

Lumberton, North Carolina

April 3 - April 9

1975

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Report Completed May 4, 1975.

Submitted to Dr. J. Allen Hynek on May 8, 1975.

Material contained herein taken directly from taped
interviews of witnesses involved.

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Introduction

On the morning of April 3, 1975, a violent thunderstorm, which ended at 1:35 a.m., turned out to be the prelude for a display of UFO sightings in the Southeastern part of North Carolina. Spreading itself over a seven county area, a mysterious flying craft was seen and reported by no less than thirty law enforcement officers within a three day period.

Descriptions coming into the Robeson County Sheriff's Department, located in Lumberton, N.C., were remarkably similar...the witnesses were also miles apart. The object was described as V-shaped, with a row of red lights on one side, and a row of red-green lights on the other side; it also had one, sometimes two, spotlights or headlights. The movements of the object which determined classifying it as a UFO consisted of (a) hovering over water towers; (b) executing 90-degree angle turns directly over officers' heads; (c) shining a spotlight down to the ground; (d) zigzagging back and forth motions in the air; (e) causing electrical malfunctions; and (f) in every case, especially during close-up observations, the witnesses all testified that the object never made any type of sound.

*without banking **

After the initial reports began to come into the Sheriff's department at 1:45 a.m. on Thursday morning, Sheriff's Dispatcher, Ronn Thompson called the Center For UFO Studies to inform the Center of the sudden activity. Thompson said he didn't give any description of the UFO in his dispatches and was amazed at the similarity of descriptions reported back to him by the police officers and deputies in the area. The Center obviously felt that these sightings warranted further investigation.

On Thursday evening, April 3, a UPI news release, concerning the Lumberton sightings, was transmitted across the country. Mr. Jay Holtz, News Director of radio station WFMO, a member of the National UFO News Information Network, called in the story, which attracted some media attention. The National Star phoned me on Friday morning, the 4th, and asked if I'd care to fly down to Lumberton with one of their reporters, Mr. Paul Dougherty, and cover the situation first-hand. After conferring with Dr. Hynek on the matter, I found myself en route to No. Carolina, seriously wondering what it was that made so many law enforcement people begin to believe in UFO's.

** Lumberton*

Arriving in Fayetteville, N.C. (approximately 40 miles north of Lumberton) by air, gave me a chance to see what type of land/terrain we were dealing with. If one considers Lumberton as a central point and draws a radius of 35 miles in any given direction, we see a geography quite compatible with many UFO sightings in the past. Swamps, lakes, thickly settled forest land, canals, water towers, vast stretches of yet-to-be-planted tobacco fields, and the Atlantic

Ocean coastline to the east. If, indeed, we are dealing with a genuine UFO here, I thought, at least it must feel this is familiar territory. However, I arrived in Lumberton to try and find, if possible, a logical and natural way of explaining what it was that these credible and reliable people were viewing. I was soon to swallow my objectivity a bit, with the sequence of events that was to follow.

The Initial Sightings

It might do well at this point to trace back to what started this little "flap", and follow the chain of observations in order to enlarge the entire picture.

The sightings began at 1:45 a.m., Thursday, when three Lumberton patrolmen, on-duty and in the vicinity of N.C. 211 and 301 (state roads), saw a strange light in the sky near the water tower behind Lumberton High School. The officers were Phil Stanton, P. H. Atkinson and Neil McCormick.

"I looked north over the water tower and saw a round, white light," Atkinson said later. "Neil was in the car beside me and he saw it, too. I thought it was a helicopter at first. It appeared to be making an arc of about 180 degrees. We started down Fayetteville Road to get a better look, and then it was gone."

Phil Stanton, Lumberton City Patrolman, was alone in his police car. "I was approximately 200 yds. from the water tower, and thought the craft was a helicopter when I saw it hovering over the tower. When I got closer, switched my motor off and got out of the car, that's when I saw it close-up. It was triangular-shaped with a row of lights down each side, and one big spotlight on the front. I estimated it to be 150-200 feet off the ground, because the water tower is only 200 feet high, and the craft looked like it was just about the size of my patrol car. I saw a beam of light coming down from the front of the object, which was stationary at this time...the light was just directed straight down. When I got out of the patrol car to hear any possible sound from the object, the light went out and the thing just took off at a terrific rate of speed, making no sound." *

After the object ^{Tommy} sped away, Stanton noticed it was heading towards St. Pauls (about 15 miles due North) and he radioed St. Pauls Police car #88 to be on the lookout for it.

Patrolman Ernest Hagin and civilian John McPherson were in the St. Pauls police station when they heard the call from Phil Stanton that a UFO had been seen heading north from Lumberton along route 301. The two got into Hagin's patrol car and headed south on 301. About two miles out of town they saw a blinding flash of light which just lit up the woods

* Phil Stanton verified drawing on p. 20.

*Discrepancy
in
drawing
location*

like a giant flash bulb," McPherson said. "When I first saw the object, it was coming up from behind some trees, and I could see the outline of the trees silhouetted against the light. This led me to believe that the craft was low to the ground shortly before that." (The fields and woods around the sighting point were later inspected but turned up no evidence of a landing.) McPherson estimated the object to be the size of a twin-engine Cessna...and said it made no sound.

These locations are N/NW of St Pauls - not sink

+ 2 others

Officer Ernest Hagin was driving along dirt road #1729 when they first spotted the craft. "I followed it on 1728, then to the intersection of 1727 and Route 301, after it had crossed over I95. I pulled over to the stop sign at the intersection, and estimated the object was coming directly towards me between 25-30 mph. When I thought the craft was overhead, I got out of the car after shutting off the engine. I'd never seen anything like it before...it was V-shaped, with a bright light on the front, and red lights along the sides, and it was about 200 feet off the ground at this point. There were also green lights on the sides of it. The light in the front was like the headlight of an automobile. It was coming directly towards me when suddenly it turned like this (indicates 90-degree angle with his hand)...it didn't bank or anything like that; it was quick in its turn, heading back toward Fayetteville.

Actually Friday - NOT Thurs

The object looked a little bigger than a car to me. When it turned and started heading in the direction of Fayetteville, I started to chase it in the patrol car. I got up to 70 mph. until I was right beside it, and then it started picking up speed; I got up to a hundred mph. and it just left real fast (snaps his fingers). I viewed the object for about eight minutes and I never heard it make a sound, except when it turned, and made a SHHHHHHH type of noise; I'll tell you - I saw something out there, and I don't know what it was." *

After the St. Pauls sighting, Dispatcher Ronn Thompson notified Hoke County lawmen to be on the lookout as the craft seemed to be heading their way. A few minutes later (approx. 2:15 a.m.), Deputy George S. McGuire in Hoke County, reported he was in pursuit of a V-shaped object travelling in a northeasterly direction and last seen heading toward Sampson County.

not enough info.

The town of Roseboro is situated in Sampson County, and at 2:30 a.m., Officer Jim Driver of the Roseboro Police Dept. was in his car when he noticed a series of lights in the air, hovering over some pecan trees. After watching it for about a minute, assuming it to be a helicopter, he noticed a big light in the front of the object as it silently remained over the trees. "I got out of the car at that point and could not hear any sound coming from the object. When I tried to radio headquarters, my car radio became all scrambled, so I had to use my walkie-talkie instead."

Index?

EM?

The light on the object swung around and lit up the pecan trees which were about 200 feet away." Driver had a side

* see p. 21.

view of the object, and guessed it to be longer than a police car. He particularly noticed that there was no sound. "It was cloudy, but the object was well below the storm clouds, and I estimated its height at approximately 200 feet. The bright light on it became much more intense, and then the craft took off at a very high rate of speed."

The object was also seen by James Buchanan, a member of the Roseboro Rescue Squad. He observed it as it lit up the pecan trees. When he momentarily got back into his car, he took his eyes off of the object. When he looked back out, it had completely vanished.

Forty-five minutes passed before the next report was radioed in at 3:30 a.m. An officer in the Bladen County town of Elizabethtown reported the object near highway 701, headed toward Clarkton and Bladenboro. He gave chase, but lost the craft in the cloud cover. Dispatcher Thompson notified the Columbus County Sheriff's Department that the craft was headed in a southwesterly direction. He also advised the police departments in Fairmont and Dillon Counties in South Carolina, as well as the So. Carolina Highway Patrol to be on the lookout for the strange object in case it passed overhead between the towns of Lake View and Nichols (if it had stayed on its last reported SW course). Columbus County Sheriff's deputies spotted the craft at 6:55 a.m., only five minutes before official weather service sunrise time. It wasn't seen after that...but it would return that evening.

*what
subsequent?*

*need more
* ←*

...And Into Friday Morning...

On Thursday evening at 10:03 p.m., an unidentified flying object was sighted over Highway 501, between Rowland and Maxton, and shortly afterwards, over Highway 71, between Red Springs and Maxton. The observations were reported to the Robeson County Sheriff's Dept. by the Rowland and Red Springs police departments.

Between 10:15 and 10:30 p.m. the following officers called in sightings: Robeson County Deputies Leroy Freeman, Luther Sanderson, Hobart Britt, Roland Collins, James McLean, and State Highway Patrolman H. Henry. And at approximately 10:30 p.m., Patrolman Marvin Godley of the Grimesland Police Dept. in Pitt County (interestingly enough, 130 miles northeast of the last observation), reported a UFO, "round in shape", with red, blue, and white lights, travelling in a zig-zag motion while in flight.

At 11:45 p.m., Scotland County deputies were in pursuit of a V-shaped craft on N.C. Highway 71, headed toward Robeson County and Red Springs. Rowland Police Officer James Lewis spotted the object north of Rowland over Highway 301, heading northwest. Sightings were called in shortly after by numerous private citizens in the Cumberland and Sampson

County areas.

The Friday morning activity began at approximately 1:00 a.m., when an unidentified man called the Robeson County Sheriff's Dept. to report a large, white light, heading toward N.C. 710 north of Rowland. Twenty minutes later and 75 miles away to the northeast, Officer John Hayes of the Newton Grove Police Dept. had been alerted by the Sampson County Sheriff's Dept. that numerous phone calls from citizens as well as deputy reports, indicated that a UFO was heading in his direction. Hayes was on patrol off of U.S. 13 near rural paved road #1703, stopped his car, turned off the lights and engine, and saw the object as it passed directly overhead. "I got outside the car then and estimated the object to be between 300-400 feet high, and the only sound I was able to hear was a very slight humming noise;

I noticed a greyish-blue glow around the outer edges of the thing, and also noted the craft was moving extremely slow...much too slow for any type of conventional aircraft." In the two minutes he was able to observe the object, Officer Hayes could clearly make out a V-shaped structure, a series or row of lights under each side, and a big spotlight on the front. *

F.G.

Robeson County Special Deputy William Halstead was driving south along Route 301 at 1:40 a.m., when he picked up a report over his radio from the Rowland City Police Dept. of a UFO heading north near Route 301. "A few seconds later, I saw it myself. I stopped the car, got out, and looked through my binoculars at it for about thirty seconds. It seemed to have a V-shaped body that I could make out because a large, bright light on the front of it illuminated the perimeter of the object.

It was between 200-300 feet in altitude, and it remained stationary for about fifteen seconds before moving off rapidly without making any sound." Halstead described the object "as big as an average car." The craft was seen in Rowland a minute and a half prior to Halstead's observation, and by St. Pauls officers a minute and a half after his sighting. "Rowland is fifteen miles south of where I was," he said, "and St. Pauls is ten miles north of the same location." The descriptions were the same by all involved. Within the time span of apparently three minutes and fifteen seconds, the mystery object traveled approximately 25 miles and even took the time (fifteen seconds) to hover. **

Discrepancies in Halstead's location

an object with this description

Even more interesting at this point is an observation reported to the Robeson County Sheriff's Dept. by private citizen Evander Parnell, who lives near Highway 74, approximately four miles north of where Deputy Halstead watched the object. Within two minutes of Halstead's sighting, Mr. Parnell observed an object which he said "lit up the woods, like they were on fire; 2½ miles east of rural paved road #1003, in the woods off to the left hand side of the road,

w/any

* Hayes drew sketch on p. 20.

**Halstead verified Hayes' sketch, p.20.

I saw a brightly lit object rise up from behind the trees, making no noise. It rose to about 300 feet and headed east real fast!" A subsequent search of the wooded area turned up nothing which would indicate a landing of any type.

The only other report during this pre-dawn period came from Mr. James E. Floyd of Lumberton. This very interesting report, as well as three later sightings by Mr. Floyd, will be discussed in more detail later.

The Friday Evening Pursuit

I arrived in Lumberton on Friday evening (April 4) and went directly to the Robeson County Sheriff's Dept. at 9:15 p.m. The dispatcher's switchboard was already intercepting UFO reports from citizens as well as deputies in the area (see Chronological Outline for specific times.)

Earlier, in Bladen County, 26 miles to the east, Police Chief Garry Moore of the White Lake Police Dept., was on a routine patrol around the lake near N.C. 53. The time was 8:45 p.m. "As I was driving along, I noticed a bright light in the air in front of me. The light kept getting brighter, and appeared to be coming right down on top of me, like it was going to hit the car, and that's when I pulled over. It came to within 200 feet of me, and I got out of the car and looked up at the thing...the light from it became so bright I had to look away.

I reached back into the car for an airplane landing light that I carry with me, and shined it up at the object; I blinked the light at it and the spotlight on the front of the object blinked back! I could see that it was V-shaped, had lights all the way around it, with this one big light that looked to me about double the size of a car steering wheel. This light was shining down to the ground, like a beam, and it lit up an area of at least a 500 ft. in-diameter circle on the road...the whole side of the road lit up, just like it was daylight. It had now been hovering in the air for about five minutes; it was no jet!...a jet can't park in the air like this thing did. It then started to move westerly, towards Lumberton, and I followed it for about two miles. I got up to 85-90 mph., and it just left fast...about 200 mph., I figured. And it never made a bit of sound for the whole time I observed it." *

A White Lake police officer, Sgt. J. C. Baxley, also reported seeing the object, but he was further away than Police Chief Moore. His description was similar, though - a V-shaped thing with lights around it. He observed the UFO between 8:45 p.m. and 10:40 p.m., saying that it hovered in the area of Moore's car for about 45 minutes. Baxley said it moved off in a westerly direction after "standing still" for so long.

* see sketch p. 22.

From Thompson's report directly from Log indicate this was SATURDAY night (not Friday night) was FRIDAY Verified by phone 7/15/83

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Bladen County Deputy Sheriff, Phillip Little, said he saw a "big glow, four or five times brighter than a star" through binoculars from a location near Elizabethtown (about ten miles west of Chief Moore's location). Little, looking northwest from the city, said that from 9:00-10:00 p.m., he saw a "light that varied in brightness slowly moving to the northwest."

I now considered that more than one object could have been responsible for the discrepancies in "time-vs.-location", that seem to be more obvious at this point. Case in point:

Thirty-nine miles to the west of Deputy Little's position, Robeson County Sheriff's Dispatcher, Ronn Thompson was experiencing a close observation of a UFO which signalled back to him when he flashed his car headlights at it! Thompson, off-duty at this time, was out on alert as many reports had begun to come into the Sheriff's dept.. At 9:05 p.m., he was headed south on road #1166, five miles northwest of Rowland, and spotted the craft to the East/Northeast. "I immediately gave pursuit and soon overtook it over Highway 501.

The craft was hovering above and beside the open roadway approximately 100 yds. away from me. I stepped outside of my vehicle, and with my right arm, reached back in and switched my headlights on and off twice, and sure enough, the front spotlight on the craft flashed twice, exactly. I could make out two spotlights on it - one on the front, and one on the back. It then proceeded to move in a southwesterly direction, so I turned the car around to give pursuit again. I soon lost sight of the craft as it disappeared behind trees. As I was able to get within 100 yds. of the thing, there's no possibility, as far as I'm concerned, that it could have been mistaken for any type of man-made conventional aircraft...I've never seen anything like it before."

Moments after Ronn Thompson gave up the pursuit, I was en route to his exact location, along with Paul Dougherty of the National Star, and Mr. J. Freeman, Director of Communications at the Robeson County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Freeman informed me that Federal Aviation Administration officials at Grannis Field in Fayetteville, had suggested that the Thursday morning and evening sightings were prompted by training flights over Bladen and Sampson counties by a Piedmont Airlines Boeing 737. "However, since these latest sightings of Friday morning and evening began, we haven't been able to get an FAA statement on them," Mr. Freeman told me. "And we've not been able to contact the 'official' who made the original statement."...It sounded reasonable, yet fishy.

Therefore, maintaining an open mind concerning the FAA opinion, I met Dispatcher Ronn Thompson and we decided I would ride with him in pursuit of whatever. Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Freeman went with deputies in other cars. Each vehicle was equipped with radio communications systems so that locations could be quickly determined. It was now 10:00 p.m., Friday and we were driving through the areas where the

no discrepancy involved if Little saw ♀

♀

object had last been sighted.

At 9:18 p.m., minutes after Thompson's encounter, deputies had reported the object between Red Springs and Pembroke, over Highway 710 and heading south...at 9:31 p.m. it was spotted headed south over I95 from St. Pauls...10:22 p.m., over Thompson's radio we could hear deputies who were sighting the craft at that moment between Pembroke and Maxton over N.C. 130, east of Maxton, and it was moving southeast. By the time we arrived at that area, it had moved on.

Another report, this time 10:49 p.m., and a V-shaped object, surrounded by numerous lights, had been seen flying at tree-top level between Wakulla and Red Springs, heading northeast. Again we arrived too late to see anything. And then, at 11:54 p.m., near Red Springs, we caught sight of a large, bright light, getting brighter, and moving easterly just at tree-top level approximately 600 yds. away. The "light" seemed to be coming closer due to the increasing brightness of it. After stopping the car, we heard no noise from it but, again, we were still at least 500yds. away from it, and if it were a plane, we might not hear it at this distance, I thought to myself. I wasn't impressed. I'm usually not with mere lights...then it turned totally red in color, pulsating every second $\frac{1}{2}$ -two seconds. And then I noticed, on the other side of the road, flying in the same direction, and approximately 30-40 ft. above the trees, another red light... pulsating at the same rate as the first. The two lights were soon out of sight, and we continued on. I still wasn't impressed or convinced.

Saturday Morning Observations

At 1:30 a.m., we were driving along Philadelphus Road, just outside of Pembroke, when a deputy radioed to us that the V-shaped craft in question, was heading north near Pembroke - our location. It appeared to us at first as a white light moving very slowly about 15-20 feet above a line of trees that were between 500-600 ft. away from us. A large, open field separated us from the treeline. We stopped the car to get a better view of the light. Weather conditions were on our side; perfectly clear starry night, no moon to cast any type of glare, and extremely quiet surroundings.

As the object moved in a northerly direction, it would stop and start up again, never travelling more than 20 mph. We could see no structure because the brightness of the white light increased until, at one particular moment, it just stopped moving altogether. By this time, Communications Director Freeman, and reporter Paul Dougherty had joined us and verified what we were seeing. Car engines and headlights were turned off...at the point the craft stopped, its light became intensely bright, like a magnesium flare, I thought,

130 runs between Rowland + Maxton

X



not clear

??

and the others agreed - it was difficult to look directly at it. It "hovered" for a minute and ten seconds between us and the line of trees...and it made no noise. From our vantage point, had there been any type of audible engine on the object, we would have heard it. Instead, the only sound to be made out in the entire area was that of numerous dogs barking, possibly nervous about something that was happening.

97

Meanwhile, a car with three Robeson County deputies was at a closer observation point than we to the craft, and they radioed to us that they could see the V-shaped structure of it and that it was making no sound whatsoever.

After the short time it remained motionless, the object changed, in the flash of an eye, to a totally red color, began to pulsate at the rate of two seconds, and moved slowly back the way it had come, now southerly. We noted its irregular movement at this time, stopping and starting as it did before; total time of observation before it disappeared behind some trees southwest of us, was six minutes. The deputies who had seen it closer than we, joined us shortly after and told us the object had come around in a circle, hovered a short time, made a turn and slowly moved off, before picking up speed to about 35 mph.

J

So, there I was, wondering what it was I had just seen. Considering weather conditions, time, location, maneuvers executed by the craft, and what I assumed to be several competent observers with me, I concluded that the object could not have been any type of airplane...it was very strange, indeed.

Fifteen minutes later, at 1:45 a.m., six miles north of St. Pauls on state road #1765, Highway Patrolman M. D. McGee reported seeing the object which had a "brilliant white light at the top, appeared to be about 30 feet across and had reddish-orange lights on both of its sides."

Then, at 2:00 a.m., we found ourselves in pursuit again of a mystery object which stayed in sight for ten minutes, and kept changing its direction of flight. From our vantage point, travelling south down road #1006 near Red Springs, we could make out three lights on the craft, all of which were pulsating back and forth in a 1-2-3...1-2-3 pattern. Again, it was lost behind trees until we saw it again at 2:15 a.m. as we were driving north along rural paved road #1752, approximately 10 miles west of Lumberton. The object seemed to be moving in a downward plane over road #1518 in an erratic manner...again, it appeared to move-stop-move as we attempted to follow it. As we drove down road #1752, the craft was at our left, sometimes hidden by a constant line of trees on that side of the road. We seemed to be catching up to it, at 90 mph., but it then picked up speed, and crossed 1752 going northeast in the direction of St. Pauls (5 miles away). Ronn Thompson alerted the St. Pauls Police Dept., but it wasn't seen by them.

great description.
1006 near Red Springs -
E-W

Exo701
craft and
maneuvers?

Forty-five minutes later, 15 miles northeast of Lumberton, in Bladen County, Patrolman Gordon Hester of Dublin, N.C., viewed the object while it was circling a 200 ft.-high water tower. "It was at tree-top level, and at one point, it just stopped and hovered for about ten minutes. It was V-shaped and had a very intense bright light on the front of it that hurt my eyes to look at. At its closest point to me, I'd estimate it was 300 feet directly over my head...it was no airplane! And it made no sound at all. After hovering, it took off real fast, headed west."

The object wasn't sighted again that morning.

Ruling Out Conventional Craft

Phone calls later that day to municipal and county airports in the Lumberton area for a radius of forty miles, indicated no commercial conventional craft could be blamed for the sightings of the previous three nights. Radar operators at the Grannis Field Airport in Fayetteville, said that there had been no radar contact with the strange object. FAA officials were still maintaining their position of a Piedmont 737 being responsible for the sightings. I eventually spoke with Mr. M.R. Stallings, Director of the FAA in Fayetteville, and reminded him that the FAA is now cooperating with the Center for UFO Studies. At this point, Mr. Stallings told me that there had, indeed, been a Piedmont 737 carrying out some low altitude landing maneuvers into the Grannis Field Airport on the first two nights of sightings; however, what the FAA didn't tell the press at first was that, the control tower at the airport had begun to hear reports from law enforcement officers describing a V-shaped object an hour before the Piedmont jet was in the air! Mr. Bob Dawry, radar operator on-duty the night the UFO sightings began, told me that when the reports started to come in, they (in the control tower) were hoping to see something and even possibly track it on radar, but they never had the opportunity.

Daylight "Landing" Observed

There were other scattered sightings in the Lumberton area over the next few days (see Chronological Outline sheets), with two especially interesting ones. The first occurred on Sunday, April 6. At 5:15 p.m., Pembroke State University Police Officer, Ray Strickland was driving along Philadelphia Rd., just north of Pembroke, on his way to Church. With Mr. Strickland were his wife and two daughters. "I was the first one to see it," Mr. Strickland told me. "I observed

* see p. 23. *

five big lights about 100 feet up in the air, off the left-hand side of the car. It appeared that they were travelling northeast at about 50 mph., and then speeded up to 100 mph. At this point I told my wife and daughters to look, and they confirmed what I was seeing. The lights were pinkish-red and each light seemed to have a bluish streak behind it.

They were flying in a tight formation that never changed. As the lights flew over my car, they seemed to be coming down and were headed towards a house off to our right." The house, owned by the Bullard family, is set in off the road with a long dirt road leading up to it. On either side of the house are fields for crop planting.

"My wife was sure the lights were going to hit the house, so I turned onto the dirt road leading to it, and we could see the lights going down beyond the house, into a potato field. With the house in the way, we couldn't actually see the lights land. Instead of going on further, I drove right home (2 miles away), and called Ronn Thompson, who met me at the sight 1/2 hour later, and we discovered six circular patches of a bluish color ash, where the lights had apparently come down. Each patch was about a foot in diameter, and they were situated on the ground in the same pattern I had seen the lights flying in the air.

I was very excited, because I'd never seen anything unusual like that before...and when the lights were in the air, they never made any noise." The Bullards were not at home when the Stricklands made the observation, but they (Bullards) later confirmed the fact that the circular patches were not there earlier. Investigator Ted Phillips arrived on the scene shortly thereafter, and is submitting a more thorough report on the "landing" to the Center. Samples of the ash residue found at the sight were sent to the Center for further analysis. *

Samples?

when? the?

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ww ✓

Four Consecutive Nights

Alamac Knitting Mill is located about three miles south of Lumberton, just outside the town limits. On the mornings of Friday April 4, Sunday, the 6th, Tuesday April 8, and Wednesday, the 9th, between 2:00-3:00a.m., Mr. James E. Floyd observed a V-shaped craft, "no larger than a car", performing strange maneuvers in the vicinity of the mill. Mr. Floyd is the night security guard at Alamac, and works the 11:30-p.m.-8:30 a.m. shift. "Each morning I saw the object, it was travelling westerly, from I95, and it was so close to the tree-tops, I thought it must be touching them. On Friday, it came right up to the (southwesterly) corner of the mill and just stopped, and I noticed it was making no sound. Then it started moving up and over the building. I've never seen anything that could move like that thing did. An airplane can't come up there and do that; or a helicopter, either, without me hearing it!" The conviction in his voice didn't

Did Floyd work on Saturday? who did?

stem merely out of his being only 200 feet away from the object.

Mr. Floyd informed me that Alamac Knitting Mill has a highly sensitive microphone system surrounding the building as a theft preventative measure. "If anybody's trying to break in around back where I can't see them, the microphones can pick up the noise they make, and I hear it in the shed where I sit. Now, that flying thing was just a few feet away from the building and it was making no sound! It went beyond the rear of the building and hovered over a canal out there, then sped off westerly."

Sunday morning when it came over the trees, headed for the building again, the front light on it (the object) became brighter than anything I've ever seen. And it was shining right down towards the ground. The other lights on it were different - red and blue ones that sometimes 'quivered'. When it got to within approximately ten feet of the front of the building, the five big night lights there all went out, and stayed off for about five minutes, and the 'thing' was just hovering there all this time! When it moved away, the lights gradually came back on, and it kept travelling westerly. These are five of approximately thirty such lights, surrounding the building, and all are powered by one main switch...only the five were affected by the craft." *on the building?*

The Tuesday and Wednesday sightings were interesting because, as Mr. Floyd pointed out, "the object came by at the same time (2:30 a.m.), from the same direction, went out back and circled around the canal, then left, this time going east."

Summarization

I spoke with Mr. Billy Cline, NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge) who operates out of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. Mr. Cline has been with the Air Force for twenty-eight years, and works in Maintenance/Operations. He trains new pilots how to recognize all types of conventional aircraft. "There are no experimental craft being tested in this area, out of Ft. Bragg, Pope AFB or Seymour Johnson AFB. The nearest testing area is located further south, in Georgia. Besides, FAA regulations forbid any type of craft from operating at such low altitudes in a populated area, and of course, our radar wouldn't pick up anything at this close proximity. These reports certainly don't describe anything that we have in the military today. I don't believe you'll find an aircraft that can slow down that slowly, stop, hover, and then speed off, unless it has rotor blades, which this object apparently did not have."

When I asked Mr. Cline for an up-to-date opinion of the Air Force re. UFO's, he said, "Lately it seems to be a maybe-so-maybe-not type of attitude. They (AF) don't discourage people from making reports anymore, but they'd rather it be

done through the local police or sheriff's departments. I think we're dealing here with something from another place... I don't know exactly where, but I don't think these objects are manufactured on this Earth. I wish we knew what types of engines and so forth they're using, because this is one of the most fascinating aspects to me. It's in no way like our conventional aircraft."

In every case I've reported here, at no time did I feel that the witnesses were unreliable. When I left Lumberton, April 13, the sightings continued for a few days more (subsequent reports and interviews to be forwarded to the Center by Ronn Thompson). The people I talked with were, I felt, extremely competent in relating what they saw. Many of the reports were widely separated, and it was obvious that the people concerned were not involved in any prefabrication of the facts.

After considering all statements of witnesses, the majority of which were law enforcement officers; the FAA revelation of UFO reports prior to a Piedmont jet's maneuvers, and my own observations, I conclude that one, possibly two objects, that can be classified as Unidentified, were responsible for the sightings.

Wally, he saw 2 red the sightings, hence

The Lumberton, N.C. area is not new to UFO reports. In fact, cases have been reported where occupants were also seen (Dec. 1951, Aug. 1952, Sept. 1973, Dec. 1974) and during the wave of 1957, Lumberton was included on Oct. 31. These, as well as other sightings in this area can be obtained in more detailed accounts through Mr. Ted Bloecher, MUFON New York State Director.

UFO copy? // X

I'd like to thank Dr. J. Allen Hynek for sending me down to North Carolina to investigate the sightings on behalf of the Center for UFO Studies. I also offer thanks to Mr. Frank Harrison, MUFON State Section Director in Mt. Olive, N.C., and to Mr. Ronn Thompson of the Robeson County Sheriff's Dept., both of whom drove many miles to obtain sketches and interviews with witnesses, so that this report could be as thorough as possible. Finally, I thank Mr. Ted Bloecher, for his suggestions and experienced criticisms in helping me to finalize the report.

*C. Lee Jorgel
May 4, 1975*

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINEThursday 4/3/75

- Prior to 1:45 a.m. - Violent Thunderstorm in Robeson Cty.
- 1:45 a.m. - Phil Stanton, P. H. Atkinson, & Neil McCormick...over Lumberton.
- 1:55 a.m. - Ernest Hagin, John McPherson...south of St. Pauls.
- 2:15 a.m. - George McGuire...Hoke County.
- 2:30 a.m. - Jim Driver, James Buchanan...Roseboro.
- 3:30 a.m. - Elizabethtown officer...Bladen County.
- 6:55 a.m. - Sheriff's deputies...Columbus County.

- 10:03 p.m. - Rowland Police deputies...Between Rowland and Maxton.
- 10:08 p.m. - Red Springs Police deputies...Between Red Springs and Maxton.
- 10:30 p.m. - Marvin Godley...Grimesland (in Pitt County).
- 11:45 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies...Scotland County, north of Rowland.

Friday 4/4/75

- 1:00 a.m. - Unidentified caller...North of Rowland.
 - 1:20 a.m. - John Hayes...Newton Grove in Sampson County.
 - 1:45 a.m. - William Halstead...Robeson County, 10 miles south of St. Pauls.
 - 1:45 a.m. - Evander Parnell...four miles north of Halstead's location.
 - 1:47 a.m. - Police officers in St. Pauls.
 - 2:30 a.m. - James Floyd...Three miles south of Lumberton.
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- 8:45 p.m. - Garry Moore...White Lake in Bladen County.
 - 8:45 -
 - 10:40 p.m. - J. C. Baxley...White Lake area.
Phillip Little...Elizabethtown (10 miles west of Moore's location.)

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE (cont.)

- 8:58 p.m. - Lumberton Police officers...Over Lumberton High School.
 - 9:03 p.m. - Private Citizen Bill Bryant calls Lumberton Police Dept...object over Meadow Rd. in Lumberton.
 - 9:08 p.m. - Robeson County Sheriff's deputies...Over Red Springs.
 - 9:05 -
9:10 p.m. - Ronn Thompson...5 miles northwest of Rowland.
 - 9:18 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies...Between Red Springs and Pembroke, headed south.
 - 9:31 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies...Headed south over I95 from St. Pauls.
 - 10:22 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies...Between Pembroke and Maxton.
 - 10:49 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies... Between Wakulla and Red Springs.
 - 11:54 p.m. - Sheriff's deputies, Speigel...near Red Springs, heading east.
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Saturday 4/5/75

- 1:30 a.m. - Robeson County deputies, Speigel...outside of Pembroke. Heading north, then changing to southerly direction.
 - 1:45 a.m. - M. D. McGee...6 miles north of St. Pauls.
 - 2:00 a.m. - Robeson County deputies, Speigel...Near Red Springs heading south.
 - 2:15 a.m. - Robeson County deputies, Speigel...10 miles west of Lumberton, heading northeast towards St. Pauls.
 - 3:00 a.m. - Gordon Hester...Dublin in Bladen County
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Sunday 4/6/75

- 2:30 a.m. - James Floyd...Three miles south of Lumberton.
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CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE (cont.)

- 5:15 p.m. - Ray Strickland...north of Pembroke.
 - 11:55 p.m. - Robeson County deputies...over north Lumberton.
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Monday 4/7/75

- 1:40 a.m. - Robeson County deputies...west of Fairmont.
 - 1:45 a.m. - Police officers...Town of Wagram in Scotland County.
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- 9:00 -
 - 9:30 p.m. - Numerous citizens...north of Lumberton.
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Tuesday 4/8/75 & Wednesday 4/9/75

- 2:30 a.m. - James Floyd...Three miles south of Lumberton.
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