

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014 A non-profit corporation since 1956

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*This is the final installment in the series;
CIA, UFOs and the Freedom of Information Act*

THE CONCLUSIONS

"That the evidence presented on UFOs shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security."

"That continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these parlous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic."

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

"That national security agencies take immediate steps to strip UFOs of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired."

"That the national security agencies institute policies on intelligence, training and public education designed to prepare the material defense and the morale of the country to recognize most promptly and react most effectively to true indications of hostile intent or action."

That is not the end of the story, of course. Once it began to be learned that CIA was investigating UFOs there was a clamor to find out what the Agency had learned. (CIA was not investigating UFOs, you will remember. The Director had formed a committee of respected scientists to study the question.)

All of that controversy has passed into history: the demands starting in 1956 for release of the information; CIA's nervous effort to remain anonymous; CIA's voluminous letters to the members of the committee as to whether they did or did not want their names associated with the report; the hard charging books of 1956 and 1957 alleging that CIA was covering up information that the American people had a right to know. All this has passed, emotions have cooled and many of the actors have left the stage. And best of all, you can read it for yourself, every page of it, at a cost of \$89. But don't bother.

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CANADIAN SIGHTING

A Canadian observer reports the sighting of a low altitude UFO that flew in apparent formation with his car over a distance of seven miles for a period of 25 minutes. The sighting took place in the small hours of Friday, 25 January 1980 on the Western end of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The observer, Mr. Donat Gallant, is the shipping foreman at a potato processing plant in New Annan. He had finished his shift and was driving home along the Western Road. The weather was clear with both moon and stars visible. The wind was 15 miles an hour from the West.

At 1:15 a.m. Atlantic Standard Time (one hour earlier than Eastern Standard), shortly after he began his trip, he looked out the left window of his car and noticed a lighted object in the sky. He estimated that it was about 2,000 feet away at an altitude of 150-200 feet. It was just over the tops of the trees that line the roadway. In shape, the object looked like two saucers or dishes put face to face. It was an estimated 40 feet in diameter. The object had a red color, like the heated coils of an electric stove.

When he first saw the object, Gallant was near a place known as Matthews' Canteen. As he drove along he speeded up and slowed his car down and as he did so the object also speeded up and slowed down in order to keep the same relative position to him. As he got to Day's Corner, the object stopped and hovered about 100 feet to the left of the bridge in that area. It was now being seen out the right window of the car.

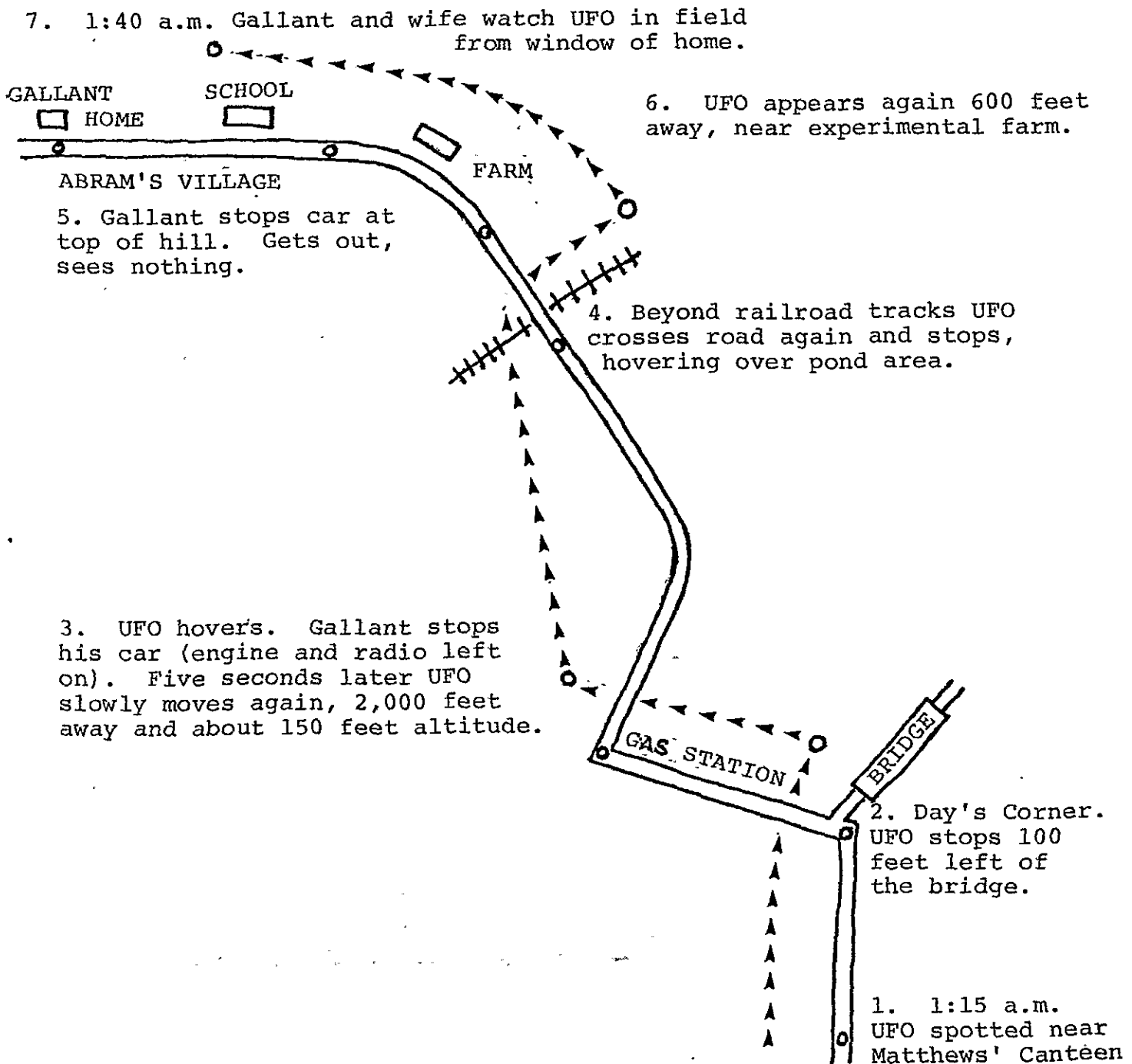
Further along, at the service station where the road turns right, Gallant stopped his car and got out to look at the object. He left the engine running and the radio on. (There was no interference with either the car engine or the radio at any time during the sighting.) The object moved ahead of him at an altitude of about 150 feet and a distance of 2,000 feet. Gallant got back in his car and continued his trip home. At the place where the railroad tracks cross the road, the object passed from left to right and hovered over a pond near the tracks. Gallant drove to the top of a hill and, for a second time, got out to look. But from this vantage point he could see no sign of the object.

He returned to his car. As he passed the Experimental Farm the object appeared again, this time only about 600 feet away. It continued to move with him until Gallant reached his home at 1:40 a.m. He went in the house and called his wife. Together they watched the object through the back window. It was about 600 feet away and quite close to the ground, perhaps even on the ground. A bright white light covered the ground for a distance of 20-30 feet from the object. Now, seeing the object level with the ground, the Gallants noticed "two big domes" on the top of it. With the white light still shining and the object still in the field, the Gallants went to bed for the night.

Later, Gallant checked with the Canadian Forces Base at Summerside, which is just a few miles from where the object was first sighted. The Base said that it had no radar contact with anything matching Gallant's description nor did it have any aircraft in the area at the time.

A follow up on this sighting was done by NICAP Regional Investigator Wayne Wright of Wilmot Valley. After Gallant had filled out the sighting report, Wright redrove the route five times to check on points of possible misidentification, the duration and direction of the sightings and the sequence of the events. Wright said he could find no discrepancies in Gallant's report. Wright also checked out residents along the sighting path. They told him that "if it had been anyone other than Don Gallant" they would not have believed the story.

SEVEN MILE, 25 MINUTE SIGHTING
DONAT GALLANT, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA
25 JANUARY 1980



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THE BOTTOM LINE

So, looking backward, what conclusions can we draw from this period in our history and the history of our interest in UFOs? Certainly the first one is that whatever the allegations and however long they have lasted, it is clear that CIA is not holding out on us. The Agency does not have information that would give us a better understanding of the UFO phenomena than we already have from other sources.

Second, it was a good thing that the impassioned men of 1956 made their charges of unnecessary secrecy against the Agency. It paved the way for the release of documents that now show us that CIA never did have much information about UFOs, never spent time or money trying to find out what they were, and probably didn't care much anyway.

Third, CIA probably hurt its own good name by a policy of excessive secrecy about UFOs in the middle 1950s. Considering the climate of opinion of the period the Agency's attitude is understandable, but it is none the less wrong. Finally, we are still back at square one and maybe less. Because we no longer have the hope that CIA has answers to the UFO question but is withholding them from us.

UFO LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

Our colleagues in MUFON advise that it will hold its 4th annual Leadership Training Conference in Winston Salem, N.C., on 21-22 June 1980. NICAP members will be most welcome to attend. The conference will feature ten speakers on various aspects of UFO research and investigation. A reception and a picnic are also on the two day agenda. For further information phone Mrs. Gayle C. McBride, Home: (919) 969-6476 or Office: (919) 725-4268.

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