

DELIBERATE DECEPTION: THE UFO FILMED AT BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA

A Critical Analysis of the Curious Events at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, in September 1964.

By Dr Robert Jacobs, PhD

"HOW A UFO DESTROYED AN AMERICAN ROCKET. FORMER U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER'S REVELATION: "THE TRUTH IS TOO IMPORTANT TO HIDE ANY LONGER. UFO SPIED ON A SPACE MISSILE SHOT, AND I FILMED IT"*

* Under this title, in FSR 29/1 (1983), I published our first version, received via FSR Consultant Richard W. Heiden of Milwaukee, of the extraordinary story of former U.S. Air Force Officer Lt. Robert Jacobs, who is today Dr Robert Jacobs, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radio-Film-TV Studios in the University of Wisconsin.

Dr Jacobs has now produced a more detailed account of this affair. His article, which I reproduce in full below, has appeared in MUFON UFO JOURNAL No. 249 (January 1989), and for this I have received the written permission of Mr Dennis W. Stacey, MUFON JOURNAL Editor, and I hereby express my very warmest thanks to him for such interesting material. — EDITOR

THIS is an article about the filming and subsequent U.S. Government cover up of a UFO which interfered with a dummy Atomic warhead one Autumn day in 1964 high over the Pacific Ocean off Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It is a first-hand account of an event. Before dealing with it and the subsequent revelations which have come from a variety of sources since 1964, consider this brief discussion about UFOs and The Press.

It is a sad and curious fact that much of the literature surrounding the UFO phenomena appears in the highly sensationalized "tabloids". Once relegated solely to pulp newsprint, this form of idiot-journalism has now moved into television with personalities like Geraldo Rivera, Morton Downey, Jr. and a growing number of other slime merchants. Owing to the prejudice toward this kind of journalism shared by intellectuals, academicians and the celebrities who frequently decry being victimized by the tabloids, such exposure has tended to desensitize the American Public to the potential seriousness of the UFO issue. Since tabloids seem to be written stylistically by and for the lunatic fringe, then UFOs are seen broadly as the purview of lunatics exclusively.

If one wanted deliberately to denigrate an issue, to relegate it to the trash heap of pop culture, one could not do so more completely than to insure that the issue falls into the hands of *The Star* or *The National Enquirer* or Geraldo Rivera! Perhaps a case could be made for the UFO evidence having been delivered over to garbage journalism by *design* as a method of discrediting it.

We know, for example, that at the beginning of his involvement with the subject, the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, later Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, was employed by the United States Air Force with Project Blue Book to "debunk" all "flying saucer" sightings. His famous "Swamp Gas" conclusion has lived in the popular mythos long after the good Doctor's formal recantation of it. And, in spite of some of the general popularizing of the subject in films like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T.*, Johnny Carson, David Letterman and other television talk show heroes, still get comic mileage out of poking fun at UFO investigators, "swamp gas" and the frequent loonies who claim to be incarnate space ships or to own condos on Venus. If the tabloids were not paid off to run as many misleading, bizarre stories on UFOs and UFO Fringies as possible, always making these tales appear to be from

or about some dimwit in the hinterlands, then they may as well have been.

Deliberate deception, Machiavellian conspiracy, coincidence or just the luck of the draw . . . whatever the reason, the resultant tabloid "sleaze factor" is a handicap for any scholar wishing to engage in research into what is, in fact, a fascinating and deliciously intricate field worthy of serious study.

I am a scholar, a card-carrying Ph.D., and a university professor in a department of Journalism and Broadcasting. Some years ago I was an officer in the United States Air Force, the first officer in the photography career field, by the way, to be awarded the Air Force Guided Missile Insignia; the "Missile Badge".

Those are facts. Another fact is that I have been a participant in an *official United States Government-ordered UFO cover up*. I've been ridiculed by some of my colleagues in academia because in 1982 I wrote an article about this cover up and it appeared in *The National Enquirer*. It was not my intention to become a tabloid writer then or now. *The Enquirer* turned out to be the *only* publication I could find which was interested in printing the article at all. Both academic and mainstream journals and periodicals turned it down cold over the period of nearly a year during which I submitted and resubmitted it. I was told by editor after editor that UFO stories weren't "publishable". I thought the story was important then. That's why I let a tabloid publish it. I still think it's important. That's why I responded to the invitation to write it for this journal.

So much for preamble about the press.

Big Sur Background

Six years then, after it first broke, here is my report on what we photographed at Big Sur along with some of what has happened since 1982 in plain, unheroic, non-sensational, unexpurgated and non-tabloidized English.

I earned the "Missile Badge" for making a "significant contribution to America's Missile and Space Program", so the citation read, while I was Officer-in-Charge of Photo-optical Instrumentation in the 1369th Photographic Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California from May, 1963 to May, 1966. My work in establishing a long range tracking site at Big Sur, California, in large part is what convinced the Air Force to give me that cherished award. The cir-

cumstances that took me to the "Missile Badge" ceremony as well as to that lovely and mysterious bulge of California coastline known as the Big Sur ended up changing my mind about a number of things, including the nature of our government, the nature of my personal belief systems and the nature of the universe.

It began with a man named Kingston A. George. "King" George had the title of Operations Analyst for Headquarters, 1st Strategic Aerospace Division. The engineers, civilian and military, whose job it was to evaluate the instrumentation photography which we provided on every missile launch down the Western Test Range, were unhappy, he said. Shooting tracking footage from Vandenberg only provided a look up the "tailpipe" of the missile. What George said they wanted was a side look at all stages of powered flight. This side-look was not possible from any place on the base. Because of the tortured California coastline, such a view was possible from one spot, Big Sur.

Topographically, Big Sur is both north and west of Vandenberg. We reasoned that we might get the shot the engineers wanted if we could get high enough to provide both a line-of-sight to the base and to put us well above the offshore fog bank which blankets the California shoreline much of the year. Because of the 124-mile distance from Vandenberg to Big Sur, the final things needed were a lens with a very long focal length, a recording device capable of enhancing the image and a tracking system on which to mount them.

According to George, such a device was built and ready to go. It was the Boston University telescope, owned by the Air Force Eastern Test Range (AFETR) at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida and under the direction of Mr. Walter Manning in the Aerospace Sciences Division at AFETR. The optical segment of the device was a folded Gregorian telescope with a 24-inch diameter objective mirror and a 240-inch focal length. The lens apparatus was sealed from the air and insulated against heat and cold. A set of Barlow extenders could yield effective focal lengths of from 480 to 2,400 inches. (The normal focal length lens for a 35 mm camera is about two inches!)

The light sensing element of the instrument was an image orthicon (television) tube. The I.O. could enhance the optical image, convert it to a series of electrical signals and display it on a Kinescope where it was photographed with 35 mm motion picture film. Because the I.O. had remarkably low noise, the gain could be "cranked" quite high to record very low light level objects. Such a device could record sources of light emission or reflection which were tens of times too weak for detection by other photographic methods.

The B.U., as it was called, was ideal for the purpose. One of the primary goals of our mission, according to George, was to provide information on the "minute events following propellant depletion — at distances of from 300 to 800 nautical miles" (*italics mine*).

If we could find a level place, accessible to the B.U. (not easy, considering that the scope with its tracker was just a little smaller than a conventional moving van and had to be hauled by a heavy duty, cross-country type diesel truck) and see the missile through a haze well enough to lock in on it with the tracking mount, we still had one problem left. Engineering sequential photography is of little use to the viewer without the addition of timing marks on the film. This time code received from Wheeling, West Virginia tagged each individual frame of film with a reference point in real time to the moment of engine ignition and launch. The coded pips of light were recorded in

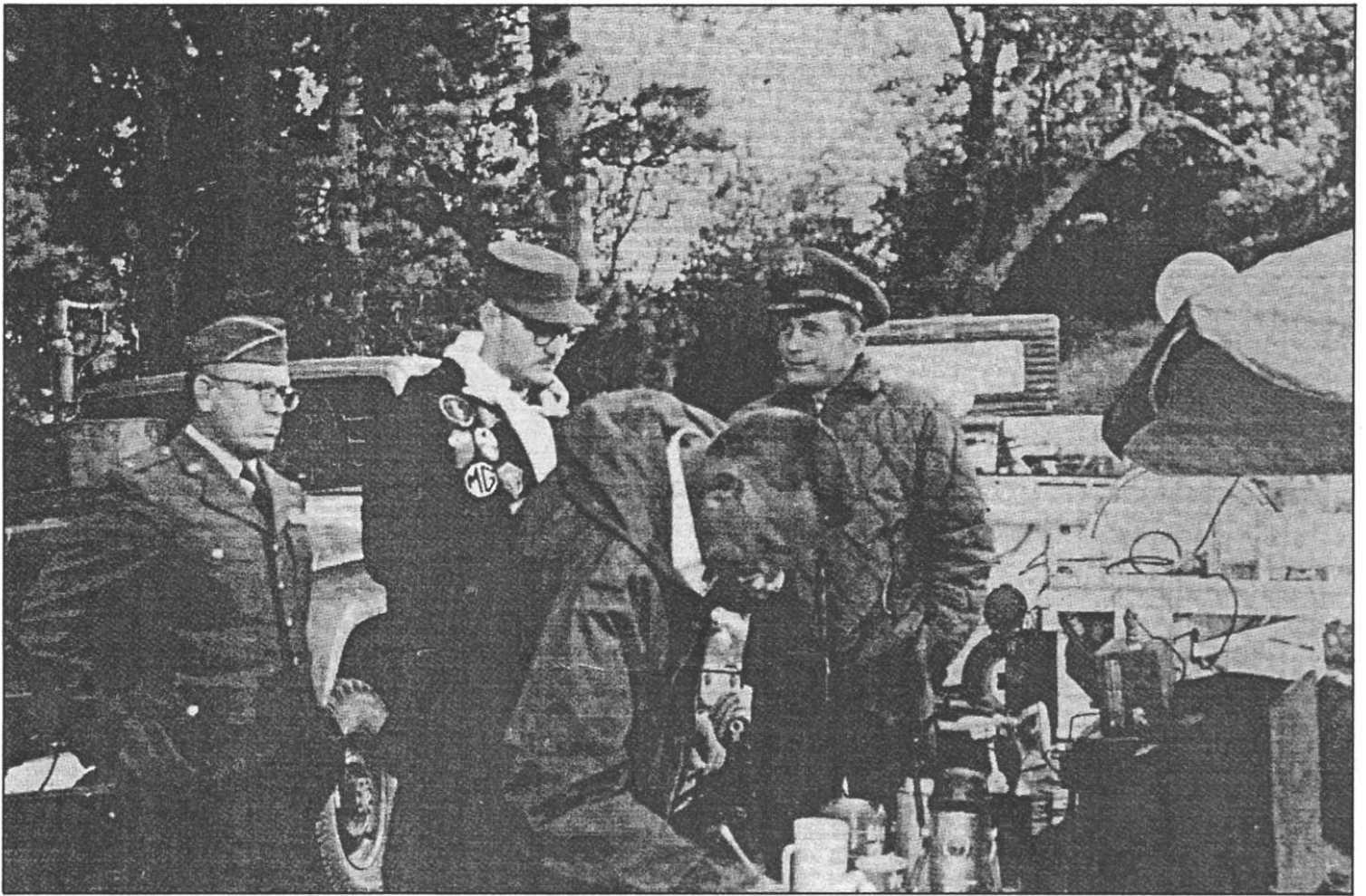
the sound track area of the film by an exciter lamp driven by the signals from WWV. On the base, timing signals were sent to the cameras by hardliners from the blockhouse. Running a line to Big Sur with the necessary amplifiers would have been too costly, particularly for what was only a feasibility test. We had to try something else. The solution was really very simple.

On June 10, 1964 I led a group of people to the aerie I had discovered earlier near Anderson Peak at an elevation of 3,400 feet on a Forest Service fire trail, 9 miles into the woods and uphill from Highway 1 in Big Sur. With me on that sunny summer day were my NCOIC, Chief Master Sergeant Ike N. Davis, Jr., NCOIC of my Tracking Section, Staff Sergeant Jules Devine, Kingston A. George, with a Technical Sergeant Porter from 1st STRATAD and a Mr. Paulson from Patrick Air Force Base at Cape Kennedy. All of us agreed that the truck could certainly pull the B.U. up to this site with no trouble. Could we now get timing pips to it?

We had with us that day a portable radio transceiver which we used at Vandenberg to communicate from my office to the mobile vehicles and our tracking sites on base. At Vandenberg I had Airman First Class Joseph Williams standing by. He had wired the output of one of the timing signals to an identical transceiver to the one I had. At my command he activated the radio and transmitted flawless timing signals to us at Big Sur, just as we had in a test weeks earlier. All that was necessary with the B.U. would be to patch-in our receiver to its timing signal input on the 35 mm motion picture camera. Timing was no problem. There was happiness on the site and my "Missile Badge" was assured that day.

On August 28, 1964, I led a convoy up the Pacific Coast Highway through Pismo Beach, past Hearst Castle at San Simeon and into what would be history. Technical Sergeant Thomas Dodd was my NCOIC for the remote site. He would operate our standard M-45 tracking mount with conventional 33 mm Mitchell film cameras to compare with the results of the B.U. Telescope. AIC Joseph Williams was along to handle communications and timing. AIC Daryl Winters was also along. As a sad sideline, Winters would become the first and only Air Force photo man to be killed in action in Vietnam a little over two years later. Our Air Force troop camped at the preselected fire-trial turnout near the summit of Anderson Peak, set up our M-45 and waited.

On August 31, 1964 the B.U. Telescope arrived on site with its truck and its caravan of people for a 30-day test period. Walt Manning was with it along with a crew of three operators and one supervisor. We were also joined by two people from Vandenberg: Chief Warrant Officer Guy M. Spooner from the Operations Section of the 1369th and Major Florenz J. Mansmann from 1st STRATAD. With a celebratory air, the B.U. was set in place and made ready to perform. Mansmann and Spooner went back to Vandenberg. The rest of us settled in to prepare for the first of what would be a total of 11 launches from the base during the 30-day test. Nine of these would be photographed through a major portion of powered flight by both the B.U. Telescope operating with effective focal lengths ranging from 1200 inches to an average of 720 inches, and with the conventional cameras and shorter lenses of the 1369th's M-45 mount.



Left to right: CWO Guy M. Spooner, Lt. Bob Jacobs (author), Mr. Paulson from AFETR, and Major Florenz J. Mansmann.

The Incident

One of these launches would inspire an official government cover up and provoke an investigation and search for the filmed record which goes on to this day. Here is what happened.

To the best of my recollection and based on sketchy records, the date of the event was most probably either September 2nd, 3rd, or 15th, 1964. The launch was of an Atlas missile. It was an Atlas-F as I recall strongly, but it may possibly have been an Atlas-D. The flight was in support of the Nike-Zeus objectives. Nike-Zeus was one of the United States' projects to develop an anti-missile missile. This particular mission was part of a test of an enemy radar-defeating system. The whole program in hind-sight seems very primitive, possibly futile and even a bit silly. Nearly a quarter of a century ago in 1964 it was deadly serious business.

At the Big Sur tracking site we were ready to go as the countdown from Vandenberg progressed loud and clear on our radio. At the call of "ignition . . . lift off" all cameras rolled and scanned to the south-east for something to photograph. "There it is!", I shouted out as the Atlas leaped through the snow-white coastal fog blanket and both tracking mounts homed-in on the majestic "bird" in flight. The big Atlas could not have been more clean, clear and majestic. We were "Go" for the operation.

The magnification of the B.U. was truly impressive.

The exhaust nozzles and lower third of the Atlas missile literally filled the frame at this distance of over 100 nautical miles. With one tracking mount operator on azimuth and one on elevation working completely manually, it was not easy to keep the image centred in the early stages of flight. As the nosecone package approached T + 400 seconds, sufficient angle of view had been established that we were literally locked down with the whole inflight package centred in the frame. No one on the site was watching the screen by this point. Our mission to provide the engineers with a side look at three stages of powered flight had been accomplished and we were a very happy bunch, congratulating each other and letting the film run out in the 35 mm motion picture camera focused on the Kinescope.

I took the cans of exposed film and headed down the coast to Vandenberg and our laboratory. Processing of the film would occur that night and the results would be ready for viewing the next day.

Men in Grey

I was back at my desk enjoying the feeling of accomplishment from the Big Sur expedition when I was called by Major Mansmann, who asked me to come right away to his office at the Headquarters building. When I arrived, I found a movie projector set up in the office and a group of people waiting.



Crew posed in front of the B.U. Telescope at the Big Sur, California site. Front Row, l to r: A1C Joseph Williams, T.Sgt. Thomas Dodd, Lt. Bob Jacobs (author). Second Row: A1C Daryl Winters, Mr. Paulson, Unidentified B.U. Operator, Major Florenz J. Mansmann, and CWO-4 Guy M. Spooner. Third Row: Unidentified B.U. operator, Kingston A. George and Top, Unidentified B.U. operator.

Among these I recall two men in plain grey suits who spoke little and watched me intently as the lights were dimmed and the film played on a bright screen. (Mansmann has since stated that there were actually three men present.)

It was a surprise and a delight for me to be seeing the kinescope recording from Big Sur after all the months of planning and weeks of work. I was quite amazed and very pleased with the quality, especially at the distance involved as we could make out quite plainly the separated nosecone, the radar experiment and the dummy warhead all sailing along beautifully about 60 miles straight up from planet Earth and some 300 to 500 nautical miles down range. As we neared the end of the camera run, Mansmann said, "Watch carefully now, Lieutenant Jacobs."

At that point the most remarkable vision of my life came on the screen. Another object *flew into the frame* from left to right. It approached the warhead package and *manoeuvred around it*. That is, this ... "thing" ... flew a relative polar orbit around our warhead package which was itself heading toward the South Pacific at some 18 thousand miles an hour!

As the new object circumnavigated our hardware, it emitted four distinct bright flashes of light at approximately the 4 cardinal compass points of its orbit. These flashes were so intense that each "strike" caused

the I.O. tube to "bloom" or form a halo around the spot. Following this remarkable aerial display, the object departed the frame in the same direction from which it had come. The shape of the object was that of the classic "flying saucer". In the middle of the top half of the object was a dome. From that dome, or just beneath it, seemed to issue a beam of light which caused the flashes described.

Subsequently the warhead malfunctioned and tumbled out of suborbit hundreds of miles short of its target. This ... unidentified flying ... "thing" ... had apparently "shot down" an American dummy atomic warhead!

The lights came on and Major Mansmann said, "Lieutenant Jacobs, were you or any of your people fooling around up there at Big Sur?"

"No sir," I answered honestly. I was shaking with excitement.

"Then tell me ... what the Hell was that?"

I looked Major Mansmann straight in the eye. "It looks to me like we got a UFO," I said.

There was a stifling silence among the men in grey, civilian suits who continued to stare at me. Major Mansmann gave them what I can only describe as a "let me handle this" look.

Cover Up

"Well," he smiled cordially, "let's just say it never happened. You are to say nothing about this footage to anyone. As far as you and I are concerned, this never took place, you understand?"

I looked at the men in grey suits. They were not smiling. I felt hot and anxious. I was sweating badly. I think I just sat for a minute looking blankly at Major Mansmann. I had just seen the most fantastic event of my life. It etched a path in my memory as deep as the one put there almost a year earlier when President John F. Kennedy had been shot to death in Dallas. I wanted more than anything to see it again, to study it under a magnifier, to analyze the pictures frame by frame.

Major Mansmann did smile, nicely. "I don't need to remind you of the seriousness of a security breach, do I Lieutenant?", he asked.

"No sir," I replied.

"Good," he said, motioning for me to stand.

I stood.

He walked me to the door, speaking confidentially. "What you saw did not take place," he repeated. "It never happened."

I looked at him once more. Something flickered way back deep in his eyes as he again looked at the men in grey then back to me.

"But ... if at some time in the future," Florenz Mansmann said finally, "you are pressed by someone about this and you can't get out of answering, just tell them ... tell them it was flashes from laser tracking, O.K.?"

And with that, I was ushered out the door and into over a decade of silence on the subject. Never mind that in 1964 we did not have laser tracking, nor did we or any other power on Earth have spacecraft capable of flying circles around a suborbital capsule. I tried to sublimate the whole incident out of loyalty and respect for Florenz Mansmann whom I liked a great deal. While I did not talk about the event with anyone, I did begin a period of intense research into the UFO phenomena.

My research interest in the field continues to the present. Of particular fascination is the relationship of the press to the UFO. This great, liberal bastion of free enquiry, this body of muckrackers which prides itself so highly on prodding and upsetting political figures, has played very prettily into the hands of those same government minions who wish to obfuscate the whole field of discovery, discussion and debate about the most perplexing and possibly most important scientific conundrum in the history of our species. While chasing after Pulitzer Prizes for such relatively petty mischief as political dirty tricks at Watergate, or poor old Gary Hart and his happy harlots or the hapless Dan Quayle and his colourless, but merely mediocre background, The Press has persistently missed one of the really imperative stories of our time.

Goes Public

I told my small portion of it first, tentatively, on a late night talk show which I hosted in 1973 on station KFMI-FM. The response I got to my revelation was almost as astonishing as had been the event itself. My program director, Richard Van Pelt, came forth to tell his own tale of a CE3K which happened to him while he was an Air Force Security NCO in Iceland 20 years earlier. A university physics professor at California State University, Humboldt who had worked on the

H-bomb project came forth to tell about his firm belief in the extraterrestrial nature of UFOs. Since then I have met a number of other people whom I respect, whom I know not to be "fringies" or cranks or crackpots, but who share common experiences with UFO sightings and encounters.

And, finally, in 1982, I decided that my story *needed* to be aired to a broader audience. Eighteen years had gone by. I could not get it out of my mind after all that time. Then, first in the trade journals, later in the popular press, there were hints of a new weapon system in the offing. It was some kind of satellite-smasher we were told. Soon we would hear President Reagan himself disrobe the rumours and give us Star Wars (SDI). There were the rumours of aircraft being built which were invisible to radar (some said to the human eye, as well!). "Stealth", they were called. It is significant to recall that until very recently, the Air Force denied that *they* existed too! There were persistent stories of something called Project Snowbird where American pilots were being shown how to operate captured (or donated) alien space-craft. Something about the Big Sur film seemed to be part of the overall pattern. I held back writing my story because of the Security angle until the truth occurred to me. There was no "security breach" in this story. The damn thing had never been "Classified SECRET" or anything else. I had been told simply that it "NEVER HAPPENED"! Therefore, I was free to tell the story to whomever I pleased since it was about a *non-event* officially.

I wrote my article. I shopped it around. In the end *The National Enquirer* published it. And as now retired Major Florenz J. Mansmann put it, "Jacobs opened Pandora's Box."

I was contacted by a variety of investigators, buffs, cranks, proponents and detractors alike. James Oberg, a frequent "mouthpiece" for certain NASA projects and self-styled UFO Debunker wrote to disparage my story and to ask provocatively, "Since you obviously feel free to discuss top secret UFO data, what would you be willing to say about other top secret aspects of the Atlas warhead which you alluded to briefly ...?" I told Mr. Oberg where to put his misplaced cynicism.

Mansmann, now a Ph.D research consultant at Stanford and a farmer near Fresno, California, was besieged with requests for information, and for his version of what happened. My respect and admiration for him was vindicated as he categorically verified my account.

Conclusions

Academics first gather data, then postulate conclusions based on what they find. From what I have gathered first hand (primary evidence), pieced together from Mansmann, from a fine researcher named Lee M. Graham, from contemplation, discussion and debate of the material, as well as from the Air Force position on this and other related matters, I have come to the following conclusions:

(1) What we photographed that September day in 1964 was a solid, three-dimensional, intelligently controlled flying device.

(2) It emitted a beam of energy, possibly a plasma beam, at our dummy warhead and caused a malfunction.

(3) This "craft" was not anything of which our science and technology in 1964 was capable. The most probable explanation of the device, therefore, is that it was of extraterrestrial origin.

(4) The flashing strikes of light we recorded on film were not from laser tracking devices. Such devices did

not exist then aside from small scale, laboratory models.

(5) Most probably the B.U. Telescope was brought out to California specifically to photograph this event which had been prearranged. That is, we had been set up to record an event which someone in our Government knew was going to happen in advance.

(6) What we photographed that day was the first terrestrial demonstration of what has come to be called S.D.I. or "Star Wars". The demonstration was put on for our benefit for some reason by extraterrestrials. It is this aspect of the event, not merely the recording of another "flying saucer" which caused such consternation both on the part of Major Mansmann when he told me "it never happened", and on behalf of the government in its two and one half decade cover up of the event and the record we made of it.

It is this defence-orientated aspect of the case which has caused investigators to run into stone walls in trying to track down my story. The Air Force has alternately denied that I was ever an officer, that I was ever stationed at Vandenberg, that I was OIC of Photo-optical Instrumentation in the 1369th Photographic Squadron, that there was a tracking site at or near Big Sur, California, that an Atlas-F, or for that matter, any other missile was launched on or about the date or dates I reported.

Documentation

We have been able to verify through FOIA requests and my military records everything except the specific launch and the fact of its having been filmed. We have been told first that there were no launches, then that there were launches but no malfunctions. Herewith, for the first time I present the documentation for a mission malfunction in an official unclassified Air Force document which has finally surfaced in my collection of aging papers and books.

It was prepared by Kingston A. George, dated 13 Oct. 1964 and is entitled,

OPERATIONS ANALYSIS STAFF STUDY

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON IMAGE ORTHICON PHOTOGRAPHY FROM BIG SUR

In this document, "King" George gives us a quick sketch of the whole Big Sur project, tells us that "Over the period of 30 days, from 31 August to 30 September, during which the Boston University telescope was ready to film launches, eleven flights were made from Vandenberg", that "a final report will be forthcoming in a few weeks with a complete description of the system and the operations over the past several weeks", that "a documentary film of about 30 minutes length containing several minutes of selected film clips will be assembled" and that *one powered-flight anomaly was observed* (italics mine), and the coverage of the flights has produced enough data to show that Big Sur photography could be an important adjunct to other instrumentation."

It is not clear whether or not Kingston George was privy to the screenings of the Big Sur film which recorded the UFO. My suspicion is that he was one of those to whom Mansmann has admitted showing the film. His document, however, states clearly that a missile malfunctioned during the B.U. test period,

now putting the final lie to the Air Force denials.

That is my story. It is from my own experiences, recollections, records, and hands. You are free to interpret it as you like. As a footnote I need to comment, I suppose, on the cover up. I do not believe that anyone is going to succeed in getting the film on an F.O.I.A. request. I have been asked to make such a request myself and refuse to do so. Eric Mishara, Lee Graham, T. Scott Crain, Jr. and others have done so and have run into the wall of futility. I don't believe that anyone can succeed in getting the film because the fact of its existence will have been completely expunged from the records by now.

Investigators who encounter negative replies from the Air Force, from representatives who are at Vandenberg now are not necessarily being deceived deliberately. Nearly 25 years have passed and no one presently at the base has any personal recollection of the event, much less any official record of it. Consider the very limited number of people who saw the film in the first place and you will comprehend how simple it was to make it disappear.

Finally, if the government did officially "classify" the film either back then or subsequently, then perhaps there were/are compelling reasons for it to have done so. As the B-2 "Stealth" Bomber has now been unveiled publicly at last, we can contemplate the rationale for having kept it "classified" for so long. At some point, when no harm can come from the information, perhaps the film for which I was responsible that long ago September day in the cool, clear mountains of Big Sur will be made public, along with the possibly awesome technological power which the images recorded on it represented.

One significant fact remains. The experimental tracking site which I installed near Anderson Peak became a permanent location for missile tracking on the Western Test Range. Moved nearer the peak geographically and magnitudes better technically, it is there today. You see footage from it every time a Space Shuttle re-enters for a landing at Edwards Air Force Base. What else it records or has recorded and its ultimate purpose for being there is a matter for history, hopefully, to reveal.

OVERSEAS READERS PLEASE NOTE

International currency regulations become ever more costly and complex. Bank charges can lose FSR as much as half of your subscription, and sometimes we cannot get paid at all. To keep us solvent, will you please pay as follows*

1. By cheque drawn in STERLING on a UK bank.
2. By cheque drawn in DOLLARS on a USA bank.
3. By EUROCHEQUE in STERLING
4. By INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER in STERLING.
5. By CANADIAN or AUSTRALIAN POSTAL MONEY ORDER in STERLING.

UFO REPORTS FROM LAKE EYRE (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

LAKE Eyre (Lat. 28°30 S.; Long. 136°45 E.), Australia's largest inland body of water, lies in the south-central part of the Continent and in the State of South Australia.

Like so many other remote places in the vast Australian "Outback", this region has had its steady quota of UFO reports and stories, and in recent issues we have given extensive coverage to Mr Paul Norman's detailed studies of the extraordinary experiences of the Knowles family on the Nullarbor Desert lying to the south-west of Lake Eyre, in the area (Lat. 30°50 S.; Long. 129°00 E.) where the territories of South Australia and Western Australia meet.

We are now indebted to FSR reader Mrs June Hill, of Carrington, Western Australia, who has sent us the following press account, which appeared in the *Sunday Times* of Western Australia on July 16, 1989:—

Mum tells of saucer terror

A mother and her two children fled in fright from a brightly-lit UFO near Hawker only 18 days after mystery markings in Lake Eyre were sighted.

And a second woman who picked up the terrified trio as they ran through the night on the Flinders Ranges road also saw the light and said it was bigger and brighter than the moon — but it was not the moon.

Mrs Beverley Schumann revealed her story yesterday.

Mrs Anita Lindblom, the woman who picked them up in her car, backed up the story and told how "the kids were screaming and clawing at my car door, trying to get in".

Their story follows the report of the Lake Eyre markings.

Recalling the experience, Mrs. Schumann said she had not known of the strange sighting at the lake 18 days before.

The UFO had appeared as a "very bright yellow light" while she and her two children, Jodie, then aged 11, and Jamie, 7, were driving to Hawker from a friend's house about 10.30 p.m.

"The light, which was very, very bright, looked as if it was coming down," Mrs Schumann said.

"I was so scared that I tried to turn the car around, but when I got across the road, the engine stopped and wouldn't start.

"By this stage I was really scared because the car lights still worked but the engine wouldn't turn over."

Mrs Schumann and her children jumped out of the car and ran along the road, away from the light and in the direction of the town.

Petrified

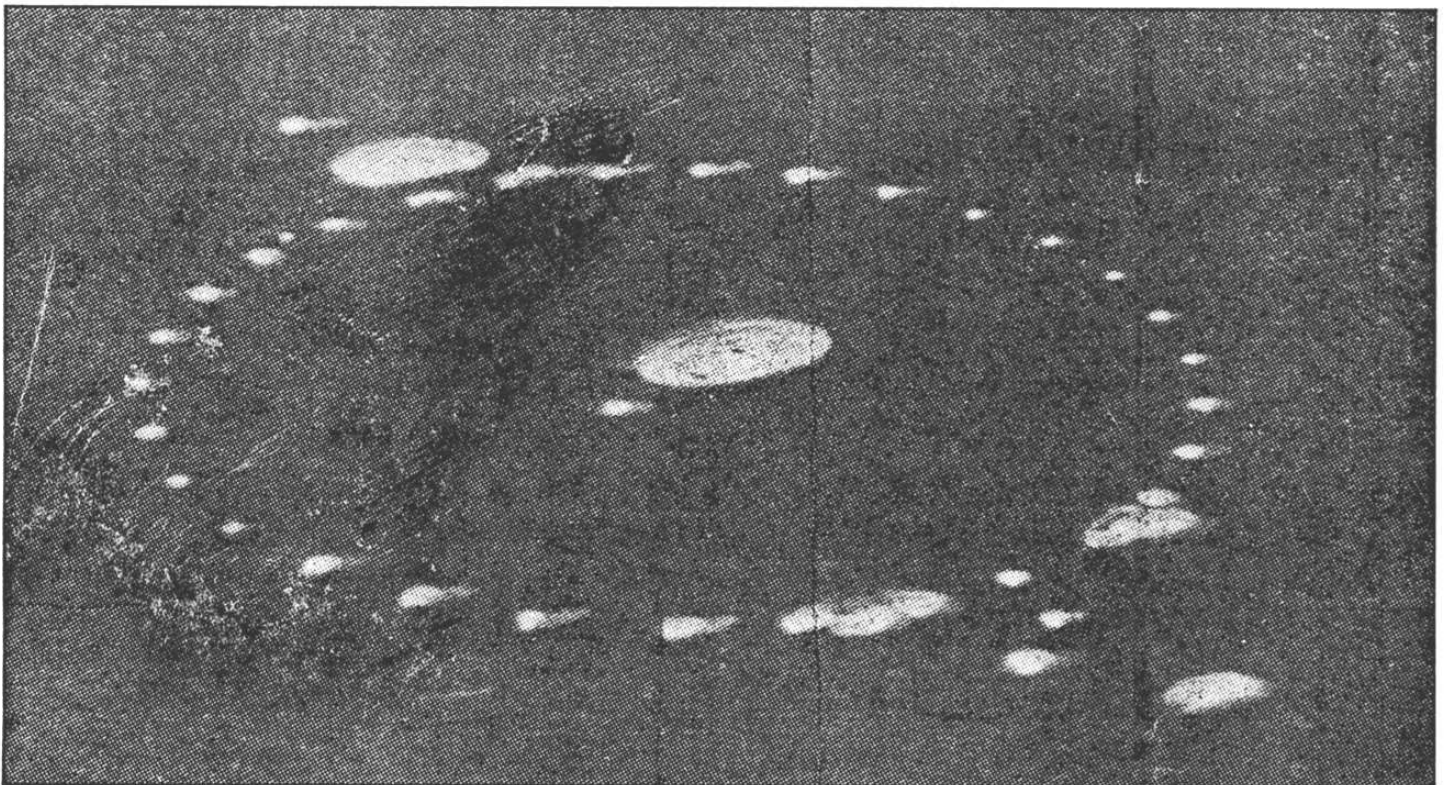
Within minutes they were picked up by Mrs Lindblom, who drove them back to their car.

"I don't remember the light after that but we were petrified," Mrs Schumann said. "Anita drove us back to our car, which started."

Mrs Lindblom said she had also seen the light while returning to Hawker.

"All I could see was big, round light which was bigger and brighter than the moon. Beverley's car was parked at a funny angle across the road and she was very frightened.

"The kids were screaming and clawing at my car door, trying to get in."



This is the dramatic slide shot 10 years ago and released only this week.