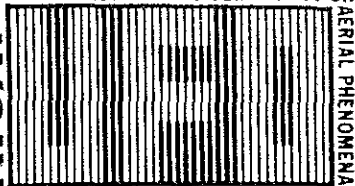


# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON

NICAP



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## Georgia Photo Under Study DC-8 Pilot Recalls 'Cigar-Shaped' UFO

A startling set of eight photographs clearly showing a silvery, disc- or saucer-shaped object is currently being studied by NICAP.

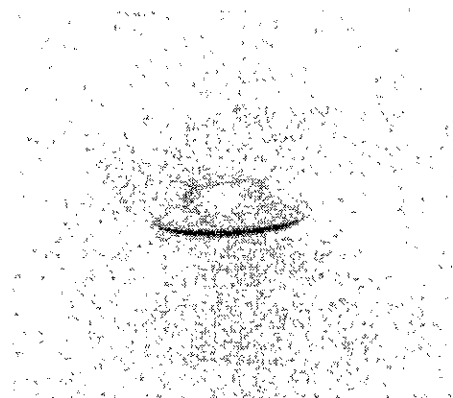
NICAP received the photographs recently from an elderly couple residing in Candler County, Ga., and the details of their report, along with additional information provided, are being studied intently.

The photographs, five black-and-white and three color, were taken with two Polaroid cameras by a retired couple who have requested that their names be kept confidential.

The witnesses, who live on the outskirts of Metter, Ga., took the photographs during a 30-minute period late in the morning of Dec. 12, 1972.

The object was first spotted by the wife as she went outside to burn trash. At first she thought it was a helicopter, quickly discarded that theory when she failed to hear any noise.

According to the wife, it just hovered silently in the air above a wooded section about a half mile from their home. She rushed inside to get her camera and to inform her husband about the strange



Blowup of object reveals typical configuration reported for many UFOs.

object. He grabbed a second camera and joined his wife outside.

The couple proceeded to take pictures during the estimated 30 minutes the object was in view. Suddenly, according to the wife, the top of the object glowed red and the object took off at a great speed and suddenly disappeared.

Pending further, detailed investigation, NICAP is withholding judgment on the authenticity of the photographs.



Georgia couple claimed to have spotted this object over field near their home.

Without dates, the names of witnesses, or the flight number it doesn't add up to much of a case — or so one would think until he hears the story of a DC-8 pilot and the UFO encounter he had while on a flight to Hong Kong.

The story, a fascinating one by any standard, was related recently in Dublin, Ireland's *Sunday Independent*. The author, newspaper columnist Gabriel Carr, was told the story by a close friend while in Sydney, Australia, on the condition that he would not reveal pertinent data that later could be traced to him by his employer.

The witness has been a professional pilot all his life and has logged more than 18,000 hours of "command time" in a variety of aircraft.

(See Cigar-Shaped UFO, page 4)

## NICAP ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLICATION

In response to suggestions from many NICAP members, NICAP has completed plans to offer a new kind of UFO publication called *UFO Quarterly Review*. If reader interest is sufficient, the new journal will be published within a few months, providing in-depth coverage of a wide range of sightings, historical developments, and other topics related to UFO research.

The purpose of the publication is to present new or unpublished material that is too space-consuming or specialized for the *UFO Investigator*, which will continue to offer the latest information on current sightings and investigations. Some of the items appearing in the newsletter will be developed in greater detail in the *Review*, such as case studies and technical analyses. The *Review* will also solicit contributions from scientists and researchers in the UFO field.

NICAP plans to publish the *Review* at the end of each quarter, beginning in April with the January-March issue. It is being offered exclusively to NICAP members and institutional subscribers at the special subscription rate of \$5.00 per year. NICAP members are urged to fill out the enclosed subscription form today and become charter subscribers in time for the first issue.

# Flyover Reported From Long Island

Further investigation has been made of the UFO sighting reported Oct. 9, 1972, at approximately 7:30 p.m. on a lonely stretch of road between Smithtown and Coram, Long Island (*UFO Investigator*, Dec. 1972). The observation and subsequent descriptions of the sighting were provided by a husband and wife who claim to have observed the object for more than ten minutes before it disappeared from sight.

A thorough investigation of the sighting was conducted by NICAP's Ted Bloecher and Sylvia Meagher. Like so many cases investigated by NICAP, the facts revealed during the ensuing investigation raised as many new questions as those that were answered. Nonetheless, the sighting, as reported by the couple, merits reporting to the NICAP membership.

## When First Observed

The couple had just left their home in Smithtown on an errand in Coram, approximately 20 miles away. Driving east, the couple had reached the midpoint of the journey when they both noticed "a bright, white light, similar to the bright landing light of an airplane, low in the sky to the east and just slightly to the left," noted the investigators' report.

They drove several more blocks before noticing that, unlike a plane, the light did not appear to be moving. "Its brightness considerably exceeded that of a star . . . It was just so obvious. . . it was so much brighter, so much bigger," recalled the wife.

Approximately one mile from where the object was first observed one of the witnesses, the wife, exclaimed, "The darn thing is moving!" "Suddenly it was closer to us, and then we could see it was moving."

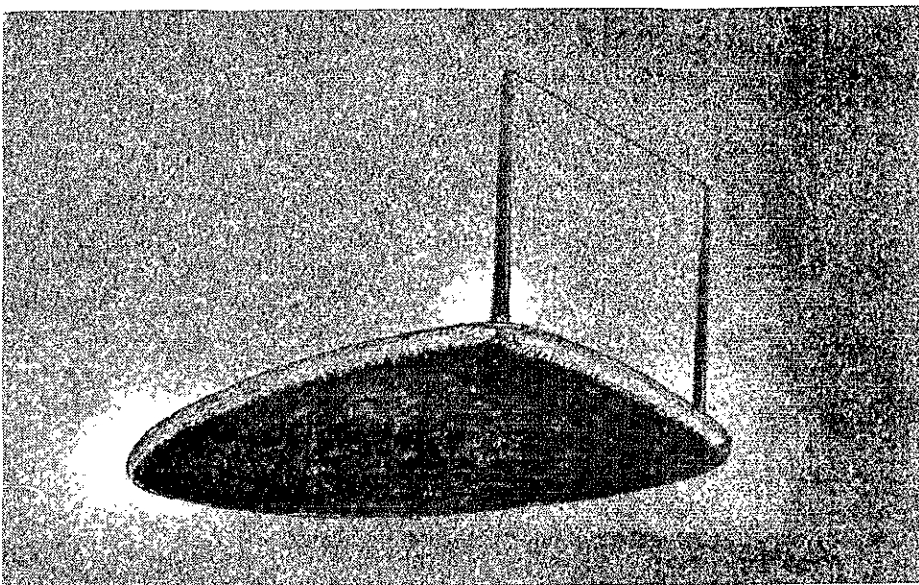
With the couple now concentrating to a greater extent than before, they began to detect one or more colored lights seemingly attached to the object. The white light continued to dominate the scene and, according to the wife, appeared to be pulsating "like a heartbeat."

After observing what seemed to be red and green lights, the couple concluded, as they did initially, that "it must be an airplane." Nonetheless, they continued to observe the UFO because of the intensity of the white light. At this point they had traveled through Seldon, L.I. and were continuing on their journey.

## A Close Encounter

Leaving Seldon, the couple began their approach to a small hill that lies between Seldon and Coram, their destination. The light was soon lost to view.

Arriving at the top of the hill, the witnesses admitted they expected to once again observe the light, but a treeline



Witness made this sketch of flying platform he and his wife observed.

apparently was temporarily blocking the expected line of view.

Midway along the dark and deserted stretch of highway, the light suddenly came into view above the treetops at an angle high overhead and a little forward of their position, according to the report.

"I looked up and I'm suddenly looking right under the belly of the thing, and that's when I yelled to him (her husband) 'Pull off the road, that's no airplane! There are windows, with lights, under there!'"

The car was parked at the side of the road and the wife jumped out of the car to get a better look. Despite his own fascination with the object, the husband admitted he did not get out of the vehicle himself because he was on a very narrow shoulder at a dangerous curve in the highway. Forced to remain inside the car, the husband opened the window and leaned his head out to observe the object as best he could.

During the next one to two minutes, both individuals claimed to have made some startling close-hand observations of the object.

Both generally agreed the object appeared as an elongated ellipse with a single row of lights (five or six) running along the bottom outer edge. Remarking later about the lights, the husband commented they were "of a highly geometric shape . . . they appeared like elongated rectangles."

Watching the UFO from a nearby embankment, the wife observed several things the husband could not observe from inside the car. As the object passed overhead and continued in a southwesterly direction, she observed what appeared to be two vertical antennas rising

from the two posterior points of the triangular-shaped body. Stretching between these two "antennas" appeared to be a thinner "pole" or "wire".

Asked by investigators about how she had been able to distinguish this feature, she replied: "Whatever the body was (See Long Island Sighting, page 4)

## Author of *Exorcist* Tells of UFO Sighting

William P. Blatty, author of the best seller *The Exorcist*, has been a witness to a number of unexplained events, at least one of which involved an alleged UFO in the sky over Mexico.

Blatty, in a recently published interview, said he was on a flight over Mexico when a UFO was sighted. "My God, there it was. I mean there was something there, a bright flaming orange apparently spheroid object which was cruising below us."

The object, according to Blatty, had to be moving at 450 miles per hour to keep up with the plane. The pilot, when questioned later by Blatty, said that it had been nothing more than a "burning ship," a theory that infuriated Blatty.

"Rather than accept something contrary to the cultural bias, he reached out for the most incredible naturalistic phenomenon," commented Blatty. "We can't always resort to calling these things [UFOs] the superstitious beliefs of the uneducated."

"And unknown causes is another reach that absolutely drives me crazy. It's the ultimate resort of these scientific idiots! Unknown causes. . ."

# College Students In Mass. Sight Oval-Shaped UFO

A late evening study session by two junior college students in Waltham, Mass., was abruptly halted Dec. 4, 1972, by the sudden appearance of a bright, oval-shaped UFO, according to a report submitted by NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee.

According to the report, the two students, ages 21 and 25, had been studying together at the home of the older man, a former U.S. Army helicopter crewchief, when the 21-year-old decided to go outside and get a breath of fresh air.

Standing in the driveway, the man's attention was drawn to what appeared to be a very bright star in the northwestern sky. The UFO, according to a written account by the student, appeared as "a large yellowish object" and seemed to be traveling in an E-SE direction (towards his location.)

The object, according to the Subcommittee report, then made a rapid descent and returned to the same altitude, a maneuver which was repeated once again before the witness rushed into the home to alert his companion.

Joining his friend outside, the second student, an amateur astronomer, also spotted the object which he later described as a "white-yellow light, apparent magnitude-5, no definite shape, rounded outline."

Under observation by both witnesses, the UFO ascended once again and moved toward their location, passed overhead, and then continued in an E-SE direction. The first maneuver witnessed by both witnesses was estimated by one of them to have taken approximately two minutes.

During the two-minute period, the object, according to the report, took on the appearance of a bright oval form with numerous white-yellow lights on the periphery. It was during this period of time, according to investigators, that both witnesses reported a "dull humming sound" apparently coming from the UFO.

Both witnesses estimated the initial speed of the object at approximately 50 mph, and one of them estimated the object was between 40 and 50 feet in diameter.

The most spectacular maneuver, however, occurred shortly after the UFO had passed over their location, said the witnesses. "The flying object accelerated within five seconds to an amazing speed to reach the horizon in another five seconds. . . a red light flashed and it dropped below the horizon. . . Then seconds later it reappeared and finally disappeared."

"I would estimate that it took no more than thirty seconds for it to reach

the T.V. aerials in Needham (five to ten miles away). It passed the aerials and was on the horizon when it descended and came up again. . .," added one of the students.

Neither of the two witnesses professed belief in UFOs during the Subcommittee investigation. Nonetheless, one of the students commented, "I was in a sober mind and never believed in UFO sightings before my own experience. But nothing I know explains this phenomenon except that it was something from another planet. I still remain open for a logical explanation of the event."

## Columnist Calls For New Look At 'Saucers'

Newspaper columnist Dr. Max Rafferty, in a recent article appearing in newspapers around the country, questioned the apparent willingness of many officials to sweep the UFO issue "under the nearest rug."

In an article titled, "High Plane Approach to Flying Saucers," Rafferty commented:

"I've been wondering about the apparent official willingness to sweep this fascinating puzzle under the nearest rug. Oh, the Air Force 'investigated,' and duly announced that the 'great majority' of sightings were either hoaxes or illusions. But what about the minority which were neither?"

Rafferty, noting the continuing efforts of serious investigators in the UFO field, questioned whether the government might not be able to tear itself away from its support of multi-million dollar social-welfare programs long enough to "find a few hundred thousand dollars to help . . . solve what is literally the mystery of the ages."

## TV Show Draws Viewer Protest

The British-produced series "U.F.O.," which first appeared on American screens last September (*UFO Investigator*, October 1972), continues to draw criticism from NICAP members, who see it as a "setback" for public understanding of the UFO problem.

Most of the letters received by NICAP express concern over the show's theme, which represents UFOs as hostile devices that have kidnapped and injured people. One couple wrote, "Being members of NICAP and interested in a scientific and nonsensational approach to the whole UFO question . . . we were shocked to discover that this program has opened with scenes of the utmost violence against innocent people by a disc-shaped UFO."

Another member commented that the program gives the same distorted view of UFOs that other programs have given of other subjects. He noted, "This show brings to mind the show 'Custer,' which told tales of Custer's brave deeds in killing off the Indian population. The Indians, seeing how wrong this show was (showing the Indians as 'dirty dogs'), sued for equal time. Of course they did not get it, but the show was taken off after half a year."

A NICAP member in Florida recalled recent reports in Africa of citizens shooting at UFOs and said the TV series only contributes to this kind of "fear reaction." The member added, "I do not believe these objects to be hostile and it disturbs me each time I read of some individual 'firing' at one of these sighted objects. What kind of reception is that?"

The show is being aired in prime time on CBS affiliates and other stations around the country. Although set in the year 1980 and presented as science fiction, the program includes frequent references to actual UFO sightings, which may give some viewers the mistaken impression the entire show is based on actual events.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

**Dec. 7, 1972 — Lethem, Guyana (S. America)** A strange aerial event was observed within hours of America's last Apollo mission to the moon by a woman who, at the time of the sighting, was driving with three other companions across a broad Savannah region in the interior of Guyana. The sighting occurred at approximately 5 a.m. The four witnesses observed what at first appeared to be a "shooting star" in terms of size and brightness. The object appeared to explode outward into two bands of light which quickly faded and disappeared. The object appeared to be traveling from north to south, according to the witnesses.

**Dec. 18, 1972 — Oakland, Maryland** An object described as a "fat cigar" was observed for more than one hour by at least three residents of this small, western Maryland community. The object, according to one witness, appeared to be larger than a snowmobile but smaller than a car. It was observed hovering and "bouncing" above tree tops on a nearby hill. The UFO appeared to change color from orange to blue, finally to silver before disappearing, said one witness.

## newsnotes

### NICAP EXHIBIT SET FOR TEXAS

NICAP Texas members in the Dallas-Fort Worth area can look forward to seeing NICAP's exhibit on UFO photography during the next few weeks. The Richland College Planetarium in Dallas has scheduled a two-week showing of the exhibit, beginning February 26. The exhibit describes how NICAP analyzes a photograph purported to show a UFO. NICAP members who would like to arrange a showing in their own community should contact NICAP for details. A picture of the exhibit was published in the December issue.

### RECEPTION CONTINUES FOR HYNEK BOOK

Astronomer Allen Hynek continues to win support for his latest defense of UFOs as a serious scientific problem. Since publication last May, his new book, *The UFO Experience*, has been reviewed favorably by such publications as *Science*, *Playboy*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, and is still drawing positive comment from respected journals. One of the latest accolades comes from the *London Times's Literary Supplement*, which says "we must be grateful to Dr. Hynek for rescuing an absorbing subject from the twin clutches of hysteria on the one hand and officialdom on the other." Sharing this opinion is the educational journal *The Physics Teacher*, whose January issue expresses the "fear that *The UFO Experience* stands as a sufficiently throbbing bruise for enough highly placed military and scientific leaders to win for itself an undeserved academic burial." A third approving voice is the *Boston Globe*, which calls Hynek's book "a masterpiece of careful science writing on a highly controversial subject." NICAP members may obtain a personally autographed copy of the book at the special discount price of \$6.00 from NICAP headquarters.

## Q/A

Q. Where may I obtain the book by John Fuller, *The Interrupted Journey*?

E.B./Rochester, New York

A. This book, like many other UFO books, is out of print. Most bookstores maintain catalogues of books in print and books no longer available. Anyone interested in locating a particular book on UFOs should consult these catalogues first. If a book is out of print, it might be available through second-hand book stores, book sales, or mail-order book dealers. Libraries should also be contacted, especially those that can obtain books on loan from other libraries.

### DID YOU MISS "YEAR OF THE UFO"?

If you weren't a NICAP member last year, you missed out on a special NICAP calendar called "The Year of the UFO." It highlights hundreds of important incidents that have helped make UFOs one of the most puzzling mysteries of modern times.

We still have a small supply of this unique item and are offering it to all NICAP members on a first-come-first-served basis. Send \$1.00 with your name and address right away, and we'll mail you the complete calendar (all six editions) postpaid. Remember: this is an historical calendar good any year; it can never go out of date.

P.S. Our supply of the November-December edition of the calendar is particularly low. If you received that edition but not the other five, send \$1.00 and specify that you want January to October only. This will help us supply everybody who wants the calendar. Thank you.

### Long Island Sighting

(Continued from page 2)

made out of was very dark. . . It was darker than the sky." She also remarked that while the white light in front was no longer directly visible, reflection from its "spill" could possibly account for her ability to observe the antennas.

### Cigar-Shaped UFO

(Continued from Page 1)

The plane, carrying 112 passengers, was on a flight to Hong Kong when the incident occurred. The plane was on automatic pilot at the time when the co-pilot, looking out the cockpit window on the left side of the plane, suddenly spotted a metallic, cigar-shaped flying object pacing the jet at a distance of no more than 100 feet.

The object was pointed out to the witness whose first reaction was "Chinese Fighter." "No, it can't be," he said, changing his mind. "This ship has no wings, no tail. It's just a flying tube. It must be — yes, it is — a UFO."

Despite various maneuvers during the next few minutes, the object continued to parallel every move of the DC-8. Hong Kong radio was called and informed of the incident.

"There was one heck of a long time before Hong Kong acknowledged my message. When he finally did, all that he said was 'stand by,'" said the witness.

"The strange ship was just sitting there, keeping up with our speed of 560 mph and following exactly our most minute course changes.

Although their individual estimates of the object's altitude varied, both witnesses placed it at less than 1000 feet. As the object continued on its flight path towards the west, the husband, concerned about the way the car was parked, urged his wife to join him.

Arriving in Coram two or three minutes later, the couple continued to observe the "light" periodically as it continued on its westerly course. Finally it disappeared, and the couple completed their errands and then returned to Smithtown.

The investigation of the sighting, although not concluded, has already been quite extensive, and includes personal interviews (including tapes), a daytime visit to the areas in question and a check with at least six Long Island airports. The latter were questioned regarding the possibility of an advertising plane or other aircraft in the vicinity.

Grumman Aircraft Corp., located less than ten miles away, was also contacted and questioned regarding possible experimental aircraft. They have since responded stating none of their airplanes, experimental or otherwise, was in the vicinity on the night in question.

Pending further investigation, this case has been listed as "unknown." Additional information, if and when it becomes available, will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.

"About three minutes must have elapsed, and we were still standing by on the radio. Our visitor was still in perfect formation, making no move to harass us in any way . . . it must have been between 25 and 30 feet (in length). The circumference of the fuselage would have been a bit less than that of a jet fighter.

"What puzzled us most was the lack of windows. There were none visible. Yet, every time I made a three or four degree correction, the UFO turned to the same course instantly."

When Hong Kong radio did reply, they informed the witness that radar showed no such object flying alongside the plane. The object continued to pace the plane as it descended from 30,000 to 17,000 feet in preparation for landing. At 17,000, according to the witness, the object turned, pointed its nose into the western sky and took off at incredible speed.

As incredible as the sighting appeared to be, it was nothing compared to the reaction the witness recalled receiving when he landed. He said he was informed by a top airport official that radar had observed nothing and "neither did you."

Despite protests by the witness that other members of the crew and at least one passenger had also seen the UFO, the witness claims he was told to keep quiet!