small yellow lights emitting from "slits" at the bottom of the craft. The witness observed the UFO for approximately thirty seconds with the aid of binoculars. The craft moved in a perfectly straight line to the south and disappeared from view behind Lincoln Plaza, a 475 foot high building. The engineer calculated the distance to be 18,107 feet and the size of the object to have been 754 feet in diameter.

Albemarle, N.C. — April 25, 1975 A multiple witness sighting took place at approximately 9:30 pm. The unusual shaped light cluster was described as being much brighter than a star and shaped like the letter "A" with the left side longer. The witness observed through binoculars and it appeared to "jump and dart" about the sky. The formation was in view for almost 15 minutes until it ascended so high that it faded from sight.

of magnitude any gravitational attraction over the hundreds of meters of separation between the two objects. Thus, even if the satellite and its booster were momentarily rotating about one another immediately after launch, two months before the sighting, they would have ceased to do so by the time the Gemini II astronauts were in orbit. There seems to be no relative motion between the Proton III satellite and its booster that would be consistent both with the usual dynamics of objects in the same or nearly the same orbit (slow relative motion with one object slowly lagging behind the other) and the apparently rather high relative velocity necessary for objects 450 km. away to change their relative positions in the manner recorded on the photos.

I have shown that the photographs taken by the astronauts are not consistent with what would be expected of photographs of the Proton III booster and satellite at the distance given by NORAD. The inconsistencies are: (a) the image sizes are much bigger than expected; (b) the image brightnesses are much greater than expected; and (c) the relative motions are much greater than would be

expected for relative motions between the satellite and its booster during the minute or less between pictures. There is still one other probable, though not definite, inconsistency in the number of objects photographed: (d) four objects (or four bright areas of a single object, etc.) are shown, whereas only two objects were known to be associated with the Proton III, and one of them had probably fallen back to earth by the time of the sighting.

Other inconsistencies were reported independently by Lloyd Mallan,³ who published a story in "Science and Mechanics," June 1969, in which he claimed that (e) the astronauts were facing (southeast forward going into sunset) away from the direction of the Proton III, which was about 400 km. behind them. (There is a 50 km. discrepancy between the distances in this report and in the Condon Report.) Since the spacecraft windows only allowed a narrow forward view (they can only see about 1200 square degrees or 6 per cent of the forward hemisphere¹) it would have been "impossible" for them to have seen the Proton III. Moreover, according to Mal-

lan, Astronaut Gordon stated that the object was first seen out their left window, it "flew out in front of us and then we lost it when it sort of dropped down in front of us." This direction of motion is roughly opposite to that of the Proton III according to the NORAD report quoted in Mallan's article. Thus, the object(s) were not even travelling in the direction of the Proton III. According to Mallan, NORAD claimed that they were not tracking anything in front of the space capsule.

Thus, for all of these reasons the object(s) could not have been the Proton III. A more reasonable identification would be that it was some nearby trash. However, it could not have been trash from the Gemini II since it was clearly (to the astronauts) in a different orbit. The likelihood of a close encounter with trash in another orbit is statistically miniscule, but, of course, it is not impossible. According to Mallan, Astronaut Gordon had the impression that the object was metallic (reflected light the way most metals in orbit do) and was about 50 miles away. Of course, without knowing the size of the object(s), the distance is only a guess. At 50 miles (80 km.) the separation between the two most distant blobs in photo 2 would have been about 500 meters and the largest sized blob would correspond to a diameter of about 200 meters. Objects of such size would clearly not be earth-launched satellites. Of course, if the distance had been actually much smaller, the object(s) could become commensurate with earth-launched satellites. For example, a distance of five miles would correspond to object sizes on the order of tens of meters. If it were possible to accurately determine the duration of the sighting, the angle of view corresponding to that duration, and the distance moved by the Gemini II spacecraft during the sighting it would be possible to determine whether or not the motion of the object(s) was consistent with the expected motion of a satellite in orbit around the earth. Unfortunately, such information is probably not available.

The photographic evidence presented in this paper appear to be totally inconsistent with the hypothesis that the

Gemini II astronauts photographed the Proton III. Verbal evidence presented by Mallan support this conclusion. This writer has found no evidence to support the conclusion stated by Roach in the Condon Report.

Note: This sighting is carried as "unidentified" by NASA.

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3. L. Mallan, Science and Mechanics, June 1969.



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THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA

by: David Michael Jacobs

Forward by: J. Allen Hynek

The story of the UFO controversy in the United States is told in detail in this definitive history, which uses previously inaccessible Air Force documents, personal interviews, private correspondence, and a wealth of published and unpublished materials. The author explores the interdependent relationship between the Air Force, the scientific community, the national UFO organizations, the bizarre "contactees," the press, and the entertainment industry which resulted in an often shocking ignorance of and disregard for the potentially significant UFO phenomenon. He reveals the reasons for the misleading and often deceptive measures that the Air Force, at the CIA's instigation, engaged in to debunk UFO reports, prevent Congressional investigation of its UFO program, and discourage scientific examination of the full data.

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January 14, 1975 - South Africa A UFO was reported hanging in the sky above the Umhlanga Rocks Drive-In by a witness and his fiancée. The object appeared to be very bright and star-shaped, with three or four red lights around it. A group of people who gathered around to watch, saw the object move off towards the sea and return for a short while a half hour later.