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SATELLITE OBJECTS AND CLOUD CIGARS

Multiple-object sightings at Homer, New York, April 11, 1964 (below), and Oloron, France, October 17, 1952 (right).

SATELLITE OBJECTS AND CLOUD CIGARS

BY HERBERT S. TAYLOR

During a fall day in 1965 a Chesapeake & Ohio train hauling a string of empty coal cars was moving through northern Ohio at about 25 mph. At 10:30 a.m., about eight miles south of Fostoria, the fireman and engineer (both in the engine) observed a large cigar-shaped object in the sky at a considerable distance from them. The sky was bright blue with scattered white puffy clouds, and it was very windy. They observed the object to the west from the right side of the engine. It was "very dark in color" and positioned at a 45-degree angle from the horizontal. Not really knowing its distance from them, they both still estimated that the object was the size of two aircraft carriers.

The object appeared to be creating its own cloud screen, which was most prominent around its nose and tail. Suddenly a small object was seen to fall out of the tail of the object, falling slowly in a rocking leaflike or fluttering fashion. Once near the ground the smaller object stabilized, giving off coal-black smoke from its top. It then rose upward, slowly at first, then faster. Four of these smaller objects were observed to leave the large object, each event taking 10–12 minutes. They went in different directions. After the last object had left the area, a white cloud formed completely around the larger object, which remained in the sky with other apparently normal white clouds. The large object was not seen again. The whole event lasted about 45 minutes as the train traveled through Upper Sandusky.

Source: Ohio UFOs and Others, investigated by Joseph Stets and William E. Jones.

This is one of the singular body of reports that are referred to as "satellite object" or "mothership" cases. They are among the most fascinating and spectacular of all UFO reports, and with them we at once confront the UFO problem in its most striking form (only the better close-encounter reports are comparable in this respect). Though constituting only a small percentage of the genuinely unexplained reports, they perhaps comprise the most important and meaningful category. While satellite-object reports cannot be said to constitute the smoking gun that proves beyond reasonable doubt that the ET hypothesis properly and correctly accounts for the core UFO problem, they do by their most unusual nature prevent the ETH from being dismissed and in fact maintain it as a viable possibility. The only other possible non-ET explanation that might account for some or all of these reports is an as yet unknown and exotic atmospheric phenomenon. However, to explain one unknown with another unknown makes little sense from a rational standpoint; nor do we know that any such phenomenon exists.

Some recurring features are clearly evident among many of the better, more impressive satellite-object reports. These clearly discernible patterns themselves provide a most compelling and persuasive reason to regard the reports as deserving of the utmost serious attention.

One classic pattern shows up in reports of "cloud cigars" or "cloud spheres," where the primary object (most often having a cigar, cylinder, or tubular shape) is surrounded to some extent by a vaporous, steamy-type cloud. Strange-appearing clouds are also present in other reports where no primary object is observed but in which the presumably smaller secondary objects are seen to enter the cloud and not exit. There is a strong suggestion here that a satellite-object event might have occurred.

Another recurrent pattern is that most often the primary object becomes motionless when generating or absorbing the smaller secondary objects (which are most often disc or oval in shape). The duration of satellite-object reports is another distinguishing characteristic. They are rarely fleeting events, with durations between 30–45 minutes a frequent occurrence. Not unheard of are periods far surpassing an hour (and on a few occasions several hours).

One last item needs to be dealt with, and that is to point out what satellite objects are not. When reading the details of the more impressive reports that characterize this category, it becomes manifestly clear that the usual prosaic explanations (balloons, Venus, meteors, aircraft, satellites) that do indeed account for the bulk of raw UFO reports play no conceivable role here whatsoever.

Neither are they accountable in terms of hoaxes or hallucinations. Few reports just involve one witness, with dozens and scores not an infrequent number (on rare occasions, even in the low hundreds). Equally noteworthy is that

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the very bizarre nature of satellite-object reports renders them invisible to the public and media. Their very special characteristics, unlike the more familiar and well-known concept of a flying saucer, assure that the specifics of these reports remains largely an unknown to society.

Despite the foregoing, with but few exceptions (for example, Aimé Michel and JacquesVallee, in the late 1950s and mid-1960s respectively), satellite-object reports have somehow failed to receive anywhere near the proper attention they deserve. Consequently, I decided some time ago to initiate a study of such reports, with the intention of eventually making available a research source for all interested parties, both present and future. Though still a work very much in progress, my satellite-object study has now reached a point where I have collected enough good reports to write about them in public forums.

Now we get to take a close look at some of the more notable reports. They speak for themselves incredibly well.

A pre-Arnold cloud report

On a clear early afternoon in late April or early May 1947, two women made a most unusual observation of something strange in the skies over Tucson, Arizona. It was about 1:20 p.m. when Mrs. William Down, who was sunbathing in the backyard, called repeatedly in an excited voice for her friend Mrs. H. G. Olavick, who was inside her home preparing a meal, to quickly join her. Mrs. Olavick did so, and after Mrs. Down told her to look up at the sky, immediately saw what had attracted her friend's attention. Somewhat north and east of the zenith, Mrs. Olavick spotted an isolated cloud of an unusual nature. She described it as very fleecy and yet rather steamy, and stressed that this was the only cloud to be seen anywhere in the sky.

Moving around in "yo-yo fashion" were a number of small disc-like objects with a dull-white finish. Their number varied at times, and they moved up and down and occasionally sideways, and would intermittently disappear into or behind (i.e., above) the cloud. They were round in planform, but not spherical, and may have had a slight bulge on the undersurface. They never flipped and, since they were near the zenith, they appeared as circular discs to the witnesses. Mrs. Olavick estimated that they watched the objects for perhaps 5–7 minutes. The cloud was somewhat oblong, perhaps 20 times longer than the diameter of the objects, and 10 times wider than the objects.

After a while, all of the objects seemed to disappear above the cloud, hidden from sight. Then suddenly, an object several times larger than the smaller objects emerged from the cloud (or from above it) and moved out eastward. Its shape was also circular, similar to that of the smaller objects. Then behind it came a V-formation of four of the smaller discs in a row abreast, followed by three abreast, then two abreast, making a total of nine small discs behind the larger one. When all were in position, the entire group began climbing at very high speed toward the northeast, and disappeared from sight in about two or three seconds, definitely not more than four seconds. The objects remained with their axis horizontal as they rapidly climbed away.

Mrs. Olavick stated that both she and her friend were quite sure at the time that the objects were ours, and that they must be a new type of aircraft belonging to the Air Force that the public had not yet been told about. No official report was ever made.

Source: Letter dated August 3, 1967 from Dr. James E. McDonald to UFO researcher Ted Bloecher.

Cloud cigars in the 1954 French wave

During the late summer and early fall of 1954, France experienced a massive wave of UFO reports. One of the more notable features of this wave was a series of intriguing cloud-cigar reports. Aimé Michel in his 1958 book *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery* covered these events in considerable detail. Because of this, I have used Michel's book as the primary source for the following reports.

The first known cloud-cigar report of the wave occurred in the early morning hours of August 23 at the town of Vernon (Eure Department), 40 miles west-northwest of Paris. Just before 1:00 a.m., businessman Bernard Miserey arrived home and put his car away. As he came out of the garage on the south bank of the Seine, he was surprised to see a pale light illuminating the town, which had previously been in complete darkness. Looking at the sky, he saw a huge, silent, motionless, luminous mass, apparently suspended above the north bank of the river some 300 yards away. It was shaped like a large cigar standing on end.

Stated Miserey,

> I had been watching this amazing spectacle for a couple of minutes, when suddenly from the bottom of the cigar came an object like a horizontal disk, which dropped at first in free fall, then slowed, and suddenly swayed and dived horizontally across the river toward me, becoming very luminous. For a very short time I could see the disk full-face; it was surrounded by a halo of brilliant light.
>
> A few minutes after it had disappeared behind me, going southwest at prodigious speed, a similar object came from the cigar and went through the same maneuvers. A third object came and then a fourth. There was then a longer interval and finally a fifth disk detached itself from the cigar, which was still motionless. This disk dropped much lower than the earlier ones, to the level of the new bridge, where it remained still for an instant, swaying slightly. At that time I could see very clearly its circular form and its red luminosity, more intense at the center, fading out at the edges—and the glowing halo surrounding it. After a few seconds pause, it wobbled like the first four, and took off like a flash toward the north where it was lost in the distance as it gained altitude.

During this time the luminosity of the cigar had faded, and the gigantic object, which may have been 300 feet long, had sunk into darkness. The spectacle had lasted about three-fourths of an hour.

When Miserey described his observation the next day, the police informed him that two policemen on duty at about 1:00 a.m. had also observed the phenomenon, as had an army chemical engineer driving along Route N-181 southwest of Vernon. The case is also briefly described in the Paris newspaper *Libération* of August 25.

Another cloud-cigar event of considerable importance occurred in the late afternoon of September 14 near Saint-Prouant (now Talmont-Saint-Hilaire in Vendée Department) on the Atlantic coast, about 250 miles southwest of Paris. Due to the rather lengthy nature of the account, I will mention just a few brief details here. The primary object was cigar-shaped (some likened it to a carrot) and when in a vertical position it discharged a small disk. After maneuvering over a wide area, it returned to the cigar and reentered it. There were hundreds of witnesses scattered through half a dozen villages and surrounding fields. Despite only one local newspaper mentioning it, a reader informed Michel by mail of this event and an investigation was made.

Yet another very important cloud-cigar event occurred on the evening of September 22 near Fontainebleau, about 35 miles southeast of Paris. Shortly after 8:00 p.m., Mme. Gamundi of Paris left Fontainebleau in her car and was driving home on Route N-7 going north. She had not yet come out of a forested area when a reflection on the glass indicated that there was something luminous in the sky above the car. She stopped and got out. Under the clouds, at an altitude that she could not estimate, a huge luminous ball hung motionless. It was reddish and surrounded by a sort of moving smoke, also luminous. Suddenly, from the lower part of the ball emerged another much smaller luminous ball. After a few seconds of free fall it slowed, turned obliquely, and disappeared at high speed. A moment later another ball dropped down and disappeared like the first one, then a third, a fourth and more. Astonished, Mme. Gamundi forgot to count them and later was unable to tell precisely the number of smaller balls which had emerged from the big one.

All this was happening less than 25 miles south of the big Orly airfield, and it was this proximity that brought the event to an end. About 30 minutes into the event, an aircraft appeared from the north, apparently having just left Orly. It was flying south under the clouds, heading straight toward the large ball, which was still a good many miles from it. The ball abruptly changed position, then rose at high speed toward the clouds into which it disappeared in a few seconds. The aircraft passed and disappeared into the distance, but the ball did not reappear.

One further note about this event. What was almost certainly the same large reddish ball seen by Mme. Gamundi, was also seen just minutes before some 10 miles north of her by M. Rabot, a butcher from Saint-Fargeau-Ponthierry. His description matched perfectly that of Gamundi, though he saw no secondary objects. He observed the object for many minutes before it headed south and disappeared in the clouds.

Some of the other cloud-cigar reports from the 1954 French wave include:

September 27, early morning, Rixheim (Haut-Rhine Department, Alsace). Two witnesses, having noticed in the sky a peculiar elongated, motionless, luminous spot, studied it at leisure with binoculars. They made out "a long craft in the shape of a cigar, around which 10 or more much smaller luminous points navigated in every direction." A third witness made an independent report with the same description.

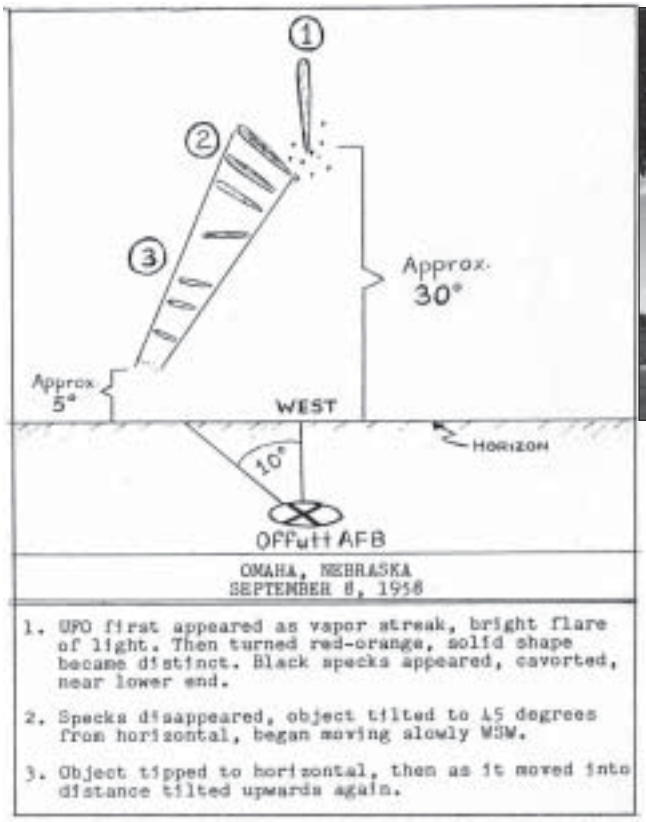
October 2, about 3:45 p.m., Les Rousses (Jura Department). A teacher, Mme. Jaillet, along with the 23 school children that she was supervising, saw in the sky to the southeast an elongated object in the shape of a short white trail or train. At first barely perceptible, it approached quite rapidly and soon the object was seen to be a cloud cigar. The witnesses then saw it switch from the horizontal to the vertical position and become stationary. At one point, a gleaming yellow disk emerged from the cigar. It was in sight for several seconds before they lost sight of it. Then the train resumed its horizontal position and began moving forward again, disappearing rapidly toward the northwest. The whole event took 4–5 minutes.

October 7, time unspecified, Corbigny (Nièvre Department). The witnesses twice saw an object that corresponded to a cloud cigar. It was a kind of luminous "cylinder," with a faintly orange light when vertical and motionless, a strong white light when moving forward horizontally. At one point, two small disks were seen to leave the lower part of the object.

Observation at SAC headquarters

On a late summer day in 1958, a remarkable cloud-cigar event occurred at a major Air Force base in mid-America. For some 20 minutes, both Air Force personnel (at least 25 officers and airmen) and civilian missile engineers observed an amazing display in the sky. The case was reported to NICAP by Maj. Paul A. Duich, USAF (Ret.), one of the witnesses, who was then on active duty. His report to NICAP was comprehensive and was accompanied by a detailed drawing of the sequence of events.

The sighting began at approximately 6:40 p.m. on September 8, 1958, at Strategic Air Command (SAC) headquarters, Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska. Major Duich was crossing an open area between the Officers Club and the Visiting Officers quarters (VOQ) when something caught his eye. He noticed a short vapor trail in an otherwise clear



U.S. Strategic Command Headquarters, Offutt AFB, Omaha.

blue sky. There were no clouds, and the sun had just set. He had seen thousands of vapor trails, but this one was peculiar. He did a double take when the short vapor trail became a brilliant source of light, similar to a magnesium flare. He stopped abruptly and watched.

The light was intense; in a second peculiar development, the vapor trail hung motionless (rather than continue moving). He watched for two or three minutes before calling it to the attention of another officer, who stopped to look, as did several others. As a small crowd gathered, Duich hurried into the VOQ office and called the Offutt tower operator to tell him what he saw. The tower operator said it looked like a short vapor trail, but odd.

At that point the situation changed radically. Stated Maj. Duich:

> I could see it through the window as I talked to the tower operator. The glow was now diminishing and changing to a dull red-orange and at the same time the fuzzy appearance gradually took on a solid look, in the distinct shape of a pencil or slender cigar. The upper end was blunter than the lower end.
>
> By then all those in the office were curious and we stepped outside to join the 10 or 20 others who had gathered to gape at the thing. All of a sudden we all started checking each others faces for some silly reason—for assurance of reality, perhaps, for as we watched there appeared at the lower end of the object a swarm of black specks cavorting every which way, much like a swarm of gnats. This procedure continued for a minute or so before they (the black specks) disappeared.
>
> Then the object, which had hung motionless on the same spot, slowly changed attitude from an upright position to a 45 degree angle with the horizontal and started moving slowly toward the west. At the same time there was no drastic change in the coloring, but a perceptible color change did take place. It remained a dull orange-red color and continued its westerly movement.
>
> We watched in awe for several minutes—perhaps 5—and then the object changed attitude, again very gradually, until its longitudinal axis appeared parallel to the horizon. The westward movement continued, slightly to the southwest. The apparent size of the object diminished gradually and the color faded. About 5 minutes before we lost it completely (as it faded into the haze just above the horizon) the object changed attitude again, back toward the 45 degree position, but not quite.
>
> As it continued on its westerly path, it maintained this last attitude until completely swallowed up by the haze. It never did drop below the horizon—just faded away. The fading, of course, was due to the many miles of hazy atmosphere between us and the object. The sky was cloudless, but the western horizon did have a slight haze, readily apparent against the bright background.

A full colonel took several color photographs of the object, but he later denied getting successful exposures after Duich asked him on several occasions. Stated Duich, "We concluded that what was seen by all was no conventional vehicle, nor was it an atmospheric phenomenon."

Maj. Duich collected a few names of individuals present, as he intended to notify the proper authorities. In the presence of a fellow officer and coworker he called the filter center and reported the facts of what occurred. He was told that Air Technical Intelligence Center representatives would contact him for an interview within 48 hours. The interview never materialized, then or later.

Sources: Richard Hall, ed., *The UFO Evidence,* NICAP, 1964; Thomas M. Olsen, *The Reference For Outstanding UFO Sighting Reports,* 1966.

AMAZING REPORT FROM NEW YORK STATE

On an early spring day in 1964, New York State was the scene of a rather extraordinary cloud cigar event. The event occurred on April 11,1964, near Homer, New York. The witnesses were Warren B. Ochsner (a physiotherapist), his wife and their two children, ages 10 and 14. The time was 6:30 p.m., and the sighting lasted about 45 minutes, ending just about dusk. The sky was crystal clear, with just a few stratus clouds on the western horizon. Mr. Ochsner composed a very detailed letter dated May 15, 1964, to J. Allen Hynek describing the sighting, from which I quote:

> . . . [we] were having a picnic supper on a hill 1800 feet above sea level, about ten miles Northwest of Homer, New York. . . .
>
> As I looked up in the sky a little to the Northwest of us about 6:30 p.m. there appeared what I thought was a very large jet trail from Northeast to Southwest. It was very white and wide and at the Southwest end there was a break on the trail of about 1 mile. Then a very black spiral formation of what appeared to be smoke appeared about 1 mile long. We remarked that the white trail was unusually wide for a jet trail and apparently the black portion looked dark because of the angulation [*sic*] of the glow of the setting sun behind the Western hill several miles away.

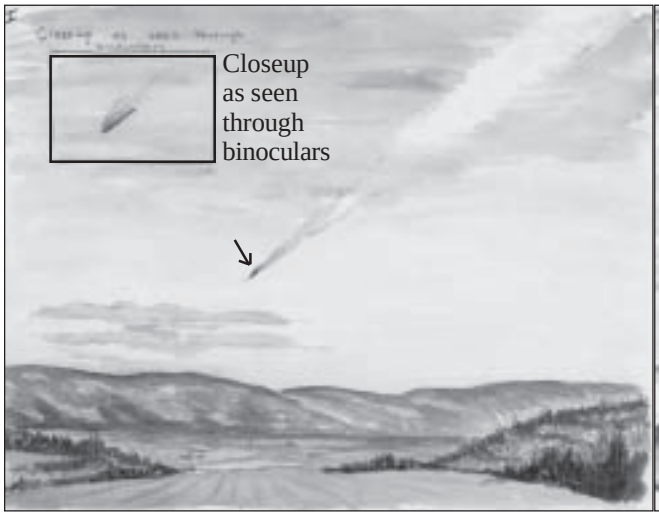


Fig. 1. "At first sighting of the dark end of the formation, it was not giving off any smoky material. This happened as it neared the cloud formation and the vapor drifted to the north, according to my daughter. However, I thought it drifted to the south as it dissipated, and we cannot agree on the north or south direction."

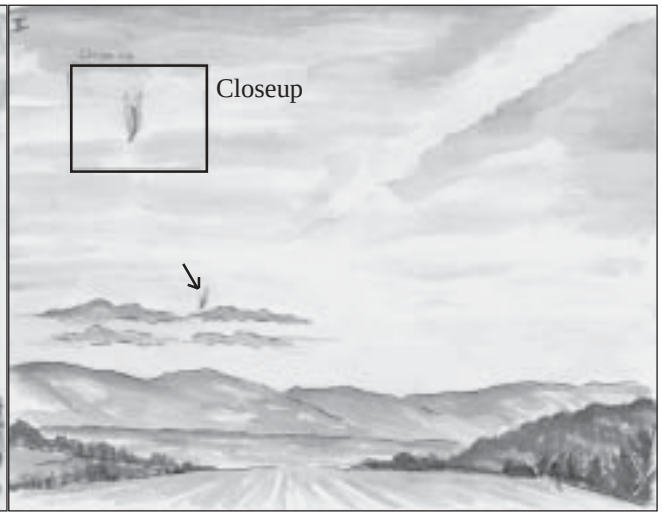


Fig. 2. "The vapor trail from the object was a great deal wider than an ordinary jet trail and after [this point it] had disappeared and should be disregarded in the subsequent [figures]."

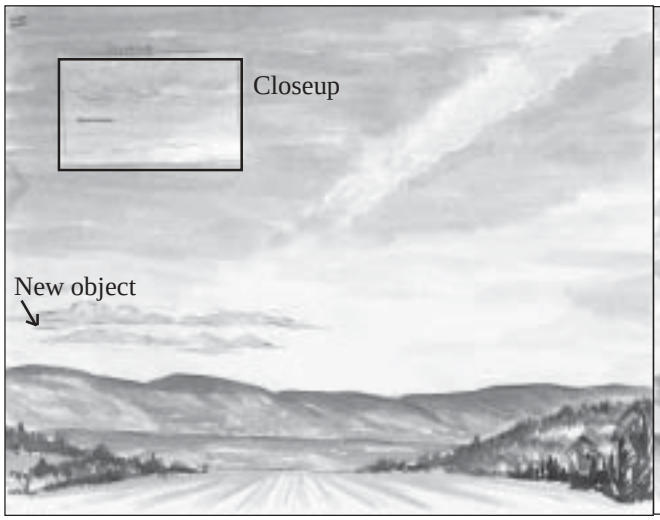


Fig. 3. "New object appears moving from left to right and at arm's length I could cover the sight of the object with my two forefingers so this must have been a very large vehicle."

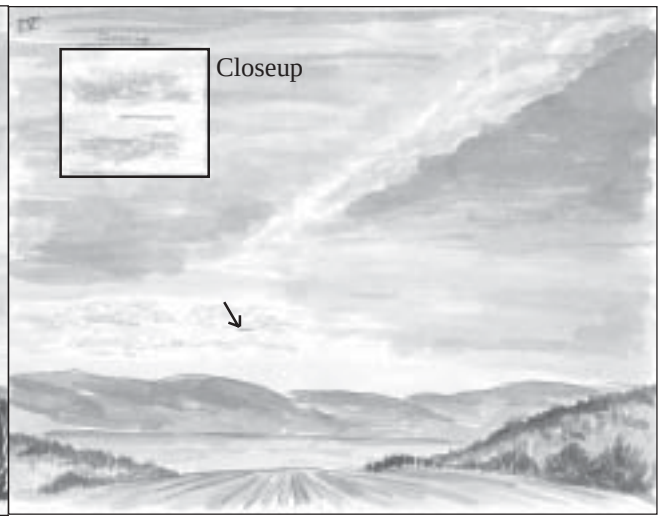


Fig. 4. "A very short time lapsed as object moved rapidly from left to right and then from right to left back again."

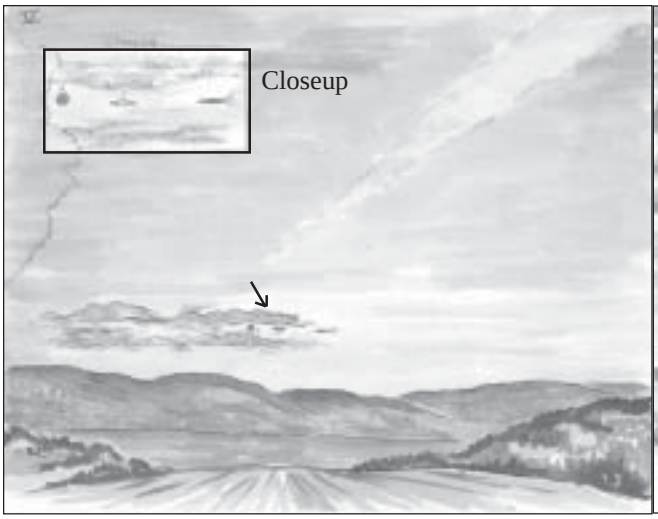


Fig. 5. "There were no signs of other planes or jet trails in the sky during any of these sightings."

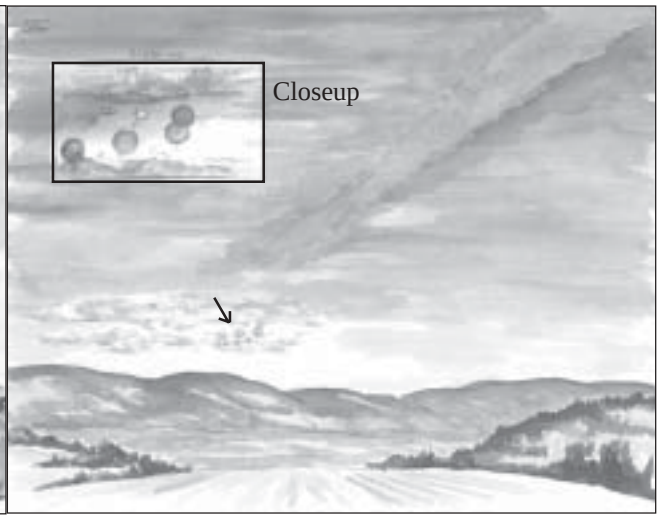


Fig. 6. "As the object was dividing into two parts shown in closeup, the whole operation was very smooth and absolutely positive in action."

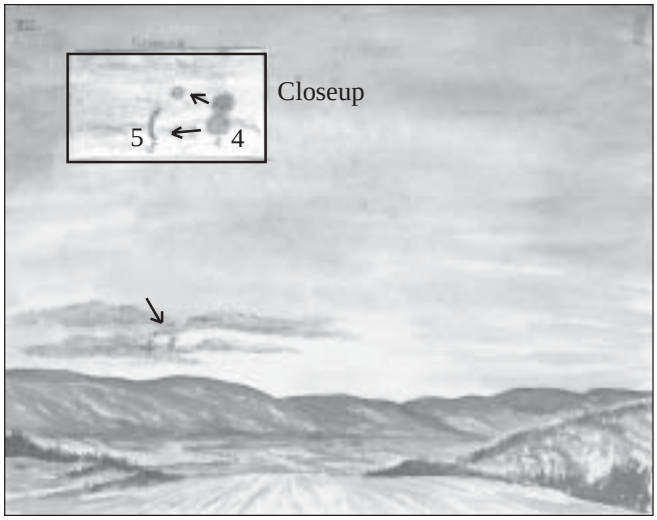


Fig. 7. The third object in Fig. 6 became the fourth object and subsequently the fifth as shown in the closeup in this view. "Object 5 should be more distinctly a pencil-shape and not curved as shown."

The white vapor trail hung in the sky and gradually drifted to the South, slowly dissipating. Up to this point we were observing what we believed to be a normal situation, except for the abrupt ending of the white trail, the space and the continuation of the black spiral tip.

Approximately ten minutes had now passed and it suddenly occurred to me that the black spiral cloud had slowly moved to the West while the white trail had drifted Southward. Also, the cloud became much darker and we all observed this. At this point I took my 6 x 25 binoculars to observe it and was shocked to see wisps of smoke actually streaming out of the black cloud . . . almost boiling out. It was now slowly approaching the distant stratus cloud formation silhouetted against the Western hill. Suddenly the black cloud, still retaining its spiral shape, changed from the horizontal position to a vertical position with greater smoke activity and resembled a smoking plane slowly falling from the sky, at the same time assuming a shape not unlike a banana. Then it no longer seemed to be falling, but simply stopped and hung there for two or three minutes and then very slowly seemed to sink into the clouds and was obliterated. . . .

After about three minutes had elapsed . . . my daughter suddenly exclaimed "there's another one". It appeared as a horizontal pencil shaped object. It was impossible at that distance to determine the length, but it could have been as large as a submarine. It moved from the left on the horizon to the right. We could not agree as to whether this was the original object or another rendezvousing with the first object, as this second sighting appeared to the left of where the first object became obliterated by the clouds.

As I was observing it with my binoculars, there was a flash of white light from the rear of it and it shot forward with incredible speed for a distance of about five times its length and as suddenly stopped, still maintaining the pencil shape, apparently hovering. . . . It became thick in the middle and with a cloud of smoke emanating from it, shot backward as rapidly as it had gone forward about the same distance. Again it hovered and then began to shorten in length until it appeared saucer shaped, fat in the middle. Then the most incredible part occurred . . . from the saucer shape it became almost perfectly round and slowly divided into two parts, one above the other, very much as a single cell does under a microscope. The top object slowly became smaller as it appeared to fade off in the distance, while the second object headed downward at a 45º angle toward the spot where we had seen the banana shaped object disappear. At this point it divided in two again

but the bottom object now assumed a vertical pencil shape while the top oval object slowly faded away. We realize the pencil shape could well be a disc observed from the side. Then the pencil shaped object also faded from sight.

This whole episode took place in about forty-five minutes and ended just about dusk.

Ochsner's wife created detailed drawings of the sequence of events, which are included with this article. This case is listed in Blue Book files as unidentified.

Source: CUFOS files.

Strange Sight in New England

In the pre-dawn hours of a late summer day in 1966, a rather interesting satellite-object observation occurred in New England. The account presented here is taken from the case file provided me by UFO researcher Raymond E. Fowler. It was based largely on the findings of investigator H. W. Eismann, who conducted a two-hour interview with the two witnesses, a married couple. Fowler also provided a most helpful evaluation of the report, which was included in the case file.

The event occurred on September 17,1966, at Ipswich, Massachusetts. It is best described by citing major excerpts of Eismann's report:

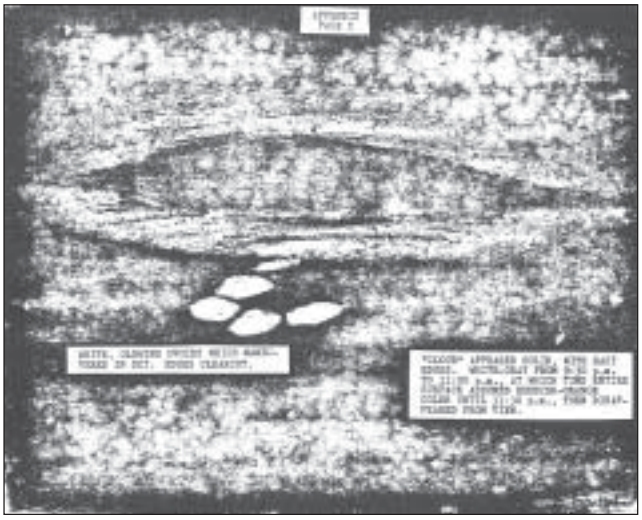
> The following narrative is as I piece together the story and it fills in the information not recorded on the report forms. Also attached is a sketch of the object, drawn by myself.
>
> On September 17, Saturday morning at approximately 4:45 a.m., Mrs. M. [the witness requested confidentiality] awakened with a coughing spell. She got up to get a drink and noticed a light in the Crane's Beach area, which is opposite their home about one-half mile distant . . . and in a southeasterly direction. She called her husband who joined her and they then spent one and one-half hours observing the activity, both from inside the house as well as through open windows on their porch.
>
> The object first sighted was an elongated, cigar shape object standing on end on the beach near the water's edge. It glowed with a golden, white light, sometimes dim and then bright enough to see the sand around the base. It appeared to tilt to about a 60-degree angle from the vertical at times but they never did observe it leaving the area. It just appeared to disappear as it became light outside. One feature of this object was what appeared to be a dotted line effect extending from the middle to the ground at about a 45-degree angle. The description indicated what might be considered a ladder leaning against the object. The height of the object from the house appeared to be about 6 inches which would relate to something ±500 feet tall at that distance [Fowler later estimated a minimum height of 300 feet]. This object was observed for over one hour.
>
> During the observation period, two bright lights were observed above the beach moving toward the vertical light. These spots were about the size of peas and moved with a slapping motion, sometimes fast, sometimes slowly. They came together at the top of the vertical object, but as they joined, there appeared to be three lights instead of the original two. These lights then left the large object from time to time, ranging low over the water, disappearing at times behind the hills at Crane's Beach. One object, elliptical in shape, dark except for a faint glow that revealed its outline, moved low over the water toward the house. It moved to within one-quarter mile . . . and disappeared behind a small island in front of the house. Mr. and Mrs. M. never did see the object leave, but they didn't go out to the island the next day to investigate nor did they go to Crane's Beach to look for tracks.

Peculiar sight over Catalina

On an early summer night in 1968, various witnesses in Southern California observed a rather peculiar sight in the sky. Fortuitously, the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee had established SKYNET, a tracking and filter center designed to collect and investigate UFO reports. On the night of July 9, a series of phone calls from Long Beach and surrounding communities concerning a large, glowing mass, positioned high over the Catalina Channel, came into the project coordinator's home in Pasadena.

The first call came from a group of teenagers aged 13 to 18 gathered at the home of Kenneth Allgreen, three miles north of the shoreline. At 9:35 p.m. they noticed a gray-white diamond-shaped haze under the full moon in the south-southeast. At 10:05 it began moving 55 degrees of arc in a horizontal line toward the west. By 10:15 it had returned to its original position near the moon. Maneuvering near the large mass were five smaller cloud-like objects, oval shaped with clear-cut edges. Two were grayish and three were "kind of white." Viewed through binoculars they looked solid. They kept their shape and precise edges through subsequent maneuvers. Although the edges of the larger object were "fuzzy," it did not seem to be a normal cloud because it moved too fast during its brief journey westward and back again—55 degrees in three minutes. It was many times the size of the smaller balls, an estimated 5–6 times the diameter of the full moon. The end facing west was long and narrow and the part facing east was shaped "like a diamond." The boys were convinced that they were viewing something highly unusual. They estimated that the main mass was about 10 miles high. About 11:00 p.m. the large mass turned reddish-orange in color and began traveling upward at an approximate angle of 30 degrees. By 11:30 p.m., it "just faded away," taking five minutes to dissipate.

The next call to SKYNET came from the family of I. Castano of Compton. From their home 7 miles north of the



Santa Catalina cloud cigar, 1968.

Long Beach witnesses, his family had viewed a group of four oval, cloud-like objects about one-eighth the size of the full moon. The objects were observed from 9:30 to 10:00 p.m. and were glowing white with precise edges. They were gathered around the moon when first seen and then started leaving "right and left." They seemed to be far out in space. Stated Castano, "the objects spread out and then dashed toward one another. It looked like some kind of war." The Castanos apparently did not see the large cloud, but it should be noted that they were further north than the Long Beach witnesses.

Another report comes from the files of Paul Wilson of Hawthorne, a local UFO investigator. His neighbors, Michael and Leslie G., told him that for 20 minutes they had viewed a glowing oval object, slightly smaller than the full moon. It was shiny and white with clear-cut edges and seemed to be several miles away. Soundless, it seemed to maneuver in the general area of the moon.

While this activity was going on, SKYNET contacted Jim Griebel, the only SKYNET member residing near the coast. His home was three miles north of the Long Beach witnesses. Through binoculars he could see a cloudlike mass low on the southerly horizon. Whether composed of one or two masses he was not sure, but the cloud(s) seemed diamond-shaped on one end and round on the other. While the bright light from the moon interfered with Griebel's view, there would seem to be little doubt that he was seeing the large, cloud-like mass which was being viewed from Long Beach.

Source: Ann Druffel, "Santa Catalina Island Recurring 'Cloud-Cigars'," *Proceedings of the 1976 CUFOS Conference.*

SOME OTHERS DULY NOTED

The reports below indicate the range of satellite-object and cloud cigar observations. Some are fairly recent, indicating that this type of report is persistent.

October 17, 1952, Oloron Sainte-Marie (Pyrénées-Atlantiques Department), France. At about 12:30 p.m., numerous witnesses (possibly in the low hundreds) in Oloron and surrounding areas saw a long, narrow cylinder inclined at a 45-degree angle slowly moving toward the southwest. It was whitish, nonluminous, and very well defined. A sort of plume of white smoke was emanating from its upper end. At some distance in front of the cylinder, a large number (perhaps as many as 30) of reddish spherical objects, surrounded by a yellowish ring inclined at an angle, were also seen. They moved in pairs, in a rather erratic fashion. By the time the objects had disappeared from sight, masses of white threads fell slowly to the ground and then evaporated.

October 27, 1952, Gaillac (Tarn Department), France. Ten days later virtually the same spectacle occurred again. Here the number of known witnesses was about 100. The similarities between both cases in the southwest of France are striking in almost all respects. Both are rightfully regarded as important events. However, note should be made of the fact that of the several hundred satellite object reports that were considered for my study, only Oloron and Gaillac involved the fall of the unusual substance known as angel hair.

May 1953, Labrador. The two pilots and 21 passengers of an aircraft flying over the snowy wastes of Labrador saw six strange objects appear off their plane's right wing, flying in formation. One of the passengers, Raymond Pustelnik, came forward with the report.

Stated Pustelnik, "The sky was clear and visibility good when they appeared suddenly. They looked like saucers placed upside down, were shiny like silver and were flying some 4 miles from us. We'd been watching for 35 seconds before a large, barrel-shaped object appeared out of nowhere. Hanging beneath it, we could see what looked like shifting clouds of colored gas. As soon as it appeared, the saucer-like objects broke formation and one by one glided into the barrel-shaped object from underneath. Then the mother ship suddenly went straight up and disappeared in 4 seconds."

February 23, 1963, Highcliffe, England. At 9:45 p.m., an oval object was seen in the sky that was emerald-green in color and surrounded by a sort of glow. After hanging in the sky for 10 minutes the witness saw several (apparently two) smaller objects emerge from the larger one, which had now assumed a vertical position. These smaller objects flew away and disappeared over the Channel.

December 1974, near Higher Chisworth, Glossop, England. At 7:30 a.m. a vertical object floated above Wemeth Low, a prominent hill. It had a flattened upper end and a tapering base. The object changed shape (from round to oval to cigar and back to oval again) before disappearing, and discharged several small spheres from the blunt end—like "soap bubbles being blown." The witness elaborated on this description, saying that they seemed to cling briefly to the end, then sped away southwards.

(continued on page 26)

SATELLITE OBJECTS—*continued from page 10*

January 13, 1997, Abbottsford, British Columbia. A woman was heading for work in Chilliwack when she noticed a white, fluffy cloud in an otherwise perfectly clear sky. She was amazed when the cloud "burst downwards" with a bright white light, three times consecutively. After the additional portions of the cloud dissipated, what was left behind was a black bar. After five minutes, a solid stream of bright white light came downwards from the black bar, and then there were two black bars. The second one was slightly smaller and about 45 degrees below the first one. The bars retained their relative position to each other, but started moving east in a wavy motion. She lost sight of them when she got off the freeway at the Sardis exit. Later that morning about 11:00 a.m., two men making a delivery arrived at her workplace and described seeing, at the same location, a glowing cloud that was expanding and contracting at the bottom.

April 20, 1997, Sarnia, Ontario. At approximately 1:40 p.m., a woman was sitting on a park bench along the St. Clair River. Directly in front of her a grayish-white object suddenly appeared, suspended vertically in mid-air, with the bottom part of the object positioned at 25 degrees above the horizon. Port Huron, Michigan, was in the background, underneath the object, on the other side of the river. The object had a long tubelike shape, rounded at both ends and fuzzy or diffuse around the edges. She then noticed a white spherical object which seemed to have been discharged from the original object. This white sphere traveled a short distance northwards toward Lake Huron and vanished. The witness had the cigar-shaped object in view for another few seconds before it too disappeared.

Satellite-object reports remain, as I have demonstrated in this article, a compelling and mysterious component of the UFO phenomenon. Although not close encounters, they are strange and difficult to explain. Unlike most other UFO cases, they involve groups of UFOs acting in concert, which increases the anomalous nature of these reports and naturally raises the question of a possible intelligence behind the phenomenon. My view is that *if* a careful and honest look by science into the body of satellite-object reports were to take place, this could not but help play a major role in hastening the day when resolution to this mystery is finally achieved.

STILL SEARCHING

This article was written not only to inform *IUR* readers about a very important (and relatively neglected) area of the UFO problem, but hopefully to elicit information from the readers as well. Perhaps you may know of others who witnessed this type of event, or you were a witness yourself? Whatever information you can provide, please contact me at HerbUFO@aol.com. Confidentiality (if requested) will be honored. Receipt of any such information would be appreciated. ✥