

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN IDAHO

SIX UFO'S SELECTED FROM 58 CASES: Dec. 15-Jan. 14

REVISED AIR FORCE STATISTICS— Part Two

PLUS:

- Book Review
- Foreign Forum
- UFO Profile: December, 1976
- Latest UFO News

EDITORIAL



by Dr. J. Allen
Hynek

The Reluctance Barrier: the barrier a witness to a UFO experience has to overcome before he reports his experience. This barrier is severe, and its existence annually robs science of much valuable raw material for study. What is worse, the barrier is not constant, but is itself a function of the strangeness of the UFO experience. A person may not be reluctant to report to friends or even to the police a strangely behaving light, but he has quite a different attitude when it comes to admitting to his friends or to the world that he had a close encounter with a UFO, especially if "humanoids" were involved.

We know of one case of an "abduction" experience (which came to our attention through the thinnest of grapevines) in which the witness is still, after months, debating with himself whether to "go on record". The witness is a college-educated man, and the idea of any possible publicity is extremely frightening to him. He blanches at the thought of his name appearing in print (especially in the tabloid press) and having to bear the taunts of his "well-meaning" friends and having to defend his sanity to all comers.

Responsible UFO fact-gathering organizations in this and other countries recognize their responsibility in protecting the privacy of witnesses and maintain high ethical standards. We are all distressed when the media seek from us leads for a sensational story. Frequently the ploy is that "they are going to do a documentary". Now a *good* documentary is a fine educational project, but all too often "documentaries" are a ruse to entertain the audience in off-prime time periods. And, in a serious documentary, names of persons and places can be sufficiently altered to protect the witnesses without detracting from the story.

Editor-in-chief: Dr. J. Allen Hynek; Managing Editor: Allan Hendry

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FRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEW
UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT *
* * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED JANUARY 31, 1977 * * * * *

WAKEFIELD WRAP-UP - (see Commentary for the background on this incident) George McAvoy of the New Hampshire Civil Defense has provided IUR with the details of the different radiation measurements. The first was taken by a local Civil Defense unit, who measured 3 roentgens/hour of gamma radiation. Col. Parker underestimated the value of a roentgen - Maria Oharenko of the Energy Research and Development Agency told IUR that the normal background radiation is measured in one-thousandths of a roentgen. Leslie Williams, the State Deputy Director of the Civil Defense, went to the site with two more pieces of the same type of equipment. The first one "pinned" its meter and broke down; the second also measured 2 - 3 roentgens/hr., but the reading didn't change when the counter was removed from the site! Needless to say, the Civil Defense is now concerned about the errors to which their equipment is subject, perhaps as a function of environment; the equipment has been sent to Washington to be checked out. Then the Dept. of Public Health brought in gamma measuring equipment costing \$4700. and \$1400., more sophisticated than the \$50. radiometers used earlier. These measured only the normal background count.

IUR also spoke with Bill Morrison, a schoolteacher at the Brewster Academy who brought a Geiger counter to the scene on Jan. 13, 10 AM, after the formal investigation was over. He measured the beta/gamma background count; the sediment from the pond read 3X higher. According to the Dept. of Nuclear Engineering at Northwestern University, this "small" increase can be attributed to the natural radioactive elements in New Hampshire's granite subsoil.

UFO investigators Ray Fowler and John Oswald have looked into other rumors regarding this event. There is no apparent substance to the following: the premise that Mrs. McCarthy saw something crash through the ice, that said "crash" was witnessed by another woman via a talk show, and that McCarthy saw a 24" cube with a bubble dome on top as alleged by the Boston Herald-American. If there is a confusion about the shape of the hole, it was originally a 3-foot circle, but was enlarged to a 6 x 3 foot rectangle during the investigation. So, it would appear that this incident was a remarkable chain reaction of exaggerations; despite the alleged radioactivity levels, not even ERDA was called in for assistance. At the very least, it clearly appears to be outside the realm of UFOlogy.

INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS - FATE magazine is planning an international UFO congress to be held in Chicago on the weekend of June 24, 25, and 26 in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous UFO sighting that ushered in the post-war UFO phenomenon. The structure of the conference is still in the planning stages at this time.

UFO CONFERENCE IN MEXICO - Preparations for the First International Congress on UFOs are underway, as sponsored by the Center for Information and Investigation of UFOs and Parapsychology. The Congress, open to the public, will be held April 17 - 23 at the Acapulco Convention Center, with such speakers as Hynek, Vallee, Keyhoe, Andrus, Lorenzen, astronaut McDivitt, and many others. Special charter arrangements with a large number of travel agencies are being made in this and other countries. Advance registration is \$150.;

(over)

write to OVNI's CIFOP, Rio Panuco 207, Mexico City, Mexico 5 D.F.

UFO INTEREST IN THE SOVIET UNION - Although the official government press has denied the validity of the UFO phenomenon, an undercurrent of public interest in UFOs is currently being noted in the U.S.S.R. A number of type-written essays on the subject are being clandestinely circulated; the most prominent of these is attributed to F.Y. Zigel, assistant professor at the Moscow Aviation Institute. It describes 300 reported sightings of Soviet UFOs over a period of years, and asserts that a ban exists on "all kinds of publications about UFOs" in the U.S.S.R.

FATHER GILL TO VISIT U.S. - The Rev. William B. Gill, English Anglican priest and missionary, will be visiting the U.S. from Australia this summer. Father Gill is distinguished in UFO literature as the main reporter of a UFO Close Encounter with humanoids with the largest number of witnesses on June 26 - 27, 1959. He will see Dr. Hynek during the first two weeks of August.

UFO ANALYSIS - The seven remaining cases were all attributable to aircraft lights and stars except for one Nocturnal Light:

CASE: 2-2-52; TYPE: NL; DATE: 1-13-77; TIME: 12:30 AM; DURATION: 7-8 minutes; NUMBER OF WITNESSES: 1; PLACE: Plantation, FL.

17-year old motorist is paced by a saucer shaped like a flattened football with a dark equator. Half the width of the full moon, the noiseless object had a white-grey, "glow in the dark" effect, with a steady white light underneath. Moving erratically in front of the car, executing various circles, it turns a corner with her car to her home. Jumping out of her car, she watches a second, similar object join it in the NE, and both rush towards the east in 5 - 6 seconds. Single witness only - no radar image seen at Ft. Lauderdale International.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Volume 1, number 1 of the International UFO Reporter arrived today and I am writing to congratulate you on this new achievement. Not only do I wish to enter my subscription but will see to it that my colleagues at NASA-Ames Research Center have an opportunity to read it. IUFOR should play an important role in presenting a balanced spectrum of views on the UFO phenomenon to those who may not be willing to read many other popularized accounts.

RICHARD F. HAINES, PH.D.
Research Scientist

Congratulations on the first issue of IUR! I hope that it is the start of a successful and long-lived enterprise.

Comments on the first issue: I think that one of the best things about it was that it appeared professional and slick. It offers our best hope for fast accurate information about important cases that have been investigated in a competent and professional manner. Those cases can readily be adapted to the format that you are using.

DR. DAVID M. JACOBS
Temple University

ED. NOTE: a number of people have written about the "garishness" of the yellow on the front cover. This was a printing problem; indeed, with a recent change of printers, the gold color we originally desired is still being resolved.

IN CURRENT JOURNALS

OKAY, UFO'S ARE HERE—BUT WHY?, by P. M. H. Edwards, AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN, Aug. 1976.

"The attitude of a properly educated person in the face of the unexplained should be that of inquiry, not of rebuttal. It is always the least-informed person who raises the strongest objections. In this enigma, especially, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing; the more one knows, the greater becomes one's humility."

THE AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER FILE, by Michael Smyth, AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION, CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES, Dec. 1976.

"There are probably in excess of 2,000 UFO reports on file with the various groups throughout Australia, but, with the exception of a few hundred well-known cases, the majority remain filed away, gathering dust and of no use to anyone. The primary purpose of developing a computer storage system for UFO report data is to make all sightings data available for examination, as well as to provide a means of extracting patterns (if there are any) from the data, with one eventual aim of being able to predict when and where UFO sightings will occur."

BOOK REVIEW

UFO INVESTIGATION: A FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S HANDBOOK, published by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA LTD), First Edition, Oct. 1976.

In our December issue, we reviewed MUFON's excellent field investigator's manual for use by serious UFOlogists. Another work of this nature has been prepared by BUFORA, a British UFO group. An observation that we made about the MUFON work applies here as well: even though the book is intended as a practical guide for those individuals who will actually investigate UFO reports in the field, it provides a wealth of information about the phenomenon with specific details about UFO witnesses, types, landing sites, photography, observational characteristics, and such that are not presented in the same detail in other, more general works on UFOlogy.

Of course, the work is earmarked toward BUFORA investigators, with instructions for submitting information to them, but their investigator forms are universal, and will prove useful even to the lay reader who would like to have them on hand in the event of his own UFO sighting. The book contains 19 appendices: a list of seven UFO hypotheses, 34 recommended reference books, a variety of specialized report forms, and so on.

Further inquiries should be addressed to BUFORA Research Headquarters, Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., England.

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we can not exert the same degree of control over these cases we can on domestic ones, it is of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

FRANCE: Valence, Jan. 1, 1977. Francois Perez and his wife told police in this SE town that they were chased in their car on the evening of New Year's Day by what they had thought was a helicopter at first, but became a "big, flying oval". The Perez's retraced their route one hour later; driving past a field, they saw the oval again, about 400 yards from them. The object appeared to be 30-40 yards in diameter and sur-

rounded by a halo of white light. After 10 minutes, the vehicle began flashing, and ascended at a 45 degree angle. The couple's eyes hurt for 48 hours, and Mr. Perez' wristwatch will not work as of this encounter.

SOURCE: A.P., Los Angeles Times, Jan. 8, 1977.

AUSTRALIA: Salters Point, Dec. 19, 1976. Mr. Neil Brennan and Mr. Dean Gibbs stepped outside into the night when they heard a whirring noise. Mr. Brennan reported seeing a bright disc, 2 feet in diameter, hovering 30 feet up behind his house; then it disappeared toward the west. The incident took place near Aquinas College. No additional reports from the neighbors or the Astronomical

Observatory.

SOURCE: Perth News, Dec. 20, 1976

FINLAND: Uleaborg, reported Dec. 12, 1976. Finnish schoolboy Eero Lammi was on his way home when he saw a 15-foot ball of light move across the border from Sweden and land in a field nearby. Approaching it, he was hit in the chest by a beam of light, felt searing pain and blacked out. Even his parents thought it was a prank until a doctor found slight burns on his chest and back. The case was investigated by the Swedish Military High Command, which investigates all reports of UFO sightings.

SOURCE: London Sunday Express, Dec. 12, 1976.

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AIR FORCE BLUE BOOK UFO FILES -PART II

prepared from material for a forthcoming book by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

In the last issue, IUR had arranged for the impartial re-evaluation of the material released in microfilm form last July, starting from scratch with a second look at the details investigated for each case.

Were the Air Force's Conclusions Valid?

The re-evaluation did create some additional "unidentifieds" out of the Air Force "identifies", but it also dropped some of the Air Force unknowns as solved; hence, the revised totals:

FIGURE 7—REVISED UNIDENTIFIEDS

Total Air Force Unknowns: 587, or 4.5%
Total Revised Unknowns: 640, or 4.9%

Thirty-four of those new unknowns were generated by that already abundant year, 1952. Many cases which were intriguing had to be dismissed as "insufficient information" (or *investigation*, if you will); therefore, the number is not as large as it might have been. Nonetheless, the two figures are congruent; note that it compares favorably with the monthly UFO percentages reported in IUR's ongoing investigation.

What Kinds of UFO'S?

Using the 6-category system developed by Dr. Hynek, let us see how the 640 unknowns break down by type:

FIGURE 8—TYPES OF REVISED UNKNOWNS

Type	No.	%
NL (Nocturnal Light)	243	38%
DD (Daylight Disc)	271	42%
R-V (Radar-Visual)	29	5%
(Radar Alone)	10	2%
CE I (Close Encounter of the First Kind)	46	7%
CE II (Close Encounter of the Second Kind)	33	5%
CE III (Close Encounter of the Third Kind)	8	1%

* Knowledgeable readers will note that the number of cases we counted in the 94 reels of microfilms exceeds the number quoted by the Air Force in 1969, that of 12,618. Furthermore, the number of Air Force unidentifieds here, 587, falls short of the number quoted by the Air Force, namely 701. As Dr. David Jacobs notes in "The UFO Controversy in America", the total figures announced each year by the Air Force *fluctuated* for each year, both up and down. Also, Edward Ruppelt mentions in his book "Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" that case material in the files was frequently "purloined". Other factors influenced the count. Summary sheets for the same year of Air Force unidentifieds changed, depending on when it was *rewritten* (often as many as four times). Some of the microfilm material is quite illegible, particularly around 1952, so we resorted to Dr. Hynek's old copies of the summary sheets to fill in the gaps. Also, we did not count cases called "information only", as these were not officially investigated by the Air Force.

There are two striking surprises present here! First, there are more Daylight Discs than Nocturnal Lights! With so many raw UFO reports originating at night, one would have expected the unknowns to follow suit. Nocturnal Lights certainly have the edge over Daylight Discs in recent studies; either the phenomenon itself is changing, or the manner in which it is being reported is changing.

Second, there are only 8 humanoid cases—the kind of case which have generated so much interest in the phenomenon and in the extra-terrestrial hypothesis! Remember, these are *revised* cases, re-evaluated by people who are willing to accept the possibility that UFO cases with humanoids can happen. There just aren't many "raw" reports of CE III cases in the microfilms to examine, and yet researchers like Ted Bloecher and David Webb have catalogued hundreds of "raw" reports of CE III's from the 22-year period of Air Force study. The most likely explanation appears to be that Blue Book's method of receiving reports, via other Air Force bases, prevented them from ever seeing any CE III reports—the individual bases served as "intermediary" judges, and pre-screened any such "crazy" reports before Wright-Patterson headquarters could get them.

The same could be said about the meager amount of physical trace cases, the CE II's. Ted Phillips' physical trace catalog reveals that there were many more UFO reports of this type in existence during the Blue Book study, but they apparently never found their way to Dayton, Ohio for one reason or another.

A similar situation exists in IUR's chief source of UFO reports, the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Hotline. Although it provides a daily quantity of sightings, it does not generate many "high strangeness" UFO reports such as are seen in the newspapers (belatedly, of course). The law enforcement agencies, which are doing a good job of screening out pranksters and hoaxes, are also withholding CE II's and CE III's on the local level ("We wouldn't bother you with silly stuff like *that!*").

The character of the year 1952 is upheld in the revised statistics. The number of radar-visuals and close encounters were slightly greater for that flap, but the bulk of the sightings were Nocturnal Lights and Daylight Discs. Very few of the cases that the Air Force called "psychological" were changed this second time around. The kind of classifications most often revised into "new" unidentifieds were aircraft and balloons: "aircraft" that executed right-angle turns at high speed and "balloons" which caused electro-magnetic effects.

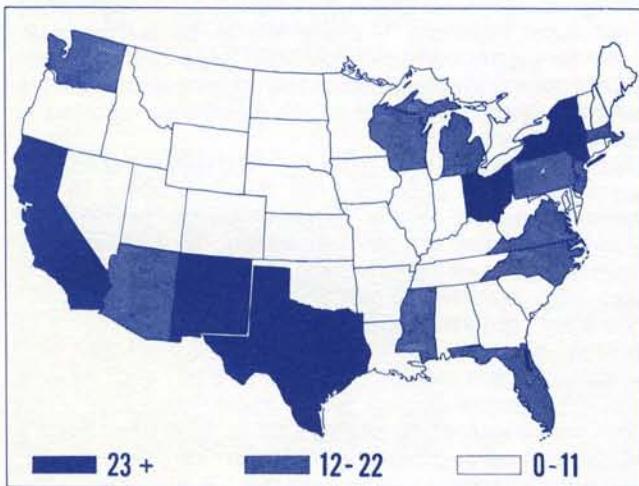
Most of the Air Force unidentifieds remained as such after the re-evaluation. Some of them did get revised as ascribable to balloons, aircraft and meteors (and some to "insufficient information"). In general, however, the various categories of IFO's retain their percentages, even after re-evaluation.

Where Did These UFO's Occur?

The geographical distribution of revised unknowns is approximately the same as that for the total reports.

These results are generally in agreement with the results obtained by Dr. David Saunders of the Center for UFO Studies in reviewing population and area as predictors of UFO occurrence in the Center's computerized UFO catalog, UFOCAT (see Vol. 1, No. 2 for further details). There are a couple of deviations, however. One is the large number of unknowns in New Mexico; while large in area, the state has a low population, but it evinced a great number of bona-fide unidentified sightings by contrast to other states. Also, the District of Columbia, minuscule in area, has six revised UFO's to its credit.

FIGURE 9—GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF REVISED UNKNOWNS



It would appear that one had the greatest chance of seeing a "real" UFO (as opposed to an unexamined, and identifiable, IFO) during those 22 years if one lived in the southwest or northeast part of the U.S.

What Kind of People Saw These UFO's?

What can be said of the witnesses who reported the UFO's? Are they typical individuals, or "crackpots" as is often alleged? Did technically-trained people report genuine unknowns, or were they as prone to misinterpretation of common objects as others with less "experience"? Were the cases with many witnesses of higher quality than those with single witnesses? An examination was made of the reports of individuals with relevant occupations like pilots, radar technicians, scientists and engineers, to see if they reported sightings which were really IFO's. The results are represented in Figure 10.

FIGURE 10—WITNESS RELIABILITY VS. OCCUPATION

	Percentage of Misidentifications
Military pilot (single witness)	88%
(multiple witnesses)	76%
Commercial pilot (single witness)	89%
(multiple witnesses)	79%
Radar technicians (multiple witnesses)	78%
Technical person (single witness)	65%
(multiple witnesses)	50%
Other occupations (multiple witnesses)	83%

How were these statistics developed? A case was deemed "good", if it fell into the category of a revised unidentified. No "insufficient information" cases were included in the statistics. Technically-trained people comprised 12.1% of the sightings in Project Blue Book. As a rule, the best witnesses were the multiple technical persons (e.g., engineers/scientists) with only 50% of their reports misidentified (the smaller the percent figure here, the more accurate the witness). The commercial and military pilots, unexpectedly were the poorest witnesses, though better in groups. The "other occupations" group include an interesting selection: police officers, a congresswoman, White House liaisons, an assistant secretary of the Army, and so on.

It is illustrated here that multiple witnesses are better than single witnesses, as one would expect, though the effect is not as pronounced as might have been expected. It has always been deemed logical that a group of people would be less subject to misidentification of the same stimulus, to collaborating on a hoax or lie, or to the same exaggeration of details, a situation well-recognized in a court of law.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Air Force did once call for an extensive statistical analysis of its data from June, 1947 through December, 1952, a period that included the 1952 flap. The cases were submitted for study by the Battelle Memorial Institute, and became known as Special Report No. 14. The report was the only publicly-known, massive statistical study performed by the Air Force and was published in 1955. It was made available to the military only, though the major conclusions were summarized to the press. The most interesting part of the report was the attempt to statistically compare various abstracted characteristics of the Air Force's "knowns" and "unknowns" to see if they matched, or differed, in an attempt to show that "unknowns" were really "knowns" about which not enough was known. This was expressed as a percentage figure; two groups of data were less alike if the figure approached "0%", and were more similar if the figure approached 100%. If a high correlation could have been drawn between the IFO's and UFO's color, number, shape, duration, speed, and light brightness, the Air Force could dismiss "unknowns" as really belonging with the "knowns". It turned out that in all these categories but one (light brightness), the probability was much less than *one per cent* that the two classes shared some of the same characteristics. For light brightness, the figure was 5%. So, unless such factors as "subjectivity of the data" played a meaningful role in the observations, as the Air Force professed, the tests supported the idea that the "knowns" and the "unknowns" collected over that four-and-a-half year period were quite different from each other.

Another aspect of the study was an attempt to define a "model" that would describe the "unknowns" reported by the most reliable witnesses. While the UFO's shared many of the same characteristics, virtually each one was different from all the others; hence, no single descriptive "model" could be devised to account for the unknowns as a class.

If the Air Force had hoped to use the Battelle study to discredit the existence of UFO phenomenon, it surely must have been disappointed. Still, the Air Force concluded that "the results of these tests are inconclusive since they neither confirm nor deny that the 'unknowns' are primarily unidentified 'knowns', although they do indicate that relatively few of the 'unknowns' are astronomical phenomena". Little wonder that the need still exists in 1976-1977 to perform a total statistical analysis of the Air Force's Project Blue Book data ourselves!

SIX UFO'S SELECTED FROM 58 U.S. CASES: Dec. 15-Jan. 14

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers. Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

1—Confirmed Identifieds

These reports completely break down as having commonplace explanations when subjected to rigorous scrutiny. We have either correlated them directly to some stimulus present at that time or, at least, have judged them to be well within the bounds of contemporary knowledge. This month's IFO reports were generated by the following phenomena:

There are 7 recent cases still being investigated—the results will be made known in the news page.

Stars and Planets	15	Birds	1
Ad Planes	8	Moon	1
Aircraft.....	6	Spotlight	1
Helicopters	6	Sun	1
Meteors	4		
Balloons	2	IFO TOTAL	45

2—UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
2-2-1	CEIII	12-15-76	9:20 PM	7-8 sec.	1	Holland, CT. 25-year old driver sees cigar-shaped object twice the width of the moon with 3-4 "human forms" seen in oval windows on the side. No sound heard (car windows up). Seen stationary low in the east, 400-500 feet away, disappeared in a bright red flash. <i>Single witness-rather hesitant and unsure of details. Possible illusion, but not of moon nor traffic.</i>
2-2-9	NL	12-18-76	5:20 PM	few sec.	2	New Folden, MN 5- and 10-year old children see orange and white "light streaks" rush overhead at "1½ times the height of the treetops," and immediately stop. It presented a circular underside in the darkened sky, with 6-8 orange and white lights situated around the perimeter, flashing alternately on/off. Ten feet in diameter, metallic in texture, the object made a humming sound that the witnesses' mother heard, too. After hovering for several seconds, it moved east. Unwitnessed disappearance. <i>Very young witnesses. No ad planes in this rural area. No reports from police, KTRF-radio, or Thief River Falls Municipal airport. Possible aircraft.</i>
2-2-12	NL	12-18-76	8:30 PM	1-2 min.	6	Miami, FL Red-orange oval of light much larger than full moon passes overhead from the north about 250 feet up, and then turns west in a smooth, even motion. One witness claimed to see a smaller domed-disc suspended above the glow; another called it "a blur". Clear, calm sky. <i>No report of "unusual traffic" from Miami International Airport or Miami Approach Control. No additional reports. All witnesses in one group.</i>
2-2-13	NL	12-19-76	6:20 PM	1 min.	1	Concord, CA A silent, star-like light seen overhead in the clear sky moved northward in an erratic fashion: zig-zagging, up/down, in circles, backing up, speeding forward, all at a slow speed at a high altitude for 1 minute. Then it executed a sudden, curving acceleration downward, "zooming" out of sight in one second. <i>Single witness. Nothing observed from Concord airport ATC. No additional reports. Object reported north-bound, winds were from the ENE.</i>
2-2-48	DD	1-10-77	4 PM	1 min.	1	Biloxi, MS 60-year old driver stopped at intersection watches disc, on edge, descend at 80-degree angle toward her, growing larger. When it reaches treetop level, it banks in a curve into the trees. Before being lost from sight, it presents its round face, as large as the full moon. <i>Single witness-no confirmation from Gulfport airport or Houston Air Route Traffic Control. Possible plane descending on edge-witness noted that sunlight was reflected when she saw its "top side".</i>

First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.

3-UFO of High Merit

CE I SEEN BY INDEPENDENT POLICEMEN IN IDAHO

CASE NUMBER 2-2-8

This incident involves a large, oval-shaped object witnessed by two policemen separated by almost 15 miles. In view for several minutes, the object stayed low to the ground and disappeared off toward some foothills; it was as close as 60 feet away from one witness, Dennis Abrams, a 30-year old trooper in Soda Springs, Idaho. The other, distant witness was Officer Erfel Christianson of the Pocatello State Police. This case was deemed as the most intriguing of this month's sample reported to IUR.



ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1976. TIME: 12:55 AM, MST.

PLACE: Wood Canyon Rd., 4-5 miles NE of downtown Soda Springs, Idaho; viewed from both inside and outside a police car at a wooded recreational area.

APPEARANCE

The object was described as appearing like an oval, devoid of seams, windows, and bumps. At an estimated 60-foot distance, it had the bulk of "3-4 police cars". The light emitted was light green, uniform, and seemed to arise from the interior of the oval, with occasional "spikes" of white, orange, and pink light. The object was silent while stationary, and made a whistling "wind" sound when in motion. The outline was distinct, the texture seemingly smooth although the light rendered this judgement difficult. No odor or heat waves were detected.

MOTION

The object rose up from the trees and hovered at treetop level (25-30 feet) about 60 feet away for almost 3 minutes. It was situated on the north side of his car. Then it "casually" drifted off with a whistling sound toward the foothills a few miles to the northwest and was gone from view in about 15 seconds.

Officer Abrams called out on his radio about the incident; a second officer located 10 miles west of downtown Soda Springs watched a light he described as looking "fluorescent", though orange-pink in color, shining a light toward the ground. Holding stationary for about 10 minutes *between himself and the foothills* in the north, he watched it head further north, climb, and clear the top of the foothills in "seconds".

WEATHER

The witness described the weather as clear, calm, and cold, about 10 degrees. The weather bureau agreed: visibility, 20 miles-clear sky, winds from the SE at 5 m.p.h.; 15 degrees temperature. There was a trace of precipitation on the 9th and the 23rd.

WITNESS REACTION

Thirty to forty-five minutes earlier, Officer Abrams saw what appeared to be a bright, flashing light descending into the area described above. Seeing a flash of light arise from the distant tree, he drove off to search that area, radioing in about a possible downed airplane. While driving to the area, he was told that the FAA at Burley knew of no plane in the sky at that time. Then, while driving downhill he watched the object rise up out of the trees; disconcerted, he skidded the car off the road.

The two police officers both had cameras in their respective cars, but neither thought to use them during the excitement of the incident. Officer Abrams had firearms, but didn't know whether or not to shoot it. He was quick to point out that he holds a responsible job, and doesn't drink while on duty. Both officers

claim to have seen UFO's in the past. Officer Abrams that IUR would be the last group to whom he would speak on this incident; we had difficulty reaching him as he had left town to escape the press harassment! He had given some thought to the prospect of extraterrestrial visitation.

An individual was contacted who had seen a falling light the night before, but the account appears to be ascribable to a meteor.

ON THE CASE

Original source: Officer Abrams via the UFO Hotline. Comprehensive interviews were conducted with the officers when Officer Abrams returned to Soda Springs at the end of the month.

The FAA at Burley, Idaho established that there were no flights scheduled over that area at that time. No reports from Logan or Idaho Falls airports. The Salt Lake City, Utah radar center receives input from 12 different radar stations, and can "see" as far north as the Canadian border, but nothing was reported to them; they pointed out, however, that it's a poor area for radar returns from a low altitude. No additional reports from the direction the object was last seen heading. Remember, it was 1 AM, and in a rather rural area.

Although Officer Abrams did not release details to the press, many furtive articles were written in local papers; inquiries came from as far as San Francisco, with television coverage in Salt Lake City. Officer Abrams deemed these accounts inaccurate and incomplete. Hill Air Force Base called for further information, but implied that it was probably a balloon.

The possibility of a weather balloon (illuminated) was checked. The U.S. Weather Bureau launches balloons from Salt Lake City at 4 AM and 4 PM; they burst after 1½ hours, and are only 6 feet in diameter at low altitude. Hill Air Force Base launch even smaller balloons that burst even quicker during daylight hours.

There are two seeming discrepancies here: the two policemen reported different colors (green vs. orange) but then, the second policeman saw it well in the distance as a light source only. Also, the durations differ (3 min. vs. 10 min.), but the trajectory was observed from different vantage points. The possibility exists that the two officers were watching two different sources, of course, but the absence of plane flights makes this seem remote.

A search revealed no physical traces in the woods. No physiological or electromagnetic effects were noted.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

ASTRONOMY: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University: No astronomical interpretation is possible in this case .

METEOROLOGY, Owen Rhea, Colorado State University: The possibility of searchlights can be ruled out due to the lack of a cloud base. Weather balloons can be illuminated but the light source is usually a small flashlight bulb suspended below the balloon. The possibility of a commercial or industrial balloon (perhaps with a leak) exists; the wind direction is appropriate, yet this seems unlikely.

Vern Zurick, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Colorado: The low altitude maintained by this object makes it unlikely that it would register on the meteorological radar records for Idaho.

AERONAUTICS, Herb Roth, United Air Lines: The description does fit the observation of a manned, hot-air balloon seen at night. The gas flame thrower illuminates the balloon from within, the light being the color of the balloon itself. The basket under the balloon would not be seen in the dark. The "whooshing" noise made by the burner would account for the sound heard, and the wind is right.

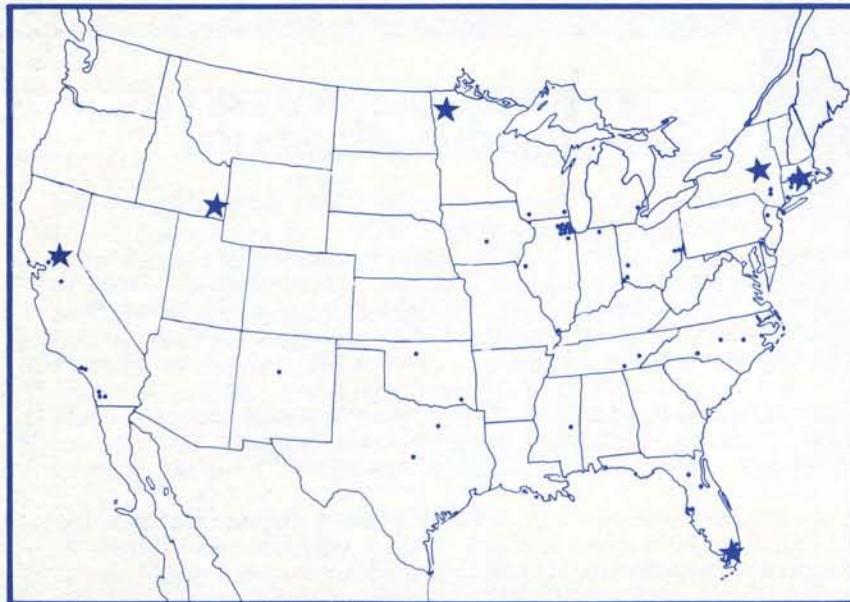
Ed. Note: No ballooning clubs could be found in that area by IUR. Also, this took place at 1 AM, in sub-freezing weather!

SOCIOLOGY, Dr. Robert Hall, University of Illinois, Circle Campus: From the standpoint of a behavioral scientist, this case is not rich in psychological elements which can be profitably studied. To what extent was the secondary witness "contaminated" by the information of the radio appeal of Officer Abrams? There are minor items of merit here: the slight discrepancies in the individual testimonies, and the desire of Abrams to avoid publicity both help rule out a pre-planned hoax, at least.

CONCLUSIONS

Probability of	Total Hoax:	Misperceived balloon:	Genuine UFO:
	1%	39%	60%

PROFILE: DECEMBER, 1976



● —IFO

★ —UFO

UFO's include 2-1-57, 2-2-1, 2-2-8, 2-2-9, 2-2-12, and 2-2-13. Verifications and complete details of these evaluations are on file and available upon request.

The three "test clouds" were all reports from one upper atmosphere

test launched by Eglin Air Force Base on Dec. 1. It was seen as a round, glowing cloud which changed different colors. These launches attract a lot of attention, but the reports do not remain "unidentifiable" for long.

COMMENTARY

THE WAKEFIELD INCIDENT: TELLING A UFO FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND

by Allan Hendry,
Managing Editor

Did your local news cover the "mystery object" seen by a farmer through a 3-foot hole in his ice-covered pond in Wakefield, New Hampshire? It kept me up until 2 AM trying to find out *something* about it. The Wakefield police had thrown a cordon around the pond and answered all questions, "no comment" by order of the Governor's office! by morning, the same office was issuing an undetailed release saying there was nothing there, and that radioactivity previously measured was false as the result of "new measurements. How did a hole in an ice pond escalate into a national UFO story?

After calling the press, the local military bases, NORAD, and the Defense Department, and hearing the tersely-worded press release, I finally got the most detailed information from Col. Parker of the National

Guard detail involved: Farmer McCarthy noticed the hole while watching a raging snowstorm Monday afternoon, Jan. 10. Curious as to how it could exist in the sub-zero temperature, he went out and saw a "dark object" through the water at the bottom. He called the local police, who in turn called the Civil Defense unit; using simple radiometric equipment, they measured a radiation level "a couple of Roentgens higher" than the background count. Concerned about a possible accident involving radioactive materials, they brought the state in. Thus developed the cordon, the warning to residents not to use the water, and the official "hush" that Wednesday night when I learned of the story.

Two important effects were observed here: in the 12 hours following the first news announcement, I was swamped with calls from NBC network news, radio and TV stations, and newspapers coast-to-coast about the "UFO landing". Remember, the farmer never actually saw anything fall from the sky, yet it was assumed that a UFO was at stake, as opposed to, say, a cannister dropped from a plane.

Secondly, the rumors were flowing

Stars and Planets	17
Aircraft	12
Advertising Planes	7
Meteor	6
Helicopter	4
Test Cloud	3
Moon	3
Spotlight	2
Balloon	2
Birds	1
Sun	1
Unavailable Witness	1
NL	4
CEI	1
CEIII	1
Total Number of Reports	65
Average Per Day	2.1
Peak Activity (6 cases)	12-13
Total Number of UFO's	6
Total Number of IFO's	59
UFO's: 9.2%	IFO's: 90.8%

Note how the number of reports drops off during the winter months due to the lack of available potential witnesses, yet the number of unknowns holds up. This compares with the effect noted in Project Blue Book's "unknowns" from January through December, as seen in last issue's feature article on the Air Force study.

like water; radioactivity "a hundred times the normal background count", said the press! A TV station countered the official release with an "eye-witness" account of an object removed in a plastic bag from the pond. Col. Parker told me it was only the probe of their radiation-measuring equipment wrapped in the bag to protect it from water! Actually, there are still other interesting allegations whose substance is not yet known; UFO investigators Ray Fowler and John Oswald will keep IUR posted on these. Yet even if the incident ends here, it does illustrate the following:

- The UFO issue is emotionally-loaded, and on everyone's mind
- Conclusions should not be drawn without *first-hand* information
- The news media employ UFO stories for *entertainment* value, and do not thoroughly account for the elements of a case
- A governmental agency will not be believed when it virtually declares martial law and *then* discounts the affair as "nothing" without adequate public communication.

Would this be the scenario, I wonder, if this had been a "real" UFO crash?